



Peninsula Rescue Mission

COMING ALONGSIDE HURTING PEOPLE
LEADING THEM TO THE CROSS

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the PENINSULA RESCUE MISSION newsletter

MAY 2019



The ministry of Rescue is greatly affected by the presence or absence of parents in a person's life, and our clientele also reflect the character of the parent or parents in the home. Recognizing that we each ultimately have personal responsibility for our actions and their consequences, it is also true that the nurture (or lack thereof) we receive at home in our formative years greatly impacts our behavior throughout life.

Our summer camp ministry has brought us into contact with thousands of children over the

THE IMPACT OF MOTHERS AND FATHERS

years since its inception in 1974. We have seen well-behaved children, and we have seen those whose conduct was deplorable. There is almost always a correlation between good behavior and good parenting (especially reflecting the presence of a Mom **and** a Dad in the home). I think of a little girl who was "acting out" (as some call it), and had to be sent home from camp. Barbara and I took her to meet her Mom; we found out that the parents had recently separated. I knew the family personally, and I am

sure that the upset in the structure of the home directly caused the child's misbehavior. When we returned to camp, the first person we encountered was a former camper turned counselor. He had been a stellar camper, and he is now an outstanding counselor. He comes from a strong, two-parent home.

In visiting with thousands of men in the last 4 ½

decades, several things have been abundantly clear. There is a decline in the number of praying parents, and there is a shrinking number of men with two-parent home backgrounds. These two factors are against the men who enter our door. Men from such backgrounds have often missed the example of a solid Dad in the home. They lack the spiritual advantage of a Mom interceding for them after they have left the home.

Those of us who grew up with two parents, and further had the spiritual backing of Moms and Dads, are a blessed bunch. Thank God this month and next, on Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day, for those great blessings.

A Note from Alan - BRAND NEW INFORMATION

Alan DeFriese, *Superintendent*

The Rescue Mission has always been a place where men will come when their lives get off track. We are ready to help each one with the essentials of life - food, shelter, clothing, and the story of a God that dearly loves them and has a plan for their lives.

The reason each man has come to PRM becomes evident fairly quickly during our one-on-one conversations with them. Typically, as the men share their stories it is not difficult to see how poor choices led to their current situation. In some cases the poor choices began years ago, and they culminated only recently. In more extreme cases poor, and very costly choices, result in a man immediately losing his ability to take care of himself. While we never wish for trouble in a man's life, we are thankful that when trouble comes, they find their way to us.

Our time to spend with each man is relatively short. But with great care and love we set out to help them understand how their bad choices led to their difficult circumstances. In most cases, the counsel is fairly well-received as the men understand we are on their side and want the best for them. This quickly earns us the right to be direct in these conversations.

It is surprising in "Bible-belt Virginia" how little some of our men know about the Scriptures. In many cases our Biblical counsel to them is brand-new information... it seems we are the

first to ever share these things with them, and they sound completely foreign to them! Recently a new resident shared his excitement at being out of jail. He would soon be joined by his girlfriend from another state. He explained their plan to get a place to live together and to move forward... and he was grateful for God's involvement in their future. I challenged him on God's beautiful plan and His high standard for marriage and for their purity prior to marriage. His blank stare told me quickly he had never contemplated that his current relationship with his girlfriend was not in line with God's plan. In his world, living together prior to marriage is just what's done...it's the norm...and no one had ever challenged his thinking.

This young man seemed eager to learn more, so we talked on for some time. It is hard to say whether or not he will make any changes to his lifestyle. We, of course, cannot control that. But, because of kind friends like you, we remain in downtown Newport News ready with the help that men need...the physical and the spiritual. Thank you, Friend, for your investment of prayer, time, and finances that keeps us going! May God Bless you!!



Mission Moment.



As summer approaches the volunteer calendar is filling up fast! If you would like to serve a meal with your family, a group, or by yourself, call us now to get on the calendar. Volunteering at PRM is a blessing to the men and blessing to those who volunteer. Thank you to the families and friends who support us in this way!

MEMORIALS that live.

In Memory of...	Given by...
Lloyd, Gina, & Ricky	Joyce H. Wiggins
Mildred Ballew	Arlene Connell
Donald Blackwell	Constance Blackwell
Barbara Cathy Bretschneider	Vicki McLean
Cathleen Bretschneider	Robert & Faye Thalls
Donald L Carroll	Joyce H Carroll
Don Carroll	Lucy Pape
Connie Cecil	Jerome & Brenda Robbins
Doma Chappell	John Chappell
Doug Connell	Arlene Connell
Mark Dale	Bradley & Barbara Kephart
Mark Dale	Sharon Baker
Virginia Edwards	Ben & Alice Rich
Harry "Pop-Pop" Fisher	Ben & Alice Rich
Shirley Fowlkes	William Fowlkes
Matthew Charles Gowen	Clint & Elaine Gowen
Dr. Ricardo J. Guardia	Mary E. Parrish
Edna Hamby	Betty Neher
Ernest Higgins	Frances Higgins
Marvin Hoffer	Linda Hoffer
Herman Howard	Ruth Howard
Cheese Ingram	Bradley & Barbara Kephart
Lynwood & Lorraine Ingram	Their Family
Elmer Keatts	Mary Keatts
Rev. Chauncey Mann, Jr.	Ben & Alice Rich
Paul Means	Judy Means & Family
Charles Moore	Angela Moore
Billy Moore	Geneviev Drewery
William A. "Billy" Moore	Barbara Garner
Mollie Owens	Jerome & Brenda Robbins

Mission Needs.



As you begin the annual ritual of Spring Cleaning, please remember the Mission! Our Thrift Store is a significant source of revenue for the Mission. Your donations of gently used clothing, furniture, appliances, and household goods makes a real difference here on the Peninsula. Call today to schedule a pickup.

Worthy of HONOR.

In Honor of...	Given by...
Arnette Adams	Betty Deans
Dee & Donald Adams	Geneviev Drewery
Dale Bess	Linda Bess
Marilyn Clark	Betty Deans
Bill & Carol Douglas	Lelia Douglas
Nancy Ellis	Betty Deans
Christian Faris' 19th birthday	Grandpa & Grandma
Ryan Faris' 20th birthday	Grandpa & Grandma
Gail Galli's birthday	Mom & Dad
Sandra Halsey	Betty Deans
Little John Justice for his birthday	Jerome & Brenda Robbins
Carolyn Marn	Betty Deans
Lucy Pape	Joyce H Carroll
Diane Puckett	Betty Deans
Arlene Rekut	Geneviev Drewery
Marty Robbins for his birthday	Jerome & Brenda Robbins
Eloise Willoughby for her birthday	Rodney Willoughby
Nancy Willoughby for her birthday	Rodney Willoughby

In Memory of...	Given by...
John R Plaster	Debbie Robichaud
George Rogers, III	Sharon Burkhamer
Jerry Rose, Sr.	Rosemary Rose
Karen Shultz	Bert & Anne Rockey
Tyrelle Shumate	George Askew
Rev. Donald P. Stroud	Calvin & Delois Richardson
Linda Wigger	Bruce Wigger
Eunice Williams	Billy Williams
George Williams	Joyce Carroll

Blake's Block - DISCIPLESHIP

Blake O'Brien, Director of Thrift Store Ministries



Sometimes guys come through our program and we don't really know their status with the Lord when they leave. At other times, men come through and meet the Lord for the first time. They embark on a journey that many of us have, but more times than not, they don't really know how to start walking with the Lord. There are a lot of things that happen at the store, but the most important thing that happens is the discipleship of men. Every Monday morning, we close the store for a few hours and for part of that time, we have a Bible study (pictured). Right



now, we are studying 1 Corinthians. Several people in this picture have recently given their lives to the Lord, and one person has recently re-committed his life to the Lord! These men look forward to digging into God's Word each week and learning what it means to now walk differently. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." It has been a joy to see the growth in these men's lives, and to help them learn what it means to be a new creation in Christ! Thank you for your continued prayers for the men of the Mission, as well as for your support! God is working in the hearts of the men that come through our doors!

John's Journey - THE ROAD AHEAD IS A DIFFICULT ONE

John Twigg, Assistant Superintendent



I recently sat and talked at length with one of our guests, I'll call him Jason. This is part of his long and difficult story. Born in 1954 in Birmingham Alabama, Jason only made it through the 9th grade in school, but his schooling was different from most. Born with a disability that made learning to read and write difficult, his school years were spent in special education classes where he says they did a lot of coloring. Today Jason is 65 years old and cannot read or write.

Throughout his life Jason struggled to find work and was often taken advantage of due to his disability and illiteracy. On a construction job part of a brick wall collapsed, and he was severely injured. His employer refused to cover his medical costs, leaving Jason hurt and out of work. On another occasion after getting paid Jason was leaving the scallop boat he worked on and was attacked. He still has the scars from the men who stabbed him and stole his money.



The passing of his wife in recent years left Jason brokenhearted. To help pay the bills he took in roommates, but when they began stealing from him he made them leave. Not understanding the impact this would have he fell behind on his payments and eventually lost what had been the family home. With poor health and a significant disability, the road ahead is a difficult one. Thank you for supporting our work to help men like Jason. Please pray for him and all the men at PRM as we try to meet their needs and show them the hope found only in Jesus Christ.