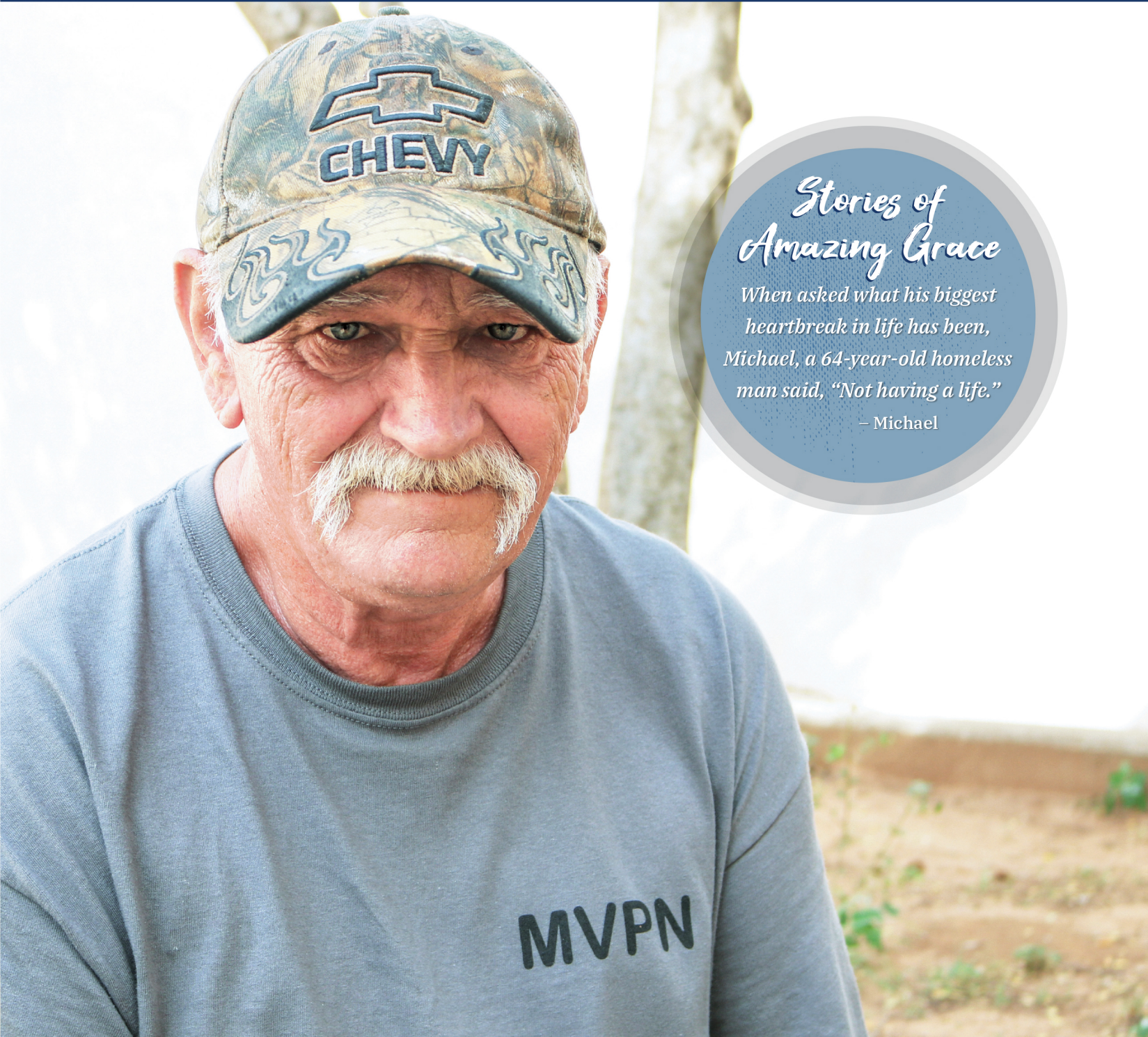




— WICHITA FALLS —  
**FAITH MISSION**  
EVERY STORY MATTERS

[www.FaithMissionWF.org](http://www.FaithMissionWF.org)

FALL 2018



## *Stories of Amazing Grace*

*When asked what his biggest  
heartbreak in life has been,  
Michael, a 64-year-old homeless  
man said, "Not having a life."*

— Michael

**INSIDE:**

From the CEO • Stories from our Ministries • Statistics

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Wichita Falls, TX 76301

**FAITH REFUGE**  
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**FAITH RESALE**  
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## FROM THE CEO

### EVERY STORY MATTERS

WHEN I THINK OF GRACE, my mind automatically goes to something I didn't or couldn't earn or deserve. It's God reaching down from the splendor of Heaven into the mess I've made and offering me the free gift of forgiveness and salvation.

I also think of second chances. Aren't we all glad God doesn't give up on us after one failure? I know I am. And, I believe He would have us treat each other the same way.

In every "Story of Amazing Grace" at Faith Refuge and Faith Mission, there is that point-in-time realization that "something has to change." It's not just behavior, but it's also attitudes, ways of thinking, relationships, and sometimes even appearance. It is our privilege to serve those who enter our doors for help and watch God do His transforming work.

For some, the results are spectacular. Many have victory over addiction, restored relationships, new jobs, permanent housing, and even receiving a driver's license — all these things along with a new sense of purpose and a confidence that God has a plan for their lives.

However, in some cases, the change is slower or never happens at all. Does that mean grace is lacking? Of course not. We continue to offer the resources and the loving acceptance in hopes that someday it will happen. In the meantime, we know that God's grace never runs out and He never fails.

John (not his real name) relapsed twice while in our New Beginnings Recovery Program. After the second time, he left and through a series of events ended up at the Salvation Army in Fort Worth. There, God got a hold of his life and did miraculous work. He called us later to tell us that he was still alive and "better than ever." He is now employed full-time and has been sober for over two years.

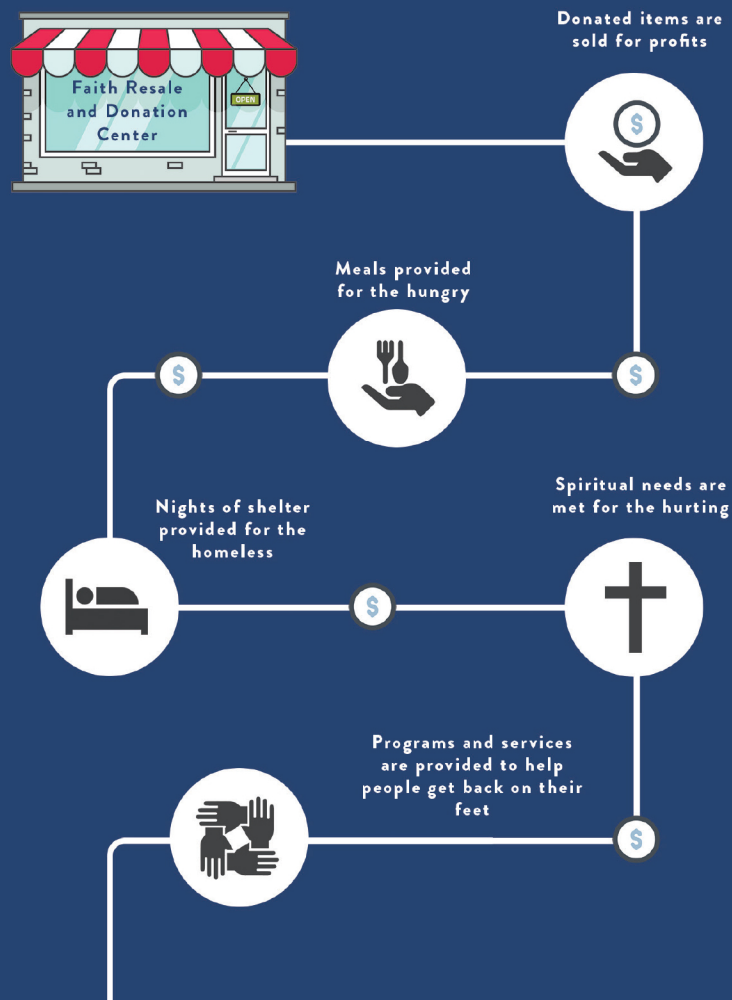
Some might see that as a failure on our part. I see it as planting a grace seed that someone else watered, and God gets the Glory. Over the next several months, you will read some pretty amazing stories of grace. I hope they will encourage you and remind you that "Every Story Matters."

Steve Sparks  
CEO

## FAITH RESALE AND DONATION CENTER

Faith Resale is a vital part of our ministry at Wichita Falls Faith Mission because it helps fund our ministry. We also use this location to help fulfill some vouchers we issue to community members and clients from other nonprofits. Below is an infographic on how your donation to Faith Resale helps fund our ministry so that we can help people write new chapters of joy and peace in their lives.

### WHERE DOES YOUR DONATION GO?



— WICHITA FALLS —  
**FAITH MISSION**  
EVERY STORY MATTERS



## STORIES FROM FAITH MISSION

WHEN ASKED what his biggest heartbreak in life has been, Michael, a 64-year-old homeless man, said, "Not having a life." At the age of 12, Michael told his dad, "If you beat me one more time, I'm calling the police." His father beat him again. His mother finally moved Michael and her other children away from her abusive husband. Michael knows he has also made choices that caused him to be in the position he is in, but he does wish other things had happened in his life.

"Having a place to live, and the Lord in my life more than what He is right now, is my dream. If it weren't for my Father in Heaven, I wouldn't be where

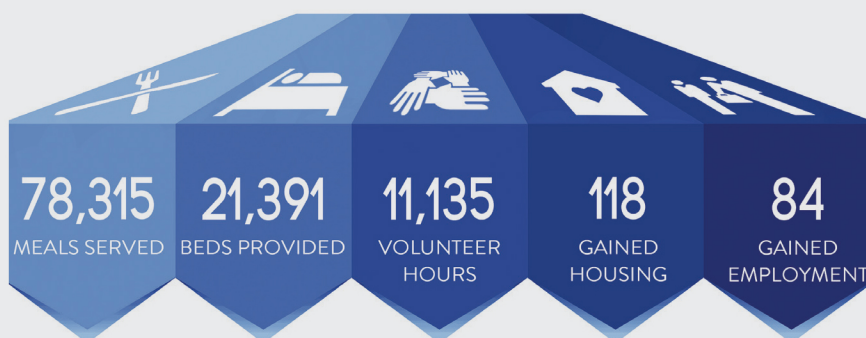
I am right now," Michael shared. He talked about how a few years ago he had to make a choice to love

Please pray that  
Michael and  
others like him see  
and know God's  
Amazing Grace.

people in God's way or hate people. He is choosing to love. His outward situation of being homeless has not changed, but his inward 'house' is at peace a lot more. Michael is hopeful he will have a good life soon.

The conversation shifted to what was the hardest part about being homeless. Michael said it was when he first became homeless and wondered if he could find a place to eat. Someone told him about Faith Mission, but he was scared to come here because he didn't know what the staff people would be like. In 2009, another homeless person walked with him into the building. "The staff means everything to me. It's an enjoyment to me to see them. It makes me feel good when they call me by name and ask how I am."

### CURRENT STATS



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

*For the grace  
of God has  
appeared that  
offers salvation  
to all people.*

Titus 2:11



# STORIES FROM FAITH REFUGE



BEING A VICTIM of sexual abuse affected Lindsey's mind and perception, causing her to believe the only way to get love and attention was through her body. She became pregnant at the age of 16. She eventually married the father of her unborn child and had four sons. The thought of keeping her family together kept her in an abusive marriage, until one night, Lindsey came home from an overnight shift to find her son with his eye bruised and swollen shut. She took her boys and left her husband.

thought cared for her. Sadly, Lindsey was forced into prostitution. One night, a man in a state of drunkenness told her, "God does not want you to do this. God loves you." She took all the money she had saved and left during the night on a bus to Wichita Falls, where she would wind up at Faith Refuge.

"They were feeding me Jesus," Lindsey described. One day in Bible study, she was called upon to read from one of the books of John. Not knowing there were multiple books of John, she read the Gospel of John and felt embarrassed. Following the class, she immediately went to the locker room and turned to Matthew and started reading. As she began reading the Bible, she was overwhelmed with many emotions and cried out to God. It was then she felt the overwhelming forgiveness of God and the shame wash away from her soul. This was her *Amazing Grace Moment*.

Soon Lindsey joined Faith Refuge Career Academy and, through hard work and discipline, graduated from the program. With the guidance of the Academy's former director, Lisa Wester, Lindsey was able to gain back custody of her sons. Lindsey and her four boys now live in their own home, and she is currently working as a manager. She is involved at First Pentecostal Church of God working as the Youth Pastor and started college in the fall of 2018. While she's not exactly sure where she'll be in the future, Lindsey knows she will be helping others like herself. Her advice to anyone in an abusive relationship is "It only takes one step to end the cycle of abuse and stop being on the wrong path. It's the hardest step, but each step after that gets easier and more rewarding."

"It only takes one step  
to end the cycle of abuse  
and stop being  
on the wrong path."

Lindsey had good intentions, but bad decisions led her to leave her sons with her ex-husband's sister so she could be with a man that she

BECAUSE OF YOUR GIFT TO OUR ORGANIZATION,  
STORIES OF *Amazing Grace* ARE WRITTEN EVERY DAY.