

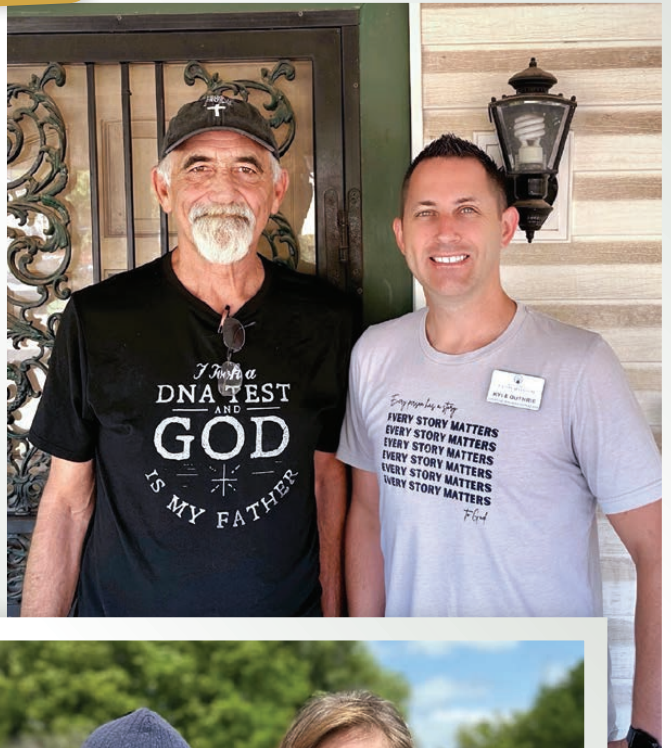


— WICHITA FALLS —
FAITH MISSION
EVERY STORY MATTERS

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FALL 2023

Gift of a **NEW BEGINNING**



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FAITH MISSION

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Wichita Falls, TX 76301

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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

Gift of a **NEW BEGINNING**

WITH THE HOLIDAY SEASON around the corner, a new level of emotions and pain invades the trauma-filled world of homelessness. Many of the men, women, and children we serve are only reminded of the lack of family and traditions they might remember from their past.

For some we serve, it will be just another lonely Thanksgiving or Christmas, but for others, the holidays may

be a time of joy and restoration as they see the results of making different choices and putting their lives back together.

Inside, you will see stories of men and women you have helped. Each has seen both sides of the holidays, and the joy and peace they have found this year is contagious. They understand the Gift of a New Beginning. I hope you enjoy reading them.

As always, please pray for us and support us when you can. We couldn't do it without you.

Steve Sparks
CEO

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

STEVE'S JOURNEY OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE at Faith Mission and Faith Refuge is a testament to the transformative power of giving back. In just four short months, he went from personal turbulence to finding purpose and fulfillment in helping others.

His motivation to volunteer was rooted in Jesus' words, "It is more blessed to give than receive." Steve's path to volunteering started with a simple connection through his wife, Dee, and a chance meeting with some of the staff. What began with Sunday Night Suppers evolved into leading Bible studies and providing pastoral care.

***"For me, volunteering is where worship is put into action.
It's about following Christ's example and
sharing the Gospel's good news with those in need."***

Steve's perspective on volunteer work is about helping spiritually and providing physical, emotional, and psychological support to individuals facing challenges.

Steve's joy comes from witnessing lives being transformed. "I love the graduation ceremonies. You see individuals who once appeared emaciated and downtrodden emerging as renewed and revitalized beings. It's not just about fixing the self-inflicted issues but also helping people realize they are not dead ends and can experience a fresh start."

When asked about the impact of Wichita Falls Faith Mission on the community, Steve replied, "I believe it plays a critical role in addiction and alcohol recovery. I also believe it's the community's moral responsibility to support such services, and I encourage others to devote their time to giving without expecting anything in return."

Despite his busy life as a pastor and other commitments, Steve wishes he had more time to devote to this calling, emphasizing that it goes beyond mere volunteering. "It's about a blessing and an opportunity that has enriched my life and brought me peace."





STORIES FROM FAITH MISSION

TRISTAN'S LIFE was a tragic journey, marked by instability and hardship from childhood. Raised by a single mom and, later, a stepfather, he endured homelessness and constant struggles. His early years lacked stability, security, and lasting friendships, leaving him with fragmented memories and immaturity even in his late twenties.

As he grew older, Tristan turned to substance abuse to cope with his chaotic life. Alcohol, drugs, and recklessness became his sanctuary, distancing him from his family and plunging him into a cycle of addiction, homelessness, and despair.

Tristan's descent into homelessness began when his car and belongings were impounded. With no support from his parents, he slept on the streets.

Thanksgiving and Christmas during his homelessness were lonely, devoid of warmth and joy. He parked outside a hospital during Thanksgiving, feeling estranged from his family. Christmas brought disappointment as he received only clothes for his children, which he discarded in frustration, weighed down by addiction and isolation.

The turning point in Tristan's life arrived when he learned about the Faith Mission through his aunt's neighbor's success story. He said,

"Hearing her story inspired me to seek help from Faith Mission and start taking steps toward changing my life."

Tristan began rebuilding his life at the Faith Mission, finding shelter, support, and faith. He said, "Just in the

first month, my family has reached out to me and told me how proud they are of me. I plan to spend Thanksgiving with them."

Tristan's aspirations shifted from material success to the intangible treasures of love, trust, and human connections. He dreams of a stable, loving family, freedom from addiction, and earning respect and trust again.

Reflecting on his journey, Tristan acknowledged the significance of his family and the unwavering support from individuals like Bob Johnston at Faith Mission.

"They never gave up on me."



THANKFUL

Lives you've helped change.

STORIES FROM FAITH REFUGE



MISTY CAME FROM A SUPPORTIVE family and had one sister. Her parents divorced when she was 13. While in high school, she played sports, earning an all-state title in golf.

She wanted to be an elementary school teacher, so she started taking classes to get a college degree. However, she got pregnant, married, and eventually had three children. After 15 years, her marriage ended in divorce, leading to a downward spiral into methamphetamine addiction for over a decade. She said, "I was just being rebellious and trying to numb the pain. I thought my world was over."

The turning point came when Misty got into legal trouble due to her addiction, leading her to Faith Refuge. She said, "I was surprised by how the people love you as much as they do here. That has shocked me because everybody cares about you here." Despite growing up in church, she abandoned her relationship with God during her darkest times.

However, Misty recounted during her stay at Faith Refuge, "Since I've been at Faith Refuge, I have built a pretty strong bond with God, and I know that no matter what, He's got me."

During Misty's last holiday season, she had warrants in two counties for failure to appear in court and was anxious about going to jail, so she didn't want to go anywhere. Despite that, she managed to spend Christmas with her dad, but her family was angry with her. Misty plans to return home for the holidays this year, stay there, and be happy with her family. Her relationship with her family has improved compared to last year, as

they are excited about her coming, and Misty feels like she's regaining the life she lost. Her warrants have been taken care of, giving her a sense of freedom to enjoy the holidays with her family.

Misty credits the supportive environment at Faith Refuge for helping her through her recovery journey. She acknowledges her family's unwavering support and expresses gratitude for their understanding and encouragement. She said, "They've got their daughter, their sister, and their mother back." Misty plans to return home, work for her dad, be a good daughter, sister, and mother, and embrace the tools she gained at Faith Refuge.

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For more information on making a gift to Wichita Falls Faith Mission from your IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution, please contact your financial advisor.



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