



Your Mission

# MESSENGER

SPRING EDITION 2025



## From Despair to Hope

You brought  
Byron back from  
the brink.

ALSO INSIDE

## The Power of Your Support

Frederick's life  
is looking up,  
thanks to you.





# Escaping A “Dog- Eat-Dog” World

Thanks to your support,  
Frederick is on the road  
to a new life.



**F**rederick says he grew up in a “dog-eat-dog” world. He describes his youth as “running the streets, selling drugs and womanizing on the mean streets of South Chicago.”

Though he eventually married and started a family, it didn’t change his lifestyle. That dangerous drug-fueled road finally caught up to him when he was sentenced to 48 years in prison for dealing cocaine.

Frederick says he felt great shame for what he had done to his family. He was released after serving 12 years of his sentence. As part of his release, he agreed to spend a year at the Kokomo Rescue Mission, which he says was a godsend.

“The Mission provides a place to live, a place to grow, a place to learn, which is needed in society all over the country, really,” he says. “Too many times, the prison system just lets you go with no help at all, and you’re stuck with nowhere to turn.” Frederick considers himself one of the few lucky ones.

He says the Mission’s services, like financial classes, help with important aspects of a prisoner’s

reentry into society. And he says the Mission is a center for spiritual growth, which he believes is the most important aspect.

Frederick is determined to rebuild a life with his family. He says he is so grateful for the Mission, its dedicated staff and the donors who support the work here. Fred has been reunited with his family, is doing well and now has a stable job as a courier driver.

**“They provide  
a place to live,  
a place to grow,  
a place to learn ...”**

*Thank you for supporting the Kokomo Rescue Mission and helping people like Frederick find acceptance, direction and the healing power of hope.*

# From Despair to Hope

Because of you, Byron is getting his life back on track.

**S**ometimes one day can change everything. That day happened to Byron.

Byron thought he had it all — a good job at a cable company where he was being considered for a big promotion, a house he inherited from his grandparents and a happy marriage.

Then, in one day, everything changed.

That one day, he was on a service call and, unbeknownst to him, the man who needed his cable repaired was seriously ill with meningitis. A handshake from this grateful customer passed on the disease to Byron.

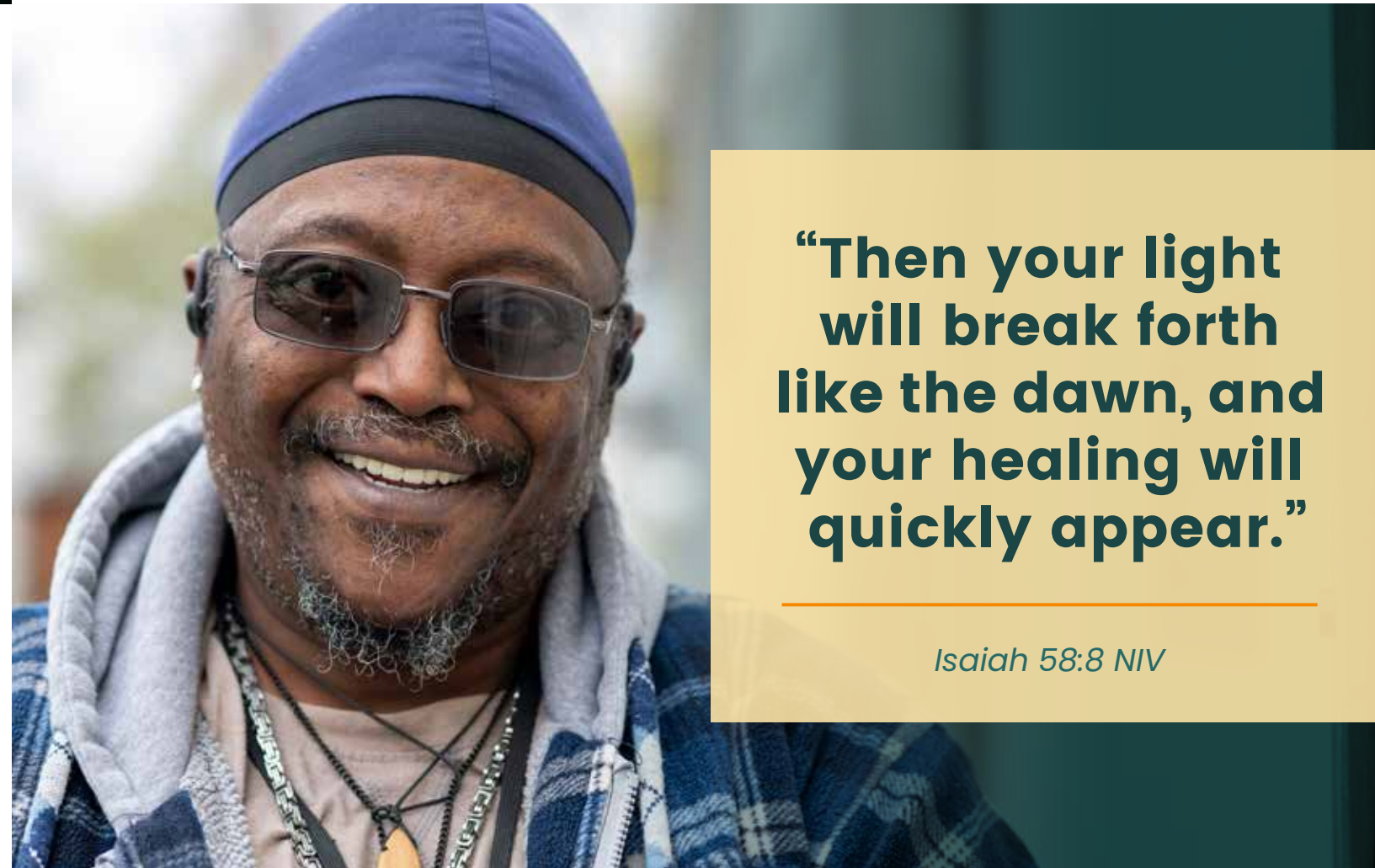
Doctors cured the meningitis, but the illness left him with a permanent brain injury that causes seizures. “I can’t drive a vehicle anymore. I’m not even supposed to ride a bicycle,” he explains.

Byron lost his job, and with it any means of paying for his bills. Eventually, he lost his home because he couldn’t pay the property taxes. His troubles mounted with each passing day, and then he suffered the worst pain of all — his wife left him.

He says the Lord led him to the Kokomo Rescue Mission and he’s working in the warehouse and manning the sales desk. “I want to say thank you to the donors. Without their support, we wouldn’t be able to keep the lights on, we wouldn’t have food on our tables, we wouldn’t have a bed to sleep in.”

Most importantly, Mission supporters point the way to the healing love of Jesus Christ. Prayer, Bible study and fellowship are now part of Byron’s everyday life.

***Your support gives hurt souls a chance to heal and find hope for the future. Thank you!***



**“Then your light  
will break forth  
like the dawn, and  
your healing will  
quickly appear.”**

*Isaiah 58:8 NIV*



# Kevin's Special Message of Hope

Dear Friend,

This Easter season, I am filled with incredible joy when I think about the living hope we have within us through our Lord's grand sacrifice on the cross and his glorious resurrection. The amazing story of his eternal love for us is something very precious that we share with people who come to the Kokomo Rescue Mission.

I hope you enjoy the latest edition of *Your Mission Messenger*. You'll read about two men whose lives were transformed, thanks to our generous supporters.

**Financial gifts can help us provide meals and shelter as well as the comfort of a caring community that shares the hope of Jesus Christ. On this faith-filled journey, our programs and services address life and job skills that can lead to productive and fulfilling lives.**

As you read about the journeys of Byron and Frederick, just know that, without our wonderful supporters, we wouldn't be able to provide the support system that can bring about lasting change in someone's life.

Will you consider giving today?

Serving Him by Serving Them,

Kevin L. Smith,  
Executive Director

**“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”**

— MARK 10:45

## I WANT TO HELP MY STRUGGLING NEIGHBORS

**YES**, I want to bring help and hope to my neighbors in need this spring. Here's my gift of:

- ☐ **\$25** provides **10 nutritious meals**.
- ☐ **\$50** provides **1 night of shelter** for an adult.
- ☐ **\$100** provides **grocery assistance** for 3 families.
- ☐ **\$250** provides **3 nights of shelter** for a mother and her child.
- ☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_ to provide as much help as possible.

Please make your check payable to the Kokomo Rescue Mission. Thank you!



**To give online, use this QR code,**  
or visit [kokomorescuemission.org](http://kokomorescuemission.org)  
Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law.



**Kokomo Rescue Mission**  
P.O. Box 476  
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