



— WICHITA FALLS —
FAITH MISSION
EVERY STORY MATTERS

www.FaithMissionWF.org

SUMMER 2019

“I once
was lost...”



INSIDE: From the CEO • Stories from Our Ministries • Statistics

FAITH MISSION
940-723-5663
1300 Travis St.
Wichita Falls, TX 76301

FAITH REFUGE
940-322-4673
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Wichita Falls, TX 76302

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

Glass Slippers

THE OLDER WE GET, the more Pam and I think about leaving something behind when we leave this world. **We have worked in the ministry for over 40 years**, and we know that God will be faithful to complete the work He has begun through us. But when we are finished on this earth, we still want the blessings we have received to continue the work.

We used to think that leaving a gift in our will was only for the wealthy. But the more I see God at work here at Wichita Falls Faith Mission, the more I am convinced that God works through our faithfulness in ways we could never imagine.

You don't have to own glass slippers to leave a gift in your will. You only have to be faithful and let God do the rest. All of us have people and causes that are dear to our hearts. Our families, for instance. We are taught in the Bible that we should take care of our families. No one would expect a person to do any less.



The question then becomes, **“How do I want my blessings to bless others.”** I think we would all agree we don't want our resources to go for attorney fees and taxes. This is where thoughtful, deliberate planning pays off.

Pam and I pray that the money we leave behind will increase God's Kingdom. That has been our life's work, and we hope it will continue after we are gone. We don't need our names on a plaque, but **we do want to leave this world better than when we found it.** To us, that includes leaving our money in the hands of someone that will continue that work.

May God Bless you as you serve Him.

FAITH RESALE AND DONATION CENTER

“I love this thrift store. You never know what you will find. I love coming here because I know that my money is going to help the homeless.”

— Kym, a regular customer



Store Hours: Monday-Friday, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

STORIES FROM FAITH REFUGE



Melissa graduated from Faith Refuge's addiction recovery program and the job readiness program. Currently, she is working at a job and rebuilding family relationships.

AS I WAS GROWING UP, my aunts and uncles would say, **'Nobody loves you. That's why your mom left you,'** stated Melissa. She was raised by her grandparents, who had already raised 12 children. Melissa's grandmother was good to her and taught her a strong work ethic. Her grandfather was verbally abusive. The verbal abuse started coming from other relatives and older children. As a child and teenager, Melissa never knew she was of value or worthy of love.

She was verbally abused, bullied, told lies to by herself and others, and sexually abused. At the age of 13, smoking weed and drinking became Melissa's way to cope. When she was 15, she turned to meth. Being an outcast made it hard for her to make friends. In fact, she only had two friends as she grew up. "I felt alone. I knew God was there, but I still felt like a puppet on a string being controlled by everyone else," said Melissa.

By 16 Melissa was pregnant with her first child. She was married at 18. Melissa and her husband both

used drugs and physically abused each other. **"I never knew what love really was, much less what peace looked like,"** said Melissa. She could make things chaotic in a heartbeat because that would push people away so they couldn't hurt her or get to know her true self.

"I felt alone. I knew God was there, but I still felt like a puppet on a string being controlled by everyone else."

Melissa's life spiraled out of control. Melissa started to cry out to God, "I need help. Save me." God saved Melissa and her children by her being arrested. She went to jail for five months with two of the five months being spent in lockdown. While in lockdown, **something stirred within her soul.** She cracked open a Bible and began to read. God brought Melissa to jail so she could face all of her issues and prepare her

for her next stop — Faith Refuge.

A lady named Ms. Althea told Melissa about a place called Faith Refuge. Ms. Althea explained it was a place to overcome her drug addiction and to learn more about God. Melissa's attorney spoke to the judge and worked it out for her to join the New Beginnings program at Faith Refuge.

In February 2019, Melissa graduated from the New Beginnings Addiction Recovery Program. She also graduated from Faith Refuge's Career Academy in April 2019. As she reflected on her time at Faith Refuge, Melissa said, **"I have encountered so much love and peace here.** Before I came to Faith Refuge, no one could love me for just me. They wanted me for what I could do for them."

Melissa's life is being restored by God's mercy. Melissa has a relationship with her Savior, Jesus Christ, and is now able to spend time with her children. She is working and waiting for a letter of acceptance to a local college.



FROM THE CEO

WE ALL HAVE STORIES. Circumstances and our response have taken us all in different directions. But directions can change. It may sound simple, but the truth is, we are only lost until we are found.

The message of the Gospel is good news because our lives don't have to be defined by our lostness. Rather, our lives are defined by what we decide to do with God's gift of salvation. "I once was lost, but now, I'm found."

At Wichita Falls Faith Mission, we see men and women's lives forever changed by God's Amazing Grace. In this issue, you'll meet Melissa and Raymundo. You'll see how their lostness overwhelmed them and shaped almost every decision they made. In some ways, they

didn't know anything different. It was what they were used to. It seemed hopeless.

BUT GOD!

What Melissa and Raymundo found in a relationship with God through Jesus Christ didn't change previous chapters of their stories. BUT GOD! certainly turned the page. They are both writing new chapters with God's help.

Steve Sparks
CEO

*"I don't know whether
he is a sinner,"
the man replied
[speaking about Jesus].*

*"But I know this:
I was blind, and
now I can see!"*

John 9:25, NLT

CURRENT STATS

Because of you, we are able to help rewrite stories of the homeless. Statistics provided are for January through April 2019.



FRIENDS OF FAITH

MONTHLY SUPPORTERS OF WICHITA FALLS FAITH MISSION

WHAT WILL BE YOUR LEGACY?

WE COUNT ON regular support from faithful friends to support our mission, allowing us to serve the homeless in countless ways. I would like to invite you to join our monthly giving club called ***Friends of Faith***.

Friends of Faith provides strong and steady funding that allows Wichita Falls Faith Mission to deliver a lasting impact to individuals and families experiencing homelessness in our community. **By reducing the amount of mail sent to you, Wichita Falls Faith Mission can dedicate more resources to providing shelter, meals, clothing, and one-on-one case management to the homeless and less to raising funds.**

One donation each month adds up to a world of difference for our homeless neighbors. **Here's the difference you can make each month:**

\$19.36 = Helps feed & care for 11 people

\$47.64 = Helps provide 6 nights of shelter for a child, woman, or man

\$70.40 = Helps feed & care for 40 people

\$103.22 = Helps provide 13 nights of shelter for a child, woman, or man

How joining *Friends of Faith* benefits you?

- **It's simple and automatic.** You choose the dollar amount.
- **It's flexible and secure.** You can increase, decrease, pause or stop your donations at any time.
- **It's tailored to your preferences.** Communications are tailored to you. You will receive less mail throughout the year, which helps provide more resources to programs and services for the homeless. We will periodically mail or email updates on how your gifts are transforming lives.

How do I join *Friends of Faith*?

- Sign up by **completing the enclosed form OR**
- **Enroll on our secure website**, www.FaithMissionWF.org, by clicking the "Donate" button. Choose ***Friends of Faith***. If you sign up online, we will call or email you to find out how we can tailor communications to you.

Faith Resale and Donation Center

SALE

**\$5 OFF
ANY \$10 PURCHASE**

- OR -

**\$10 OFF
ANY \$20 PURCHASE**

Expires 8/31/19. MUST PRESENT this coupon for the sale. This coupon has no cash value. This coupon must be used in one visit. There will be no change back from the coupon or returns. Originals only of the coupon. Photocopies of the coupon will not be accepted.



STORIES FROM FAITH MISSION

AT THE AGE OF 16, Reymundo married and dropped out of school. He and his young bride had three boys. His drug habit started at the age of 19 when both of his parents passed away in the same year. Reymundo's father was a violent man and was murdered. His mother became sick two days after his father died. She died in an ambulance on her way to the hospital. **Reymundo did not know how to handle grief**, so his usage spiraled out of control.

"I couldn't forget what happened. Drugs helped me forget a lot of things," said Reymundo. His addiction exposed him to a lot of worse things than grief. He lost his wife, kids, relationship with his siblings, and friends. He became involved with drug dealers and became violent. "You have to be when you're running around with drug dealers," said Reymundo.

The more he used drugs, the less he slept, and the more he hallucinated. The hallucinations became worse and would cause Reymundo to lose control of himself during that stage of his life. "I have seen evil," Reymundo said with a distraught facial expression.

He could not keep a job. Reymundo picked up the habit of

stealing from family and friends to pay for his drug addiction. He was living in his car because no one would allow him in their homes.

His lifestyle caused him to go to prison. While there, Reymundo tried to commit suicide three times. He was released from prison and continued to drift. "It's time to get clean, but how do I do it?" Reymundo asked himself. He had been to several rehabs and hospitals but had no success through those programs.



"It's time to get clean, but how do I do it?" Reymundo asked himself.

One morning he woke up in Mineral Wells, Texas after being sober for two days. He started walking to a church. The pastor was there and counseled Reymundo. **"You are very lost," the pastor**

told Reymundo. "God is the only one that can heal you. I'm going to send you to a friend of mine named Pete Corrales at Faith Mission."

When Reymundo arrived at Faith Mission, he was severely depressed, had terrible anxiety, was suicidal – he was a broken man. The staff at the Mission contacted several local agencies that helped him get the right things and medication he needed. They also told him about God.

"Praying to God a lot has helped me the most. **I lay on my bed every night and talk to God.** He answers me back. He healed me from my addiction," said Reymundo.

Since being at Faith Mission, he has been drug-free for nearly two years, and Reymundo's relationships with two of his sons have been restored. Also, the Wichita County D.A. has worked with another county to get warrants cleared and a payment schedule set up to pay Reymundo's fines. When talking with his sons, he says, **"Look what God is doing with your dad."** With grateful hearts to God, the staff of Faith Mission looks at Reymundo's restored life and smiles.