



Changing Lives



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My Coma Was My Wake-Up Call

By Marlon

I was looking forward to a career in baseball. But after I was drafted in the 27th round by the Cincinnati Reds, I soon tore my shoulder and became addicted to morphine. My baseball career came to an abrupt halt. Even though I had an incredible childhood, growing up in a middle-class home that taught me how to live life right, I turned my back on all of it.

"I never tried to kill myself, but I wanted to die more than once."

Over the years, I suffered a lot of depression. I never tried to kill myself, but I wanted to die more than once. During that time, I also sold drugs. One day, when a drug deal went bad, I had to jump out of a fast-moving car. I lay in a coma for 64 days. And when it was over, I had to learn to walk, read, and write all over again. *Talk about a wake-up call.*

I finally have hope on my side

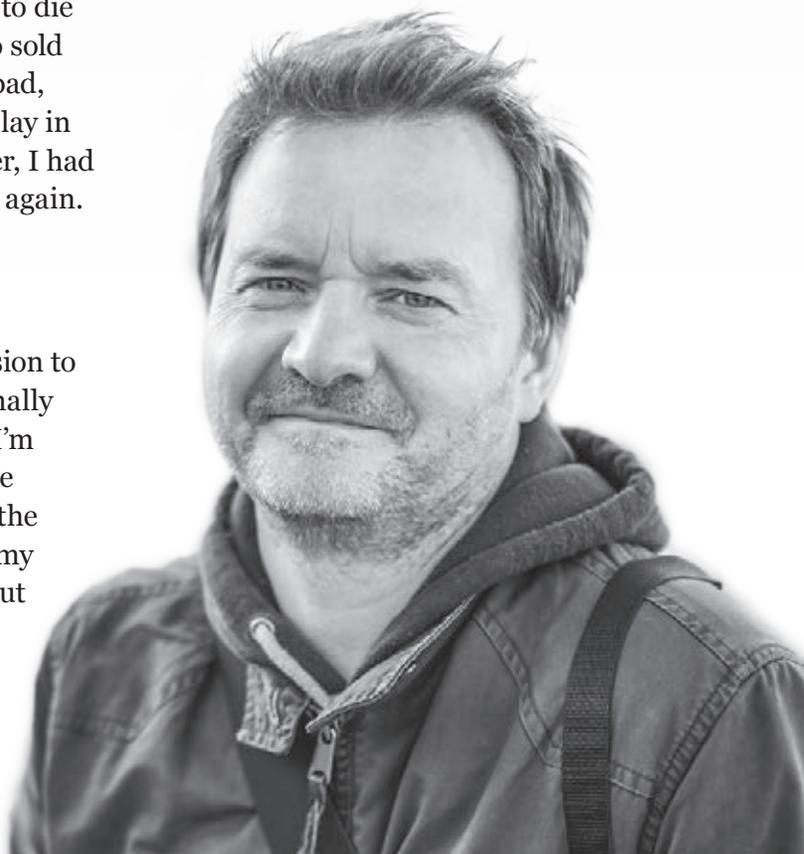
Since coming to Holland Rescue Mission to get the help I desperately needed, I'm finally allowing God to take control of my life. I'm making progress every day, thanks to the Mission's Gateway Ministry Center. For the first time in years, I feel I have hope on my side. I never read the Bible in the past, but

Thank you for giving me the gift of HOPE

now God's Word is a key part of my life. In the past, it was just me and my shadow. I felt alone, with no one to talk to. Now all that's changed and my life is taking a turn for the better.

I want to thank all of you who pray, volunteer, and donate to the Holland Rescue Mission. I am so grateful because of your care and generosity. I join my many friends here at the Mission in wishing you and your family a happy Easter.

Marlon

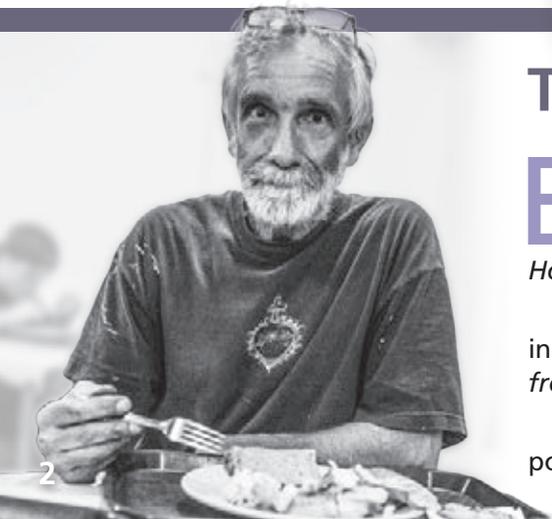




Mark your calendars for this year's Golf Event! Come out and enjoy a day full of golf and prizes, all while supporting the Holland Rescue Mission. The event will be held on **Tuesday, June 5.**



Please contact Marissa Scholten at **616.928.3407** or **marissas@hollandrescue.org.**



A Word of Gratitude from Darryl

Dear Friend of Holland Rescue Mission,

Without your prayers and generosity there would be no testimonies the likes of Marlon and Bonnie. However, because you are one who cares about those in need, we are blessed to see God work in people's lives every day here at the Mission's Gateway Ministry Center.

It's exciting to see stones of defeat removed from the lives of those who come to our doors. God takes away scales of despair from blinded eyes. He opens deaf ears to be receptive to the Good News of Jesus Christ. It's a common theme for those we serve to feel all is lost, that they are at the end of the road and that there's no way out of their predicament. *But soon they understand there IS a way out ... and it's God's way, the only true path to spiritual victory.* This is the God of Easter ... the God of the resurrection ... and the God who still removes stones from people's lives.

Thank you for standing with us in this ministry to those in need

I know I can relate to these "stones" of obstruction in my *own life* — perhaps you can, as well. But when God turns our stones of defeat and discouragement into stepping stones for a better future, our lives are never the same again.

Thank you for helping us play a part in removing so many of these obstacles from people's lives ... thank you for helping us plant seeds of hope in the hearts of folks like Marlon and Bonnie and hundreds more ... and thank you for always *being there* when we need you most.

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

Your servant,

Darryl Bartlett, Executive Director



"Each day, stones of defeat are removed from the lives of those who come to our doors."

Thank You for Providing New Life, New

Easter is soon here ... and again we turn to the comforting words of Job 19:25-27, *For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; And after my skin is destroyed, this I know that in my flesh I shall see God ... How my heart yearns within me.*

This same risen Lord, through your generous support, helps us rescue people in need — through food, shelter, clothing, and, more important, *new life* and *fresh hope* to all who call on His name.

This Easter, because of your generosity, we're able to share the life-changing possibilities that come with allowing God to take over a life. *You helped meet*



WANTED

Rebuilding My Life for a Better Future

By Bonnie

Not long ago, I had fallen so far in my life that I had nothing left of my own but the clothes on my back and what I had in my purse — which wasn't much. I never struggled with drugs or alcohol, but I just couldn't seem to get my life in order. Homeless and feeling defeated, I had no self-esteem left and little hope that my life could ever get better.



You are a special person to reach out to someone like me

I earned it — and to know that down the road, I will be okay. This may seem like a small thing, but actually it's a very big thing to me.

Thank you for praying for me ... that I'll have a better future

I never knew there were so many wonderful people who could care about someone like me — and I know you are one of those caring individuals. I thank God for friends, and for people like you who are praying that I will have a better future.

This Easter season, I want to thank you for your kindness to me. Thank you for the good food, the secure shelter and the nice clothing. But most of all, thank you for your compassion.

“This Easter season, I want to thank you for your kindness to me.”

But one day, a lady stopped and asked if she could help. Then, she told me about Holland Rescue Mission and I decided to try it. The first day, I was afraid. Everything was so new. But those fears are going away, and I now feel very much at home here. My chores are cleaning the kitchen, washing the dishes and mopping the wings and the hallways.

It's been a challenge to rebuild my self-esteem, but I'm even making progress in that regard, thanks to the caring people here — and people like you who support this place. I have a job now, and one of the things I'm doing is putting my money from work in my bank account at the Mission. It feels good to be able to touch that money — *to know that*

- More people to improve and fewer to disapprove.
- More doers and fewer talkers.
- More to say it can be done
And fewer to say it's impossible.
- More to inspire others
And fewer to throw cold water on them.
- More to get into the thick of things
And fewer to sit on the sidelines.
- More to point out what's right
And fewer to show what's wrong.
- More to light a candle of Easter hope in the hearts of the needy
And fewer to curse the darkness.

Thank you for being among the most generous men and women in Holland. Those you serve will always remember you and your kindness — especially grateful people like Marlon and Bonnie.

Hope and New Opportunities for the Needy

so many needs of the poor during the recent holidays. Thank you. Now, with Easter fast approaching, we again have an opportunity to work together to share a hope only a relationship with a living God provides.

Thank you for your ongoing friendship

To help reach out to those in need with a generous gift during the Easter season, please use the remit form enclosed or call the Mission at **(423) 756-3126**. We also encourage you to spend some time on our website for more inspiration and information. You may also give while you're online at www.hollandrescuemission.org. Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law, and you will receive a receipt for your donation.

“... *new life* and *fresh hope* to all who call on His name.

”

Annual Garden
AUCTION

Join us for this year's
**Women's Spring Garden
Auction.**

You are not going to
want to miss it!

Come and support
Holland Rescue Mission.

Thank You!

Your donations gave hope to many men, women, and families who are in need this past holiday season. Because of your prayer and support, we were able to serve a hot meal to those who were hungry and share the hope only found in our Savior Jesus Christ. Thank YOU for your constant support and partnership in our ministry!

When Stuff Isn't All It's Cracked Up to Be



When someone decides to create a will or estate plan, they often think first about the "stuff" they'll leave behind. While you may feel a deep sentimental attachment to your china dishes or heirloom furniture, a recent trend suggests younger loved ones may not feel the same. Millennials and GenXers have a tendency toward minimalism, are more mobile, and don't mind buying furniture that's cheaply made if it helps them achieve a certain aesthetic. *What they really want from you is a legacy of love.*

Here are three simple ways to leave one:

- 1. Button things up.** There can be unbelievable pressure and emotion locked up in executing someone's end-of-life wishes — especially when financial headaches or loads of personal belongings have to be taken care of. Go the extra mile by eliminating these concerns.
- 2. Put your love into words.** Don't miss an opportunity to share your faith or feelings with the next generation. Communicating a heritage is a gift beyond value. Write it, say it, share it.
- 3. Create a will that aligns with your heart.** Carving out a plan to bless your loved ones and the ministries that have impacted your life, like Holland Rescue Mission, is a powerful legacy to leave behind.

Let your will be a gift of meaning and belonging. "We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done" (Psalm 78:4).

For the full version of this article, request a **FREE** copy of "What Your Loved Ones Secretly Want From You" by contacting Rachael Neal 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.

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My Easter Gift

YES, Darryl . . .

you can count on my continued support for God's work at the Mission during the Easter season.

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 the article "**What Your Loved Ones Secretly Want From You**"

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 Easter gift, or donate online at www.hollandrescue.org. Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.