

Lifeline

A Ministry Publication of Inner City Mission of Springfield, Inc.

Old things have passed away . . . and a woman named Kelli has become a new person in Christ



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**Reasons to live
with a heart
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**Thank you for
reaching out
to the poor . . .**
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My name is Kelli. I have been addicted to drugs and alcohol for 21 years. I was a mess. I'd been at Inner City Mission once before, but because of my improper behavior, I was asked to leave. After a six month waiting period, I called every day, hoping there would be a room for me and my child. I finally got the call that I could come back — which I did. But I still wasn't ready.



"I'm not proud of the past 21 years. But I am pleased with what God is doing in my life today."

I relapsed once again and went back to the streets. I guess I was trying to kill myself by snorting heroin. But, in the middle of all this bad news, there is good news. *I have not used drugs or alcohol since January 2, 2013.* I'm still scared, but I don't want to miss out on what God has planned for my life.

Please keep loving people like me

I'm now getting my GED, I go to church and I participate in a small group. I also faithfully do my chores here at the Mission. I can honestly say I now have a life I've never had before. When you read my story, you may be somewhat discouraged. But please don't be. It's just taking me a long time to accept God's love. So please keep doing what you're doing as a donor and friend of Inner City Mission. Please keep loving people like me.

In the past, I never had time for anything but drugs and alcohol. Now I'm making time for God and His Son, Jesus Christ. I'm not proud of my past 21 years, but I am pleased with where I am today.

A long, winding road lies ahead. But with the help of a loving God, my counselors here at the Mission and a friend like you, I know I will make it.

Your friend, *Kelli*

By the grace of God I'm not where I used to be. Thank you for your part in my recovery.

Reasons to live with a heart of gratitude . . .

Be thankful for the challenging times of life
During those times you grow.

Be thankful you don't have everything you desire
If you did, what would there be to look forward to?

Be thankful when you don't know something
For it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for each new obstacle
Because it builds your strength and character.

Be thankful for your limitations
Because they provide you with opportunities
for improvement.

Be thankful for your errors in judgment
They promise to teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you're tired and weary
Because it means you are making a difference.

It's easy to be thankful for the good things. But
a life of richness and fulfillment comes to those
who are also thankful for the setbacks.

GRATITUDE turns a negative into a positive.
Find a way to be thankful for your troubles and let
them become your blessings.

To be thankful is to be aware of the presence of
God in everything He has given us — *and He has
given us everything.* Each time we take a breath it
is a silent demonstration of His love . . . and every
minute of our day is a gift from our heavenly Father.
How can we not be thankful? It's something to
think about today . . . and every day of our lives.

**GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY . . .
AND FOR SHARING FROM YOUR GRATEFUL HEART
WITH THE POOREST OF THE POOR.**



Thank you for reaching out to the poor and homeless . . . and for your ongoing support of this ministry of rescue

Our Mission guests
come through our
doors filled with
regret, fear and anxiety.
They are hungry, often sick
and without decent clothing.
Countless numbers have spent
too many days living on our
streets. But when they come
to the Mission, they suddenly
find themselves in a new,
supportive environment.
We remind them God loves
them *and so do we.* The four

words, *this too shall pass*, are often the most comforting words our
guests have ever heard. As they embrace the love of Jesus, they begin
to understand God has never given up on them.

Straight from Scott's Heart

Dear Friend of Inner City Mission,

When our Mission guests begin to see
stability appear in their lives, they
often become speechless. When
people who've lived in a state of homelessness for
years suddenly discover there's a reason for their
homelessness and an answer . . . they are often at a
loss for words.

In that silence, there is great meaning.
It's reflective. Thoughtful. Not the time for pat
answers. And in that silence, tears of gratitude
begin to flow. I often think of the example of a
heart transplant donor. How does the recipient
say thank you for his or her new heart? Are there
enough words to express the sheer depth of
gratitude? I think not.

The shock of appreciation

In like manner, you are a key member of our Inner City Mission team that's
providing spiritual heart transplants for the sick, homeless and addicted. And
because your compassion is so overwhelming, our guests are often unable to
articulate their thanks. But they are grateful. I call this the shock of appreciation.
God bless you for your faithful, ongoing support — whether as a volunteer,
financially or saying a good word about the Mission to your friends.

See you next time, good Lord willing.

Your servant,

Scott Payne

A Minister to the Homeless



**" . . . you are a key
member of our
Inner City Mission
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providing spiritual
heart transplants
for the sick, dying
and addicted."**

The light of God begins to shine in their eyes

As our friends reflect on who they were and how far they've come,
a light comes to their eyes — the light of a God who loves them and has
a plan for their lives. They learn no problem is too great for God. They
also learn they'll never have
to face a challenging situation
alone again — unless they
choose to reject the love of a
God who cares.

However, none of these
miracles would happen were it not for your prayers and faithful giving
to this ministry of rescue. Thank you for all you've done in days past.
But hunger and homelessness are everyday occurrences . . . so we come
to you again, asking you for your generous support. To invest in the life
of a homeless person right now, kindly use the remit slip enclosed in
this newsletter. Thank you for reaching out to the poorest of the poor
today and every day throughout the year.

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pass*, are often the most
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