



Peninsula Rescue Mission

COMING ALONGSIDE HURTING PEOPLE
LEADING THEM TO THE CROSS

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the **PENINSULA RESCUE MISSION** newsletter

JULY 2016

A MINISTRY FOR ALL AGES



Article submitted by:
Rev. Lindsay Poteat
Director of Legacy Giving
Former PRM Superintendent

When I entered the Rescue Mission ministry 43 years ago, there was a “stereotypical homeless man.” He was Caucasian, over 55 years old, and had some marketable skill - a plumber, carpenter, electrician, salesman, or such. He had been married, and he was now separated or divorced. His life had often been destroyed by alcohol; family had felt it necessary to push him away to protect themselves from being further collateral damage in the implosion of his life.

Clearly the “stereotype” has been shattered, as seen in a recent morning's introductory interview session with three new Mission residents! Mr. DPY is 68. We don't see too many his age any longer, but a few. He is Asian, born in Tokyo, Japan, possesses a Masters' Degree (a little unusual for our residents), and is retired. Difficulties made him temporarily homeless, but that will soon change. His greater challenges are health issues. Mr. MAV is 46 - 22 years younger. Lots of his age-peers find their way to our door. He is a white man, has a GED, and was born right here on the Peninsula. He is unemployed and seeking work. Our last friend in this trio is a young black man, Mr. MLH, also from Hampton. He was born in 1989, and is easily young enough to be Mr. MLH's son and Mr. DPY's grandson! He only finished the ninth grade in high school, and he is also unemployed. Three generations were interviewed in one morning.

Less than two weeks after this newsletter lands in your mailbox, we will be at Camp Open Arms for two consecutive weeks, ministering to the souls of children and youth.

They will have been born between the years of 2001 and 2008, ages 8 - 15. The range of ages, then, of people mentioned in this article is from 8 to 68! And they all receive similar things - though tailored to touch them at their various ages - the love of God through caring Christian folks and the gospel of the Lord Jesus! Truly the Rescue Mission is a “Ministry for all Ages.”

The Peninsula Rescue Mission exists for the purposes of aiding the poor and needy, providing shelter for the homeless, and sharing Christ with those who seek the same.

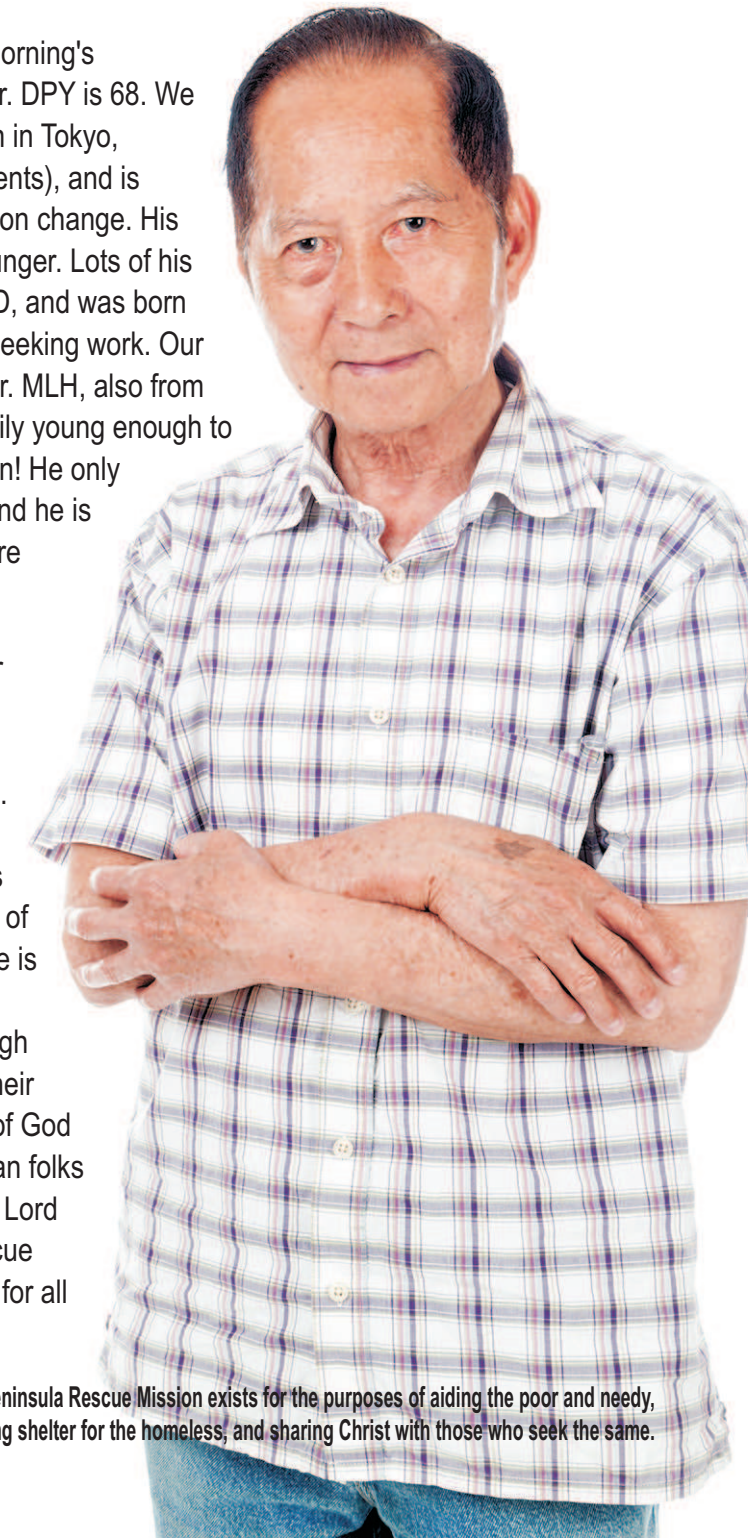
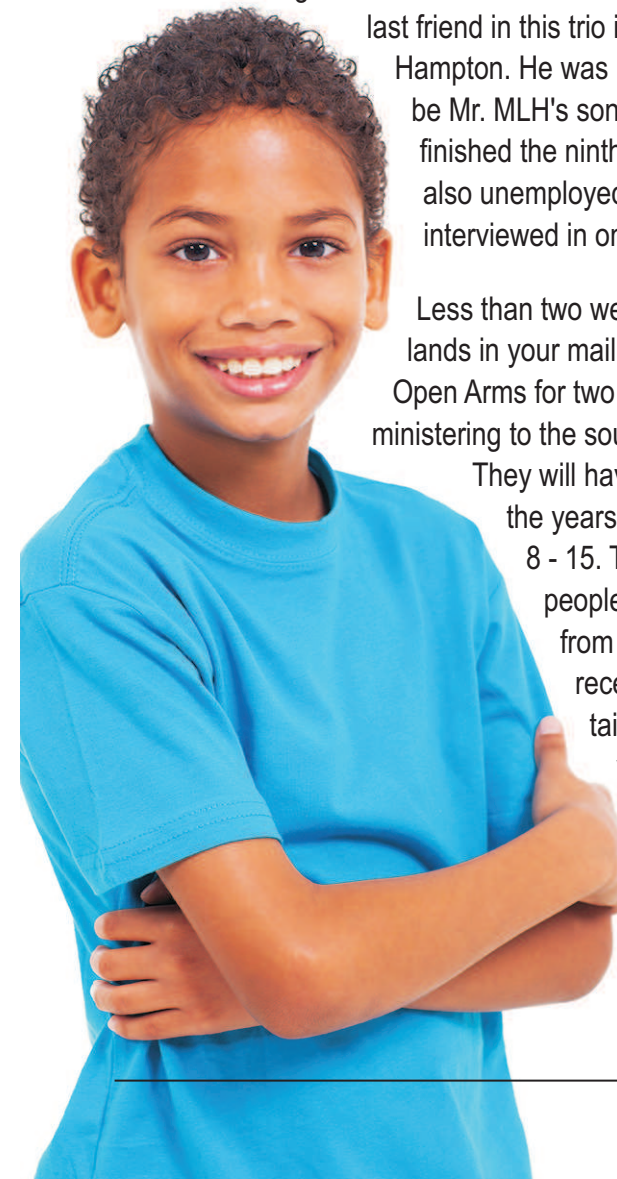
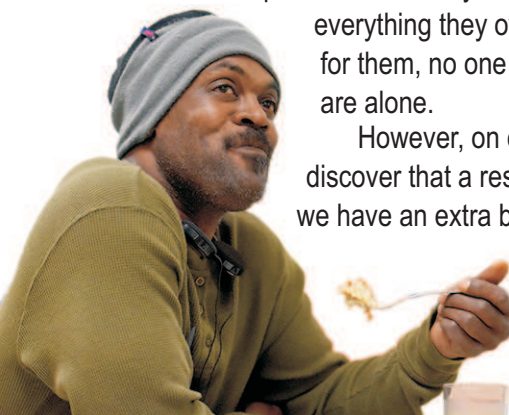
A Note from Alan - Every Night Matters

Alan DeFriese, Superintendent

The residential operation of PRM has changed over the last several years to allow men longer stays. Our men are benefitted by receiving more time to make their necessary arrangements. In most cases their time with us is at least doubled. On the flip side, we welcome the chance to minister to our residents for longer periods of time - more meals, more safe nights, and more opportunities for them to hear from the Word of God!!

But, sadly, the men cannot stay forever. The men who have been with us the longest must leave eventually to make ample room for the evening's newcomers. Their reactions vary greatly. Some men thank us for all that's been done for them and exit cheerfully having been fed and refreshed. Others leave without saying a word to anyone. Still others, who do not yet have a solid plan in place, show disappointment and even despair on their faces as they ponder where they will sleep tonight. Try to imagine how that must feel! They step out of PRM's front door with everything they own in a backpack or bag, and have no idea which direction to turn. There is no one waiting for them, no one who is expecting them to come home, in most cases no one they can call for help. They are alone.

However, on occasion we get to share a little bit of good news as a man is preparing to leave. When we discover that a resident left PRM prematurely, he creates bed space we were not expecting. When we realize we have an extra bed, we go find the man that was scheduled to leave and inform him he gets one more night. It doesn't sound like much - “one more night.” But if you could see their faces brighten, hear the sigh of relief as the burden of that day is lifted, you would understand how much it means!! Likely they will have to leave the next morning, but in that moment they are just thankful for one more night. It reminds me that for the men staying with us at PRM — Every Night Matters!!!



Mission Moment.



Thank you to the third graders at Summit Christian Academy for choosing to support Camp Open Arms with your donation after working hard to raise the money! Their donation will send two kids to camp and help with a third. Will you join them and help make camp a reality for less fortunate kids this summer? (Photo credit @Danielle Jackson Photography)

MEMORIALS that live.

In Memory of...	Given by...
Alverta Miller Nelson	Doris Lassiter
Anita Snead Garren	Brenda Robbins
Bev Sterling	Larhue Mitchell
Charles Smith	Kenneth & Sandra Epker
Danny Isley	Jack Arnett
Danny Isley	Brenda Robbins
Daphne Watson	Joyce Wiggins
Donald Langdon	Sue Langdon
Dorothy Daniels	Marjorie Lambert
Doug Connell	Arlene Connell
Edna Hamby	Betty Neher
Emma Moore	Angela Moore
Harry Snyder's Birthday	Dianne Snyder
Hazel Forrester	Nancy Fenton
James "Jim" Meier	Nancy Fenton
Jennifer Claydon	Brenda Robbins
Joe Durham	Sue Durham
Lillie Gagliardi	Rebecca Stevens
Lorraine Jones	Parlie McCrary
Lucy Pauline Andrews	Lucy Pape
Marvin Hoffer	Anita Matteson
Mary Russell B. Wright	Doris Lassiter
Mildred Lockstampher	Vince & Nancy Snidow

Mission Needs.



It is our joy to help the men in need of clothing, but as you can see we are running out of men's shorts and slacks of all sizes! Please help us out with donations of new or used men's pants and shorts. We would even be happy to pick these items up as we make our regular runs; just give us a call to set it up. Thank you for helping us out!

Worthy of HONOR.

In Honor of...	Given by...
Bethany & Eric	Connie Hernandez
Brian Baxter, Birthday	Lucy Pape
Dorothy R. Benthall, 75th Birthday,	Marjorie Lambert
Judy Means, 70th Birthday,	Brenda & Sherri

In Memory of...	Given by...
Mrs. Edna Mason	Marjorie Lambert
Mrs. George M. Hudgins, Lillian	Doris Lassiter
Nellie Kilpatrick	Brenda Robbins
Oliver Hertzler	Mimi Leveille
Paul Adams	Mom & Dad
Peg Hewes	Elizabeth Whistler
Phillip Thomas Smith, Jr.	Joanna Miele
Richard Clarke	Mary Clarke
R.L. Young	Paige Ingram
Rob Pullen	Mom & Teri
Sally & Palmer Bowling	Karen Keene
Scott Shimmin	Connie Hernandez
Shirley Fowlkes	William Fowlkes
Stephen Reed	Dorothy Reed
Tyler Huffman	Brenda Robbins
Wanda Thomas	George T. White
Wanda Thomas	Helen & Frank Westerman

Blake's Block - More than Just a Store

Blake O'Brien, Director of Thrift Store Ministries

The Peninsula Rescue Mission Thrift Store is a place where donations are accepted and appreciated. Anything, from clothing to "knick-knacks" to furniture, goes a long way to help out the overall cause of the Rescue Mission. Being at the store each day and seeing what folks donate is a true blessing. I regularly have conversations with customers who want to assist the Mission, but



they cannot always write a check or give an amount of money. I am encouraged by those who choose to donate in the form of giving their material, such as furniture and clothes. What is neat about that is that 100% of the money made from the donations goes directly back to the Mission. People should know that they can give in this way - through their items that they no longer want or need, and that is just as helpful as writing a check. At the thrift store we strive hard for it to be more than just an ordinary shop. We want it to be a place where people are loved and where Christ is lifted high. It's really a joy to be able to work with the men each day and talk about these things - to watch it play out in a day at the store. It is not a strange sight to see folks praying in the store - praying for one another, and praying for the Rescue Mission. Please join us in praying for the men who come through the Mission's doors, as well as the men who are in the Overcomer's Program. Please continue to pray about how you can support the mission. We look forward to seeing you at the store!



John's Journey - The Hug Made the Most Impact

John Twigg, Assistant Superintendent

I couldn't possibly understand the overwhelming loneliness, hurt, and despair many of the men experience before they come to the Peninsula Rescue Mission. I learned just how true that is a few days ago. Whether they're struggling with addictions, abuse, or just the difficult circumstances of life, they often find their past makes it very difficult to envision a positive future. Many have burned all their bridges with the friends and family who love them, and they struggle to accept the love and friendship shown to them at the Mission.

It may be obvious, but it takes more than food, clothing, and shelter to change a life. As important as those things are, lonely and hurting people need to know they belong somewhere. They need love, friendship, and to know they matter. During a recent encounter with one of our men, we discussed many things about his past, present, and future situations, but I think the hug he so reluctantly accepted made the most impact. That simple act, that manifestation of kindness, caring, and friendship broke down walls my words never could.



Many of you will remember these words to a popular TV theme song from the 1980s: "Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name . . . You want to be where you can see, our troubles are all the same. You want to be where everybody knows your name."

Our troubles really are all the same, sinners in need of a Savior, people who long to be known and loved. When men like my friend from that day come to PRM, they encounter these things. He found his Savior — and people who cared about him. It's that kind of love and friendship that changes lives. Thanks to caring people like you, that's what the Peninsula Rescue Mission is all about.

