



— WICHITA FALLS —
FAITH MISSION
EVERY STORY MATTERS

www.FaithMissionWF.org

SUMMER 2020

**GOD IS
IN CONTROL**

Through the end of June, Wichita Falls Faith Mission is offering a **Summer Match Challenge**. All donations will have a dollar for dollar match up to **\$50,000**. Please donate this month and double your contribution.



INSIDE: From the CEO • Stories from Our Ministries • What's Happening

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WELCOME JEFF BAKER SITE DIRECTOR, FAITH MISSION



FROM
THE CEO

GOD IS IN CONTROL.

COVID-19, also known as the novel coronavirus, has definitely put mankind in its place. Some scientific sources put the size of the coronavirus at 120 nm (nanometers). One nanometer is one-billionth of a meter. That is small.

And amazingly, this microscopic virus has reminded us just how little we actually control the world in which we live. The “expert” produced models change daily. Our leaders are scrambling for answers. The only thing we do know is that we don’t know very much at all about this killer among us. We are out of control, and it drives us crazy.

The brave and dedicated men and women of science and medicine will work tirelessly until they have answers, and they may even find a vaccine, but what will be next? We will never have all the answers.

When Job, the greatest sufferer of all time (except for Jesus of course), and his friends confronted God with their questions about suffering, as if He owed them an answer, His response was:

“Who is this that darkens counsel

By words without knowledge?

“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell Me, if you have understanding,” Job 38:2,4

God goes on to remind them that He not only created and formed the earth, but He set its structure, put bounds to keep the sea under control, created all the heavenly bodies, and even controls the weather.

God IS in control. At Wichita Falls Faith Mission, we depend on it. We pray daily for His protection and provision. We thank Him every day that we haven’t had a single case of the virus at either of our shelters. Yes, we still do our part to be responsible and use common sense. But even this comes from allowing Him to control our thoughts and decisions.

There’s comfort in this. I’m glad He is God and I’m not. And I will continue to pray for our city, our nation, and our world to the One who has never lost control.

Every Story Matters,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Sparks'.

Steve Sparks
CEO



JEFF BAKER, a military kid, grew up in Wichita Falls and graduated from Wichita Falls High School in 2001. He was born in Landstuhl, Germany, in 1983.

After high school, Jeff joined the Texas Army National Guard and served for 7 years. Most recently, he worked as the Used Car Sales Manager for Patterson Honda.

Jeff is very active in his church, Evangel Temple, serving in the Children’s Ministry and Hospitality Teams. He also volunteers for the Dream Center Saturday Outreach Ministry. He is known for his big heart.

Jeff is also a Donor Advocate and visits with those who are considering becoming organ donors. He knows firsthand about this experience. In 2015 he learned about a church member who needed a kidney transplant. After much prayer and talks with his wife and family, Jeff donated his kidney to this person in need.

Jeff has been married since 2012 to his wife Lolita. They have two daughters Ilanna and Ilyssa. His family has since grown to include two dogs and two cats. He and his family love to attend church together and sit in the same pew where he met his wife, almost a decade ago.

“God brought me to the Faith Mission at a time of uncertainty in my life. He broke my heart for the ministry and plugged me in at HIS perfect time. I encourage those I encounter to rest in the Hope of the Lord when times get challenging. ‘He is the anchor for our soul.’” Hebrews 6:19

NEEDS LIST

- Small bars of soap
- Razors
- Shaving cream
- Cleaning supplies
- Canned goods
- Bottled water





STORIES FROM FAITH MISSION

CHAD IS THE SON of a police officer and military veteran. He has one son from a previous marriage. Chad hurt his back while working for a roofing contractor. Because of the pain from the injury, he was unable to work and looked for relief from alcohol and drugs.

Hungry and out of work, he drove by Faith Mission and decided to stop. Pete Corrales, Case Manager, asked him what he was doing and where he was going. Chad broke down and poured out his heart. Pete told Chad that he had someone he wanted him to meet ... it was Jesus.

Chad hung out at Faith Mission for the next couple of weeks, eating and visiting with Pete. Over time Chad

felt like he could trust Pete. He said, "Whenever he would give me advice, it would always be verses from the Bible."

Chad left Faith Mission long enough to have back surgery. When he reentered the program, it was Bob Johnston (Men's Program Director) who showed him what it was like to have a relationship with God. Something Bob said struck a chord and got Chad's attention, "You will never change until the pain of staying the same is worse than the pain of change." He realized that being "transformed by the renewing of his mind ..." (Romans 12:2) was the key to a changed life.

Recently Chad graduated from the addiction recovery program "New Beginnings" at Faith Mission. Currently, he is in the job training program "Faith Enterprises" and working at Faith Resale and Donation Center.

"Life may not always be what you expect, but God will provide all your needs and letting God be in control of your life means helping others. You know, God is love, God is kindness, He's good, He's merciful, and this is what it means to me for God to be in control. God cares for everybody, ... yes, there will be trouble that comes in life. But I can know that God will bring me through as I trust and rely on Him to the point that it produces obedience."



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

ROD GOT HIS FIRST taste of volunteering at Faith Mission 25 years ago, helping his church serve Christmas Eve dinner. He was living in Henrietta at

the time, working as an oil field electrician. He was medically retired after receiving a Parkinson's Disease diagnosis. He said, "I was disappointed and a little put out with God that I couldn't do what I have trained and worked so hard to do." He went on to say, "One day the Lord spoke to me saying, 'you've whined long enough, I've got a job for you. You need to get up and go to work for me.'"

Someone in his church asked him if he wanted to teach an addiction recovery program called Celebrate Recovery at Faith Mission. Rod started to help teach the class at Faith Mission and at a local church. In addition to teaching, Rod started driving the van at Faith Mission. Since he liked to listen to Christian rock, the guys nicknamed him "Rock'n Rod." He could not think of a better topic to talk about than Jesus, since Jesus was his favorite subject. Because of their openness in expressing themselves in the van and Rod's

abundant counsel from the Bible, the guys started calling the van the "confessional."

When asked what he would say to someone thinking about volunteering at Faith Mission, Rod said, "If somebody really feels like they want to volunteer, they need to come down here because it's not anything that you would expect. The staff here is the best staff of any place I have ever seen. This place is run as well as any faith-based mission can be run. They have the resources and the opportunity for anyone who needs a place where they can get their life turned around. I have never seen so much help and devotion from people in any place. I just recommend to anyone out there, that if they come in with a need, that Faith Mission will meet it. But the greatest need that we all have is coming to know Jesus as our Savior."

From an early retirement to serving men while driving down the road, Rod never doubts that God is in control. "I know that God is in control. I know that I don't have to worry about it or be concerned. I do have to know how to react to what is happening to me during the day. But I do know that the Lord's got me in his hands, and it is a promise that He will never leave you or forsake you. My life is in the hands of the Father, so how could I be in a safer place? I mean, God's got it."

STORIES FROM FAITH REFUGE

KAY CONSIDERED her childhood a normal one. Her dad was a military officer, and they tended to move a lot.

She was raised in a Baptist church where she attended every Sunday. She was taught at an early age about Jesus, baptism, and the reason behind it. Her dad was instrumental in her Christian upbringing. He came from a broken home and was bitter after his parents' divorce. When he found God at an early age, it was such a relief to him. The peace that he gained from knowing God was something he wanted to pass on to his children.

Kay's teen years were not unlike other teens, but she tended to experiment with promiscuity and drugs, challenging authority. She was drawn to the misfit kids because she was accepted by them.

Her drug abuse turned to alcoholism because buying alcohol was legal. In her late forties, her dad was diagnosed with cancer, and she was in an abusive

relationship. She knew it was time for a change. Her dad was familiar with Wichita Falls Faith Mission because he had been stationed at Sheppard AFB. He recommended that she go there. After a couple of short stays at Faith Refuge, she realized that in order to win the battle over alcoholism, she needed the resources that Faith Refuge had to offer through its programs.

Kay entered the addiction recovery program "New Beginnings" at Faith Refuge in 2017. After the New Beginnings program, she completed the Career Academy. Currently she is going to school on scholarship to study Health Information Management.

"Through prayers, I had the good fortune to be at Faith Refuge for a year. I finally felt like I had control over my life again, and it was through God's mercy and grace. Faith Refuge gives women an opportunity to concentrate



Faith Refuge provided a means of hope that continues today in every aspect of my life.

inward and to reconnect with the person God wants them to be and with what he wants for us. This is an especially unique gift in-and-of itself. They also provide support in all areas of life and encouragement to succeed.

"Faith Refuge provided a means of hope that continues today in every aspect of my life."

"He brought me out into a spacious place; He rescued me because he delighted in me." 2 Samuel 22:20

COVID-19 REPORT

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC has come with its own set of challenges for Wichita Falls Faith Mission. However, we have been overwhelmed by support and understanding from our community during this time. Here are some of the temporary modifications we have made:

1. Scheduling and operational changes to reduce crowds and promote social distancing
2. Serving meals out-the-door at the Faith Mission shelter
3. Taking temperatures at check-in
4. Reducing class sizes
5. Allowing some staff to work from home
6. Staggering the beds and having the men sleep head-to-toe to comply with the six feet distancing
7. Providing virtual case management
8. Suspending all volunteer services
9. Closing the Resale Store (Reopened on May 1)
10. Increasing the cleaning in high traffic areas, including the kitchen and serving lines

As of the date of this article, we have avoided any community spread illness due to COVID-19 within our shelters. For this, we must give God all the Glory. Of course, we long for the day when we can offer all our services. We miss the personal touch. Until then, we will be here in whatever fashion is safe and healthy.

Remember this organization is supported by people like you.

Please donate to the Wichita Falls Faith Mission.

www.faimissionwf.org / P.O. Box 965, Wichita Falls, TX 76307

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