



An Encouraging
Word from Van

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**Thank you for giving
me this chance to grow.**

your mission messenger

EASTER ISSUE 2018

My Growing Seeds of Faith

I was an atheist for 20 years, and that's how I lived my life. I had one real goal: to satisfy myself. Everything was about me and what I wanted — and I wanted to drink.

Why did I do that? I really don't have any answers. I had a good childhood, loving parents, no big challenges or anything. But for some reason, I never felt like I belonged anywhere. I never knew who I was and nothing was ever good enough. Nothing, that is, but alcohol. I was well on the way to being a full-fledged alcoholic before I ever left high school.

I loved everything about alcohol: the taste, experimenting with different kinds, the courage it gave me at parties, and how it made me feel older.

I met my wife at Purdue University and carved out a career in sales. I ruined almost every job I had because of alcohol. My marriage ended after 17 years. The shame,

embarrassment, and self-doubt were overwhelming, but I always had alcohol to get me through.

“The shame, embarrassment, and self-doubt were overwhelming, but I always had alcohol to get me through.”

But in 2010, the legal troubles started — DUIs, public intoxication, resisting arrest, jail time. For years, my life was a blur. I tried to commit suicide, but I failed. By June 2016, I was evicted from my apartment, I had no job, and no money. All I had were a few personal possessions and the clothes on my back. That's when I came to the Kokomo Rescue Mission.

Seeds of Faith

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There are a lot of great things about this Mission, but for me, it's been the chance to work in the kitchen and helping serve good meals to hungry, hurting people. Serving them has opened my eyes. It's given me a purpose outside of myself and helped me see who I really am. My heart is opening up, and I'm seeing signs of God that I can't ignore, so I'm slowly opening myself to a faith I resisted for so many years.

Thank you for supporting me and giving me this chance to grow.

Mission Needs Year 'Round

Throughout the year the Mission has an ongoing need for basic supplies. These items are a huge blessing. Please consider making donations of the following items:

- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Men's and Women's Deodorant
- Diapers, all sizes particularly sizes 5 and 6
- Large Cans of Fruit – Peaches, Pears or Fruit Cocktail
- Canned Peas
- Pasta and Egg Noodles



An Encouraging Word from Van . . .

Dear Friend of the Kokomo Rescue Mission,

Winters here in Kokomo are long, dark, cold, and sometimes they just seem to drag on forever. The shorter days, the clouds, rain, and snow — they wear us down, physically, psychologically, and spiritually. Often deep depression sets in that invades our spirits and souls. I think that's true for all of us. But for homeless men and women, it doesn't get much worse.

Fortunately, most of our hurting neighbors know where to go when they really need help: the Kokomo Rescue Mission. On the coldest nights, they know we'll do whatever is possible to make sure they get a warm bed. On cold days, they come inside to warm up with hot food and drinks. Right now, there are many people in Kokomo who cannot afford both food and utilities to warm their homes, so they come here.

My hope and prayer, however, is that we can provide them with far more than warmth for their bodies. Thanks to your support, we work hard to warm their souls while they're here. In the darkness of winter, your gifts offer the Light of Christ.

Your Support Brings Warmth and Light to the Kokomo Rescue Mission

Meeting the needs of so many cold, hurting people is challenging, especially financially. More people seek our help every winter. As a result, we face increased costs for food and utilities. We need all the support we can get — and that's why I'm so grateful for you.

Your compassion and faithful support remind me that spring — and Easter — is around the corner. In a few weeks, the days will be getting longer, sunnier, and warmer. The darkness will end, the depression will lift, and Easter hope will return. That's what your gifts mean to all the men, women, and children at the Kokomo Rescue Mission. Thank you for all you do.

Your servant,

Van C. Taylor, Executive Director



“In the darkness of winter, your gifts offer the Light of Christ.”

Please Give Hurting Neighbors H

Many people come to the Kokomo Rescue Mission struggling with various addictions. Others come after losing jobs, homes, and families. Some are old, others are young, and often they arrive hungry or sick. Some have faced poverty all their lives, while others face homelessness for the first time.

But they all come with one common need — hope. Throughout Scripture, God offers hope to hurting people for today and the sureness of a better future. And He invites you and me to offer that same hope to all those who come to come to the Kokomo Rescue Mission.

Create in Me a New Heart – BY DEANIA

“Create in me a clean heart oh God, and renew a steadfast spirit in me.” That is Psalm 51:10, and it’s my prayer.

Growing up, my father was angry and abusive, physically, mentally, and verbally, especially toward my mother. So as I got older, that’s what I thought “love” was. I also struggled with low self-esteem. I’m a big, shapely girl, and my dad always made me try to hide it. So I always hated how I looked. I’m self-conscious, and I put up with a lot of abuse in my life because I thought that was all I was worth.

I got pregnant at 17 and was forced to marry a man who didn’t want to be a father, a husband, or married to me. I was raped at 21 and had another child. And by my mid-20s, I was a full-blown addict with four kids. I shoplifted and prostituted myself for drugs.

“People here saw me how Jesus sees me — smart, intelligent, and beautiful.”

In 2011, I tried to get clean. But then I got involved with another abusive man, and then things got really bad. He got me into selling drugs. We lived in an abandoned house with no water or utilities. And he beat me every day. He beat me so bad once, I ended up having seizures and going to the emergency room. The only relief I ever had were the times I went to jail. But that’s where everything finally started to change, too.

I got involved with a jailhouse ministry that surround me with love and acceptance I never experienced before. These people believed I could change, and I believed them. So when I got out of jail in the spring of 2016, I came to Open Arms.

When I came here, people here didn’t see Deania the drug addict, the prostitute, or the “big girl.” They saw me how Jesus sees me — smart, intelligent, and beautiful. And they hold that mirror up to me every day.

Today, I’m safe, sober, and I’m starting to believe what they see in me. They believe I’m going to make it, and so do I. Because Psalm 51:10 is my prayer. Every day.

Thanks to you, I’m safe and sober this Easter!



A Gift of \$44.30 Provides:

- ✓ One night stay for a woman or a woman with children (bed, utilities, etc.)
- ✓ Case Management & Life Skills Classes
- ✓ 3 Nutritious Meals

Impact of Opiates in Central Indiana

We need to be aware of the impact of opiates in the lives of people. Please pray for our neighbors who are struggling with additions, this is not merely an “individual’s problem” it affects families and our entire community. Here are some statistics from our area:

- Poisoning is the leading cause of injury deaths in Indiana
- 9 out of 10 poison deaths are the result of drug overdose
- 79.9% of drug overdose deaths were unintentional (not suicide)
- 61% of drug overdose deaths involved a type of opioid (including heroin)
- Less than 10% of overdoses occurred in people younger than 25 years old.
 - 23% were ages 25-34
 - 22% were ages 35-44
 - 27% were ages 45-54



Hope and New Life This Spring

As we approach Easter, more struggling neighbors come to us every day. Each one needs to know they are loved. And when they see we care, when they see how you care, hope is reborn and lives begin to change.

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.

“More struggling neighbors come to us every day... When they see we care, when they see how you care, hope is reborn and lives begin to change.”

Fifth Sunday Focus on the Mission
“Undy” Sunday – April 29

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



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: <http://www.kokomorescuemission.org/thrift-stores/>

What’s on the Easter menu?



We are planning to serve ham and scalloped potatoes, green beans, 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.

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 Easter, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, 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.

For more information on tribute and memorial giving can be found on our website at: <http://www.kokomorescuemission.org/ways-to-give/>



My Easter Gift

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

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

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



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ACCOUNT NO. _____ EXP. DATE _____ AMOUNT _____

NAME _____ SIGNATURE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

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

▶ 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.