

“I Just Feel So Blessed.”

Freddie comes from just south of Lexington. He was “born and raised” in Bell County, left to serve his country and then, came back.

But opportunities for work were few and far between. With too much free time on his hands, Freddie was arrested and incarcerated for drug trafficking, which involved giving a couple of pills to his cousin.

He did his time in Frankfort and when he was released, they sent him to Dismas Charities’ halfway house over on Georgetown Street. It was through their work program that Freddie learned about Lexington Rescue Mission.

It was an eye-opener for Freddie, who was sent out into the community to “contribute and become involved.” His first job here at the Mission was riding on the delivery truck, picking up donations and bringing them back to our thrift stores.

“I met a lot of interesting people, from rich to poor. Instead of throw-

“These people are my family.” ing stuff away, they’re giving it to us and we’re putting it back into the community.”

In addition to helping on the truck, Freddie worked at the store learning how to take in donations, price merchandise and interact with customers. When our second store on East New Circle Road opened,

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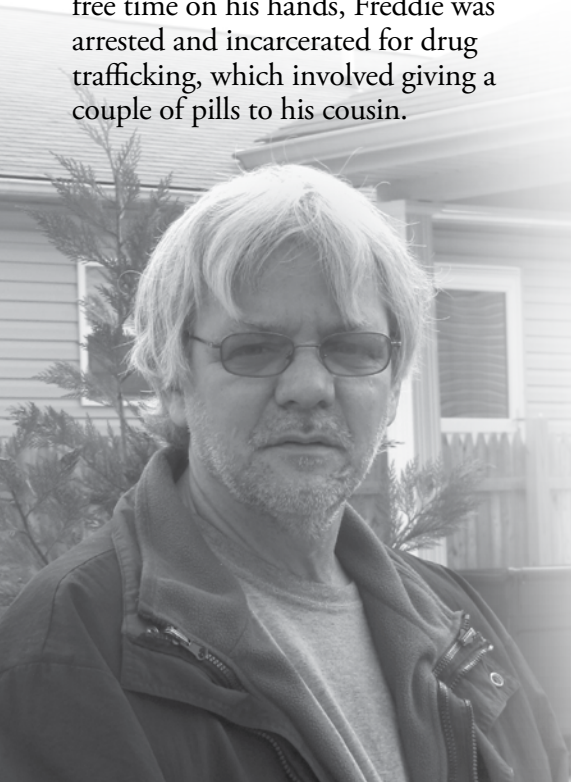
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he was there to help organize and get it running.

When his probation was up, Freddie decided to stay here in Lexington where he now has a “good circle” of friends, including one of our employees, who found him a place to live.

Freddie’s at the Mission every week...working, volunteering, helping others and sometimes just visiting with the people here who have become his “family.”

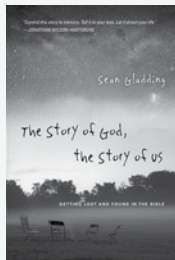
Freddie now works full-time at the VA Hospital and has his own apartment.



Story of God

The Story of God is coming alive at the Mission! Sean Gladding, author of The Story of God, the Story of Us, has started a Bible study on Thursday afternoons at the Outreach Center to help our guests discover God in a whole new way.

Sean attended Asbury Theological Seminary and served



for seven years as a co-pastor at Mercy Street in Houston, TX, a church for people in recovery from addiction and who have had bad church experiences.

Over the years, he and his wife have made “The Story of God” nar-

rative freely available to anyone who wants to use it.

Now, “The Story of God” is being shared here each Thursday at 12:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to come, learn and be transformed as they dig deeper in their faith. For more information, please call Abigail at (859) 381-9600, ext. 223.

from the
Executive Director



“The Greatest Gift...”

That first Christmas, the greatest gift of all was given, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son...”

While Christ was still a babe, the wise men opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Down through the centuries, Christians have continued to honor God’s gift by sharing His love for us with others. Not just at Christmas, but throughout the year, we demonstrate our care and compassion through the giving of gifts.

I want to thank you for being one of those generous people who help the men and women, boys and girls in our community who are hurting, hungry and homeless. Thank you for demonstrating your love and kindness by giving gifts to those you have never even met!

May you and your loved ones be truly blessed as we celebrate His birth.

Jim Connell
Jim Connell
Executive Director

Make a Christmas Wish Come True

When people come to the Mission for help, we can often assist them, whether it’s providing food and clothing, paying a utility bill or offering a bus pass for their job search.

But sometimes, the needs are just too big for us – dental work, car repairs, new mattresses, appliances, home repairs, etc. So, we encourage our guests to pray and see how He will meet their needs.

This Christmas, we want you to be His answer to those prayers. We have a list of those God-sized needs hanging on a tree at the Mission.

We are seeking individuals and groups to step up and adopt these families in need. Please consider

Ministry Nights

We are looking for church groups to make an impact in the North Limestone neighborhood by hosting ministry nights at The Gathering Place in our thrift store, at 720 Bryan Avenue.

Ministry nights may include worship services, game nights, giveaways and open mic nights. This is an opportunity to get creative and think about how God would lead your group to share His love with our neighbors.

“The Very Best Christmas...”

What is the very best gift you can give someone who is hungry or homeless?

Here at the Mission, there are as many ways to help as there are people in need.

Volunteer. Welcome guests at our front desk. Lend a hand at the Thrift Store. Organize a drive to collect food and clothing. Help out at one of our many special events. Call (859) 381-9600, ext. 224 or e-mail natalie@lexingtonrescue.org for more information.

Donate. Donate new or gently used clothing and furniture at our Thrift Store. Bring food, including coffee, lemonade mix, instant tea mix,



adopting a family. It may mean purchasing a gift or donating your time and services. Either way, you will make a huge difference in their lives.

Just stop by our Outreach Center at **444 Glen Arvin Ave.** today and pick a need off our Christmas tree. Your generosity will help our guests see just how faithful God is in our times of need.

To learn more about the holidays at the Mission, visit our website at www.LexingtonRescue.org or call (859) 381-9600.



Groups can sign up for a one-time, monthly or bi-monthly event. For more information on hosting a ministry night, please call Natalie at (859) 381-9600, ext. 224.

pasta sauce, diced canned tomatoes, canned vegetables (corn, green beans, peas, carrots), spaghetti, peanut butter, individual packages of peanut butter or cheese crackers, sugar and creamer to the Outreach Center at 444 Glen Arvin Ave. We also need paper towels, dish detergent, bleach and Pine Sol.

Give a gift. Use the enclosed envelope to send a gift to provide meals and more. Donate by check, credit card or online at www.LexingtonRescue.org.

Pray. Pray for this ministry and the men, women and children who come here during their time of greatest need.

Thank you for helping make this the very best Christmas!

“My Relationship with God is the Key to My Sobriety”

Just two years ago, Rob was homeless. Living in his car. He was drinking heavily every day and had gotten arrested for public intoxication.

This wasn't anything new. Rob had been drinking or smoking pot on a daily basis since he was 18. For 30 years, he'd had great jobs and lost them. Been married, had children and divorced. He even earned a college degree. But through it all were the drugs and alcohol that eventually became the most important part of his life.

“My life was a 30-year attempt to fill a spiritual hole.”

Compared to others he met here at the Mission, Rob says he was “blessed” as a child. Even though his parents divorced when he was 12, he had people who loved him and took care of him.

But after his parents' divorce, there was a lot of economic insecurity, and that fear became a driving force in Rob's life. “I know I wasn't totally self-sufficient, everyone receives help, but for the most part, I felt like I could rely on myself; and that way, I wouldn't have to owe anybody anything...I wasn't obligated to anyone.”

It was that “pride” and his drinking that eventually caught up with Rob.

By 2004, his drinking was “out of control.” For the next five years, his life was “unmanageable.” “I drank all the time,” he says sadly. Rob knew there was a God, but had no relationship with the Lord. “My life was empty. Time and again, I disappointed the people who loved me. It was a living hell.”

Rob came to the Mission for the first time in February of 2009. After three months, he got a job and a car...and started to drink again. This pattern repeated itself three times: come to the Mission, get sober, get a job and drink again...until August of last year, when some of the things he learned finally began to sink in.

“I learned that God will always reach out to me,” says Rob quietly. “There's nothing I can do that's ever going to separate me from the love

of God. When I'm in a relationship with Him, my life will be full; I'll have meaning and purpose.”

Today, Rob has a very different definition of hell – “final, complete separation from God.”

Not being able to turn to Him, pray to Him or seek comfort from Him... to have no hope.

Through your support, the Mission has provided the tangible help

“They taught me God loves me.”

Rob so desperately needed – food, shelter, medical care and clothing. But the key to Rob's sobriety has been his relationship with God...a relationship he works on every day!

Great Gift Ideas



The Bazaar and Gathering Place, a special store inside the Mission's Thrift Store on Bryan Ave., is a great place to pick up unique handcrafted gifts for everyone on your Christmas list. Stop in to shop or drop by for a coffee and pastry. A portion of all proceeds support vital Mission programs.

Visit Us Online!



Get to know us better, learn about volunteer opportunities, read about the latest news and events and donate securely at www.LexingtonRescue.org.

Reserved for you:

2012 Mission Calendar

Without the gifts, volunteer time and prayers of friends like you, this ministry to our community's neediest people would not exist.



As a token of our gratitude for all you do, please accept this beautiful 2012 calendar as our way of saying “Thank you!”

To receive your FREE 2012 calendar, please check the special box on your reply card and mail it today.

Christmas Dinner



Please join us for a traditional Christmas dinner on Sunday, December 25, 4-6 p.m. at Broadway Christian Church! This annual event is open to the community.

We would love to have you join us for this special time of food, fun and fellowship.

To learn more, call (859) 381-9600 or visit LexingtonRescue.org.

Christmas Dinner Needs

*Ham
Potatoes
Green beans
Lettuce/tossed salad mix
Dinner rolls
Margarine
Cake/Christmas cookies
Lemonade mix*

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.

Join us



Women's Transitional Home

Lexington Rescue Mission is excited to announce the opening of a transitional home for women! The home,



located on Strader Drive, is for women who are homeless or recovering from

drug and alcohol addictions and have achieved at least 30 days of sobriety.

This home is for women who have participated in a recovery program and need a safe place to practice the

principles, be held accountable and learn how to live a sober, healthy life. Residents are encouraged to attend church and Christ-centered weekly recovery meetings. The Mission also helps the women find employment.

“The need for this kind of transitional care is so huge in Lexington,” says Vince Meccariello, Associate Director. “We’re excited that we are able to offer this to women in need.”

For more information about our transitional services, please e-mail Vince at vince@lexingtonrescue.org or visit www.LexingtonRescue.org.

Banquet Celebrates God's Faithfulness to the Mission

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, Lexington Rescue Mission raised over \$25,000 at our 10th Anniversary Banquet & Silent Auction at the Embassy Suites. Nearly 500 people – including donors, volunteers, former staff and clients – joined us for this milestone celebration!

We honored Chris Jones for three years of service on the Mission's Board of Directors, and many guests shared their testimonies. You can watch a video featuring some of the stories on www.LexingtonRescue.org.

We would like to thank everyone who attended, donated to the silent



auction and sponsored the banquet. A special thanks to our Gold Sponsors, 99.1 FM WJMM, 670AM WCGW, Arlington Tree Service, Community Ventures Corporation and Fifth Third Bank. Thank you for helping to make this event a success!