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THE MISSION BELL

At 26 Michael Has Already Battled Addiction and Homelessness

He now loves reading the Bible and looks forward to having his own place

I was born in Macon and raised in Taylor County. I moved to Florida to live with my mother at age ten and started attending school there. After graduating high school I moved in with my grandparents and started working with my grandpa laying hardwood and tile. That's where I discovered drugs. I started smoking Marijuana at age 19 and continued smoking it till I got arrested at age 22. I was forced to move back to Macon to live with my other grandparents.

When I got back here I found a job and started working as a security guard at CGTC. I worked there about two years and the worst came — I got fired, and that's when I became homeless. I lived under the I-75 bridge and I rode my bike downtown for a couple of days and that's where I heard about the Macon Rescue Mission. So I rode my bike back here and asked if I could spend the night and they gave me three days. After the third day was up I waited in the front to talk to Mr. Randy Jackson. After talking to him he let me in the program.

My life has changed a lot since I've been here at the Rescue Mission. I spend most of my free time in the chapel because I really like to read the Bible. My favorite verse is Psalm 1:3, "That person [whose delight is in the law of the LORD] is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither — whatever they do prospers."



"...The worst came—I got fired, and that's when I became homeless. I lived under the I-75 bridge..."

Since I've been here I have gotten to know some really good guys and I can call all them my friends. I look forward to having my own place after I go through aftercare at River Edge. The Mission has given me the tools to live a normal life. The staff is wonderful here and I thank the Mission for giving me a chance.

"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." —2 Peter 3:9

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HOW YOU CAN HELP



DONATE TODAY

You can help those suffering in your community. Online giving now available.



NEEDS LIST

We depend on you to help meet our needs by donating items. See list inside!



BARGAIN CENTER

Shop at 3375 Napier Avenue or donate items to a great cause! You call, we haul! 743-5445



Thanks for Giving!



AT&T Pioneer friends, Betty Morris and Elizabeth Betleyoun stop by the Dove Center to donate twin size comforters and baby diapers donated by the AT&T Pioneers.

Debbie Silvey and Robyn Sisa of BB&T Insurance stop by the Dove Center delivering two car seats that were very much needed by a Dove Center client! Along with the car seats were bags of clothes for the women and children.

MAY STATISTICS

Program Days of Residence:

Men	1202
Women	203
Children	234

Mission Ministry

- ◆ 4,917 residential meals served
- ◆ 3 lodging nights provided for transients
- ◆ 6 meals provided for transients
- ◆ 125 hygiene kits provided with a total value of \$1,250
- ◆ 585 diapers dispersed with a total value of \$390
- ◆ 26 baby food items provided
- ◆ 92 Gospel tracts distributed
- ◆ 19 Bibles distributed
- ◆ 364 food boxes distributed with a total value of \$14,560
- ◆ NA/AA meeting participation was a total of 595
- ◆ 26 chapel services conducted by volunteer ministers

from the Director's Desk...

Dear Friends,

Happy Independence Day! A great big **THANK YOU** to our men and women in uniform that make this the greatest country on earth where freedom is the norm and not the unexpected!

I hope you like our new look. After weeks of deliberation and study we have partnered with David Canady at Imedia Group to help us bring the good news of Macon Rescue Mission and Dove Center to you. Please understand that as good as we think this looks, we are ever mindful of the bottom line and this new version of *The Mission Bell* actually will save us money allowing us to spend more on what you have come to expect — *our programs!*

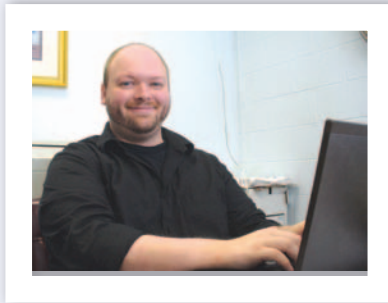
We hope it's a more pleasant read for you, our investors! So please, if you have any ideas you feel will improve our delivery, pick up the phone, pick up the iPad, the laptop or the computer; Call me or drop me a note/message, my phone is 478-743-5445 and my email is director@maconrescuemission.com and we are on Facebook!

In closing, I want to say a brief thank you to someone who called me up a few months ago. He wanted to know where he could spend three hundred hours of community service so he could earn his Non-Profit Certificate. At the time one of my colleagues was in a dire need of an assistant but it did not work out to hire someone and much to our delight we became the beneficiary of Jeremy's time and talent. He has completed well over his 300 hour commitment and is leaving us for his next assignment with Americorps/Vista. This young man brought his "A" game every day! We are most appreciative of the fresh perspective and enthusiasm he brought to the Macon Rescue Mission. I hope at the end of his next gig we will have another opportunity for him! Jeremy, Godspeed and good luck. We will miss you!

Happy July, you all!



Jeff Nicklas



Pictured at left: Jeremy, Intern

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who donated to Family Life Radio's Bible drive!

188 Bibles were collected for the Mission — *that's 188 people that will be touched by God's Word thanks to you!*



How Did I Get Here?

A Dove Center Resident Shares Her Story

I came from a dysfunctional family with no balance and little faith in God. I was lost for a long time. I started using drugs and it became my life. I wanted out but I didn't know the way out. I was in three abusive relationships, one at 16, one at 18 and the last one at 27. I was trying to fill a void like when my father left me.

I got involved with the wrong men. They try to tear me down. They were very controlling. I wanted out but had nowhere to go. I prayed to God that if he would find me and my kids a way out I would do whatever was necessary. The next day I called the Dove Center at the Macon Rescue Mission with tears in my eyes and loneliness in my heart and nowhere to go. I called and talked to a lady named Ms. Vernice and she asked me what was wrong. I told her and she said that there was a lady that was coming that same day but it wouldn't hurt to try. So I called and talk to a lady name Ms. Renee and she told me to be there at two o'clock and I did and that was when the miracle happened.

At first it was hard following the rules because I never had to follow any. But as the weeks passed I humbled myself and I asked God to come into my heart and save me. My faith was not that strong before, but something in this place moved my spirit. I know it had to be done. I'm so grateful for this place. It's been a safe place for me and my kids. I really was truly blessed to be able to enter into these doors. As I continue to grow I will always remember this place and where it led me in my future.

My own thought of this place is that every woman who enters into these doors may be truly blessed by the spirit of God.

*Sometime the road get hard,
but just keep going forward.
Sometime the road get hard,
but never look back.*



“My faith was not that strong before, but something in this place moved my spirit.”

*And when you think about looking back,
think about your children
And they will put you back on track.*

This is the turning point for us and I really want to be one of the winners.

There is nothing more for me to add. This is what it is all about. May you be blessed by reading what God is accomplishing in the lives he is touching here at the Dove Center. —Julie

Julie Adair | Director

Renee Barreth | Director of Women & Children Services

Vernice Chappell | Evening Supervisor



Kids' Yoga with Jackie Garbarino!

Jackie volunteers with the Dove Center by teaching a Kids' Yoga class while moms are in a Bible Study class.



“Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill His promises to her!”

—Luke 1:45



HELPING HANDS

Martha Bowman VBS 5th Graders lend a hand by sorting diapers while learning about everything the Macon Rescue Mission and Dove Center do for our community!

