

Crossroads Rescue Mission

PROVIDING HOPE FOR THE HOPELESS SINCE 2001

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2020

Reflections

Dear Friends;

As you're reading this, it's almost Jubilee time once again, and 2020 is moving by quickly! I would like to invite everyone to come and be a part for these services. Please mark the dates April 20-24 now on your calendar and make plans to attend.

It is my hope that more of our supporting pastors are able to come this year and leave refreshed and renewed in the Lord. Churches: consider helping your pastor to come this year by providing for his hotel accommodations. Meals are provided by the Mission, but there is simply no way for us to provide 40+ hotel rooms in our budget. Our line-up of preachers this year is once again going to be great, as you will see listed on page 3. This year's theme verse is Isaiah 45:5, "I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is NO GOD beside Me."

The men and women who come to us continue to be rooted and grounded and moving forward for the glory of God. He still saves at Crossroads, and still "shows-up" and "shows-out" too! What a great and wonderful God we serve!

Pray for Bro. Aaron Bridges as he will be going to a new ministry where he will be the executive director. We have talked about the transition and he feels God has opened this door so he and his wife can serve the Lord together in this work. They will need our prayers!

May the Lord bless all of our friends and faithful supporters, and the projects He has placed in our lives, that He may be glorified. Thank you again! Lord willing, we'll be seeing you at JUBILEE TIME! Until then.....

In Christ,



Bro. Rocky Shelton, Sr.
Executive Director
Rom. 8:28



The Testimony of Bob Brezina

My name is Bob Brezina. I was born in Norfolk, VA, a military town, and came from a good family. My father was a Navy-man and we were raised strict. I knew right from wrong, but became a rebellious teenager, and chose to believe the lies of the world. I spent my life trying to fulfill the emptiness in my soul, not knowing exactly what that longing was for. This emptiness left me in broken marriages, loss of employment, and eventually a broken and homeless man. I never realized that God was drawing me and calling me to Him all of my life. I constantly ran from the best thing for me, foolishly rejecting a life I knew nothing of. I never took the time to see what He was doing in my life, and how many times He spared me.

When I was 24, I fell while working on a sign and broke my hip, back, and wrist, and spent six weeks in the hospital trying to recover and learning to walk again, spending another few months in a wheel chair after that. The Lord spared me from an eternity in hell that day, by keeping me alive. I knew then that it was God that had spared me, but I still chose to do my own thing and obey the lusts of the flesh.

I dove even deeper into alcoholism, immorality, and the general pursuit of the things of the world. Twenty years after that horrific accident, I realized my lost condition, and asked the Lord to save me and forgive me; but I still had not yet fully surrendered everything to Him. In 2013 I heard of a place called Crossroads Rescue Mission in the little town of Shelby, NC. I arrived there not knowing what the Lord had in store for me there. Before arriving at Crossroads, had someone asked me, I would have wrongfully thought and said that I was surrendered to Him. It was at Crossroads that they taught me my need to fully surrender to the Lord according to the Scriptures. I decided to go into the Sons of God program, and six-months later finished it. It truly helped me and instilled priceless knowledge that enabled me to develop a walk with the Lord that will remain with me the entirety of my life. The six-months that men set-aside to do the Sons of God helps them to grow in the Lord in a way that is altogether life-changing. Bro. Rocky, Mrs. Deborah, and Crossroads loves each one of us as a family. At the Mission, you're not just a number: you're an individual.

(Continued on page 3)

"What is Crossroads all about, anyway?"

Well, we're glad you asked! Crossroads Rescue Mission is not your typical "addictions program." What is called "addiction" by society is actually a physical manifestation of a spiritual problem rooted in one's sinful nature. Therefore, addiction may result in physical problems (as well as social, economic, and mental), but primarily it is a spiritual issue. A spiritual problem demands a spiritual solution: and that solution is found within the **Word of God**.

Being solidly rooted in the Scriptures, the core teaching of all classes at the Mission comes from the Bible. All applicants must commit to completing the 90-day "**Phase One**" period before being accepted for residency. During this introductory period, residents are taught how to overcome addiction and other destructive habits through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Each day begins at 5:45 with breakfast following at 6, morning chapel at 7, and phase one classes at 8. Residents are given job assignments each day, depending on their skills and backgrounds, and serve in a variety of capacities for the Mission. The structured work-environment of the Mission helps strengthen their personal discipline and work ethic, and allows the ministry to be able to offer its services at no personal cost to the individual. Upon completing phase one, residents may choose to enroll in the Sons of God Program. **See article below for more information.**



Phase II: The Sons of God Program

Residents who complete Phase I (the initial mandatory 90-day commitment) are encouraged to enlist for participation in the six-month Phase II "Sons of God" program. In Phase II, residents are taught how to further their walk with the Lord, develop healthy spiritual, physical, and economic practices, and become the men that God intends for them to be through intensive daily instruction in the Scriptures. In addition to completing Bible-college-level courses in a host of subjects ranging from Old Testament Survey to Marriage & The Family, they have the opportunity to travel with the Mission to churches and conferences around the country! Last year alone, the Sons of God traveled to meetings in nine states (outside of North Carolina)! Many graduates have gone on to become pastors, seminary students, and successful business-owners. The Sons of God is truly a life-changing-opportunity of a lifetime! Pictured below (from left-to-right) are recent graduates: Chris Marlowe, Earl Burton, Calvin Byers, Kenny Hubbard, John White, Martin Malone, Brandon Hewitt, Adam Rose, Jerry Logan, James Heath, and Michael Gardner.



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Email: CRM@crossroadsrescuemission.org

Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established. - Prov. 16:3

Each year, Crossroads honors its invaluable volunteers, donors, and friends at its Christmas Appreciation Banquet; a special time for all when the public gets to see, first-hand, what it is helping accomplish throughout the year. The residents prepare and serve the meal, and share what your giving has helped accomplish in their lives. The 2019 Volunteer of the Year Award was given to Bro. Jimmy Bridges. Thank you to all our volunteers! If you are interested in opportunities to serve, we would love to share with you ways that you can be volunteer. Our annual Christmas Toy Drive, Back-to-School Bookbag Giveaway, Community Thanksgiving Dinner, and Resurrection "Easter-Basket-and-Egg-Hunt" events are just a few of the campaigns we host throughout the year. Call our administration office for more information or visit online!



Thanks to all who contributed to the success of last year's 18th Annual Spring Jubilee! Whether that contribution was through your time, hard-work, financial assistance, or just your very presence, *"How To Be Clean in 2019"* was one of the best Jubilees we have had in years: thanks to you!



We are excited to announce this year's line-up of Jubilee Preachers: Sidney Weaver, Caleb Lindsey, John Smith, Dale Vance, Doug Foster, Cody Zorn, and Steve Williamson. Make plans NOW for your family and church to attend the 19th ANNUAL SPRING JUBILEE (April 20-24) Evening services will begin under the big tent at 7 PM each night and morning services on Thursday and Friday at 9:30 AM with preachers to be called from the floor. Be praying for God to move mightily in these services!

Bro. Bob Brezina's testimony Continued Below:



The Lord has allowed me to serve as the head of the maintenance department at the Mission for the last few years, and it is an honor to be used in this capacity for those who have poured so much into my life. I am a member and serve at White Harvest Baptist Church, and my pastor, Kyle Smart, is also a former resident and graduate of Crossroads as well. I give all glory to Jesus Christ for using Crossroads as a vessel to help change my life. Without Him, and without Crossroads Rescue Mission, I don't know where I would be, but I wouldn't be the man that I am today. —Bob Brezina

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| Coca-Cola of Charlotte | Jimmy-John's of Shelby |
| Tony's Chip 'n Sip | First Choice Auto |
| Mike's Florist | Golden Corral of Shelby |
| Kelly's Seafood | Love' Fish Box |
| Bailey's Fish Camp | UTZ Chips |
| Choice Beverage (Shelby) | Triple H Rentals |
| Pepsi Beverage (Cherryville) | Jo's Florist |
| Dunkin Donuts of Shelby | Blackwood's Grill |
| Barnette's Restaurant | Ingles of Shelby |
| Creekside Clock Restaurant | Bull Dog Quick Shack |
| Case Farms | South Mtn. Farms |
| Alston Bridges BBQ | Gail Bostic |

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As we go into this New Year, we just want to thank our Lord Jesus Christ for giving us another great year to serve Him in this wonderful ministry. And we want to thank each one of you for supporting us and making all this happen: thank you for your prayers, the meetings we were able to attend, and the way that our ladies have been welcomed, encouraged, and loved in each and every church. You are truly a blessing to us and the Quiet Heart.

This year we were able to help work with over forty-women who came to the Quiet Heart and saw God do some great and mighty things in their lives. It is a blessing to see how God stretches forth His hand and rescues them from the grip of the devil and from the bondage of sin in their lives.

Families restored, health recovered, marriages mended, and children brought back into lives are just a few of the exciting things that the Lord continues to do. ***There is no way that you could put a price tag on that!***

One of the highlights this year include Mrs. Brandy Russell (Lovelace) who graduated and then decided to remain at the Mission and complete her GED, which she did so, and with HONORS! She was also asked by the faculty to open the graduation ceremony with prayer, because she had shared with the faculty and other students about her testimony of the Lord's transforming power and all He had done in her life. In front of over 200 people, she had the opportunity to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ in her prayer. And if that wasn't enough to make you shout AMEN, God went on to bring a faithful man in her life who had previously completed the Sons of God program, and they are now happily married and faithful members at Faith Baptist Church, serving the Lord together and working for the Mission.



God is still doing miracles in people's lives! Please continue to help us pray for the ladies who come to the Quiet Heart. It is a major step to come here, and every possible tactic the devil has is often thrown against them. Addiction is a serious tool in the devil's arsenal to steal, kill, and destroy these precious souls and we need the weapon of prayer from God's people to help us break the strongholds in their lives. God bless you all!

Bro. Daniel and Sis. Tracy Behney

1 Cor. 3:9 "...For we are labourers together with God."



SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES FOR THEIR GIFT -IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS AND SUPPLIES:

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|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Cinta's Uniform Co. | Mardet Family Farm |
| Green Farm (Shelby) | Shelby Intermediate School |
| Terry's WholeSale Co. | Dollar General Dist. Center |
| UniFirst Uniform | Webb Chemical |

Would you like to help? As you can imagine, it takes a lot of supplies to feed, clothe and house up to 45 men at once! We are always in need of cleaning supplies (like Pine-Sol, bleach, laundry detergent, etc.), kitchen items (coffee, sugar, paper plates, trash bags), and other miscellaneous items (toilet paper, paper towels, shaving cream, razors, etc.). One immediate need in recent months has been for large trash bags (35-gallon or larger), as these items are expensive and not frequently donated. We can be reached using any of the contact information as listed below:

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Admissions Office: 704-484-8770**
Business & Administration Office: 704-484-8772
Fax #: 704-484-8768
Mailing Address: PO Box 2090, Shelby, NC 28151
Email: CRM@CrossroadsRescueMission.org
Online: www.CrossroadsRescueMission.org

CHRISTMAS TREE SPONSORS 2019

SPECIAL THANKS goes out to the following businesses, restaurants, and others who helped sponsor a tree for the Christmas Toy Drive this year:

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|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Thornburg Auction Co. | Putnam Distributors |
| First Choice Auto Sales | CTS Tree Service |
| Eagle Transport Services | Kelly Seafood |
| Laughlin Furniture | Fisher Tree Service |
| Walkers Carpet Care | Bivens Hawkins |

SPECIAL THANKS ALSO to the following churches and others that contributed their time and effort in helping to decorate the trees:

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|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| White Harvest Bapt. (Shelby) | Old Rugged Cross Bapt. (Shelby) |
| New Buffalo Bapt. (Grover) | Gospel Way Bapt. (Cherryvil |
| Glory Land Bapt. (Kings Mtn) | Faith Bapt. (Shelby) |
| Mrs. Connie Tucker | Quiet Heart Ladies & Staff |

“Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh *but* in vain.” Psalm 127:1

Once men graduate from the program, they need resources to help them find gainful employment, but many lack the skills to acquire good jobs. Finding and maintaining a successful career is directly related to reducing their likelihood to return to a life of crime and addiction. Crossroads is currently in the process of building a Vocational Building (seen above) that will be used as an automobile mechanic workshop for training men in auto-shop and other vocational areas. After laying the concrete slab foundation last summer, work began in the Fall of the year in erecting the building itself. The Dover Foundation issued a grant of \$5,000 to assist with supplies and labor, but we are still in need of three garage doors (10' x 11') and one entry door (3' X 6' 8") for the building, at a cost in excess of \$3,800 for all four. This building will be highly instrumental in helping to change men's lives as they prepare for their future. Pastor Doug Foster and the congregation of Immanuel Baptist Church (Florence, KY) have already given a donation of \$1,000 for the garage doors, and we're trusting that others will consider help along with them. Our goal is to have the building operational by mid-summer, if the finances are acquired for this campaign. If your church, business, or organization would like to have a direct part in helping this become a reality, please do not hesitate to call the Administration office at 704-484-8772.



Closing Thoughts From the Editor

As I look over the sections of this newsletter that are yet unfinished, I am reminded also of the Great Commission, and the Lord's command to take the Gospel to every creature, to evangelize and make disciples of all nations: *another task which remains unfinished*. The amazing thing about this Commission is that, individually, not one single man or woman among us can fulfill that goal of taking the Gospel to every corner of the earth. However, corporately as the Body of Christ, ***we can: and one day we will.*** Perhaps not during my own lifetime, but one day the Gospel will be heard by the last person, after which Jesus Christ will return for His Bride. We know this to be so because Jesus told us in Matthew 24:14 ***“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”***

That last person to hear the Gospel may be in some dark corner of Africa or in the busy streets of London, but he may just as easily be found sitting on a donated pew, listening to a former prison-inmate-and-drug addict who is preaching the 7 AM chapel service held in an old school in rural Shelby, NC. ***That place is called Crossroads Rescue Mission, and that preacher's name is Bro. Rocky Shelton, Sr. The name of the individual who hears that final Gospel Proclamation could be any of the forty-five men that reside here.*** Thousands have heard that old, old story there in the last 20 years, and thousands have left that place a new creature, set-free from the sin that bound them, no longer a slave to the devil but a servant for the Master. Thanks to those who love and support us like you: they'll continue to do so in the years to come. *I am so blessed and thankful for my five years of service here at Crossroads Rescue Mission.* Outside of the Lord Jesus Himself, and my parents who taught me about Him, nothing else has impacted my life as much as it has. And to you who have helped make all this happen: thank you for your dedication to this ministry. Every penny and every prayer that goes forth has an eternal impact.

Bro. Aaron Bridges
1 Thess. 5:24

THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS WERE GIVEN IN HONOR ON IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE OR BENEFICIARY AS NOTED

Ms. Kathleen Keeler - In Honor of Rev. Josh Byrd
Mr. Michael Ellis - In Memory of Evan Ellis
Mr. Michael Barrett - In Memory of Rev. Franklin O. Barrett
Mr. & Mrs. Terrance & Diana Lutz-Fitch - In Memory of Dan Kelsey
Mr. & Mrs. Donald & Brenda Farris - In Honor of Mr. Hunter Bess

Ms. Mindy Davis - In Honor of Alvin "Chris" Lovelace
Ms. Joanne Reed - In Memory of Shane Shillinglaw
Mr. Ralph French - In Memory of Dan Kelsey
Ms. Janice Brooks—In Memory of Bro. Larry Birt
Carson Island Baptist Church - In Honor of Charlie Ensor



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Donations can be returned with this card or by giving online at www.CrossroadsRescueMission.org.
Please make checks payable to CROSSROADS RESCUE MISSION.

We sincerely thank you!

“Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee.”

—Deuteronomy 16:17



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