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How deep is the Father's love for us!

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FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK
Christ in Us

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT
Antonio Driskell

NEEDS LIST
Men’s and Women’s Needs
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Fully Loved

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Absolutely Everything

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Donation Bin Locations

UPCOMING EVENTS
National Dentist Day

A community service product of Panaprint.
As you continue to read this newsletter, you will find that the LOVE in Christ is something we desire as our foundation here at the Rescue Mission. But very often, the eagerness to be loved or accepted can lead us down some very destructive paths. For so many of the people that come here for help, LOVE, or lack thereof, can be the root of some very destructive patterns. Whether it’s the lack of love or being mistreated in the middle of searching for love, the only way we are ever made complete or whole, is by way of Jesus Christ! So many times, those that have been neglected and abused do not think they can ever be loved by anyone. They are constantly bogged down in shame and guilt and go through life feeling less than and defective. We believe in our hearts, and based on God’s word, this is not how God intended for life to be. We feel like this year can be a time where men and women can have the greatest gift of all and that is Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. We feel that through this gift, the long lasting effects of things that have gone on for years can be overcome with a decision to change your life for the cause of Christ! You know, God is so very clear on how we are to love one another. I say in 2019, let’s take on the nature of Jesus Christ and tell others how He has changed our life and let others see Christ in us as we love others right where they are!

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you so much for your prayers and continued support for those that have lost their way and end up here at the Rescue Mission. We love you very much and pray God blesses you this year!

Pat Chastain
President/CEO
My name is Antonio Driskell and I have volunteered as a mentor, driver, and meal server at the Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia for over 6 years. I feel blessed to be a part of this place. My brother told me about the opportunity to volunteer and once I completed the training I began driving the men to Celebrate Recovery on Thursday nights. I am most blessed by the relationships I have with the men in the program and watching their walk with Christ grow stronger. I’ve had the opportunity to share life-changing experiences with them and this has helped me to grow stronger as a Christian. Being able to witness someone give their life to Christ, be baptized and see them change is an unexplainable blessing to me!

When I am not working at Robins Air Force Base, I enjoy spending time with my family and serving others. After driving for a few years I learned about the Mentor Program and I began mentoring men in the program. I have truly enjoyed this experience and feel I have received as much, if not more, than I have given. I feel called to serve the homeless and hurting in our community and know I am being obedient to God’s calling. My family volunteers at the mission now and we come here on Thanksgiving Day serving meals to those in need. I can see the difference this is making in the lives of my children.

Being a part of the Rescue Mission has allowed me to share my mission experiences with others, and as a result others donate and get involved. This place shows true LOVE to others; the love of Christ flows freely here!

I continue to pray for the Mission residents and staff and ask that you join me in lifting them up on a regular basis! If you feel the call to serve, I encourage you to reach out and volunteer – you will forever be changed by loving and serving others!

1 PETER 2:9 KING JAMES VERSION (KJV)

“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.”
Thanks to your generosity every month our men, women and children have their needs met. We can never thank you enough for loving on them through your donations!

Women’s DIVISION

Bath Towels
Paper Towels
Clorox Wipes
Lysol Cleaner

Laundry Detergent
(for sensitive skin)
Storage Totes

Men’s Division NEEDS

Paper towels
Bathroom cleaner
Hand soap

Trash bags
(large and small)

Kitchen

Ziploc bags (gallon size)
Pine-sol

To Donate: Visit www.rescuemissionga.com
call us at 478-743-5445 ext. 314 or
Email us - donate@rescuemissionga.com
February is the time for Valentine’s Day when we want to shower the one we love with gifts. However as Christians we are called to love everyone selflessly. “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is you shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Christian love is giving to others those things that you would want them to give you if you were in their situation, and it is doing so even if they cannot pay you back. In fact, it is doing so especially if they cannot pay you back.

In ourselves we are not capable of loving in this way. We sometimes have trouble loving even those who are dearest to us. The only true source of compassion, strength, and love is God. If we embrace and rely completely on God’s love and forgiveness for us, we can draw from Him and begin to love others wholeheartedly and sincerely. Remember that your kindness could portray the gospel to someone who desperately needs it.

Dealing out judgement comes so easily to us, but taking the time to really know someone and what they have been through in their life gives us a completely new understanding of them. We may discover that we actually have something in common with this person.

“What if there was a place so safe that the worst of me could be known and I would discover that I would not be loved less but more in the telling of it?” There is such a place and that place is the Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia.

Linda Wessells
Women’s Program Director

We love because He first loved us.
1 John 4:19
In 1984, Tina Turner released her biggest single, “What’s love got to do with it?” The chorus ends with the question, “who needs a heart, when a heart can be broken?” Although this song was not written by Ms. Turner, it’s obvious it came from a wounded heart. Now I’m no expert, but could it be that the writers had experienced pain within a relationship and the words “I love you” were thrown around and eventually carried no meaning whatsoever? That those three beautiful words became merely a phrase, or worse, a means of manipulation and control. It is wonderful to hear someone say to you “I love you.” We all desire to be loved. And that’s, unfortunately, where it gets messy. Because of this desire to be loved, we sometimes settle for simply hearing the words. When we do this or we do this to someone else, we are indeed settling for something far less than what God intended. We were made for intimacy. In Mark 12:30-31, Jesus says we are to “Love the Lord your God with all of your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.” He then says, “Love your neighbors as yourself.” God created us to love, and this love is to have a depth that far exceeds what only words can offer. In His infinite wisdom and never ending grace, He doesn’t leave us trying to blindly figure out what love should actually look like; He gives us a detailed description. We need to look no further than His Word, 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, “Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into accounts a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.” How amazing is that? Just in writing this out, I am convicted. My “love” doesn’t resemble this description of true love at times. What about you?

It’s February and many of us will be frantically attempting to prove to that special someone just how much we love them through the perfect Valentine’s Day gift and/or card. Is your love a representation of the true meaning of the word or is it only words? What’s love got to do with it? I’m inclined to say absolutely everything! Because of Christ in us we can love in this way.

Jason Beck
Vice President of Programs
I was born in 1970 in Glens Falls, New York. My parents were only 17 when they had me and my childhood was very dysfunctional. My father was an alcoholic who was very emotionally abusive to my mother, me and my younger sister and brother. We moved around a lot because whenever things did not go the right way or it got too difficult for my parents, we picked up and moved. When I was 5, we moved from New York to Florida. We stayed there for about 3 years and then we moved to Connecticut. While living in Florida, I was a victim of sexual abuse by an extended family member and also by the father of a friend during a sleepover. In Connecticut, I again experienced sexual abuse at the hands of a friend’s father. I could not understand why an adult would do these things and began to wonder if it was my fault and if it something that I did. This has resulted in deep emotional scars which have caused me to have a problem with establishing, building and maintaining relationships. When I was 12, we moved to Georgia but only stayed for 2 years. At this time my parents divorced and my dad moved to Pennsylvania. My mother, brother, sister and I moved to New York, but I went to live with my paternal grandmother. My mother made the choice to leave my siblings and they went to live with other relatives resulting in us all being split up.

I followed in the footsteps of my parents and got married and had a child at 19 years old and continued the cycle of dysfunction. My first husband was abusive, but I stayed with him for 7 years. I tried to make it work for the kids, believing this behavior was normal because this is what I learned growing up. Unfortunately, after getting out of this relationship I found myself trapped in codependency and had 2 more unhealthy marriages which resulted in abuse. I only stayed in my second marriage for a year. While we were dating he was controlling and emotionally abusive, but I thought that was just because he was jealous. After we got married
it all changed and he started hitting walls. Then, once he body slammed me it was like a flashback to my first marriage and I got out. My third husband was the prince charming type and I never would have thought that it would have turned abusive. This relationship was more psychological abuse, financial abuse and manipulation. He constantly made me feel bad about myself and like I was obligated to stay with him, and if I left I would be a horrible person. This is the one that hurt the most and was the hardest to get away from.

I came to the Rescue Mission 7 months ago trying to get out of my last abusive relationship. When I first came to the Mission I was unsure of how they could help me. I have a dog and a cat that I did not want to leave and was afraid that I was going to have to give them up if I came into the program. My dog, Louie, is very protective of me and would watch out for me. I lived very isolated so my pets became a major part of my life. They were all I had that did not make me feel bad and they became a part of me. They are like my children and I love them so very much and feel loved by them. The staff at the Mission was able to make arrangements for my pets to stay in foster care for the duration of my stay here. Knowing that I would be reunited with my beloved pets gave me the peace I needed to enter into the program.

The first thing that comes to mind when I think about the Mission is safety. The staff works very hard to make sure that the safety of the women and children is top priority. The next thing that comes to mind is love. It is a love that is beyond explanation and can only be described as a genuine love of Christ. The biggest challenge for me being here at the Mission was adjusting to the various personalities of the residents. It was only after walking along side each of the women that I was able to see that we are all broken. We all come from similar backgrounds and have had all too
SCENES FROM Around the Mission

DECEMBER

Christmas Meal
familiar situations. I know that God put us here together so that we can minister to each other through our experiences.

The thing that I am most passionate about is painting. It is a way for me to express myself and it also allows me the opportunity to release any built up feelings and emotions that I may otherwise keep bottled up. I am very grateful that the Mission has allowed me to use my painting as a therapeutic tool in my healing process. I am honored and thankful that I was able to paint a picture for the annual Celebrity Golf Tournament and Auction. I was extremely humbled to see a generous donor purchase my painting and donate it back to the Mission to be hung there for future residents to enjoy.

It has been such a blessing to see what the Mission means to the community and I have personally been touched by the outpouring of love. Whether it is through the many donations of clothing that we receive; or through health and dental care; or being partnered up with a mentor from the community. The residents of the Rescue Mission truly experience love in a way that they have never received before.

The thing that the Mission does for the residents that makes me proud is the spiritual growth that they provide through the classes and the self-evaluation process. They enable you to see things about yourself that you never realized before or chose to keep hidden. This allows us to grow and helps the residents to become individuals who are proud of who they are. We also have been provided tools that can be passed onto our families and the community.

Being able to forgive has had a great impact on my life. I have been able to be free from the control that the unresolved sin in my life had on me. I was able to see the lies that I have believed about myself because of my past and replaced it
with God’s truth. I know that I am not identified by those things that were done
to me and I do not have to hide behind shame. Being able to forgive myself has
also had an impact on my life but it has also had an impact on my relationship
with my children. I can now recognize that although I have made mistakes as a
mother I do not have to carry that guilt around with me forever. I see now that
the unforgiveness that I had for myself was impacting my relationship with my
children. They have forgiven me, God has forgiven me, and now I can honestly say
that I have forgiven me. I know that I am no longer guilty of the things that I have
given myself permission to do because of Christ Jesus my Lord and Savior.

There is a time for everything, and a season
for every activity under the heavens.

Ecclesiastes 3:1
Please visit our BARGAIN CENTER FACEBOOK PAGE to find out about sales and see photos of some of the available inventory.

www.facebook.com/MissionBargainCenter/

HOST A BIN AT YOUR PLACE OF BUSINESS!
If you are willing to host a donation bin at your place of business in the Middle Georgia area, please contact Shannon at (478) 743-5445 ext. 316.
March 6th is National Dentist Day and we say thank you to these special dentists and their staff!

Dr. Amber Lawson  
Dr. Bradshaw Ford  
Dr. Brent Davis  
Dr. Cameron Garvin  
Dr. David Kalish  
Dr. Donald Benton  
Dr. Greg Burns  
Dr. James Cassidy  
Dr. Pete Gaines  
Dr. Pinkney Gilchrist  
Dr. Rob McCormack  
Dr. Shawn Scott  
Dr. Sid Holcomb  
Dr. Thomas Peterson  
Dr. William Argo

The Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia is blessed to have the support of so many wonderful dental professionals who donate their time and expertise to our Healthy Smiles Dental Program. The program allows residents of the Mission to see dentists and resolve years of damage to their teeth and gums, relieve pain and improve their smile. Many of the participants have not smiled publicly for many years and upon completion of their dental work have a new outlook about themselves and their future. The Healthy Smiles Dental program has had a profound impact on these individuals.

Thank you to Dr. William Argo for spearheading this program and bringing so many wonderful dentists into the lives of Rescue Mission residents and graduates. Thank you to all the doctors and staff for your help. The love and kindness you have shown to so many people is a blessing. Your compassion and generosity have radically changed lives forever. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ!

BEFORE & AFTER
Consider becoming a monthly giver and have a lasting impact throughout the year! Find out how at rescuemissionga.com

Visit the Bargain Center and make a donation or shop at 3375 Napier Avenue or call 743-5445 for large pickups.