



HEARTBEAT

JUNE 2019

Toledo Gospel Rescue Mission
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God Still Speaks



June 1st began my 18th year of full-time ministry as the Executive Director of Toledo Gospel Rescue Mission. My, what a journey it has been so far! There's been highs and there's been lows, yet God has been with me (us) all the way. As God grew the mission, he also caused growth in me personally. In moving from Children's ministry to the Executive Director I've learned daily life lessons on how to deal with the "big kids" and their problems & situations. My Grandma Bair used to say, "Little kids, little problems. Big kids, big problems." I have to say she was correct. He has used my upbringing as a roadmap in ministry. Everything wasn't perfect then, but I learned how to handle life issues and trust God. Life pretty much forced me back to the Bible.

God has helped me see how to pastor and love the people as well as administrate the daily affairs of the ministry itself. There is more to the Mission than the chapel services. It is impossible to share the entire story each month in this

newsletter. The issues and the victories change day by day. The lows become highs in the blink of an eye. It is incredible to see God move every day!

Just yesterday a friend of mine (and a great friend of the Mission) called just to have a general conversation. I told him about a problem I'd been having at the Mission for several months. His response was, "Let me make a phone call and see if I can help you with that." What a blessing! Within 15 minutes the problem was solved! God knows how to put the right people in the right place at the right time to do the right thing. It's amazing!

This just demonstrates, once again, that we serve an on-time God. He still speaks to His people and cares for the needs of the Mission. Thanks for listening!

God Bless,
Tom



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Philippians 1:6 "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."



Another Need Supplied

Just last month I told you about our desperate need for a new stove. I want you to know that a new one has been ordered and is making its way here from North Carolina as I write this article.

Check out the picture of it. ***What a beautiful sight!*** I want to thank

each and every person that contributed to making this happen. You are helping change lives, one meal at a time. Thank you for listening to God's voice!



ORC Volunteer Of The Month



It was an easy decision to choose Bonnie Preston as one of the honored ORC Volunteers! Mrs. Preston is a group leader from Lighthouse Church. Together with her faithful team, Bonnie organizes special dinners & decorations each month! Having a heart for Jesus,

Bonnie also runs our bus ministry alongside her son, Ben. Each Sunday, they pick up folks from the Outreach & bus them to her church for services. She is a rare treasure and we are thankful for all she does!

Do you have a gift or talent? It doesn't have to be an obvious one. Maybe gardening, or praying, or sweeping floors is your talent. We have a place for you, all are welcome at the Outreach!

Mission Mall Changes Seasons

It's that time of year again, where the Mission Mall volunteers & I are busy changing over from Winter to Spring & Summer! This is no small task! Currently, we are changing out everything from clothing, to shoes, to outdoor tools, to toys and furniture!

Every month there's a "Needs List" included in the newsletter. Please carefully consider the Mission Mall as you are Spring cleaning and perhaps garage sale shopping or preparing. The folks who come here appreciate the independence of providing for their homes that you give them when you donate your unneeded and unwanted items. A few items that seem to grow in need every Summer are shoes (all types for all sizes), bicycles (for big & little people), and lawn tools. Recently, I even had a gentleman



come in looking for steel toe boots. He'd gotten employment, but didn't have

enough money to purchase new shoes required for the job. These type of moments are an every day occurrence at the Mission Mall. God is using the items you donate to better the lives of those in need and restore hope! Thank you for all you do to help the low income & homeless community through TGRM Mission Mall!

John

TGRM Ministry Needs

Men's Shelter

Liquid laundry detergent
Bar soap
Dish soap
Scrubbing Bubbles
Bleach
Garbage bags (35 gallon & lawn size)
Ketchup & Mustard
Salad dressings
Zataran
Beef & chicken base
Napkins
Toilet paper

Salt & Pepper
Men's Tube & Ankle Socks (all sizes)
Men's Underwear (all sizes)
Mission Mall
Bed Frames
Dressers
Kitchen Tables & Chairs
Used Working Appliances
Working Lawn Mowers
Gardening Supplies
Lawn Tools (Rakes, Shovels, etc.)

Dishes (all kinds)
Old flatware
Curtains
Pots & Pans
Lamps
Bicycles
Fans
Summer Clothing
Used Patio Furniture
Shoes
Rebekah's Haven
Toilet tissue
Facial Tissue
Feminine products

Shampoo & Conditioner
Handsoap
Dishsoap
Paper towels
Laundry detergent
Bleach
Toilet bowl cleaner
All-purpose cleaner
Deodorant
Baby Wipes
Sz 2, 3 & 4 Diapers
XL Sheets & Standard pillowcases

Hi my name is Melisha & I just recently moved out of Rebekah's Haven. I ended up in a shelter because I was homeless, living in a garage. I was not alone either, I had just recently had a baby girl on February 2, 2019.

My story started in 2012 when I went to prison on a 4 ½ year sentence for drug related offenses. The relationship I was in at the time was centered around my using drugs. Drug use had become the only life I knew. During this time, I was pregnant & just had a baby boy. Two weeks before I was

due the father of my son was arrested. He was sentenced 10 years for the crime he had committed. At this point, I had no idea how I was going to live or take care of myself, let alone my child. For the 5 years up until then I was taken care of & worried about nothing. I was very broken & had no idea how I was going to survive. So, I did what I knew how to do best, selling & using. My house was broken into & robbed. I was smothered with a pillow & had a gun put to my head. I was trying to provide for my newborn, but a few months later my door got kicked in by the local police department.

I was a 23 year old mother waiting to serve a 4 ½ year sentence. I was sent to ORW, the women's prison in Marysville, Ohio. When I arrived there, I thought that my life was completely over with. I had no idea how I was going to do my time while not being the mother that I should have been for my son. Watching him grow into a little boy while I was away was the hardest part of my time - knowing all that I was missing & not being able to be there for him. After doing my first 6 months, I told myself that I was not going to let this place defeat me. I was going to get all the good that I could out of this place so that I could be the person that I was created to be.

That is exactly what I did. Coming out of prison, I can honestly say that I was a totally new person. The world was definitely a new place to me. Learning how to live on the outside in the real world was hard to adapt to. I was doing great the first 6 months. I had a job & my own



apartment. How far I had come brought me such happiness, because it was my hard work & dedication that had gotten me there. Soon after though, I met the wrong people & fell on my face. Three weeks before I got an eviction notice, I found out that I was pregnant again.

Again, I found myself with nowhere to go. A friend shared with me about a program called Chrysalis, at Harbor Behavioral Health. This facility is designed for pregnant & postpartum women who had or have a drug problem. I completed an inpatient program for drug & alcohol treatment. I got clean & had my little baby girl while I was there. I stayed 6 months & 1 day. That's when they came to

me & told me that I had until the next morning to find somewhere to go because my insurance was not going to cover anymore. At this point I was clean for only 6 months with a newborn! It was on a Friday night, it was snowing & we had no place to go, & the facility had no recommendations where I should go with my newborn.

Fortunately, my fiancé's parents let me stay in their garage. I was able to go in to take showers & eat. This was very kind of them, but it was not an ideal situation with me being pretty new in recovery & with a newborn baby. So, I called 211 & they gave me information about Rebekah's Haven. It wasn't long after I called that I decided Rebekah's Haven is where I needed to be. Being able to have a roof over my small family's head was more than I could ask for. This situation has opened my eyes to how strong I truly am & I wouldn't change it for anything. While staying at Rebekah's Haven, I built a relationship with God, as well as strong & healthy relationships with the other guests & the staff. Being at Rebekah's Haven, **honestly**, saved our lives & I would like to thank all of you that had part in making it possible. I was able to get permanent housing for myself & my family. I'm now 8 months clean & my baby girl is 3 months old. My kids are the reason, season, and motivation to improve my life. I realize that my current situation is not my final destination. Also, that God did not put anything in my path that we could not handle together!

Thank you, Melisha

Sewing for Souls



Over the past few months a good friend of Rebekah's Haven, Edie Conley, has spearheaded a project with the goal of providing a brand-new quilt for every bed that will be in the new Rebekah's Haven facility. That's about 60 quilts! Together, the Cellar Sewers Quilting Group and friends have been stitching away to provide comfort and the love of Christ to the mothers and their children while they are at the shelter. And, they could not have done it without Jerry and Janet Barnhill and our friends in the Bridges Bible Study Group at Heritage Church of God who purchased the batting to put in the quilts. God bless you one and all!!

Soon, and very soon, the rooms will be ready to be finished. Why not make plans to come to the Spaghetti Dinner at Heritage Church of God and get more details?

We hope to see you there!



REBEKAH'S HAVEN

SPAGHETTI FUNDRAISER

7/13/19

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30PM

HERITAGE CHURCH OF GOD

3520 STRAYER RD MAUMEE, OHIO 43537

Adult tickets- \$12.50

Children tickets- Under 10- \$5.00

Under 3- FREE

*****Silent Auction*****

FOR TICKETS CONTACT:

Debbie Sentele 419-698-3431

Or TGRM Administrative Office 419-241-6579

Golf For Hope 2019

This year's Golf for Hope is Saturday, September 7th, & TGRM is currently seeking sponsors for this annual benefit!! There are MANY different levels available and they all include Golf Outing perks! *All of them include the warmth of knowing you are helping those in need here NW Ohio & SE Michigan!*

EAGLE—\$2000

Includes: A banner, company bio & logo in the program, advertisement displayed on board, and 2 free teams (8 players)!!

BIRDIE—\$1000

Includes: Advertisement displayed on board, a bio of your company in the program, AND 1 free team (4 players)!!

PAR—\$500

Includes: Advertisement displayed on board, listing in the program, and 1/2 price golf for your team of 4!!

HOLE—\$350

Includes: Advertisement displayed on a hole sign, listing in the program, AND 1 free player!!

BOGEY—\$100

Includes: Listing in the program

Please contact the office 419-241-6579 to request more information!