

MACON RESCUE MISSION  
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**You change lives. The staff and board of directors thanks each of you for your continued support and prayers.**

Left: Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys served dinner and visited with Dove Center residents on MLK day. What a blessing, thank you!

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**“Pay attention, O Jacob, for you are my servant, O Israel. I, the LORD, made you and I will not forget you. I have swept away your sins like a cloud. I have scattered your offenses like the morning mist. Oh, return to me, for I have paid the price to set you free.”**

**-Isaiah 44:21-22**

***Jesus paid the price to set us free! Praise the Lord!***



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# The Mission Bell

WWW.MACONRESCUEMISSION.COM  
NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR

## Kris Lost Everything after Surgery and Medical Bills

Your Support Helped Him Overcome Depression and Addiction



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In 2005 my life changed dramatically. Prior to that I had a good job, a car, an apartment, everything. Then I experienced a medical condition called spontaneous pneumothorax. I needed surgery which led to lost time at work, financial problems and depression. Eventually, I lost my job. Next my car was repossessed in 2008 and I knew that my apartment wasn't far behind. In late 2008 the economy was collapsing, job competition was fierce, and I sank, jobless and even more depressed.

ily, and former co-workers until I exhausted everyone because I was drunk all of the time.

When someone told me about the Rescue Mission, I came to talk to Mr. Jackson. Thankfully, he told me about the program here and I accepted his offer. I've been here seven months, hopefully on my way back into the world to start over. Now that I have seven months clean I am excited to either get a job or hopefully find a way to go back to school. I am becoming wiser here, remaining patient with my decisions.

The Mission may have saved my life. I needed to listen to other alcoholics and addicts to grasp the full reality of this deadly addiction. After all, the state I lived in before coming here could have killed me. Luckily, the Mission is here for people like me. I'm willing to reset my life now. Thanks to everyone here, staff and friends alike, you are all important in my recovery.



**“...the state I lived in before coming here could have killed me.”**

By the end of 2008, and for the first time in my life, I resorted to heavy drinking. So much alcohol that no one wanted to be around me. I have a Bachelor's degree in Sociology, which allowed me to quickly admit I was depressed and becoming an alcoholic. When I did lose my apartment I stayed wherever I could, with friends, fam-

**SERVING THE LEAST, THE LAST AND THE LOST.**

### From the Director's Desk . . . .

My dear friends, just how hard is it to believe than January has come and gone? In some ways that presents a challenge to each of us because each time we witness another day coming and going is a day each one of us comes closer to eternal life, are you ready?

Do you remember the last time a song, a hymn or even a "commercial jingle" was sung or played and it stuck in your head for the at least the rest of the day? At church a couple of weeks ago, it happened to me! The hymn, "Here I am Lord" (Dan Schutte, 1981) was sung at our offertory. The lyrics are considered contemporary but are based on biblical references; Isaiah 6:8 and 1 Samuel 3. As the refrain plays over and over in my head, I look for the inner meaning.

*Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?*

I am here Lord for you, is it really me you want? I am not worthy.

*I have heard You calling in the night.*

Some nights, your voice is clearer than others and on some nights I try my best to ignore acknowledging your call.

*I will go Lord, if You lead me.*

Okay, if you insist Lord I'll go but I'm really not sure what you want me to do but if You lead me I know I can manage. I feel relieved and confident I can do anything you ask me but please give me the faith I need, don't let me be scared.

*I will hold Your people in my heart.*

Above all else, Lord, I will hold Your people as you hold me! I will love my brothers and sisters as You so love me.

Our confidence only soars when we accept God in our lives because through Him and in Him all things are possible. God Bless You and have a great February!

#### Care to Share Needs

- ◆ Twin-Size Blankets
- ◆ Canned Goods
- ◆ Diapers-sizes 3, 4, 5, 6
- ◆ Toilet Tissue
- ◆ Kleenex
- ◆ Baby Wipes
- ◆ Deodorant Soap
- ◆ Bleach
- ◆ Paper Towels
- ◆ Shampoo/ Conditioner
- ◆ Laundry Detergent
- ◆ Deodorant
- ◆ Disinfectant Wipes (Clorox)
- ◆ Disposable Razors
- ◆ Wash Cloths/Towels

### January Statistics

#### Program Days of Residence:

Men	1,271
Women	155
Children	186

#### Mission Ministry

- ◆ 4,834 residential meals served
- ◆ 180 lodging nights provided for transients
- ◆ 360 meals provided for transients
- ◆ 132 hygiene kits provided with a total value of \$1,300
- ◆ 570 diapers dispersed with a total value of \$304
- ◆ 42 baby food items provided
- ◆ 69 tracts distributed
- ◆ 326 food boxes distributed with a total value of \$13,930
- ◆ NA/AA meeting participation was a total of 602
- ◆ 27 chapel services conducted by volunteer ministers

**"Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him. Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life." —Jesus, John 5:23b-24**

### Donate to the Bargain Center!

We are in need of clothes, appliances, household items, furniture, or any unwanted items. We schedule pickups each week—call us at 743-5445 to schedule yours or for more information! We also take boats, automobiles, and motorcycles.



Thank you to Macedonia Church youth for faithfully volunteering. They used their time off from school on MLK Day to bring food and serve our men!

## Stephanie Found a "New Way of Living" If Not for the Dove Center, She Would be Back with Her Abuser

Growing up was hard. My mother divorced my father when I was 2 or 3 years old because of his violence and substance abuse. She remarried when I was 5 but divorced and married a 3<sup>rd</sup> man when I was 8 or 9. He was always drunk or high. One night after beating my mother, he came in my room and started molesting me. I told my mom and she said it was just a dream. I never mentioned it again.

Soon after, he was arrested for distribution of drugs. I started misbehaving and was expelled from alternative school. I went to boot camp 4 times. I hated life, I hated my mom, I hated everything. I started showing interest in older men without really knowing why. I kept running away. My aunt took me when I was seventeen and helped me get a job, my GED, and join the army. She got me in church. I was doing so well. Then I met a 32 year-old man who had a good job, a house, and a car. He bought me anything I wanted. But he turned out to be very abusive. I became pregnant with twins but lost them because of his abuse. I ran back to my mother. I got a job and met my oldest son's dad who also became abusive. I left him after 2 months and was crushed to find I was pregnant.

While I was pregnant I met someone who was actually an excellent man. He was there for me throughout my pregnancy and later we had our own daughter together. But he wasn't the type of man I was used to. He was a really good man, so I thought it was too good to be true. I left him because he was too nice! Now I regret it!

I decided I just wanted to be by myself and raise my kids...Then I met the man I married. He was so sweet! He didn't

have kids so he bonded with my kids instantly! He didn't do drugs, he was patient with my kids, and he showed me a lot of attention. It felt like the "perfect family". We had a baby but decided not to keep it and I went through with an adoption. We could barely afford the kids I had. It killed me but he was so supportive. I regret the adoption but I know he's with a



great family. A year later I was pregnant again. It was shocking because I was on birth control! I kept this baby.

While I was pregnant my husband attacked me. He normally didn't drink but that weekend he did. I blamed the alcohol. I had the baby and everything was normal again. Soon after, he proposed and I said yes. That night he started drinking and attacked me again. I told him I didn't want to be with him but that made him worse. He choked me and dragged me around and told me I would die before I left him, and I believed him. I told him I was sorry and we would be okay. He wanted me to quit my job and move so he could get his old job back. I did and everything was okay for a while. I went back to work too and we were enjoying life.

A few months later he decided I was working too much and not spending time with him. He wouldn't watch the kids so I could work. We grew distant. One night he raped me, just-



ifying it by saying the Bible says a my body belongs to my husband. I became pregnant again. Late September he got really drunk and attacked me. My son walked in and he stopped choking me so he could send my son back to bed. I ran to the hospital and called the police. I went to a women's shelter and called the Mission's Dove Center and spoke to Ms. Renee. She had a room available!

I came to the Dove Center but I was intimidated and scared. I wasn't used to a program or a schedule. Basically I had a lack of discipline. At first I didn't think I would make it and was tempted to leave. But everybody at the Dove Center was really supportive. I started attending all of the support classes learning so much. The chapel services are excellent. I love hearing a variety of preachers. Since being at the Dove Center I have learned to have order and discipline in my life.

February is...  
**"National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month"**  
 National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline: 1.866.331.9474  
[www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org)

I have learned I have rights! Coming to the Dove Center has completely changed my life and is the best thing that ever happened to my children and me. If I had not come here and gotten all the support and education on domestic violence, I would have run back to my husband by now. I have learned I can raise my kids just fine. The Dove Center has opened my eyes to a whole new way of living!

*Thank you for your prayers and support! To donate, designate "Dove Center" on your gift.*