



THE BEACON OF HOPE

BREAD OF LIFE RESCUE MISSION

"Giving a Hand Up, Not a Hand Out"

Winter 2011



Ralph & Connie Reagan, Directors

Greatness in Gods kingdom is never to be found in position or power or in the praise and opinions of men but in Servant like service to others, a servants Heart.



MATHEW 23: 11-12

'The greatest among you will be your servant. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.'



**TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS & DONORS:
WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS
& A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Why be a Volunteer?

*Volunteers are the lifeblood of the Bread of Life
Rescue Mission. Here's how you can help.*

Deuteronomy 15:11
**“There will always be poor
 people in the land.
 Therefore I command you
 to be openhanded toward
 your brothers and toward
 the needy and poor”**

From the Director

When I read this I think about a show on TV called “Hoarders”. When a person listens to the world they start taking all they can for themselves for tomorrow. The world says we are in a recession, so we all start hoarding for ourselves for tomorrow. God’s way to break this and not have fear in our life is simple, trust God at His Word, and He will supply all our needs according to His riches, which are unlimited. When all the people who are called by the name of Christian, realize this, then we can break the fear in our lives. If a person needs a new stove, refrigerator, car, or new clothes, and you can afford to buy a new one; donate your old one to a non-profit organization of your choice. You will receive a tax write-off, and someone in need will receive a blessing. It is a “win, win” situation. You start with what you have and turn loose of it and stop hoarding, see what God can do. God blesses people who share and not keep for themselves. How can the un-saved see and know God’s love if we are not a giving people?

God will bless givers in all ways. We receive a tax write off for our gifts. The receiver gets blessed and God says. “Whoever gives as much as a cup of water in His name will not loose his reward.” How can we lose with a deal that is all God’s way? God blesses you, and please pray for the Bread of Life and what we can do to help this economy and the poor.

*Ralph Reagan
 Director*





G., is three years old. Like most three year olds, his family, mom, big brother, and big sister are his entire world. Unlike the majority of other three year olds, his family has never been able to get their feet under them. G. has lived his life in a car or from one homeless shelter to another. He became fearful if one of his family members was not with him at all times.

Are there reasons he has been “homeless?” Of course, but none of them are a result of anything he, or his brother and sister have done. Big city shelters are fearful places, many times violent. One third of all homeless persons in the United States suffer from severe mental health issues. His fear of separation from family is sadly understandable.

G. has a big heart, and was overly concerned for the welfare of his family. If you have never had a hug from G. you are missing something special. Unlike most three year olds he has a thankful heart. A pair of hand me down sneakers, or a warm coat, an old toy that has seen better days, brings a wonderful big smile, and a “for me?” His for me’s are extremely precious; I am sure they bring a smile to God’s face.

This is a story that is repeated many times but there is something different about this one. G.’s family came to the Bread of Life Shelter in August of this year and something wonderful happened. His family increased a thousand fold. He found something more than a building and a program. He found friends, a church that loves him through his fears. His mom found a job and is regaining her footing in life. His family now has a home. G. has something truly remarkable in his mind, a bedroom, where he can hang his Spiderman poster.

We cannot meet all the needs of all the children but we can meet the needs of some. Children are the fastest growing homeless population in the United States and the world. There is no greater investment an individual or community can make than an investment in children. When the Bread of Life first opened, children were rare. Now children and their mothers make up half of our residents.

We need between two hundred and three hundred thousand dollars to finish and furnish the new shelter. If we do not respond to the needs of our children, they are **our** children, we will pay a tremendous price as a society and as individuals. Please partner with us in giving hope to the homeless. If two hundred and fifty families would give one thousand dollars this holiday season, the new facility would be operational in a few months.

Crossville is a special community where special people make wonderful things happen for our most helpless and precious individuals. The Bread of Life is not just a building or program, it is an expression of the love and commitment the community has to its citizens, especially to those in need. Thank you Crossville, have a wonderful and blessed holiday season.



The Bread of Life Family

‘Called To Those That Sit Where I Sat’ (Ezek. 3:15)

As Ezekial was so am I. Astonished is putting it mildly. I have been called by God to help those that are where I was, to help those that sit where I sat. Lost in the world of addiction with no hope in sight. I look back and see where the hand of God was strong upon me. HE (God) sent me to the wilderness for five years in Kentucky to learn about HIM and HIS Word. I am forever grateful that HE would even consider me in HIS service. I realize this is a ministry that not everyne is equipped for or called to. Thank God HE called my brother Paul and me out of the darkness to be His servants. The LORD will use those that surrender to HIS will.

The world of addiction is a very seductive and cruel existence. I have never personally met anyone who said, “When I grow up I want to be a drug addict.” Becoming an addict is not a planned lifestyle. It does not happen overnight. I have heard (heresy) that if you try meth once you are addicted. The truth is once a peson tries it they make a decision to do more. Our choices are what brought us into the world of addiction. No one is forced into it. It is a trap set by Satan to ensnare the confused, the one’s who feel the need to be acceped, and those that are blinded by the false appearance of a glamorous life. Dope is a dead-end street that takes some of us a little longer to travel than others. By dope, I mean prescription pills, alcohol, marijuana, and any illegal substance that will get a person high. Getting high is an escape route from reality. Back to my ministry that the LORD blessed me with.

At first, I reckoned that this call to help the addicted would be, well, easy! Wrong! It is still the same old game just different tricks. The ones I try to help can see, I pray, the change that God has made in all of us here at ‘The Bread of Life’. This ministry is 24/7, as I get phone calls all times of the day and night. The jail here and in surrounding counties are in contact with me regularly. You see, I have quite a bit of TIME under my belt also; therefore, I can relate to those that sit where I sat. When The Lord sends one my way, I prayerfully ask God to declare in their life - GAME OVER!!!

I look back and see where God has touched some through us, and we (Paul and I) always say Glory be to God in the Highest (Luke 2:14). We praise God for each soul that is saved through this ministry. If you will pray, here am I, send me (Isa. 6:8) the Lord can use you. How do I know? Come to the ‘Mission’ and see who God uses- Ralph, Connie (Directors), Jim, Frank, Verna, Larry, and even me!

*Serving Christ,
Kirk and Rose*



Yes! I want to do my part to help the Bread of Life Rescue Mission!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E m a i l : _____

_____ I am enclosing a deductible donation made payable to Bread of Life Rescue Mission.

_____ I will support the Bread of Life Mission

_____ Please contact me about volunteering.

_____ Please contact me to be a prayer partner.

_____ We would like someone to speak to our church organization or church about the Mission.

Have A Merry Christmas & Blest New Year



Have Mercy On Us Jesus!

The biggest problem the homeless face is that they are invisible. We have convinced ourselves there is nothing we can 'do'. As a result, we do not see them. This makes our life much more comfortable. We are like alcoholics not wanting to deal with a real life-threatening issue.

Homeless children grow into adults; adults with no loyalty to family, community, country or the human race as a whole. If an army of several million young adults living in our communities is not troubling to you, may I suggest you re-think just how secure you really are.

From a purely economic and defensive prospective, it will be much cheaper to address the problem today than wait for a powerful gang of young adults to completely alter your way of life. Ask the people living in south Texas and along the Mexican American border if gangs interfere with their lives.

From another perspective, it must be appalling to a loving God that millions of people called by His name are so blindly apathetic to the plight of the mentally ill, the homeless, the fatherless and the afflicted.

One life, you can affect one life for Jesus Christ. Please open the eyes of your heart. If it were our child, we would be willing to give all we have to give them a chance. Christ died to free our souls from the bondage of sin. Can we not do something to free a child from the grip of homelessness? Please support the Bread of Life shelter. We need 250,000 dollars to finish and furnish your new facility. It is a lot of money but it will be the best investment you ever make.

Have A Safe And Blessed Holiday Season. Please Keep Christ In Christmas. God Bless You And Yours. From The Bread Of Life Family



The Mission Medical Clinic is open Mondays and Thursdays 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. They will see anyone with an urgent medical need who has no form of insurance, including Medicare or TennCare.



GOSPEL SINGING
 First Saturday – 7:00 p.m.
 Everyone welcome to worship with us!

Do you have a few hours each month you could give for Jesus and His work? If you are interested in volunteering at the mission, contact Connie Reagan at 707-0503. "God has blessed you to be a blessing." James 1:22, 25.

Mission News

We have come to another holiday season. Looking back over the last year we have much to be thankful for. The Gospel has been shared thousands of times here at the Mission.

Hundreds have made decisions to follow Christ. I would like to share an update on three families whose lives have been forever changed here at your Mission.

A.G. and her three children came to the Mission early last summer. She is working and has a home for her children. Her baby is four years old. He took me into his room last week to show me his Spiderman poster, that may seem inconsequential in the life of a child, but this is the first time in his entire life he has had a wall to hang anything on. Her oldest son, a sixth grader at Martin Elementary School, has the highest reading scores of any student in the school. He reads at a 12th grade level. All the hours confined in a car or homeless shelter with nothing to do but read are now serving him well. The middle girl is developing into a very sweet young lady. For the first time in her life, she is getting help with her speech, R's & G's are extremely hard for her to pronounce. She now has dresses and shoes to wear to school, instead of flip-flops, T-shirts and shorts. I see them in Church every Sunday and the kids on Wednesday evenings. Christ used you and the Bread of Life to give this family a life.

K. will tell you that coming to The Bread of Life with her twins was the lowest point in her life. She felt like a total failure as a person and a mother. She was running from an abusive marriage with nothing but the clothes on her back. Permanently injured in fall when her children were two, depression and alcohol had become close acquaintances of hers. Something wonderful happens here at the Bread of Life that does not happen at most shelters, People are treated as God's children, with love and respect. Hope and faith were re-kindled in her heart. She will let you know very quickly that the Bread of Life is the best thing that ever happened to her and her children. She now volunteers at the Mission trying to give back some of what she has received. Her son was an angry unhappy young man of 11, going on 20. Now he is the favorite of his Royal Ranger teachers at Church. His mother is always receiving comments on what a polite well-mannered young man he is. He does well in school and is active in our local Golden Gloves. His sister is also doing well in school and helps mom at home. The neighborhood kids all play at K's because they are safe and looked after there. When I drop by and see the big smiles and get the hugs, it reaffirms my faith in a loving God. These lives have been forever impacted by an encounter with the Living God at the Bread of Life. This is your mission your support not only changes lives, it impacts generations. Children and grandchildren are the recipients of your unselfish support.

Not all those who come to the Mission find the peace they so desperately yearn for. D. came to us in the spring brought in by the Rhea county police. He was dragging all his worldly possessions in an old sleeping bag. In his early forties, he has been homeless since twenty two. He is a big man, six-six with a size fourteen shoe. D was able to find work, he opened a savings account, got his own place, began attending Church, and singing in the choir. Like so many of those God brings to the Bread of Life, D. suffered with a mental disorder that creates extreme highs and lows in his moods. He is very intelligent and well-read with an excellent memory. In another time and era, he would have been able to function without help. In our complex fast paced lifestyle, he is unable to maintain a stable life. He says the medications prescribed by the doctors turn him into a zombie. He is gentle of spirit and is often picked on and abused. While here he found a safe harbor, friends and acceptance. Sadly D. moved on last month. He called a week ago from Cleveland, Ohio. Please pray for the mentally ill that are homeless. There are so many of them. D. and many others like him are refreshing and full of love, if only for a few months.

As we begin this holiday season with Thanksgiving, be assured God is working in and through the Bread of Life. This is a community Shelter that could not exist apart from the love of God expressed through the residents of Crossville and Cumberland County. Christ's birthday will be upon us before we know it.



EXPECT A MIRACLE

LIVING WATER JAIL MINISTRY

Praise God!

Helping people get the help they need through faith-based rehabs.

*From All
The Bread Of Life Family,
Have A Blessed
Merry Christmas &
A Prosperous New Year.*

Memorial & In Honor of Gifts

Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers are with the family and friends of those remembered below. These gifts are a special legacy offering hope to those in need.

In Memory of:

Blanche Markley
by Cumberland Homestead
Baptist Church

Bill Gleason
by Central Baptist Choir

Ida Vara
by Joe and Marti Maxwell

James Partlow
by Cumberland Ridge
Assisted Living Center

John Cronin
by Joe and Marti Maxwell

Jacob Dupree
by Bob and Betsy Phillips

Raymond Hil
by Lamarr and Faye Hill
by Dale and Judy Swallows
by Kathy Williams
by Carlene Hill
by Jack and Melissa Massa
by Mrs. Gene Farley
by Dock Beaty

Mike Mull

by Jim and Doris Waldo

Dale Elmore
by Bob Mitchell

Owen Bilbery
by Bob Mitchell

Martha Hancock
by Bob Mitchell

Cathy Wolff
by Richard and Frankie Dendler

Fadra Burd
by Richard and Frankie Dendler

Robert Decker
by Marilyn Holland
by Evelyn Cote
by Robert Garwood
by Bob and Betsy Phillips
by K.D. Pontius
by Roy and Judy Koskinen

In Honor of:

Central Baptist Choir
by Bob Laura Fritts

Stacey Carleton by
Major General John Slinkard USAF

**The Bread Of Life Would
Like To Recognize The
Following Organizations
For Their Support**

**Community Foundation Of
Middle Tennessee**

**V.E.C.
(Volunteer Energy
Cooperative)**

**United Fund
Middle Tennessee
Natural Gas Company**

Do you have a relative or friend you would like to honor?

A gift to the Bread of Life Rescue Mission is an ideal way to remember a birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion, or to acknowledge a loved one while at the same time helping those in need. When you send your memorial or in honor of gift to the Bread of Life Rescue Mission, you will receive a tax-deductible receipt and a card will be mailed promptly to the bereaved family or the friend being honored, telling them of your gift.

Please mail your memorial or in honor of gifts to:
Bread of Life Rescue Mission • P.O. Box 1414 • Crossville, TN 38557



Please pray about Mission Needs

- Increased storage for all donations, including food pantry
- More volunteers, food and paper products for the pantry
- Financial assistance to help meet ongoing operating expenses and long-range planning goals

Bread of Life Rescue Mission

PO Box 1414
281 West Fourth Street
Crossville, TN 38557
Phone: 931-707-0503

DIRECTORS:

Rev. Ralph Reagan
Connie Reagan

STAFF:

Jim Young
Frank Rector
Kim Lyles
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Dean Orr
Kevin Bryant
Richard Walter
Larry Doster
Don Farthing
Lois Scivers

WORSHIP SERVICES:

Daily 7:00 pm
Sunday School 9:30 am
Worship on Sunday 10:30 am
Evening Services Sunday 5:00 pm

GOSPEL SINGING:

1st Saturday of every month - 7:00 pm

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