



— WICHITA FALLS —
FAITH MISSION
EVERY STORY MATTERS

www.FaithMissionWF.org

SUMMER 2018

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

"Sometimes I imagine all the programmers as twinkling stars. I hope that as programmers go out into different places in Wichita Falls that one day people will look up into the night sky, and it will be full of twinkling lights from the programmers pointing people to Jesus."

Jennifer, a graduate of Faith Refuge's New Beginnings Recovery Program.



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FAITH MISSION

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FAITH RESALE

940-766-0705
4502 Old Jacksboro Hwy.
Wichita Falls, TX 76302



FROM THE CEO

APRIL 10, 1979, will always be remembered by anyone from Wichita Falls who is over 50 as "Terrible Tuesday." It was undoubtedly one of the darkest days in the history of our city. In just a little over 3 hours after the storm, the total absence of light in our town was suffocating. The sun disappeared, and total darkness prevailed. I remember lying in my bed that night listening to the sirens and sounds of helicopters flying overhead, wondering if things would ever be normal again.

I eventually dozed off. The next morning was one like I'd never experienced before. The sun came up, and light was abundant. I'll always remember the feeling of encouragement and hope I had. Yes, the city was still devastated, and many of my friends and relatives were homeless. Normal was still a long way off, but there was light! We could see again. We could hope again. We could rebuild.

When God said in Genesis 1:3, "Let there be light" and when Jesus declared in John 8:12, "I Am the light of the world," essentially, they were both denouncing the darkness and announcing victory. In spiritual terms, darkness is always associated with sin, shame, separation, fear, and hopelessness. This is all the world has to offer. But Jesus said, "Take heart! I have overcome the world."

We don't have to live in darkness. Jesus, the light of the world, wants to enter our lives and shine His light of forgiveness and redemption. His light exposes the darkness of the world and illuminates the restorative power of the Gospel. This has never been more evident than in the stories found in this newsletter. Each one reminds us of our primary purpose at Wichita Falls Faith Mission found in these words of Jesus,

"You are the light of the world. Let your light shine so that others may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven." Matthew 5:14, 16.

Please pray about how you can join us in shining God's light in a dark world.

Steve Sparks
CEO

\$5.00

COUPON



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STORIES FROM FAITH MISSION



Damen (right) with Bob (left), New Beginnings Program Director at Faith Mission.

"I ALWAYS BLAMED GOD for my problems," said Damen. "I was raised around drugs, alcohol, and violence. My father has always been very mean and angry."

Damen's life has not always been easy, but he has had some good moments. When he was eighteen, he moved out from his mom's house and attended a two year vocational school and became a certified welder. He then completed a four year apprenticeship to become a Journeyman Boilermaker. Damen traveled a lot for work and made a decent amount of money. He owned a house, a motorcycle, and a car. However, the traveling left his fiancé feeling lonely and she eventually found comfort in the arms of another man. Damen found some solace in alcohol. Then, a freak accident left him unable

to work for a year, which caused the start of his opioid addiction. During this time, Damen and his father went to a party. While at the party, Damen got into a verbal altercation with a man who then pulled a gun on him. The man shot Damen in the leg.

"I had no self-worth when I came here. I thought my life was over."

Damen, still addicted to pain pills from his previous accident, knew he had to get over his opioid addiction. He went to a drug recovery program in Abilene, TX. At the end of the program, Damen and his father reconciled.

Unfortunately, this reconciliation only lasted for a short time. His father's volatility soon came to the surface, and the two parted ways. Once again, Damen met with two more unfortunate accidents in a short span of time. This string of events led him to a homeless man who told him about Faith Mission. Damen never thought he would need the help of a homeless shelter to find light in his darkness, but he did. Damen joined the New Beginnings program at Faith Mission in January 2018. "I had no self-worth when I came here. I thought my life was over. The staff and everyone here have really helped me," Damen emotionally said. "God was with me all the time. I stopped blaming God for my problems."

"Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow." James 1:17

CURRENT STATS



Because of you, we are able to help rewrite stories of the homeless. Statistics provided are for January through May 2018.

STORIES FROM FAITH REFUGE

JAMIE IS NOT THE typical person who comes from jail to live in a homeless shelter. She began riding as a hunter and jumper on horses as a teenager and started traveling as a professional rider with a group after she graduated from high school. In the evenings they would drink socially. When she married, Jamie retired from professional riding. She and her husband had children but divorced after fifteen years of marriage.

As the years crept by, Jamie started drinking to numb the pain of different things. "I just didn't care anymore. I was numb. I didn't cry. I drank so much I would forget the shame," said Jamie. She was eventually arrested for various reasons and sent to jail. Jamie called her sister Anna and asked, "Will you get me out?" By this time, Anna had already spent thousands of dollars trying to help her hurting sister. Anna responded, "Yes if you

agree to go to this place I've found." Of course, Jamie agreed to go.

Faith Refuge is where Anna took Jamie. "No, I don't have a drinking problem. No, I don't have a problem with authority. No, I don't have a broken relationship with God," Jamie told herself. The first lesson Jamie learned at Faith Refuge was about the problem of denial. She quickly realized she was living in a total state of denial.

When asked what were the most important things she experienced or learned at Faith Refuge, Jamie had a lot of great things to share. "A relationship with Christ is the most important thing I gained. Without Him you are nothing. I also learned that to get rid of the shame you need to realize He's forgotten it."



Jamie sitting in front of Faith Refuge where she learned how to overcome the darkness.

"The darkness is gone."

Jamie now walks with her head high and is loving her new job. She's involved with a lady's group at church who love her and are now her support group. Jamie asks for people to pray for her sobriety. Her sister Anna says of Jamie, "The darkness is gone."

**"Because you gave,
the darkness no longer hovers
over individuals at our
two homeless shelters."**

FAITH RESALE AND DONATION CENTER

We are extremely proud of our staff at Faith Resale and Donation Center and the strides they have made this year to make our store a better place. Please clip out the \$5.00 coupon and visit our thrift store located at 4502 Old Jacksboro Hwy., Wichita Falls, TX 76302.