



Peninsula Rescue Mission

COMING ALONGSIDE HURTING PEOPLE
LEADING THEM TO THE CROSS

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the **PENINSULA RESCUE MISSION** newsletter
FEBRUARY 2019



NEW DAYS - NEW BEGINNINGS

It was Thursday morning, December 27, when I captured these pictures while crossing the James River Bridge on my way to help about 40 men start a new day with our chapel service. We have very little idea about what our residents have been through that brings them to the door of a homeless shelter. We have the joy of meeting many of them in one-on-one or small-group meetings after chapel and breakfast are over. In those chats we may learn a bit more about their difficult circumstances, but even then we can rarely enter into their hearts and feel with them the grief and sadness that is theirs. But we do care - very, very much!

One recent morning a man the age of my daughter shared through tears a problem he had recently been through. His struggle mirrored one I had experienced myself, and I was able on this rare occasion to empathize with him. His tears almost brought me to weeping, as I felt the renewed pain of my own situation. I was reminded of two very important and helpful things. One was that a primary purpose for our sorrows is to equip us to comfort others with the same comfort we receive from God in our adversities. Paul wrote (2 Corinthians 1:4), "...who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."

The second helpful thought came from the photographs. Each day offers us a new beginning, even if it follows a very dark and difficult night. The sun does continue to rise, and God is still on His throne! God will write the last chapter of life for us, and today is not likely that final stanza. If we trust Him and walk with Him, life's sun will come out and chase the clouds away. All may not be roses on our path just now, but God promises to walk the path with us. He even carries us when the going gets too tough for us to press on. ***New days bring new beginnings.***

– article submitted by R. Lindsay Poteat, Director of Legacy Giving

A Note from Alan - 18 YEARS LATER...

Alan DeFriese, Superintendent

Over the years many men have participated in our Overcomers Program. Sadly many of them leave before they even complete the program. A small percentage complete the program, and enter the next phase - the Work Transition Program where the men find work in the public sector, continue to live rent-free at PRM for up to 3 months, and prepare financially for their final exit from PRM.

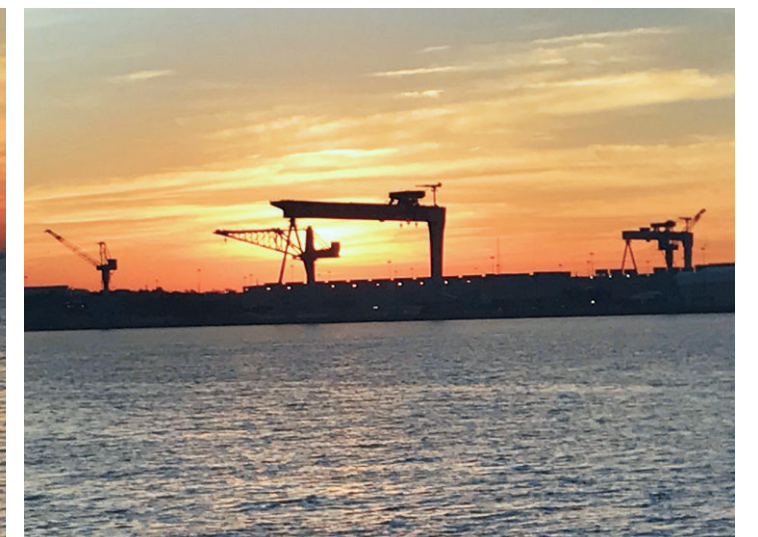
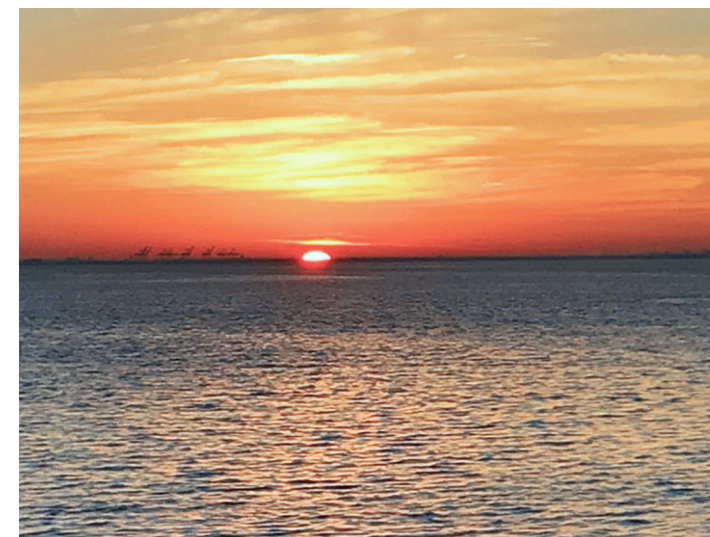
18 years ago (2000) Kevin joined our Overcomers Program. He thrived under the structure and accountability, but never seemed terribly interested in pursuing his walk with the Lord. Kevin completed his program time and went to work at a local restaurant. After only a couple of paychecks he moved out on his own. He was neither spiritually nor financially prepared. Within a couple of months he had lost the first job, and was now working at another small restaurant. A short time later the restaurant owners shared with us they had to let Kevin go. We heard nothing from Kevin after that. Time passed, life moved on, and Kevin faded from our immediate memories.

In the middle of December, 2018, Kevin checked back into PRM. I was glad to see him, but saddened by the circumstance that brought about his return. As it turns out Kevin had gone to prison for just over 15 years soon after he lost his second job years ago. Upon his release (2016) he floundered badly trying to find work. He consistently made poor enough choices that

he could never get ahead. He asked for another chance on the program, and we agreed to begin the probationary trial period.

During our Christmas Eve service just over a month ago Kevin shared that he should have listened and not left PRM when he did back in 2000. He even mentioned that he felt like he had come home, and was excited about being offered a second chance at the program. We were excited as well!!

Just before New Years Kevin did not return to PRM one evening. He came to pick up his belongings and told someone that he was moving in with a family member. This seems like another poor choice, and it grieves us that sin still seems to grip Kevin's heart. We long for the wayward hearts of our residents to be like that of the Psalmist when he wrote, "Cause me to understand the way of your precepts, that I may meditate on your wonderful deeds. My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word. Keep me from deceitful ways; be gracious to me and teach me your law." (Ps. 119:27-29) Please keep Kevin in your prayers in the days and weeks to come. He, and so many other men of PRM wrestle with sin, and it wreaks great havoc on their lives! Pray for their hearts to know salvation in Jesus!!



Mission Moment.



We love to have volunteer help with all of our meals. Families often come to serve together, blessing the men in many ways. Today we had three generations of the Cecil family come for breakfast. They brought the food, cooked the meal, served the men and cleaned up. Thank you Cecils and all of our volunteers! To volunteer please call 757-380-6909.

MEMORIALS that live.

In Memory of...

Lloyd, Gina, & Ricky
 Bobby Bowman
 Violet Brooke
 Charles L. Bull
 Marylou Burgess
 Richard Clarke, Jr.
 Doug Connell
 Marion & Jean Cutchins
 David C. Davis
 Aaron Dowless
 Deley Dozier
 Bob Faison
 Shirley Fowlkes
 Clinton Gowen
 Margaret Gowen
 Matthew Gowen
 Marvin & Lois Grubbs
 C. D. Hancock
 Edwin Hancock
 Shirley Hansbrough
 Stacy Harrell-grandson
 Lonnie Heame
 O.D. & Ione Hedrick
 William "Bill" Ingram
 Wayne & Pearl Johnson
 Randolph & Lorraine Keene
 Alvin & Selma Mitchell
 Bob Monroe
 Milly Morris
 Edgar & Frances Nettles
 Edgar & Frances Nettles
 James C. Odell
 Loved Ones
 Ed Parrish
 Shirley Perchonok
 Shirley Perchonok
 Bill Pfeifer
 Stephan Pfeifer
 Ann C. Pierpont
 Owen Tazewell Reed
 Tazewell O. Reed
 Ben Riddle
 Emmalee Skelly

Given by...

Joyce Wiggins
 Luther & Mary Reynolds
 Lillian Cox
 Charles L. Bull, Jr.
 Clint & Elaine Gowen
 Lora Clarke
 Arlene Connell
 Wyatt Cutchins
 Floye & Sully Donadio
 Ann, Larry, & Wanda Dowless
 Eddie & Wandalee Israel
 Shirley Faison
 William Fowlkes
 Clint & Elaine Gowen
 Clint & Elaine Gowen
 Clint & Elaine Gowen
 Donald & Linda Hedrick
 Patsy Hancock
 Patsy Hancock
 Vince & Nancy Snidow
 Mary Parrish
 Christy Hearne
 Donald & Linda Hedrick
 Jacqueline Ingram
 Sid & Karen Keene
 Sid & Karen Keene
 John & LaRhue Mitchell
 Bill & Karen Hargette
 Donald & Linda Hedrick
 John & LaRhue Mitchell
 Edward & Lisa Mitchell
 Betty J. Odell
 Lelia Douglas
 Mary Parrish
 Donna & Brian Newlands
 Robert Hagan
 Irene B. Pfeifer
 Irene B. Pfeifer
 Nancy Fenton
 Charlotte P. Reed
 Charlotte P. Reed
 Bonnie Tingle
 Eddie & Wandalee Israel

Mission Needs.



The men who stay with us have many needs, one of them often being clean under clothes. With your help we are able provide each man with new socks, underwear, and t-shirts as needed. Right now we especially need men's **2x** and **3x undershirts**. If you could send a pack or two our way it would be a big help. No tank tops please. Thank you!

Worthy of HONOR.

In Honor of...

All Public Servants
 Matt & Sara Beagle for Christmas
 Rev. & Mrs. Bob Boggan for their anniversary
 Joe Caskie Family
 David & Christine Din for Christmas
 Family
 Daniel Flittner
 Dr. & Mrs. Robert E. Gray, Sr. for Christmas
 Robert & Karen Gray for Christmas
 Daniel & Jennifer Hopkins for Christmas
 Russ & Toni Howard for Christmas
 Jesse & Dana Jones for Christmas
 Fred & Phyllis Kohlman for Christmas
 Johnathan F. Lamar & family for Christmas
 John W. Lamar & family for Christmas
 Martha Lamar for Christmas
 Kim Liebold
 Sam Lupica for Christmas
 Jimmy & Charlotte McCarter for Christmas
 Leo P. McManus, III
 Martha Miller
 Kevin & Beverly Owsley
 J.P. & Jackie Paler
 Daniel & Katie Payne
 Dr. & Mrs. Mark Rasmussen
 Bruce & Patty Renaux
 Connie Saunders
 Connie Saunders
 Daniel & Virginia Shedd
 Vince Snidow & Bert Rocky
 Mary Sorenson
 David & Teresa Wiggs
 Leslie Woodin, Jr. for Christmas

Given by...

Vince & Nancy Snidow
 Coleman Walsh, Jr.
 Jerome & Brenda Robbins
 Crystal Caskie
 Coleman Walsh, Jr.
 Deanna S. Capps
 Bertha & Willard Flemming
 David Flittner
 Coleman Walsh, Jr.
 Coleman Walsh, Jr.
 Coleman Walsh, Jr.
 Coleman Walsh, Jr.
 Coleman Walsh, Jr.
 John E. Lamar
 John E. Lamar
 John E. Lamar
 Chip Harris
 Coleman Walsh, Jr.
 Coleman Walsh, Jr.
 Brant & Shannon Midkiff
 Christopher Miller
 Coleman Walsh, Jr.
 Coleman Walsh, Jr.
 Coleman Walsh, Jr.
 Coleman Walsh, Jr.
 Courtney Renaux
 Chris & Angela Arnold
 Paul Saunders
 Coleman Walsh, Jr.
 Anonymous
 Lucy Pape
 Coleman Walsh, Jr.
 John E. Lamar

In Memory of...

Peggy Stickle
 Peggy Stickle
 Ola Mae Wenzel
 Ola Mae Wenzel
 Eunice Williams
 Ruth Williamson

Given by...

Darnell Family
 Joseph Stickle
 Amanda Adams
 Bill & Eleanor Scruggs
 Billy Williams
 Alan Williamson

Blake's Block - WHAT A BLESSING!

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

It's always a blessing to be able to bless others, knowing how blessed we are ourselves. Each year we pick a family in need in the community and try to meet as many of their physical needs as we can. The hope is that while we are meeting their physical needs, the door will open for the opportunity to meet their spiritual needs. Pictured below is Tia. She and her son fell on tough times, and they had to move without much warning. Due to the circumstances concerning



their abrupt move, they had to leave most of their belongings behind, and they found themselves in an apartment with no furniture and little money to be able to buy even just a couch. God opened the doors, put them in touch with the right people, and the thrift store was able to step up and bless this family with everything they needed - a couch, dressers, kitchen table and chairs, and more! Tia and her son were so grateful and overwhelmed. This story is being shared in order to highlight how important we feel it is to help those in our community that need it most! It is often such times as these, when physical needs are met, that hearts are more open to hear the good news of Jesus. Thank you for your donations to the store, and thank you for praying for those in the community that need both their physical and spiritual needs met.



John's Journey - CHURCH FAMILY

John Twigg, *Assistant Superintendent*

Many men who come to the Mission have difficult and painful family situations. While earthly families are part of God's plan, a recent conversation with one of our men reminded me that God made us to be part of an even greater family. Having recently been hospitalized for an illness, he was told during his stay that he probably has lung cancer and possibly diabetes. He told me this was the worst week of his life, and he had no family to help him get through this.

As we talked about his situation, he told me there was one bright spot amidst the gloom. He had recently begun attending a new church in Hampton, a church where he was loved, accepted, and treated like family. He was amazed that while he was in the hospital men from the church visited with him, called him and prayed with him. They even came to see him at the Mission after he was discharged. This may have been his first time being treated as a member of a church family, and this display of Christ's love touched him deeply.



We encourage all of our men to attend a local church, and not just as a place to sit and listen for an hour each week, but to connect and become part of the family. I pray that God will send his people to greet the lonely, the homeless and the unwanted at the doors of every church - welcoming them into the family of Christ. We don't all have earthly families where love is shared, but we can all be a part of sharing God's love through His amazing church family, and it can touch someone's life.

