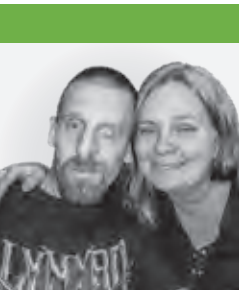




# Changing Lives



**A Word of Gratitude from Darryl**  
page 2



**"Your donations and Christian caring . . ."**  
page 3



**Bridging the Communication Gap**  
page 4

**SUMMER ISSUE 2016**

## Now when I see trouble coming my way . . . *I know God is always there to help me*

**M**y name is Travis. I thank God I came to Holland Rescue Mission. I'm young, but in some ways I've already lived many lives — most of them wrong. I've been to jail too many times. I was always on a drinking spree, a stealing spree, a pot-smoking spree and a deceiving spree. I'd lie to people who were nice to me, and I didn't even care. I think most of my friends would say I'm a good person who just keeps making stupid decisions. I had a street mentality, eager to manipulate anybody to get my way. I was a con and an expert at trickery.

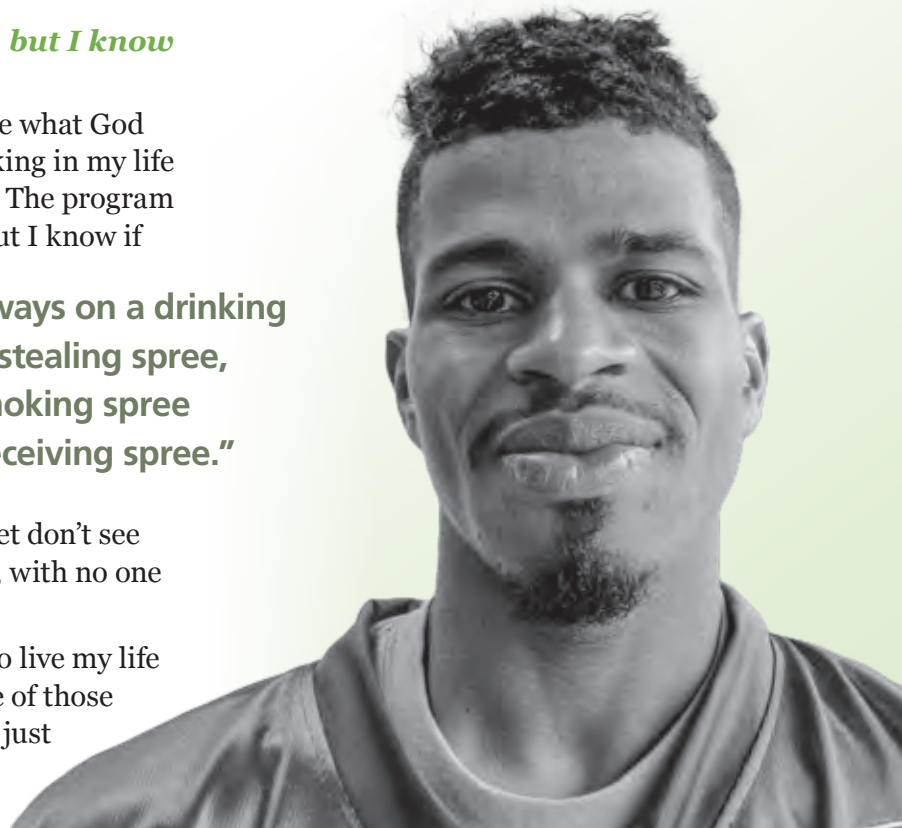
### **This program is difficult . . . but I know I must complete it**

I tell you all this so you can see what God has to work with. And He is working in my life in ways I never thought possible. The program here at the Mission is difficult, but I know if I want to change, I have to stick with it. And I plan to do just that. Today, when I see trouble coming my way, I ask God to help me. Most people on the street don't see a way out. Like me, they feel lost, with no one to reach out to them.

I think I'm finally beginning to live my life with the right motives — and one of those motives is to reach out to others, just as you are reaching out to me.

I want to thank you for all you do to give me good food, shelter, clothing and Christian counseling. You lift my spirits up, and that means a lot to me. Here at the Mission, I'm washing dishes, and I volunteer at other times to help prepare meals. Each time I see someone we serve, I am reminded of where I once was. I know I could easily backslide. That's why I need a Savior. **Every day.**

*Travis*



**"I was always on a drinking spree, a stealing spree, a pot-smoking spree and a deceiving spree."**

*Thank you for reaching out to me when I need help the most.*

## Fun on the Green!



To those who were able to participate in or donate to this year's Annual Golf Outing, thank you for your support! The day was filled with fun, fellowship and some friendly competition. Your generosity and giving hearts will help change lives of men and women at Holland Rescue Mission. We are thankful for each and every participant and financial contribution. Be on the lookout for information on next year's event. We hope to see you on the green!

## NALC Food Drive

This year's National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) Food Drive was a great success! All donated food that was collected on May 21 will be distributed to an estimated 1,300 families in the Holland area. We are incredibly grateful for those who donated and those who volunteered their time and labor to help fold bags, count information cards and collect the bags of donated food. Because of you, men, women and children in our community will not go hungry. Thank you for your support!



## A Word of Gratitude from Darryl

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your enthusiastic, ongoing support of God's work at Holland Rescue Mission. It's gratifying to know more and more friends of the Mission realize the needs of the poor continue year-round. Whether it's a bitter cold, snowy winter or an oppressive day during a long summer, men, women and children in distress need refuge. Yes, you help us offer hot meals, good clothing and a safe place to stay. But even more important, you help us offer our friends acceptance and Christian friendship with no questions asked. Thanks to you, we are able to offer a refuge from a loneliness of the heart.

**Please pay us a visit and see your summer generosity in action**

We all know how miserable it would be to live outdoors during a Holland winter. But as you know, our summers can be just as brutal, with more and more people living in the shadows, on park benches and in the alleys. And I'm sure your heart breaks as mine does when you see poorly clothed mothers and children walking the streets of our community, looking for a scrap of food and some shelter where they can spend another hot summer night. That's why I come to you again with a friendly reminder that Holland Rescue Mission is in need of your support year-round — and in some ways even more during these critical summer months. If you would like to see your summer donations in action, I urge you to come take a tour of the Mission. I assure you when you leave you will probably say *I never knew how much my donations are doing to bring God's love and hope to so many in need.* Give us a call. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Until the next time, God bless you and keep you always.

Your servant,

Darryl Bartlett  
Executive Director



*"... you help us offer our friends acceptance and Christian friendship ..."*

## Those who have been lost for so long are finally fi

It's summertime in Holland, and life is still a tremendous challenge for the men and women who are coming through our doors. They are hungry, weary and homeless, with many struggling with addictions that have short-circuited their hopes and dreams: dreams of career, education, retirement and healthy relationships with family. For too many, these longed-for dreams have become living nightmares. Many have tried programs designed to help them get their lives back on track. Some of these programs have been effective; many have not. And now, often as a last resort, they find their way to the Mission.

## Your donations and Christian caring are giving us a home . . . *Thank you for your kindness*

**W**e are Jon and Crystal. Our story is perhaps different than most. We are at the Mission because we had nowhere else to go. Through a variety of circumstances, our kids were taken away from us, and now we are fighting to get them back. Now that we're here at Holland Rescue Mission, we feel we have a better chance of being reunited with our family. If you're a parent or grandparent, you know how it would feel not to have those you love with you. We used to live in a nice house, and things were going pretty well for our family. But life caught up with us, and we are now reliant on the generosity of others.

### **We know our family will be together again soon**

Jon is legally blind and totally deaf in one ear, but he enjoys singing, especially Gospel music. Whenever he sings, I can see how relaxed he becomes. I do know he misses his guitar, and hopefully he will get another one soon. People often ask me what it's like to marry someone who is blind. I can just tell you when you love someone, even something like blindness doesn't bother you. We love each other, and we love our kids. Not to have them with us is painful, but we know we will be together again soon. The Mission is great for both of us in so many ways. In fact, I have even been taking a GED course, and by the time you read this, I should have a high school diploma.

I don't have words to describe how much we appreciate what you do for the Mission and for us specifically. You give us the clothes on our backs, nourishing food and shelter that

is safe. I wish we could pay you back for your kindness, but right now all Jon and I can say is *thank you*.

**“. . . when you love someone even something like blindness doesn't bother you.”**

*Jon & Crystal*

*Thank you for keeping the doors of the Mission open for Jon and me.*



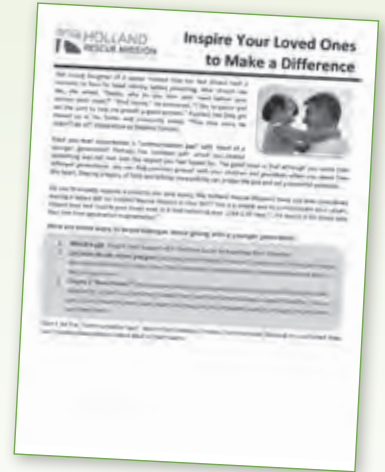
## **ending a way home . . . *thanks to your generosity***

**The good news is this:** If our friends are able to discover even the thinnest thread of hope, it's possible for them to have a future after all. That's because the Gospel changes lives and gives people the opportunity to become the men and women God designed them to be. To continue to reach out to so many who are looking for miracles in their lives, we urge you to give a generous summertime gift at this time. Your gift immediately goes to work to help those who are lost and looking for a way home. To send your donation now, please use the remit slip enclosed, or make your donation online at [www.hollandrescue.org](http://www.hollandrescue.org). God bless you for your generosity.

**“For too many, these longed-for dreams have become living nightmares.”**

# 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?" (Illustration by Stephen Fornier)



## 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.

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."

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](mailto:rachaeln@hollandrescue.org) — or bless your family today with a God-honoring Will at [www.christianwill.org/hrm](http://www.christianwill.org/hrm).



## MY SUMMERTIME GIFT

**YES, Darryl,**

You can rely on my continued support of this ministry of rescue during the summer and throughout the year.

Here's my gift 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
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ to 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*

ACCOUNT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY / STATE / ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

**Holland Rescue Mission**

Mr. Darryl Bartlett

356 Fairbanks Ave.

Holland, MI 49423-3718

► Please mail this completed form with your generous summertime gift, or donate online at [www.hollandrescue.org](http://www.hollandrescue.org). Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.