



— WICHITA FALLS —
FAITH MISSION
EVERY STORY MATTERS

www.FaithMissionWF.org

SPRING 2021



RENEWED

Something new from something old

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

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FROM THE CEO

RENEWED – It's kind of an interesting word. When you add the prefix "re" to a word, it indicates that something is happening again. In this case, what was once new is being made new again.

Sometimes our longing for renewal is actually a longing for what was. We want things to go back to the way they were before. But God has a different way. When Jesus brings renewal, He gives us something better than what we had before!

We are actually better than new. The Bible says it this way, "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

The spiritual renewal we long for everyday at Wichita Falls Faith Mission is the kind that puts the past behind us and begins brand new stories, with new chapters of victory and hope.

As you read the rest of this newsletter, you will see that kind of renewal in the stories of two of our clients. They have seen firsthand what it means to be made "renewed" by God.

Every Story Matters,

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

Steve Sparks
CEO



Judy's Story

BEFORE RETIREMENT, Judy worked for Morgan Stanley for fifteen years as a licensed and registered broker. Unfortunately, seven and a half years ago her husband suffered from a very large brain tumor and has required full time care at home since. Judy retired early and has taken on the caregiver role at home with grace, but still entertains her favorite hobby-turned-business when she can.

Judy has enjoyed shopping at local thrift and antique shops around Wichita Falls for many years, Faith Resale and Donation Center being a favorite. She has a good eye for finding sought after vintage pieces and upcycling eclectic vignettes. She opened her first booth at the Weeks Mansion, and then 21 years ago opened a booth at Birds of a Feather, an antique shopping mall in Downtown Wichita Falls, where you can find her unique finds and upcycled creations still on display for purchase today. While her collection grew, her business followed. She

has turned her creative hobby into a successful business and has multiple booths in many different shops around town. She remembers visiting Faith Thrift Store when it was located on Harrison St. six years ago. Judy mentioned, "I'm always on the hunt. I love the hunt. It's the thrill of the hunt for me." While the hunt has become therapy for Judy, she emphasizes her almost daily visits with the Faith Resale associates are a big part of it as well. If shopping is not on the agenda for the day, she does her best to make it by to donate her newspapers and plastic bags. The mission behind Faith Resale is near and dear to Judy's heart. She really values that Wichita Falls Faith Mission offers their program clients the opportunity to work in the retail environment to gain job skills and make great connections for their future. Judy has become more than a customer to Faith Resale and Donation Center. She is a faithful supporter, friend, and mentor for any associate she has connected with over the years.



STORIES FROM FAITH MISSION

MICHAEL GREW UP on a small farm in Oklahoma, the oldest of 10 kids. Supporting 10 children, Michael's dad worked a lot. His mother, who gave birth to Michael when she was 15, was loving and caring. His brothers and sisters have spread out across the country and in a variety of jobs, from serving in the military to managing nonprofits.

Michael was in his 30's when he lost some family members and a close friend. He could not deal with the emotional loss. At first, he turned to food, then he turned to drugs to deal with the pain. He thought meth helped him. After losing the weight, he lost his teeth, then his money, house, car, and his job. He was homeless for three years.

Michael knew that he needed help. So not being able to think clearly because of the drugs, he stole a car to travel to Tulsa because he heard there was a good addiction recovery program there. After spending seven months in jail, he was released. He knew that he needed to get into an addiction recovery program quickly before he relapsed.

In the Oklahoma City area, most of the addiction recovery programs were full. Michael had heard about Faith Mission. He desperately wanted to get here. So he started walking from Oklahoma City to Wichita Falls. Walking, accepting short rides from individuals, and sleeping in ditches,

he eventually arrived in Wichita Falls.

When he finally arrived at the Faith Mission, he was set up with clothes, food, and a bed. It was his first warm bed in three years. Michael entered the New Beginnings Addiction Recovery Program. He said there is no other program that he knows of that will allow you to finish the addiction recovery program and help you get a car, a job, and a place to live.

Michael has an MBA from a major university in Oklahoma.

NEEDS LIST

Underwear
(men's and women's
all sizes)

Clorox wipes and
cleaning supplies

Paper goods

Individual packets
of Tylenol or
Ibuprofen



MOBILE GIVING

text
faithwf

to

77977



STORIES FROM FAITH REFUGE

CHELSIE CAME FROM a broken home. Her mother was not very strict and let Chelsie do whatever she wanted. This led to a life of drugs for nine years. She started with prescription drugs, which led to other drugs. She watched her two older brothers use drugs, so she learned a lot from them about the lifestyle.

The mother of three children, she lost the rights to them when she was charged with trafficking drugs. Her grandparents gained custody of the oldest two, the youngest child was placed in a foster home. She was given the option of going to prison or to Faith Refuge. She decided to go to Faith Refuge to get her life together and regain custody of her children.

Before Faith Refuge, Chelsie knew about Jesus, but she did not have a relationship with him. Being in the New

Beginnings Addiction Recovery Program, she was taught about being a better person and the love of Jesus Christ.

Chelsie said, "I have so much support here. It is crazy. The women here are amazing, and they will do everything that they can for you. You just have to voice what you need, and you have to be willing to do what is necessary to get to where you need to go."

Chelsie plans to graduate from Career Academy soon and wants to move into the transition house. Then she wants to get her own house, a job, and custody of her kids. Eventually she plans to go to college and get a degree in business administration.



Chelsie's favorite Bible verse is Jeremiah 29:11: "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

UPDATE ON JUSTIN



Justin recently had a court date to determine his future. Justin was facing over ten years in prison due to his arrest. Because of his work at Faith Mission, Justin received two years' probation. Congratulations Justin! (for more information on his story check out the 2020 Impact Report or the video Gift of Faith)



PRESENTED BY

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REAL PEOPLE, REAL STORIES, REAL VICTORIES

We invite you to hear the stories of faith through the eyes of former clients, staff, and supporters in a video we created, The Gift of Faith. Search Wichita Falls Faith Mission on YouTube to watch.