



— WICHITA FALLS —
FAITH MISSION
EVERY STORY MATTERS

www.FaithMissionWF.org

SUMMER 2022

THE HEAT IS ON

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FAITH MISSION

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Wichita Falls, TX 76301

FAITH RESALE & DONATION CENTER

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

FAITH RESALE DOWNTOWN

940-264-0706
1205 Lamar St.
Wichita Falls, TX 76301

FAITH REFUGE

940-322-4673
710 E. Hatton Rd.
Wichita Falls, TX 76302



FROM THE CEO

THE HEAT IS ON

IF YOU'VE LIVED IN NORTH TEXAS for at least a year, then you know how deadly our summers can be. Every year, we brace for triple digit temperatures that inevitably lead to over-exposure and heat related illnesses. Our hope is that we can reach our homeless neighbors before it gets to that point and give them water and relief from the heat.

All this is possible because of your support. Faith Mission for Men and Families and Faith Refuge for Women and Children exist because of the generosity of folks like you. Caring for those in need is one of the things this community does best.

I hope that you will be especially attentive and prayerful for those men, women and children you see on the streets this summer. If you feel comfortable doing so, hand them a bottle of water. If you see someone laying on the sidewalk or under a bridge, don't hesitate to call us at 940-723-5663 and we will do a welfare check on them. You never know. They may be asleep, or they could be suffering from a heat stroke. A phone call to us or the police might save their life.

Again, thank you for your support. Call or email me and we can set up a tour of our facilities or explore other ways you can be involved in this amazing ministry. Until then, we will be doing everything we can to make it a cool and safe summer for our homeless neighbors.

Every Story Matters,

Steve Sparks
CEO



RICKY'S STORY

RICKY GREW UP in a small North Texas town. Early in his childhood, his parents separated, and he ended up being shuttled back and forth between them. He described his childhood as being "rough". He started using drugs at 13, and alcohol at 16. He married at a young age and had three children.

Because of his drug and alcohol use, his marriage ended in divorce, and he lost custody of his kids. Because of his addiction, his adult life has been a roller coaster with ups and downs. Often, he would struggle to get a decent house or car only to lose both because of his drinking and drug use. The tipping point came when he got into a fight with his new fiancé over drugs and alcohol and he was kicked out of the house.



STORIES FROM FAITH MISSION

CODY'S FATHER raised him in a small country town and when he was 12, he went to live with his mother. He was first introduced to drugs by some older boys. By the time he was 14, he was addicted to methamphetamines.

Cody came to realize that the only way for him to get out of the darkness and trouble that surrounded him was the salvation of Jesus Christ. He spent time in and out of jail in addition to spending 8 years in federal prison. The last time he was before a judge, he begged the judge to send him to Faith Mission. The judge was surprised that Cody had heard of Faith Mission, but he obliged, and the court ordered Cody into the Addiction Recovery Program.

Currently, Cody spends his days

immersed in his job and studies at Faith Mission. He associates with individuals who have similar interest, those who want to succeed. In the mornings, he starts his day with Bible Study. "The more you study the Bible, the more you learn that it's about relationships. It's about love. I never had that relationship growing up. This is one of the reasons that I love this place. God's hands are at work in this place. It's where you learn about discipleship, its where you learn about the word of God, and you learn how to live your life."

Cody mentioned that the most important key to his success is to have a different mindset. "You must change the way you think. By renewing your

mind, you cannot feed your flesh with your old desires. Unfortunately, I have them. I learned this on the first day I arrived here. It's on the back of the shirts that we wear. "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect." Romans 12:2

"I just want people to know that there is a God, He loves you, and I just hope that you find peace in Jesus Christ, like I have found. I'm getting it now. I wouldn't have succeeded in a program like this a year ago.

If I can do it, anybody can do it."

Not having anywhere to go, Ricky came to Faith Mission. After staying here for a week, he talked to Bob Johnston, the Men's Program Director and made the decision to enter the addiction recovery program. Ricky was immediately immersed in Bible study and learning about God's plan for his life. One night, a group of high school kids on a mission trip visited Faith Mission. Several of the kids were giving their testimonies when the Holy Spirit came over Ricky and it was at that moment, he accepted Jesus as his Savior. The next thing that he knew, he was surrounded by the kids as they prayed for him.

Currently Ricky is finishing the New Beginnings addiction recovery program at Faith Mission. He has

a new vehicle, he is getting his drivers license, looking forward to going back to work, and being able to attend and serve in his church. Ricky, his kids, and his family are starting to get reacquainted with each other.

"The Lord's amazing; He's done a lot in my life and I'm just grateful. I'm looking forward to getting out of here, being happy, grabbing life by the horns and seeing what the next chapter of my life brings. It's going to be a great race."

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STORIES FROM FAITH REFUGE



STEPHANIE WAS RAISED by her mother and father in a small Oklahoma town. It was her mother that Stephanie remembers taking her and her sister to church and to visit family.

By middle school, Stephanie started to rebel and get into trouble. After high school, she was married and had two children. Her son died in a car accident and her daughter died by a gunshot wound.

After the death of both of her children, her life started to spiral out of control. She started abusing methamphetamine, alcohol, pills, anything she could find to help relieve the pain of her suffering.

After she separated from her second husband, she went to jail for a crime she committed. After she was released on probation, she reached her lowest point. Her mother had just died, she was

homeless, she was unable to pay her fines from her previous sentencing, and she did not check in with her probation officer. Ultimately, she landed back in jail. This time was different as she begged the judge to send her to a court ordered addiction recovery program. The only program that they were aware of was Faith Refuge. The judge had seen the miracles that were happening there.

Her father agreed to drive her from Oklahoma to Wichita Falls. When she walked through the doors of Faith Refuge, her life changed drastically.

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Romans 8:1

This scripture has remained with Stephanie throughout her time at Faith Refuge.

When she arrived there, she had nothing. Now she has copies of her birth certificate, drivers license, her social security card and has even opened a bank account. She is looking forward to completing Career Academy, Level 3 of the New Beginnings Program.

Her hope is to finish the program, obtain housing and a car, and to start to put her life back together. She is excited to have restored her relationship with her family and her hope is to get a college degree.



NEW EMPLOYEE / SITE DIRECTOR AT FAITH REFUGE

KRISTEN BALDWIN

WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME Kristen Baldwin as the new Site Director at Faith Refuge.

Kristen is married, has three beautiful children, ages 17, 15 and 9.

When Kristen was younger, she first volunteered at Faith Mission by serving dinners. She never thought about working here until a strange set of circumstances brought her here. After working for 16 years at Child Protective Services (CPS), Kristen felt a call to work with individuals on a more personal level and heard about a position that was available at Faith Refuge. She applied for the open position and was hired for a different position that just came available. She believes that all her training and experiences from CPS has led her to Faith Refuge.

I HAVE SEEN GOD WORK IN EVERY PERSON'S LIFE

Since starting to work at Faith Refuge, she has seen a lot. “I have seen God work in every person's life. I have seen individuals overcome addiction and God bring them from

their lowest point to full recovery. And when they leave Faith Refuge, they have housing, a job, transportation and everything they need to succeed because they are grounded in love, they are grounded in the Word of God, and have a community of believers who constantly prays over them.”

Her biggest joy is seeing someone come through the door who is nervous and anxious, and then that individual is shown the love of Christ, someone prays over them and shows them true compassion. “You get to see God working through others in their life. You see that person go through a transformation, starting to become the person God wants them to be.”

Kristen recommends to everyone to come and volunteer at Faith Mission or Faith Refuge. “Even if you only have a couple of hours a week to volunteer, you will be encouraged by the things that you see and all the people that are around you. God is good.”