



Changing Lives



A Word of Gratitude from Darryl
page 2



From a life of pain and anguish...
page 3



Bridging the Communication Gap
page 4

FALL
ISSUE 2015

The good news is God is keeping us together ... and that's the definition of a miracle

We are Bob and Sharon, and we want to express our thanks to a loving God, to Holland Rescue Mission, and to you who give so much to help give us a new life. Bob's alcoholism for 20 years was difficult for me. I was angry at him all the time and I kept wondering if things would ever improve. The good news is *we are still together*, and Bob is now sober. At first he didn't want to go to any of the Mission's programs, but then suddenly it clicked, most notably when God's Word began to take hold of his life.

For me, the Mission is a refresher course on the Bible. I'm so encouraged by everything I read in the word of God, and I am especially grateful to a Mission staff that is always available to reach out to me when I need help, and I often need help. It's amazing what the Christian walk is doing in our lives. And this Mission? Well, if you've ever been here, you know that it's nicer than a college dormitory. It is clean, well run and a good place to call home for this time in our lives.

We are confident God has great plans for our future

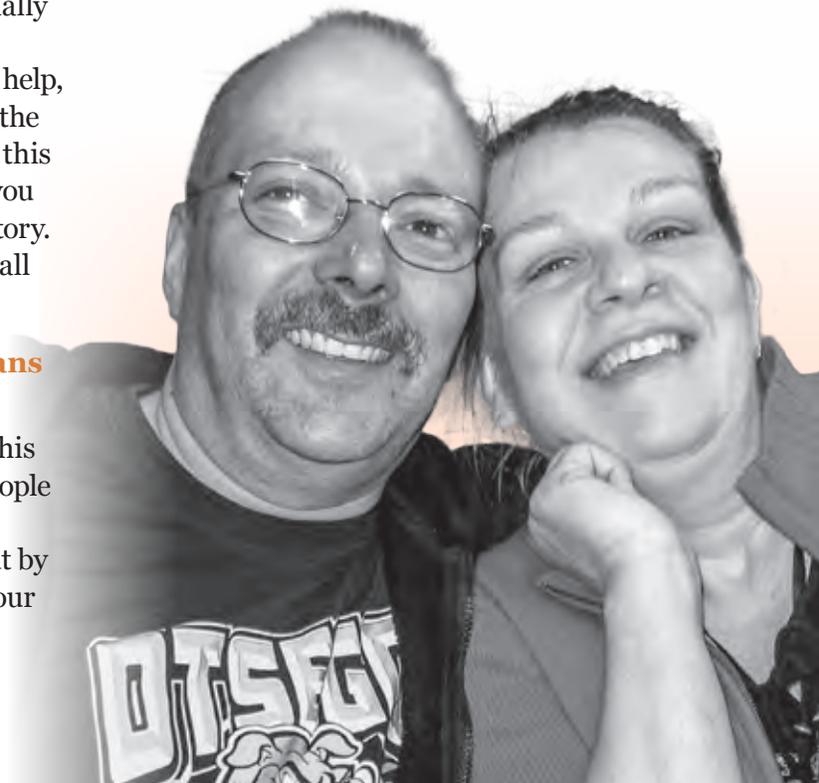
I also want to say a word of thanks at this Thanksgiving season to you who help people you don't even know. You are giving us a chance we feel we don't even deserve. But by God's grace, you are always there with your

"You are giving us a chance we feel we don't even deserve."

donations and so many other acts of Christian service. Bob and I cannot thank you enough. I also want to leave you with a verse that has become our motto for living . . . Jeremiah 29:11 . . . "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." Bob and I praise God for the encouragement that comes from that word of Scripture.

Your friends,

Bob and Sharon



Thank you for all you are doing to help us get a fresh start in life

Thanksgiving Banquet



Date: Wednesday, November 25, 2015

Place: Devos Fieldhouse at Hope College

Time: 6:00 PM (Doors open for seating guests at 5:30)

Menu: Turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, green bean casserole, cranberry sauce, homemade pies and desserts, coffee, lemonade, water

Donations Needed Before November 11: Cleaning and hygiene products for 500 Care Boxes, turkeys

Volunteers Needed: Pie and dessert donations, setup November 25 AM, home deliveries, food servers, ushers, table hosts, Care Box distribution, cleanup (volunteers must sign up with Volunteer Office but no volunteer application required)

More info at www.hollandrescue.org

Thrift Store Coupon of \$5

\$5 off a purchase of \$15 or more (expires 12/31/15)

A Word of Gratitude from Darryl

Dear Friend of Holland Rescue Mission,

You and I live with many lists . . . TO DO lists, wish lists, project lists, shopping lists . . . and the list of lists goes on and on. At this Thanksgiving season I want to add one more list to the list . . . *my gratitude list.*

- I'm thankful for a loving, merciful God, who brought me to Himself and blessed me so that I in turn can do my part in bringing blessings to others.
- I'm grateful to you who volunteer, give your hard-earned money and speak well of Holland Rescue Mission in our community. Whether you are a donor who gives thousands of dollars or one who gives the widow's mite, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.
- I'm thankful for a community that continues to embrace us. Not only during the Thanksgiving and holiday season, but every day of the year.
- I'm grateful for the men, women and children whom we serve. Every day we see miracles taking place in their lives.
- I'm grateful for my family. When a leader has his family to support him, it makes the job so much easier.
- I'm grateful for my colleagues here at the Mission. These are some of God's choicest servants — selfless and always ready to go beyond the call of duty. If there were only a few words to sum up their objective it would be *the pursuit of excellence.*

Now I wonder what you are grateful for. I encourage you to drop me a line, and let me know how God is blessing you at this Thanksgiving season.

Your servant,

Darryl Bartlett
Executive Director



"I encourage you to drop me a line, and let me know how God is blessing you at this Thanksgiving season."



Thank you for being a Thanksgiving friend to those

The entire Mission staff thanks you for your overwhelming support of this ministry of rescue during the past several months. It would be an understatement to say these are challenging economic times. For many, *unprecedented* would be a more appropriate word.

It's even more difficult for the men and women who come through our doors during the Thanksgiving season. These are the homeless, the ex-offenders, those who suffer from addictions and others who have lost their way. The good news is those who choose to make positive changes in their lives are finding new hope, new opportunities and new life as they make the decision to follow *in the steps of Jesus.*

From a life of pain and anguish . . . to knowing the caring of a merciful God

My name is Patrick. *I once weighed 500 pounds.* You can imagine my level of self-esteem. I was looking up to see bottom. As I look back now I get it: I was trying to kill myself with food. I lived alone. I was isolated. And I was fearful of everything. I come from a background where I was abused. It was so bad that at one point I wanted to change my name. Most of my life was like a tornado. Nothing was solid. Things were always in an uproar, with everything about me flying by. I have plenty of memories, *but no relationships.* But that's enough about my past. I'm now ready to give you some good news.

It's so great to know God speaks my language

Since I've come to the Mission, God has worked in my life in unbelievable ways. First of all, I'm down to 316 pounds. I walk 30 laps each day around the walkway that circles the chapel. I have to push myself, but I'm getting it done. However, this is only part of God's plan for my life. His Word is making an indelible

**"Since I've come to the Mission,
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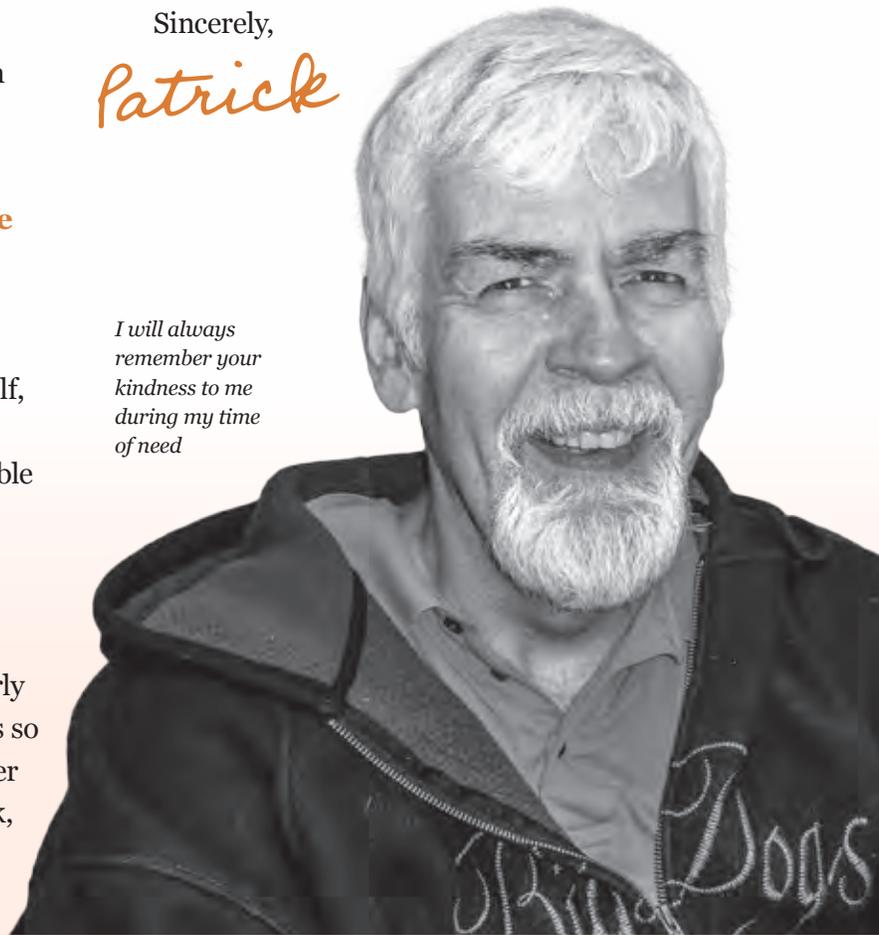
impression on my life. I am seeing things more clearly now. I'm discovering God speaks my language. He is so personal that every day I feel He is drawing me closer to Himself. But there's someone else I want to thank, and that person is *you*. I am having these positive

experiences because of the seeds you continue to plant in a place called Holland Rescue Mission. Thank you for the food, the clothing, the safe shelter and for making sure someone is always nearby when I cry out for help. Just as God blesses you in your life, you continue to bless me. Oh yes, I almost forgot, *I can now see my toes when I am in bed.* Who says miracles don't happen anymore?

Sincerely,

Patrick

*I will always
remember your
kindness to me
during my time
of need*



se in need

God bless you for giving from a grateful heart

You continue to bless us by reaching out to those who are hungry, homeless and without a friend. We cannot thank you enough for your generosity — not only during the Thanksgiving season but throughout the year. Now to continue to touch the lives of others in our community, please send your donation to the Mission today. For your convenience, you can either use the remit slip enclosed or make your donation online at www.hollandrescue.org. You may also call us at (616) 396-2200. Thank you for being there for so many who need your compassion — grateful folks like Bob, Sharon and Patrick.

**You continue to
bless us by reaching
out to those
who are hungry,
homeless and
without a friend.**



Bridging the Communication Gap

The young daughter of a pastor noticed her dad always took a moment to bow his head silently before preaching. One day she asked, "Daddy, why do you bow your head before you preach?" "Well, I like to pause and ask the Lord to help me preach a good

sermon." Puzzled, the little girl innocently asked, "Then how come He doesn't do it?"

Have you ever experienced a "communication gap" with those of a younger generation? The good news is that although you come from different eras, you can find common ground with your children and grandkids when you speak from the heart. Sharing a legacy of faith and Biblical stewardship can help bridge the gap and set a powerful example.

Do you financially support a ministry you care about, like Holland Rescue Mission? Have you ever considered leaving a legacy gift for Holland Rescue Mission in your Will? This is a simple way to communicate your values, impact lives and inspire your loved ones in a God-honoring way. Luke 1:50 says, ". . . His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation."

Here are some ways to begin dialogue about giving with a younger generation:

1. Offer to match their gift to a Christian charity.
2. Let them choose a ministry to bless, then make a donation in their name.

3. Create a "love drawer" including important documents, passwords, and a personal, handwritten note that communicates your values.

Don't let the "communication gap" become an obstacle. Instead, communicate blessings to your loved ones and inspire stewardship to come alive in their hearts.

For the full version of this article, ask for a FREE copy of "Inspire Your Loved Ones to Make a Difference" by simply contacting Rachael Neal from Holland Rescue Mission at (616) 396-2200 ext. 425 or rachaeln@hollandrescue.org — or bless your family today with a God-honoring Will at www.christianwill.org/hrm



A Testimony from Camp ROCK

"Family Hope Ministries has transformed my life. I walked in with no idea where my life was going.

Now that I've almost completed the Restoration Academy I have hope and direction. I only have God and my Christian family here to thank for this journey." — Daysha

Daysha is a graduate of Restoration Academy now interning with Camp ROCK! She praises the Lord for changing her life and is thankful for her desire to give our campers that same transformation through Jesus Christ our Savior!

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My Thanksgiving Gift

YES, Darryl,
it warms my heart to continue my support of the Mission at this Thanksgiving Season.

Here's my donation of:

- \$20.50 to provide 10 meals and other assistance
- \$30.75 to provide 15 meals and other assistance
- \$61.50 to provide 30 meals and other assistance
- \$_____ provide as many meals and as much care as possible
- Please bill my credit card: VISA MC Discover
- Please send me a *FREE* copy of "Inspire Your Loved Ones to Make a Difference"

Holland Rescue Mission

Mr. Darryl Bartlett
356 Fairbanks Ave.
Holland, MI 49423-3718

ACCOUNT NO. _____ EXP. DATE _____

NAME _____ SIGNATURE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

► Please mail this completed form with your generous Thanksgiving gift, or donate online at www.hollandrescue.org. Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.