



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

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

SPRING 2025

■ **NEW BEGINNINGS** ■



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

**FAITH MISSION**  
940-723-5663  
1300 Travis St.  
Wichita Falls, TX 76301

**FAITH RESALE & DONATION CENTER**  
940-766-0705  
4502 Jacksboro Hwy.  
Wichita Falls, TX 76302

**FAITH RESALE & DONATION CENTER**  
940-264-0706  
2708 Southwest Pkwy. #107  
Wichita Falls, TX 76308

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

## NEW BEGINNINGS



EVEN IF YOU ONLY READ THE BIBLE OCCASIONALLY, it would be hard to miss God's emphasis on "newness." His mercy is new every morning ... He makes all things new ... we are new creations in Christ.

At Wichita Falls Faith Mission, our emphasis is also on newness. More specifically, "New Beginnings." This simply means that we are here to help men and women chart a new course for their life that is different from the old one. New ways of thinking, new influences in their lives, new habits and new places.

The stories in this newsletter reveal the journeys from the old to the new. Jennifer and Chris didn't get where they are

### FROM THE CEO



today by doing things the same way they used to. In fact, they would be the first to tell you that having a new, transformed mind has changed everything. And that is our hope.

I pray these stories will inspire you. And I hope you will pray for Wichita Falls Faith Mission. Thank you for your support.

Thank you for caring,

Steve Sparks  
CEO

## THE PATH FORWARD: CHRIS'S JOURNEY

CHRIS NEVER EXPECTED to find himself in the 13-month addiction recovery program at Faith Mission.



His childhood offered few positive examples. He was exposed to alcohol and drugs by his parents. At age sixteen, he chose meth over his future. This led to cycles of felonies, jail cells, and broken promises. During a 10-year probation sentence, Chris was arrested again for possession of drugs.

While sitting in jail, something unexpected happened. A friend who had just completed the addiction recovery program at Faith Refuge spoke with his stepmom. A week later, his probation officer offered him a chance to enroll in the New Beginnings addiction recovery program at Faith Mission.

"I didn't know much about it," Chris recalls, "but I agreed. Those months passed quickly. The program provided resources—medical care, clothing, legal assistance—but Chris

discovered these weren't what he truly needed. "Many people that come here had jobs and homes," he explains, "only to lose everything to addiction. What I needed was transformation."

The Bible became his foundation for change. "It's not something you read once; it's something you live by every day," Chris says. "I understand now that if I stay focused, there's no reason I can't keep my life on track. But the moment I think I've got it all figured out is when I'll lose everything again."

There was one bright spot—Central Baptist Church would occasionally pick him up for services. Chris was baptized at that church. "If I had stayed with the church back then," he reflects, "everything might have been different."

Now approaching graduation, Chris has clear plans for his future. "I'm returning to Central Baptist Church and joining Celebrate Recovery with my cousin. I've got a job lined up, too."

Looking back on his thirteen months at Faith Mission, Chris sees it differently now. "It once seemed impossible, but now it feels too short. I hope I've absorbed enough to keep moving forward. This journey isn't ending—it's just beginning."

Scan the code to see the full story.





# STORIES FROM FAITH MISSION

## HOPE RENEWED: BOB'S MISSION AT NEW BEGINNINGS

EIGHT YEARS AGO, when Bob took over the men's addiction recovery program at Wichita Falls Faith Mission, only five men were in the New Beginnings program. The start was humble, but Bob's conviction remained unshakable.

"We serve individuals who are either court-ordered into the program, coming from probation, prison, or jail or those who come to us from the streets asking for help with their addiction," Bob explains. As director of the Men's Drug and Alcohol Treatment Program, he recognized that addressing addiction would require more than temporary solutions.

The need was clear. Addiction to drugs and alcohol has become one of the greatest challenges facing communities across Northern Texas and Southern Oklahoma.

For men entering the New Beginnings Program, the 13-month journey begins with addressing urgent physical needs.

*"Many of the men who come to us haven't seen a doctor in years," Bob says. "We help them access indigent care for medical treatment. We provide them seven sets of clothing and three pairs of shoes."*

The program helps replace lost identification documents—a common challenge for those coming from prison or the streets—and assists them with clearing unpaid tickets, which often amount to thousands of dollars.

But Bob understood that external changes alone wouldn't sustain recovery.

"While we take care of their physical needs, the most important part of the program happens in the chapel, where we spend four hours a day, five days a week," he shares. "This is a completely faith-based program, grounded in Romans 12:2, which says, *'Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.'*"

During those chapel hours, participants engage in Bible

studies, anger management classes, parenting classes, and more—all designed to fundamentally change their approach to life's challenges.

"I tell the guys, I'm not here to give you a remodel—I'm here to build you up from the ground up," Bob emphasizes. "Everything, from your mindset to your behavior, has to change."

The program's work-study component prepares participants for sustainable independence. Men learn critical job skills and work ethics that most have never developed.

By graduation, New Beginnings participants have worked for seven months, earned paychecks, saved enough to purchase used cars, secured employment, and found housing. Where they once sought escape through substances, they now possess tools for facing life's challenges.

"Addiction is often how people cope with their emotions—when they're stressed, anxious, or depressed, they turn to drugs or alcohol for relief," Bob explains. "The problem is these substances offer only a temporary fix and come with devastating consequences."

*"The key to our program's success is Jesus," he states. "Without Jesus, it's impossible to achieve true transformation."*

As graduates leave the program, they carry with them sobriety and a new foundation for life. They remain connected to church communities and recovery support groups, maintaining structure and accountability.

"Our goal is to help them not just survive but thrive—physically, emotionally, spiritually, and mentally," Bob concludes.

What began with five men has grown into a beacon of hope across Texas communities. Through Bob's unwavering dedication and faith-centered approach, New Beginnings continues to offer what so many desperately seek: the possibility of complete transformation and a fresh start.



## JENNIFER'S JOURNEY: FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

JENNIFER'S PATH began in Vernon, Texas, where her parents' addictions overshadowed her childhood. By fifteen, she found herself homeless, sleeping wherever she could, gradually falling into alcohol and drugs.

Jennifer had her first child at nineteen and moved to Big Spring, hoping for a fresh start. Over the next decade, she had six children in a relationship filled with abuse and addiction. Her world shattered when she lost custody of all her children.

Then tragedy struck again. The day Jennifer was to graduate from rehab, her husband died in an oilfield accident. Devastated, she turned to every drug imaginable—heroin, crack, cocaine, meth— to numb her pain.

"I built a wall around myself so I wouldn't think about them," Jennifer said of her lost children. "That's how I survived."

Jennifer later had two more children with another man who struggled with addiction. For brief periods, they stayed clean, but the drugs always returned. In 2012, she found him dead from an overdose, a needle still in his arm. By 2014, Jennifer was "spiritually, physically, mentally, and emotionally dying."

That year, Jennifer's sister told her about Faith Refuge.

When Jennifer arrived, she "looked like a corpse." Through worship and Bible studies, transformation began. "God restored my soul," she said, graduating with "a beautiful smile again."

After a relapse and a serious mistake—attempting to bring marijuana into prison—that nearly sent her to prison for 21 years, Jennifer received a second chance at Faith Refuge. This time, she focused on building her relationship with God and setting boundaries.

Jennifer now lives by Romans 8:28: "*We know that all things work together for the good of those who love the Lord, for the good of those who are called according to His purpose.*"

"No matter what happens in life," Jennifer says, "if we turn to the Lord and surrender to Him, He'll turn everything around for good."

Today, Jennifer stands as living proof that restoration is possible through faith and surrender, even from the darkest depths.



Scan the code to see the full story.

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

BY DONATING TO WICHITA FALLS FAITH MISSION through a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) you can support a cause you care about while possibly reducing your taxable income.

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

