

Lifeline

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

I thank God He directed my family and me to Inner City Mission

My name is Rodger. I guess the story of much of my life is that I got into a little bit of trouble. Actually, a lot of trouble. I did prescription pills for 20 years, spent time in jail and never gave much thought to how much I was hurting my family. My kids suffered. My wife suffered and everything I did seem to be based on wrong choices. Any kind of addiction to drugs is terrible, because that's all you think about. In the end it was a family thing that finally got to me.

During my addiction, it was so easy to get my pills. I just got doctors to write a script for me, for drugs like Vicodin and Xanax. As I look back now, I realize how mad I was at the world. The smallest things used to bother me. I wasn't much use to myself and I was certainly of no use to my family. But then God directed my family members and me to Inner City Mission.

I now know God has a plan for my life

I will never be able to express my appreciation for what my counselors here at the Mission mean to me and my family. I came here because I knew something had to give. Those past days were so dark and miserable. But

what a difference it is to have Christ in my life. I am now aware of who I am, and I know God has a plan for my life. If I were not at Inner City Mission today I would be on the streets. But I'm not on the streets. I am here and I am open to the things of God. I want to thank you for your gifts of time and money to keep these doors open for my family and me.

Your friend,

Rodger

"The smallest things used to bother me. I wasn't much use to myself and I was certainly of no use to my family."

Thank you for giving me another chance at life. I will always remember your kindness.



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Thank you for a wonderful Christmas



WE ARE SO THANKFUL FOR YOUR GENEROSITY and love during our 2014 Christmas season at Inner City Mission. Once again, our faithful supporters came alongside us and made sure every child, parent and single woman received gifts that would touch their hearts.

Comments like "We never had a Christmas like this before" and "My children are so blessed" echoed through our building on Christmas Day. For many, this was their first time experiencing Christmas in a family setting filled with love, joy and peace. You can imagine their excitement and smiles of joy as they opened each cherished gift.

On behalf of our residents, staff, and the Board of Trustees of Inner City Mission, THANK YOU for another blessed year. Have a wonderful new year, and we extend God's blessing of peace to you and your family in 2015.

Meet Tara Southard



HI! MY NAME IS TARA, and I coordinate the Children's Programming at Inner City Mission. My family outside of ICM consists of my husband John, and my two beautiful daughters, Alyssa and Abby.

I first came to ICM as a volunteer, and quickly fell in love with the ministry, especially the children.

Nearly ten years later, I was offered a job. I know God used that time to prepare me for this kind of work.

Each day, I am reminded of how big God is, how much love matters, and how nice a thankful heart can feel. I believe every person coming to ICM, whether staff or resident, is here for a reason. I'm excited and humbled to be a part of this ministry.

Galatians 5:6 states, "The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love." I believe those words are not words trapped in a book, but an action that I witness every time I walk into ICM.

Straight from Scott's Heart

Dear Friend of Inner City Mission,

It's now a new year and another opportunity for you to enjoy the privilege of reaching out to men, women and children in need. Your involvement in their lives helps our friends say goodbye to the past and allows them to look toward a better future — a future based on wisdom and not just hope. So many have been in places that have promised so much and delivered so little. *Not so with the gospel of Jesus Christ. The greatest promise for all people of faith is Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever . . .* and that He will never leave us or forsake us. Your donations help us get that message across. There's also the practical aspect of your caring. Your contributions help provide things like Christian counseling, clean rooms for entire families, educational materials, nourishing food, the coffee, the toiletries and an overall environment that says we care about you. We want our guests to understand *who they are* and *how a living relationship with Christ can transform their lives.*

The new year is filled with fresh opportunities for those who want to change the direction of their lives

Once our guests — people like Rodger — are serious about seeing their lives transformed by the power of Jesus Christ, miracles begin to happen. 2014 was a wonderful year for the Mission . . . and the months ahead are filled with those same possibilities for all who come to our doors. Thank you for your continued compassion for so many in need. I join our guests when they say *we simply don't have words to express the depth of our gratitude to you for your kindness.*

Your servant,

Scott Payne, A Minister to the Homeless



"I join our guests when they say we simply don't have words to express the depth of our gratitude to you for your kindness."

It's a new year . . . and another God-given opportunity to touch the lives of so many who are coming through our doors

People who are hungry, afraid, homeless and without friends need to be rescued every day. *But it must be an eternal recovery* — not just food and clothes for the body. That's why pain, fear, alienation from God and the other terrors of life demand a spiritual response from those of us who're committed to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

A new year . . . filled with new hope and new opportunities

You helped meet so many of our needs during the holiday season, and we thank you. Now, with a new year upon us, we again have an opportunity to work together to share this new life in Christ with all who come through our doors. To invest in the life of a homeless person right now, please use the remit slip enclosed in this newsletter. You may also give your New Year gift to Inner City Mission using your credit or debit card, or with an electronic check, by going to our website, www.innercitymission.net. Thank you for reaching out to homeless people and the poorest of the poor as we begin 2015.



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