

RESCUE ALERT

Reaching Hearts • Changing Lives

Volume 9 • Issue 5

A Chance to Change... “I Chose the Mission and I Have Been Blessed!”

Kevin’s traveled around a bit... physically and spiritually.

From Brooklyn where he grew up to the penitentiary where he spent 10 years of his life for selling drugs to Kentucky where he was given a chance to change his life for eternity!

When he was released from prison, Kevin’s brother suggested a

“change of scenery” might lead to a change of heart. So Kevin came to Lexington.

“I came out here, and I was doing well... had a job and everything. But then I slipped and got caught back up in the drug scene. I found myself sitting in a crack house.”

Kevin desperately needed a change that moving to another city couldn’t provide.

“I had been in other programs in New York, but I did that for my family.” Now, it was time to do it for real, and the help Kevin found was the Christ-centered Life Renewal Program here at the Mission.

“I have been truly blessed.”

Kevin entered the program, and he never looked back. Today, he comes back to visit nearly every day.

Kevin did construction and landscape work for the Mission, and while he was here in the program, he was offered a job outside that paid \$18 an hour!

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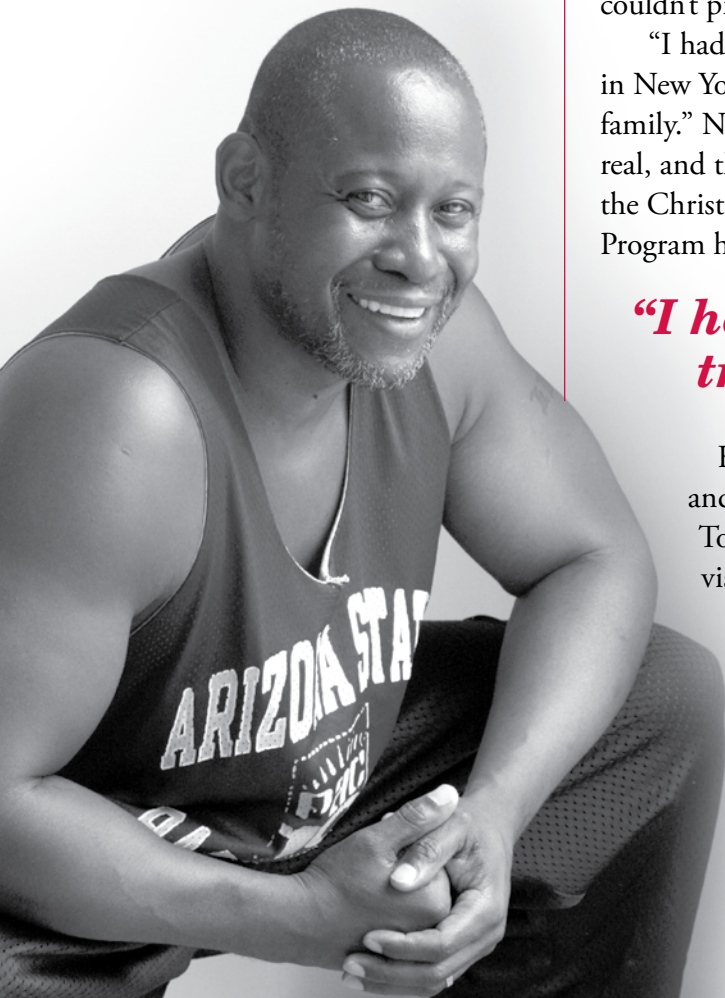
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“I could have left, but I turned the job down. The money was good, but money is my problem. I had the opportunity to leave, but I wanted to change my life!”

The message in the program – regeneration by the Holy Spirit – is one Kevin says he “really needed to hear.”

“I don’t crave drugs anymore, but I don’t want to forget where I came from. I still come to the Mission every day to see the people – I’ve been in their shoes, and I know what being in the gutter is like. I’ve been truly blessed.”

Kevin has been blessed in more ways than one. Not only is he now a member of the Family Worship Center, but this past August, he and his new wife celebrated their first anniversary!



Jim Connell



“It’s a Wonderful Life”

Nearly everyone has seen the classic Christmas movie, “It’s a Wonderful Life.”

James Stewart plays George Bailey, a man who’s about to commit suicide until his guardian angel intervenes and shows him all the lives he has touched and the wonderful contributions he has made to his community.

This year, as you get ready to celebrate the holidays with friends and family, I want you to think of all the men, women and children whose lives you have touched through this ministry!

The food you’ve provided has done more than feed hungry people. It’s encouraged some of them to seek help here at the Mission, where they have made changes that have saved their lives.

You’ve helped there, too, through your support of our Life Renewal Program.

So today we all say “thank you!”

With your prayers and support, many in Lexington can truthfully say, “It is a wonderful life!”

Jim Connell
Jim Connell
Executive Director

Toys Needed for Christmas Block Party

We are gearing up to throw a Christmas party for our neighborhood! Last year, more than 500 of our neighbors attended, and we expect an even bigger crowd this year. The event will be held on Sat, Dec 18 from 10 a.m. to noon at The Potter’s House, 649 N Limestone St.

Our guests will have the chance to enjoy live music, receive free food and clothes and hear the Christmas story. Everyone that comes to the party will receive a gift bag, and each child’s bag is filled with toys as well as hygiene items, a hat and a pair of gloves.

You can help make this Christmas special for a child by donating any of the following (new) items:

- Small games and puzzles
- Play dough



- Crayons & markers
- Small toys and dolls
- Bubbles
- Candy
- Small stuffed animals
- Jump ropes
- Books
- Activity/Coloring books
- Stickers
- Toy trucks and cars
- Balls

All donations may be dropped off at our Outreach Center, located at 444 Glen Arvin Avenue, off of Georgetown Street.

Mission Wish List

Donations may be dropped off at our Outreach Center, located at 444 Glen Arvin Avenue. For more information call (859) 381-9600 or visit www.LexingtonRescue.org.

- Pillows
- Twin sheet sets
- Cleaning supplies
- Hygiene items
- Dish liquid detergent
- Powder laundry detergent
- Dry cereal
- Coffee
- Tea bags
- Lemonade mix
- Recovery Bibles (NLT)

Home for the Holidays You Make It Happen!

How does the old song go? “Oh, there’s no place like home for the holidays...” For the men in our Life Renewal Program, that home is going to be the Mission.

And we’re going to make it the best place we possibly can!

There will be decorations. Bountiful, home-cooked holiday dinners. Some small gifts. And most of all, Christian love and acceptance. Because that’s the best gift of all for people who have nowhere else to turn

...no family or friends to turn to.

This year, there will be “room at the inn.” A home for the holidays! It’s so much better than homeless for the holidays, and you have the power to make it happen.

Please use the enclosed holiday gift card to provide lodging, meals, clothing and other loving care this holiday season. Or, go online to www.LexingtonRescue.org and make a gift right now.

God bless you during this holy season!

What Goes Around Comes Around “Reaching Out and Changing People’s Hearts and Lives”

Last year, through our Homeless Prevention Program, the Mission helped 190 families and individuals with rent and utility bills.

One of those people was Bob. Today, he’s showing his appreciation by helping to make Lexington Rescue Mission one of the best places in town to shop and have lunch!

The day Bob came in for help, we were about to serve lunch. So he had a bite to eat then met with a staff member. We helped take care of his utility bill and then suggested he join a class to help him prepare a résumé and get back in the work force.

“I stopped working about a year ago because of my health. Vince took one look at my résumé and saw I had a lot of experience as a chef.” One thing led to another and Bob asked about volunteering in the kitchen at the Mission.

The day we interviewed him, Bob and his helpers were fixing Hot Browns with roasted new potatoes. Using whatever is available in the pantry, Bob has brought new life into the Mission kitchen. “Even if we offer sandwiches, it’s going to be something good.”

“Working with loving, caring people.”

The kitchen is not the only place at the Mission where Bob has been sharing his expertise.

During the summer, Bob began talking with the Mission’s Associate Director, Vince Meccariello, about our thrift stores on Bryan Avenue and New Circle Road.

“I have 17 years of experience in retail, and I thought I might be able to offer some suggestions that would help increase sales.”

That led to Bob’s “showing up” at



the stores to help create new displays and a better “shopping experience.” Today, when you visit, you’ll find things like special areas for jeans and vintage clothing. There’s even talk of music on weekends... projects to attract more people and make the stores a bigger part of the community.

Why is Bob giving so much of his time to the Mission?

“I encourage people to come here.”

Bob wants to give back to the organization and people who helped him in his time of need. He also appreciates the fact that the Mission is a faith-based organization that welcomes people from all denominations. “I try to encourage my friends to come here... we have an effect on the community and the people who are helped... reaching out and changing people’s hearts and lives.”

“The Mission is making a big impact on the community. And if they can’t help people directly, they have connections with so many churches and organizations that can. That’s exciting for me because I’ve been in the position where doors were closed instead of opened.”

Preventing Homelessness

With utility prices on the rise, hundreds of low-income families in Lexington will struggle to pay their bills this winter. Many will do without heat or water and others will fall behind on their rent.

Lexington Rescue Mission works to make sure these families don’t end up on the streets. Our Homeless Prevention Program provides emergency financial assistance for rent and utility bills to those on the brink of eviction or having their utilities shut-off.

We work one-on-one with them, not only giving financial help but also providing budget counseling, case management and referral services to other resources in the community.



Help us prevent homelessness by joining the Walk for Warmth on Sat, Feb 26. Prizes will be awarded to individuals and teams that raise the most money through sponsorships, and everyone who participates will receive a free t-shirt. All proceeds go directly to help families in crisis.

Join us for the walk to help raise awareness about homelessness and help prevent homelessness in Lexington. For more information or to register, please call the Mission at (859) 381-9600 or visit www.LexingtonRescue.org.

LRM Online

Have you visited www.LexingtonRescue.org lately? This is the best way to learn about what's going on at the Mission 24/7.

You can read about how our programs are helping change lives, learn about volunteer opportunities and share prayer requests.



You can also save us administrative costs by donating

securely through our website. With the cost of nearly everything increasing, this is the most cost-effective way to support our ministry.

Join Us for a Tour

See first-hand how your gifts are being used. Come in for a tour of the Mission. Tours are a great opportunity to learn about the services we offer and how you can get plugged into this ministry.



Visit LexingtonRescue.org for a schedule of upcoming tours. To sign up for a tour, contact Natalie Cunningham at (859) 381-9600, ext. 224 or natalie@lexingtonrescue.org.

Serving Comfort and Cheer

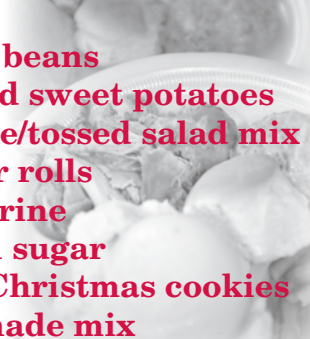
Hundreds of hungry men, women and children will come to us for a hot meal this holiday season. Many come seeking food and warmth, and they leave having experienced love and fellowship.

We will make this season brighter for those in need at our annual Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. We will serve a traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings at our Thanksgiving dinner on Wed., Nov. 24 from 5 to 7 p.m. and Christmas dinner will be served on Sat., Dec. 25 from 4 to 6 p.m. at Broadway Christian Church, 187 N. Broadway.

"This is an opportunity for us to reach out to men, women and children who otherwise wouldn't have a place to go over the holidays," said Jim Connell, Executive Director.

As we prepare for our Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, please pray that God will prepare the hearts of those who come to receive His love and grace.

Holiday Meal Needs List



- Ham
- Green beans
- Canned sweet potatoes
- Lettuce/tossed salad mix
- Dinner rolls
- Margarine
- Brown sugar
- Cake/Christmas cookies
- Lemonade mix

Donations may be dropped off at our Outreach Center, located at 444 Glen Arvin Avenue.

Include Lexington Rescue Mission In Your Will

Consider these reasons for including Lexington Rescue Mission in your will.

- 1. It's a matter of values.** Your will is your "testament" – a statement that you believe in the Mission.
- 2. It's a matter of timing.** Giving through your will enables you to give a more substantial gift than you ever could during your lifetime.
- 3. It's a matter of faith.** Giving to the Mission through your will is a faithful way to provide for on-going ministry long after you're gone.

Please call Jim at (859) 381-9600 or visit www.LexingtonRescue.org.