



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

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SUMMER 2024



God's Plans,

Our Purpose

*Trevor's Story of  
 Redemption*

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FROM  
THE CEO

## God's Plans, Our Purpose

EVERYONE WANTS TO HAVE A PURPOSE. It's rare to find someone who wakes up every morning saying to themselves, "I want my life to mean nothing." Granted there are those who may have given up on finding it, but the dream is still there.

At our two shelters, we serve men and women every day who will tell you that at one point in their lives, their dream for purpose was a daily pursuit. But somewhere along the way, it got put aside for other things.

Usually, these other things include getting off the path that God had intended for them. God has a plan for each of us and His plan is what brings purpose in our lives.

In this newsletter, you will read about an entire football team and their coach whose desire is to find purpose in serving. You will also read the stories of two people who strayed from God's plan, but once they returned, they found purpose again.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Wichita Falls Faith Mission and thank you for your support.

Every Story Matters,

Steve Sparks  
CEO

*And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*

Romans 8:28

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## STORY OF RICH RENNER - A COACH'S LEGACY OF SERVICE

RICH RENNER HAS BEEN THE CORNERSTONE of Midwestern State University's football program for nearly two decades. From his start as a defensive line coach to his role as head coach, Rich has deeply influenced the team and the community of Wichita Falls.

Moved by his responsibilities as a deacon in his church and earlier volunteer work, Rich saw an opportunity to use his position for a more significant impact. He introduced his team to a new challenge: serving meals at Faith Mission, the local homeless shelter. Initially, the players were reluctant to swap footballs for aprons, but Rich's commitment to service and humility motivated them to embrace the experience.

At Faith Mission, the players cooked and served meals, cleaned, and engaged with the community, contrasting their usual physically demanding routines. They listened to stories of hardship and resilience, gaining new insights into life's challenges.





# STORIES FROM FAITH MISSION

TREVOR GREW UP in a loving family with his mom, dad, and sister. They were everything he could have asked for. However, ten years ago, his life took a tragic turn when he lost his mother. This devastating event led him down a dark path.

After his mother's passing, Trevor sought comfort in the wrong places. He visited his grandmother on the day his mom died, only to find her smoking meth. She told him it helped, but for Trevor, it led to a decade of addiction and legal troubles.

Over the next ten years, Trevor's life was a cycle of prison and drugs. When he was 24, he was charged with drug distribution when he was wrapped up in a sting operation. Despite many attempts to kick his drug addiction, he found himself surrounded by drugs.

A turning point came when a cousin introduced him to the New Beginnings addiction recovery program. Initially,

Trevor saw it as a way to avoid a 50-year prison sentence. However, the program did more than keep him out of jail; it rekindled his faith. Trevor had lost his belief in God after his mother's death, but the program's classes and Bible studies helped him find it again.

During his time in the program, Trevor noticed significant changes in himself. His patience improved, and he grew closer to God. These changes had a ripple effect on his family relationships. They wanted to reconnect with him, which meant the world to him, especially after years of distancing himself from them due to his addiction.

Trevor's aspirations became apparent as he contemplated his future. For 20 years, he had dreamed of opening a car detailing shop with his dad, a car technician. This business would bring him closer to his father and involve his nephew when he got older. It represented

a chance to build something meaningful with his family.

For Trevor, Faith Mission symbolized change. It was about putting his life back on the right path. Without the program, he believed he would either be in prison or still lost in addiction. His newfound closeness with God made him a better person and opened his eyes to everything he had missed.

***"I've never been closer to God than I am right now. He has made me a better person and opened my eyes to everything I've missed."***

Trevor's journey is a powerful story of pain, struggle, and redemption. The New Beginnings program gave him a second chance at life, and he was profoundly grateful to Bob and everyone who supported him. Their efforts had indeed changed his life.

This experience was transformative; even mundane tasks like dishwashing and mopping taught them invaluable lessons in gratitude and teamwork, changing their perspectives profoundly.

The impact was evident by the end of their time at the shelter. The players had not only learned the importance of service but had also experienced personal growth that deepened their appreciation for their own lives and enhanced their team spirit. They were eager to return, reflecting the success of Rich's initiative to integrate service into their development.

Under Rich's leadership, the football team grew into a force for good, showing that true leadership involves lifting others and giving back. His legacy at Midwestern State University extends beyond the field, as he shapes athletes and young men ready to make a positive difference in the world.



# STORIES FROM FAITH REFUGE

BRITTANY'S LIFE had been a turbulent journey marked by early trials and hardships. At the tender age of three, her world was shaken by her parent's divorce. Five years later, her father's struggle with drug addiction led her mother to remove him from their lives—an action that devastated Brittany, as her father had been her entire world.

By age ten, Brittany had lost contact with her father and her brother, who went to live with him. It was around this time that she began drinking, a habit she maintained into her adulthood. The subsequent years brought more challenges; at thirty-one, Brittany decided to quit drinking, but the removal of her child in 2021 led her to start using meth, sinking her further into despair.

Facing overwhelming emotional pain, Brittany felt abandoned and misunderstood. She pushed loved ones away, engaged in risky behaviors, and even contemplated taking her own life.

However, on the day she intended to end her suffering, she was met by police officers at her door—a moment that marked the beginning of her road to recovery.

Arrested and sobering up in jail, Brittany began to confront her past and acknowledge the need for change. She was introduced to the New Beginnings addiction recovery program at Faith Refuge as a condition of her probation. The program's thirteen months initially daunted her, and she spent the first thirty days wanting to leave. Yet, as she engaged with the program and shared her life story, a sense of relief washed over her. She felt a burden lift from her shoulders for the first time in years, and she began to heal. She said, "I wanted to know Jesus and have a relationship with Him."

Throughout her recovery, Brittany found unexpected strength in her faith



and the other students. She learned to embrace her experiences, finding the peace and purpose that had eluded her for so long. As she prepared to graduate from the program, her thoughts turned to the future—a future where she could reconnect with her family and share the lessons of hope and resilience she had learned.

***"I could never express how grateful I am for this program and how it has completely transformed my life."***

## DO YOU NEED TO MAKE A DISTRIBUTION FROM YOUR IRA?

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