



Peninsula Rescue Mission

COMING ALONGSIDE HURTING PEOPLE
LEADING THEM TO THE CROSS

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the **PENINSULA RESCUE MISSION** newsletter

JANUARY 2016



Time of New Beginnings

We step over the threshold of a new year with eagerness and anticipation. It's a brand new "twelve-month" with no mistakes in it (yet). Almost a half-century ago, the Peninsula Rescue Mission had its inception, in April of 1966. The homeless and needy population of the Virginia Peninsula found a new friend and benefactor in Rev. Jim Lindley, who, with his family, arrived here to establish a ministry to "the least, the last, and the lost."

Seventeen years, four months later, Rev. Lindley was called home to heaven, and a "second beginning" took place. Rev. Lindsay Poteat and family returned to the Mission, no longer in a support role, but to lead the ministry into the next era of its history. For thirty years the Poteats carried on what the Lindleys had begun, building on their solid foundation.

On January 1, 2014, after an almost 15-year "apprenticeship," Rev. Alan DeFriese took the helm of leadership at PRM. He and his team now begin year 3 of the "third beginning" in the 5-decade history of this ministry. Alan, John, and Blake bring youth, vitality, and vision to PRM. Under the wise direction of a forward-thinking Board, they will move into the future with excellence.

With the periodic change that naturally comes as time passes, there are also the stabilizing constants of things that never change. The ravages of sin still destroy lives, marriages, careers, and more. Human need persists, for Jesus said, "The poor you have with you always." The grace of God still reaches out to needy, hurting bodies and souls - offering hope and help through the unchanging power and truth of the Gospel. So it is at PRM. Happy New Year, 2016!!!

A Note from Alan - Change In The New Year

Alan DeFriese, *Superintendent*

As PRM enters its 50th year of ministering to the needy of our community, I would like to thank you for your faithful partnership. God has used you to help sustain this work, and we are grateful to Him and to you. We look forward to the work God has in store for the coming year.

With thoughts of a new year come thoughts of changes - changes in habits, changes in lifestyles, changes in circumstances. This is often a time to take stock and evaluate areas of our lives and resolve to make improvements where needed.

I have often asked the men of PRM to share with me (and then I've shared with you) their hopes for a new year. In every case the men are hopeful for good changes in their life so that they no longer need the help of PRM. None of our residents want to be here. We understand that, and we pray that their circumstances *will* improve.

During their time here, we offer practical teaching from God's Word as they begin their days. We offer counsel to any who seek it. Our constant challenge to them is that the Lord has a plan for their lives. Through a relationship with Him and obedience to His Word, our men can discover God's plan for their lives. If life is to change, it will be because following Him becomes the highest goal. **Proverbs 16:9** - "The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps."

I would ask you to pray for our men throughout 2016. Pray that many would meet their Savior so that life, now and eternally, would never be the same. Pray for their ability and courage to walk in obedience to Biblical principles.

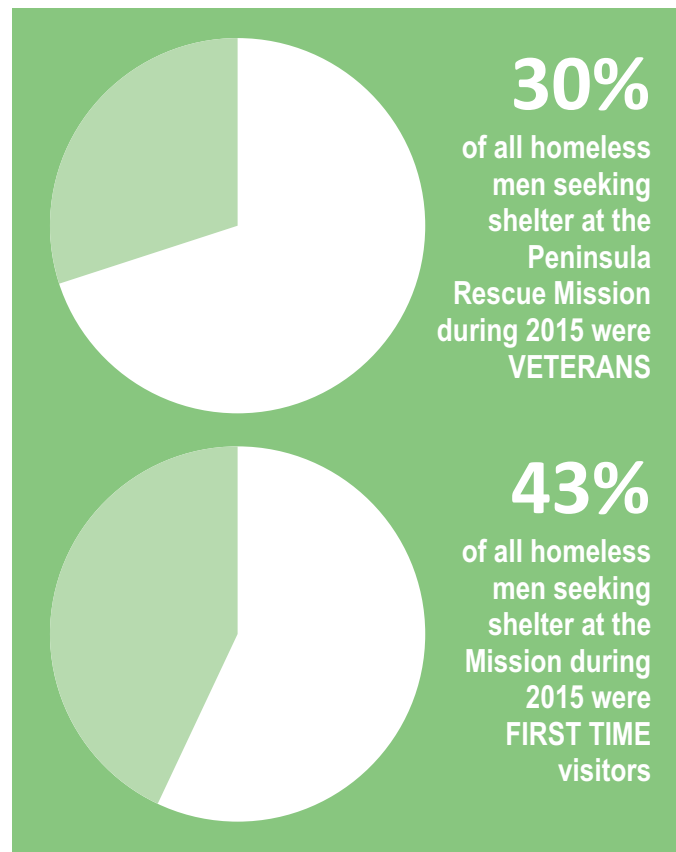
For your many years of faithful support (and for your support in the year ahead), we offer you our deepest thanks!! Happy New Year!!!



Mission Needs.



Want to join the Mission as we serve homeless men here at the shelter? Donating new socks, t-shirts, and underwear would be a great help. It is a wonderful feeling for our men to put on new underclothes after a hot shower. All sizes needed. Thank you!!



MEMORIALS that live.

In Memory of...	Given by...
Aunt Margaret	Pearl Arthur
Bettie Satchell	Jane & Walter Satchell
Betty Nobles	Lewis R. Nobles
Carl Goforth	Kenneth Epker
Carl Jester	Eva Jester
Daniel Presson	Patricia Mesic
David Pouchot	Julian & Ruby Blackburn
Doug Connell, husband	Arlene Connell
Elsie Lester	Jane & Walter Satchell
Evelyn Granger	Pearl Arthur
Florence Holt	Sharon Melson
George Bruce	Shirley Bruce
Grady Hatchett	Shirley Hatchett
Henrietta Beatrice Gray	Bonnie Tingle
Hope Bonta	Joseph Wallace
Jean Scott	David Lewis
JoAnn Humphries	Barbara Montoya
Joe Durham, Husband	Sue Durham
Karen Rudloff	Don & Sandra Johnson
Kathy Bruce Ellinger	Shirley Bruce
Laura Beth	Dorothy Hefner
Leonard P. Waltz	Bonnie Tingle
Linda Guy	Brenda Robbins
Linda Guy	Jack & Peggy Arnett
Linda Guy	Pearl Arthur
Linda Guy	Shirley Bruce
Lois Dail	Shirley Hatchett

Worthy of HONOR.

In Honor of...	Given by...
All Bithynia SS Class Teachers	The Bithynia Class of FUMC
Aunt Alice N. Wills, 91st Birthday	Vince & Nancy Snidow
Aunt Annie B. Harrup, 91st Birthday	Vince & Nancy Snidow
Gary & Martha Orr	Tom Bucklin

In Memory of...	Given by...
Loved Ones	Elizabeth Whistler
Lucille A. Scarborough	John A. Scarborough
McKeithan "Keith" Elvington	James W. Elvington, Jr.
McKeithan "Keith" Elvington	Paige & Hester Ingram
McKeithan "Keith" Elvington	Thomas Phillips
Mr. Marvin Grubbs	Donald & Linda Hedrick
Mr. & Mrs. O.D. Hedrick	Donald & Linda Hedrick
Mrs. Lois Grubbs	Donald & Linda Hedrick
Mrs. Milly Morris	Donald & Linda Hedrick
Myrtle Dawson	Christine Latham
Myrtle Register	Harry Register
Myrtle Register	Mary Keatts
Myrtle Register	Nathan & Diane Fray
Neal Cooper	Brenda Robbins
Norman, Sr.	Nancy C. Johnson
Richard Clarke	Mary Clarke
Rob Pullen	Mom & Teri
Robert Steele	Violet Brooke
Shirley Fowlkes	William Fowlkes
Stuart	Virginia Kostyal
T. Nelson Emerson	Nancy Fenton

Blake's Block - I Am Reminded

Blake O'Brien, *Director of Thrift Store Ministries*



As I reflect back on 2015, and look ahead to 2016, I am reminded of God's faithfulness and His grace. I am reminded that God has bigger plans for each of us than we can even imagine. Often, I find myself being reminded that it does not matter what plans I make on my own, for He has a far bigger plan, a perfect plan. Jeremiah 29:11 states, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

I am excited to be a part of the Peninsula Rescue Mission in the role of Director of Thrift Store Ministries. The background that I have is in the mental health field, working with kids, families, and adults, in different capacities ranging from counseling to community based work. Looking back, I can see how God has worked to lead me to the position that I now hold. I am blessed to be celebrating my seventh year of marriage to my wife, Andrea. We have 3 children. Juliet is 4 years old, Isabel is 2 years old, and JT is eight months old. We moved from Roanoke, Virginia, and are excited to be near our family.

Having the opportunity to speak into men's lives here at the thrift store is truly a blessing each day! One of my prayers in this position is to continue to allow God to work through me to impact others for Him, and to point everyone that I come in contact with to the Lord. Recently I was asked to intervene in a situation where two men who work at the thrift store could not seem to get on the same page regarding a situation, and the situation was starting to escalate. Being able to sit down with both men, talk about what was going on, and all three of us praying together, was a privilege (and a necessity in this case). Both men later came up to me separately and shared that they had resolved the issue and asked the other person for forgiveness for not handling things the right way. Isn't it easy to get so involved in our day-to-day routine that we often forget to slow down and pray for God's guidance? What a privilege it is to not only be able to be at the store each day and work on improving the day-to-day processes of the store, but to be able to show people God's grace, to pray with co-workers, to point others to the cross, and to be able to help others grow in their walk with Him.

Please stop by the thrift store; I would love to have the opportunity to meet you! Be on the lookout for updates on new and exciting things going on at the store in future newsletters, as well as information about how you can be involved in this great ministry.

John's Journey - Blank Stares

John Twigg, *Assistant Superintendent*



I recently asked a couple of our residents, "Where do you want to be in five years?" Their blank expressions spoke volumes. They were thinking about the next five minutes, or maybe the next five days, but five years? It was a short conversation.

That's often what ringing in a new year is like for those struggling with homelessness, poverty, and addictions. For most of us, New Year's Day brings a sense of a new start. Maybe 2015 wasn't everything we hoped it would be, but 2016 is a clean slate, and anything is possible. But for the many homeless in our community, a brand-new year promises little more than continued misery. There is no future to look forward to beyond the next crisis.



One of the joys and privileges of working here at PRM is seeing how your gifts and your love for all those who are seeking our help not only impact their lives today, but also give them hope for tomorrow and for this new year of 2016! And that's the power of the gospel, isn't it? It is God's promise to give us a hope and a future through Jesus Christ.

Speaking of 2016, we are excited about what's to come for this New Year at PRM. We are working to strengthen our current programs, discover new ways to serve those in need, and broaden our base of support. So as we begin this exciting new year, please pray for God's direction and wisdom in our plans and efforts.

Isaiah 25:4 says "You have been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in their distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat." Thank you for helping us live this verse in 2016!