



Mission

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*Helping the Hurting and the
Homeless
in the Name of Jesus Christ*

Ecclesiastes 3:1-4 says *"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity there under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build up, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance."*

We can all recount, in our own lives, some of the seasons listed in these verses. In our home, we have seen big changes in the last three months with the loss of both of my parents within weeks of each other. I could not have endured the subsequent pain had it not been for the comfort of the Sovereign God I know and serve. I am greatly encouraged, knowing that both my parents are together with our Savior who embraced them both.

What a gift and privilege it is to be in service to the Lord daily. Our strength, in each of the seasons listed above, comes from the gospel of Jesus Christ. Here at the mission, we want nothing more than to have our guests hear the gospel and surrender their lives in repentant faith to Christ.

Many of them find themselves in seasons where they feel stuck, with no way out. It takes consistent encouragement and the reminder that there is hope for them to see that all things are possible with the Savior. So many have never been introduced to these life-saving truths from the Word of God.

We, as a ministry team at the Norfolk Rescue Mission, want all who see and hear the gospel to receive it and turn from their old, worldly ways and trust in Jesus. He alone can radically alter their lives and the trajectory of their futures. Sorrow can be turned into joy and hope. Putting our trust in God allows us to look beyond what we can see to an eternal glory that's being prepared for us.

In this season, as we remember the birth of our Savior, we are reminded that He was born to die. He came into this world to seek and save the lost and give hope for a forever, new life! I love this time of year when we celebrate together all that He has done for us and as we gather let us remember to love one another well.

Until I was introduced to my Savior, I never knew the true meaning of Christmas. We want all our guests to have a wonderful holiday here, but more importantly, we want them to hear the Gospel and be changed forever. Isaiah 9:6 states, *"For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will rest on his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."* This Christ continues to offer new life today. We pray these truths will resonate in their hearts.

He brought me out into a broad place; He rescued me, because He delighted in me. 2 Sam. 22:20 ESV

Our dining room is decorated, our shelves have been stocked, and we remain steadfast in our day-to-day operations around campus. Our guests continue to come and go, and we currently have three hard-working disciples on our New Life Program. I cannot say enough about how diligent they are in their work. We could not do what we do every day without them. We are grateful for their time in the discipleship classes to hear the Word of God and apply it to their lives, and for the opportunities they have to serve.

We also praise God for a successful banquet this year. It was great to see everyone and celebrate this past year's accomplishments and all He has done for His holy name! It is such an honor to partner with you and serve our Lord together.

We have been given so many much-needed donations that have helped to fill our pantries and shelves and allowed us to keep our dining room open for three meals a day, every day. We have also started a blessing day once a month and offer food boxes, clothing, and household items from our donation shed to those in need. We hand out Bibles and offer prayer for those that come. This has been a great opportunity for us to reach those in need and to offer hope.

As we come to the end of the year, we are beyond thankful for our ministry and the donors who faithfully support us financially and provide for all our needs. The Lord has blessed us abundantly. I was reminded of Luke 2:10, which says, *"...I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all the people."* We are all ambassadors for our Savior every day!

We pray that you have a very Merry Christmas with your families and truly celebrate together the birth of our Savior.

May you all be filled with His joy and peace in the coming new year.

In Christ's Name,

Roxann Fox

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