



An Encouraging
Word From Van

page 2



Out of the
Barren
Wilderness

page 2



"Sure,
I'll Do It"

page 3



"I feel free and happy now."

your mission messenger

SPRING ISSUE 2021

"I've Become a Totally New Person" by Melissa

I admit it: I'm stubborn, and I like to do things my own way.

But spending more than two years in jail tends to humble a person. Especially when you're facing the possibility of another 12 years in prison. That'll get your attention.

Let me back up a little bit.

I started using drugs in my teens, and it wasn't long before meth pretty much took over my life. When I got busted in 2014 for cooking meth, I spent 14 months in jail and then was put on probation. When I violated that probation, I spent another year in jail. And when I violated *that* probation, I was facing 12 years behind bars.

Fortunately, they gave me another option: drug court, where you're given a chance to clean up your life. Since I had two young children, I figured I better give it a shot.

That's how I ended up at the Kokomo Rescue Mission. But even then, I was still stubborn and skeptical when I walked through their doors. I figured I was going to do it my way.

In the year and a half since, I've become a totally new person. I've gone from being defensive to being someone who craves structure, a schedule and responsibility. I went from being a rebel to someone who's willing to conform.

I recently completed a program called "Changes that Heal." And you know, I *have* been healed. I feel free and happy now. I'm even serving as a Resident Advisor at Open Arms, and I've got a job at a local restaurant.

Best of all, I've reconnected with my kids, and I am now in a place where I can serve as a good role model and a caring mom for them — the way things should be.

You helped make those things happen with your compassion and support. Without your help, I just don't know where I'd be today. Thank you so much!





Out of the Barren Wilderness by Denise



It's hard to explain how a drug like meth can take hold of you ... and never let go.

All I know is that it stole a lot of years from my life, years I can only describe as a barren wilderness.

As a young child, I was put on some strong medications, though I don't know what my diagnosis was. Those meds made me feel like a zombie, so when I was 12, I quit taking them and started self-medicating — drinking, smoking weed and, finally, meth.

I was arrested in 2008 on a drug charge and came to the Mission through drug court. I successfully completed the program, but I don't think I took it seriously enough or gave it my best effort. Before long, I relapsed ... for years.

I was arrested again in 2016, this time for dealing. I spent two and a half years in jail, and when I got out, I asked the Mission if they would take me back. Their women's ministry is called "Open Arms," and that's exactly how they welcomed me.

This time, I've been taking the program more seriously, using all the resources they've given me. This time, I've definitely turned the corner and my life has been transformed. And this time, I've got three grandbabies that I want to build a relationship with.

This time, I'm getting it right. But it's all thanks to the support of people like you. Thank you!



Your kindness has made it possible for Denise to find the hope of Easter. Thank you!

An Encouraging Word From Van ...

There's something psychological about going through winter in the Midwest. At the end of it, people are looking for hope. They're looking for hope of warmer weather, hope of getting rid of these heavy, dreary jackets and hats, hope of change.

People carry a load in their soul. And in the spring and Easter season, they sense an opportunity for something new, for transformation. It's a beautiful time to realize that new life is possible.

We're here to bring new life to hurting people — people that are just like you and me, just broken in different places than we might be. We all need love and a chance for a new start. That's why we open our doors and turn on our lights.

We are on the front line of combating substance abuse, and our main weapon is hope. Thank you for making it possible for us to share hope with our struggling neighbors this Easter.

Your servant,

Van C. Taylor

Van C. Taylor
Executive Director



We Want You to Be Connected!

You can receive urgent messages, quick updates and fun videos by texting INVOLVE to 56525. You will receive occasional updates on our ministry. Join the club!

Honor Loved Ones With a Tribute Gift

This Easter, please consider making a **Tribute Gift** to the Kokomo Rescue Mission — a contribution in memory or in honor of a beloved friend or family member.

Tribute gifts can be a heartfelt way to remember family members who have had a meaningful influence on your life. Such gifts are really good for:

- ✦ Showing someone how much you care at Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, a birthday or other special occasion.
- ✦ Remembering a loved one who has died, to help preserve the person's legacy.
- ✦ Honoring a person with a gift at the time of their birthday or their favorite holiday, such as Easter, Christmas or Memorial Day.

You can easily honor your loved one by visiting our donation page at kokomorescuemission.org. Simply enter the amount you'd like to give, select "Tributes" under "Designation," and write "in honor of" or "in memory of" along with the name(s) of those you want to include in the "Comments" section.

Thank you for your support!



As a volunteer, Jim shares your heart for the ministry at the Mission.

Volunteer Spotlight

“Sure, I’ll Do It” by Jim Hubenthal

Meet one of our loyal volunteers, willing to help in any way needed.

If you were to ask me what I do as a volunteer at Kokomo Rescue Mission, the simple answer is that I work in their retail ministry, driving a truck and picking up donations.

I also recently joined the Mission’s board for a three-year term. I’m retired, so I have the time to do these things.

But that’s just my job description. What really energizes me is getting to know the men in the program, building relationships, mentoring and witnessing to them.

I’ve been volunteering at the Mission for almost three years now. I started out by serving food, but shortly after I started, their donation truck driver quit. They were in a pinch and needed another driver, and I said, “Sure, I’ll do it.” And I’ve been doing it ever since.

Much of my time is spent driving around our six-county area, picking up furniture at people’s houses or at churches, wherever anyone is donating things. We take the truck out and get the stuff, and bring it back to our thrift store to sell. Our thrift store sales are a crucial

part of funding the ministry.

But again, that’s just the work I do. The best part is spending a few hours in the truck with one of the guys who’s a resident at the Mission. Spend a few hours with a guy, and you can really go deep in your conversations.

We talk about life and spiritual things, and I get an opportunity to witness — either encouraging them in their journey of faith or even introducing them to faith for the first time.

Working with Kokomo Rescue Mission has opened my eyes to a whole population of people that are going through some really hard circumstances. Most of the guys have had a difficult life story, and I like the opportunity to encourage them and share Scripture with them.

Jim shares your passion for reaching neighbors in need and is grateful for your support of the Mission.

If you’re interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities, go to kokomorescuemission.org. Thank you!



YOUR LEGACY

Leaving a legacy is a goal of every human being. We leave a legacy to the next generation through our accomplishments, beliefs, actions and guidance that we give. Giving a financial legacy gift provides an example for the next generation, is a final act of worship to your Lord, and provides years of support for “the least of these” when you give to the Mission.

Visit our website to learn more about how you can leave a legacy, and find convenient quick links to some charitable funds for your donor advised funds (DAF).

kokomorescuemission.org/legacy/



Walk a Mile Postponed But With New Ways to Participate!

After much prayer, we've made the difficult decision to postpone the Walk a Mile in My Shoes event this February. We fully intend to have the event in early spring, but with new ways to interact. Please watch our website kokomorescuemission.org for updated information, and help us make this the best Walk a Mile event ever!

This event is critical for funding our women's ministry. This decision was difficult, but to make this an exceptional event for all participants and sponsors, we felt it was necessary.

We want to thank all our sponsors and participants for their past support, and we look forward to another great year of partnership. *Great things happen when the community comes together, and we are anticipating great things!*



"Undy" Sunday's Coming! Sunday, May 30

The Kokomo Rescue Mission will hold its annual "Undy" Sunday on May 30.

The children we serve are often in need of new underwear and socks. So get together with your church group, office colleagues, neighbors and/or family to collect packages of new underwear and socks for school-aged children. (Keep in mind that many older kids wear adult sizes.)

Donated items will be given to children staying at Open Arms and to families in need. Items will also be distributed through our Back-to-School Giveaway program for children entering grades K-12. **Needed items include:**

SOCKS **PANTIES** **BRIEFS** **BOXERS**

Please drop your donations off at the Mission on or before Sunday, May 30.

A Full Day of Care for a Family

Your gift of just \$44.30 provides life-changing essentials for a woman and her children at Open Arms: One-Night Stay (Bed, Utilities, Etc.), Case Management and Life Skills Classes, and Three Nutritious Meals! *Please donate below or at kokomorescuemission.org.*



I WANT TO TRANSFORM LIVES THIS EASTER SEASON!

YES, Van, I want to help homeless, hungry and hurting men, women and families today and through the Spring season. Here's my Easter gift of:

- ☐ **\$21.70** to provide **10 meals** and other assistance.
- ☐ **\$32.55** to provide **15 meals** and other assistance.
- ☐ **\$65.10** to provide **30 meals** and other assistance.
- ☐ \$_____ to provide as many meals and as much care as possible.

Please make your check payable to Kokomo Rescue Mission. Thank you!
To give online, visit kokomorescuemission.org. Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law.



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

Please charge my: ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ Discover ☐ AMEX

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ACCOUNT NUMBER		
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NAME		
ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE	ZIP
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Care & Share

Donate Support Invest

The store @ the corner of Mulberry and Washington St.
Downtown Kokomo

Providing quality items, pleasant shopping experiences, and prices that anyone can afford!

The store is regularly refreshed with new merchandise with prices that can't be matched. We offer sales on already low prices, making the purchase of quality items affordable.

Your purchases and donations will directly support our community's people in need. All proceeds go toward our shelters for men, women and children. Thousands of dollars worth of items are given every year to income-qualified families in the local area.

Make a difference today! Go to kokomorescuemission.org/thrift-stores/store-2/.

