



An Encouraging
Word from Van

page 2



A New
Foundation for
My Life

page 3



Care &
Share Store

page 4



*Thank you for welcoming me
and showing me I'm loved.*

your mission messenger



EASTER ISSUE 2016

New Mercies Every Morning

— BY AMIE

All my life, I constantly chased after someone to make me feel good, to make me feel welcome. I wanted someone to love me, care about me and tell me I was pretty.

I never got it from my dad. I was never good enough. So when I was 14, I started to rebel. I'd run away, drink and smoke marijuana. It was all a cry for help. It was also too much for my parents, so they invited me to leave. I did, and my drinking and drug use got heavier.

“Within months after my daughter was born, I was shooting heroin.”

I had my first child at 17. After I gave her up for adoption, I started using cocaine every day. I had my second child, a daughter, in 2009. My doctors put me on pain pills, because I needed a C-section. And that was the beginning of the end for me. Within months after my daughter was born, I was shooting heroin. The only time I got clean after that was when I was pregnant with my third child, in 2012. But after my son was born, I went right back to drugs. And it was worse than ever. I only hit bottom when I went to jail in 2014 for dealing drugs and child neglect — and I lost my kids.

The Journey to Peace

I never believed in God before. But I got saved in jail

(continued on page 2)



New Mercies Every Morning

(continued from page 1)

and started my spiritual journey. God filled me up and showed me that joy and peace were possible.

When I left jail three weeks ago, I came straight to Open Arms with the hope that I can learn how to do life again, and even get my kids back. There are so many godly people here, and their prayers and Bible studies give me the spiritual support I need. But even more, they show me I'm welcome, that they love me and care about me. It's all grace. Sometimes I still struggle to grasp it, but I'm getting there.

Lamentations 3:23 says His mercies are new every morning. Every morning I get up, God gives me another chance to get it right. And I will.

A Gift of \$16.40

Provides:

- ★ One-night Stay for a Man (bed, utilities, etc.)
- ★ Case Management & Job Training
- ★ 3 Nutritious Meals



An Encouraging Word from Van . . .

Van Taylor, Executive Director

Dear Friend of the Kokomo Rescue Mission,

Here in Indiana, in the middle of winter, I don't have to tell you how brutally cold, damp, snowy and icy it can be. It's a challenge for all of us — but can you imagine how challenging it is for those who have nowhere to call home? Spiritually and emotionally, it devastates people with fear and anxiety.

But physically, of course, it's worse. Even people fortunate enough to find shelter in an abandoned building or a garage risk colds, flu, bronchitis and pneumonia. Many suffer from frostbite and hypothermia. And yes, some even die.

Thinking about people stuck out in the cold at night can sometimes keep me up at night. At the same time, however, I think how grateful I am that Kokomo is filled with so many caring, generous people like you who provide safe shelter and hot meals to so many of our homeless neighbors at the Kokomo Rescue Mission.

Thank you for warming people's bodies and souls

Thanks to you, the Kokomo Rescue Mission shelters about 100 precious men, women and children every night. And on dangerously cold nights, we'll put up cots and even mats on the floor for people to sleep on. During the day, when temperatures drop below 10 degrees, we have a warming center where people can escape the cold in our dining room and get a hot drink. I have no doubt that your investment is not only providing them with shelter; it's saving lives.

Your gifts also help save lives spiritually, warming people's souls through the preaching of the gospel and the love of Jesus Christ. So I want to assure you that God is using you to save lives this winter, throughout the year and for eternity. Thank you for partnering with the Kokomo Rescue Mission.

Your servant,

Van C. Taylor, Executive Director



"I have no doubt that your investment is not only providing them with shelter; it's saving lives."

Thanks to an empty tomb . . . your su

Every year, hundreds of homeless men, women and children throughout Howard County are forced to go to "bed" in cars, trucks, tents, garages, makeshift shelters and even on our city streets. And many more spend their nights in shelters like the Kokomo Rescue Mission.

But there's hope — because of an empty tomb. When Jesus rose again that first Easter, He offered hope, wholeness and new life for hurting souls, and His empty tomb is the reason the Kokomo Rescue Mission exists. And your generosity proves that you share that same hope in a Risen Savior — and we thank God for you!

A New Foundation for My Life

I had a good childhood. But I started taking pain pills for fun when I was in high school. And by the time I was 20, I started shooting heroin. I liked everything about it. I enjoyed being high. It made me feel good, and I did it every day for a long time.

But about seven years ago, I met a girl and she got pregnant. So I tried to sober up to take care of my son. I got myself a commercial driver's license to drive trucks and made good money. A couple of years later, though, I went back to using heroin again.

*"I had it all — and then
I blew it all away.
I was in jail."*

My son's mother and I started fighting a lot. We were both heroin users and always broke because of the drugs. It just got worse after I quit my job because I knew how dangerous it was to drive when I was high. To make ends meet and pay for drugs, I started selling them myself — until I went to jail in 2013 for dealing.

Heroin had ruined my life. I lost my wife and kids (I had two sons by then). I lost my job, my home, my car. I had it all — and then I blew it all away. I was in jail.

A Completely Different Person

But here's the thing: I found God in jail. And when I got out in 2014, I came to the

Kokomo Rescue Mission. I didn't even know this place was Christian when I first got here. But I'm glad it is. This place kept me focused with Bible studies, chapel and devotions. The structure here kept me busy working. The classes gave me better life skills. And being here gave me the time and space I needed to rebuild my life.

Today, I'm a completely different person. I'm working, I have my own place and I'm even gaining custody of my two sons because my ex-wife was arrested for drugs. We're going to church every Sunday. And my life looks good. Thanks to the Kokomo Rescue Mission, and people like you, I have a good foundation for my life.

— by Rush



What's on the Easter menu?

We are planning to serve ham and scalloped potatoes, green beans, corn, chicken and noodles, and dinner rolls. A nice assortment of salads and desserts will complete the meal. The tables will be decorated with the cards our donors have signed and mailed in, letting our guests know that someone cares about them and wants them to know that, because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, they can have hope.



Support can transform lives.

Your Gifts Bring New Life to Hurting People

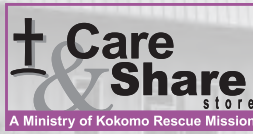
Your gifts to the Kokomo Rescue Mission offer new hope and resurrection life to those who have lost hope for a better life. God is transforming their lives through you! But every day, more hurting men, women and even families seek our help. They need to know there's a Risen Savior who promises them hope. And they need people like you to help give them another chance for new life in Jesus Christ.

To give your generous gift today, please use the remit slip enclosed, or make your donation online at www.KokomoRescueMission.org. You may also call us at **765-456-3838**. Thank you for being an Easter friend to men, women and children who need your help.

*"Your gifts to the
Kokomo Rescue
Mission offer
new hope and
resurrection life
to those who
have lost hope for
a better life."*



DONATE - SUPPORT - INVEST



Locally At the Care & Share Store

- Shop for gently used clothing, household items and furniture at great prices.
- Donations of gently used clothing, furniture and household items are accepted.
- Clothing and household items are given based on income qualifications.
- Home health aid items such as walkers and crutches are FREE when available.

For more information, visit the "Thrift Store" page of our website at: KokomoRescueMission.org/thrift-stores/

Sunday May 29, 2016

"Undy" Sunday



Please organize your church group, Facebook friends or family to collect packages of new underwear and socks for school-age children for back-to-school.

Remember, many of the children wear adult sizes. The

underwear will be given to children staying at Open Arms and to families receiving free clothing through the Care & Share Store. Items needed are: socks, T-shirts, panties, briefs and boxers.



My Easter Gift

YES, Van, I want to help give new hope and life to hurting people.

- Please bill my credit card (please print):
 VISA MC DISCOVER

Here's my Easter gift of:

- \$20.50** to provide **10** meals and other assistance
- \$30.75** to provide **15** meals and other assistance
- \$61.50** to provide **30** meals and other assistance
- \$_____** to provide as many meals and as much care as possible

Kokomo Rescue Mission
 P.O. Box 476
 Kokomo, IN 46903-0476

ACCOUNT NO.	EXP. DATE	AMOUNT
NAME	SIGNATURE	
ADDRESS		
CITY / STATE / ZIP		
EMAIL ADDRESS		

► Please mail this completed form with your Easter donation, or you may give your gift online at www.kokomorescuemission.org. Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.

Honoring Loved Ones with Tribute Gifts

An important tradition in many families is to make charitable contributions in memory of or in tribute to a beloved friend or family member. Honoring a person through a charitable gift is a wonderful way to ensure worthwhile values continue to influence the community and world around us.

Memorial and tribute gifts can be a heartfelt way to remember family members who have had a meaningful influence on your life.

- Gifts for an occasion such as Mother's Day, Father's Day, a birthday or another noteworthy occasion show how very much you care for the person.
- Remembering a loved who has died with tribute giving helps preserve the person's legacy.
- Honoring a person with a gift at the time of their favorite holiday such as Easter, Christmas or Memorial Day can be another opportunity to share.

More information on tribute and memorial giving can be found on our website at: KokomoRescueMission.org/ways-to-give



RM_46-0206_H02KO