

MORNINGSTAR

CHRONICLE

Good News About Changing Lives!

Summer Issue 2010



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In Memory of In Honor of Pg. 4

After living a life of drugs and crime... *my heart is finally a home where Jesus lives*

My name is Justin. I'm at MorningStar Mission because I was desperate, homeless and had no place else to go. Before I came here, I lived in drug houses and on driveways and slept on the occasional laundry table in apartments — just to keep warm.

To support myself I sold drugs. And I paid taxes. But I paid them to the gang, not the government. If you didn't pay your dues to the gang they'd close you down. But even though I was making money, I always seemed to be outside, trying to survive on the cold concrete. I stole for food. I stole from people's cars, from gas stations. During all this time I hated myself. I lost all my morals. Still, I kept on doing things I knew were wrong.

Love vs. hate – two opposites, playing against each other

On the knuckles of my two hands I have the words *love* and *hate* tattooed. They are there because I wanted love but got nothing but hate. I wanted love more than anything. But I didn't know how to receive it or give it. Now when I think about the people I hurt, I'm truly sorry. But if I hadn't come to MorningStar Mission, I probably wouldn't have even cared.

When I first came here I didn't know it was a God/Jesus place. But I'm glad it is. Only God and His Word are going to

keep me straight in the days ahead. I've opened my heart to my heavenly Father, and little by little, God is changing my life. I can honestly say my heart is now a home for Jesus. I'm learning to put Him first in all things. With His power I will not allow my faith to be broken.

Thank you for your part in my recovery. I appreciate your generous donations that provide me with food, safe shelter and Christian counselors.

If I hadn't come to the Mission, I'd either be dead or in jail. In many ways you are helping to save my life. What greater gift could you ever give a person?

Thank you,
Justin

"If I hadn't come to the Mission, I'd either be dead or in jail."



People You Should Know



St. Dennis High School Youth Group

from Lockport, IL, researched and picked a charity to raise money for. The students decided on MorningStar Mission. On Feb. 25, 2010, they presented a check to MorningStar Mission. Thank you for all your hard work and commitment to making a difference in your community.



The American Sewing Guild of Joliet

made a quilt for the benefit for MorningStar Mission Spring Fling. They spent over 300 hours making this one-of-a-kind masterpiece.



J-Town Disc Golf Club:

Dean Bingham, Frank Grimes & Thor Bachelor present a \$3,500 check to MorningStar Mission.

An Encouraging Word from Marilyn . . .



Dear Friend of MorningStar Mission,

Sometimes I'll receive a note asking me if a small donation of one or two dollars really matters? Yes, it does. We can feed a hungry person for just \$2.05. The good news is a nourishing meal *is the beginning of recovery for 90% of our guests*. Once our friends receive a meal — and when a volunteer sits down with them to listen to their story — people who've just come from the streets begin to feel like they have value.

How different this is from the life that is lived on the outside. The law of the jungle is all about surviving. It's about not caring who is hurt. It's about living for drugs, alcohol and other forms of self-abuse.

Two ways of living: survival or surrender

But God's way of living is 180 degrees different. To live life from God's perspective is to surrender — not just survive. New life in Christ encourages our guests to set reasonable goals for their lives. For many, the Mission is the first healthy family they've ever experienced.

It's never been a good time to make wrong choices. But to continue to live by the law of the streets right now is poor timing indeed. In our area we have a 20% unemployment rate. The numbers of homeless people are increasing — both because of poor decisions and the loss of jobs and livelihood. Unfortunately, our income has *not* increased 20%. But God continues to supply our needs . . . and we praise Him because we've not yet needed to cut our services to the needy.

Now it's summertime, and living is not getting any easier for people who struggle for survival. It's my prayer you will continue to put MorningStar Mission at the top of your prayer and giving list now and throughout the summer. Only because you care are we able to fulfill our mandate of loving all who come through our doors. Thank you in advance for your compassion this summer and in the months ahead.

Your servant,

Marilyn Farmer

Marilyn Farmer, Executive Director

"New life in Christ encourages our guests to set reasonable goals for their lives. For many, the Mission is the first healthy family they've ever experienced."

Summer is here...and Hunger and Pain

Everyone at MorningStar Mission thanks you for your outpouring of support during the recent Easter season. We're happy to report your generosity continues to be a part of the life-changing process for so many who come to us.

Your gift is an act of compassion that keeps on providing food, clothing and shelter for the truly needy in our community. Without your support there would be no Mission.

It's true that we continue to graduate men and women from our various recovery programs. But, in fact, no one ever really graduates from the spiritual course presented to them. That's "course work" that never ends. It's a lifelong process. And it's true for us all: If we believe we don't need to continue to grow



At first I panicked that he might find me. Now God is taking my fear away

My name is Rose. It's a terrible thing to be abused by the person you are trying to love. But it seems that abuse has been at the center of my entire life. I had abusive parents and abusive boyfriends. In the process, I was abusing myself. I was always attracted to people I thought needed fixing. Trouble was I never did fix them...nor did I take the time to try to fix myself.

My boyfriend is now in prison. But when we were still together, he'd force me to prostitute myself to earn money. He said we never had enough. I didn't like what I was doing, and many times I said, *this is the last night*. I'm through with this. But I kept doing it anyway — even though I felt terrible about myself with every sexual act.

All the time I kept hearing a quiet voice in my head. Then it got louder and louder. Now I realize it was God. I prayed to Him asking Him what to do. One answer I received was *don't be a prostitute any longer*. A couple weeks later my boyfriend was arrested, and I escaped from that torturous environment.

I'm learning to take care of myself — finally!

How I thank God I learned about MorningStar Mission and the women's shelter here. I'm learning about boundaries,



"I didn't like what I was doing, and many times I said, *this is the last night*. I'm through with this."

and I'm finally putting structure into my daily life. Love is everywhere. My counselors are always available with words of comfort and wisdom. In many ways, this place is saving my life.

I'm grateful to God, the Mission and to you who donate your time, money and influence to keep the doors open for someone like me. I could never find the words that express the deep gratitude in my heart.

I'm no longer abused...and I'm learning to take care of myself. If you or anyone you know needs the kind of help I'm receiving, I hope you'll tell them about MorningStar. Thank you.

*Your friend,
Rose*

refuse to take a vacation in Joliet

spiritually, it's a sure sign we have more learning to do. Thank you for growing with us in the things of the Lord.

We're all works in progress

As you are moved by the stories of changed lives in this newsletter, please remember these testimonies reflect the lives of people who are *works in progress*. Isn't that how it should be with all of us? Together let's agree our spiritual journey may come to a close each night, but that it begins all over again each morning.

To continue to embrace the needy with arms of love, please complete the remit slip enclosed and mail it to us today. We also urge you to donate on our secure website at www.morningstarmission.org. Thank you for being a friend of MorningStar Mission and the homeless this summer and throughout the year.

Box City of Hope

Friday,
September 17, 2010
4 p.m.—7 a.m.
749 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL

Join **MorningStar Mission** for the **Box City of Hope** and spend the night in a box to raise awareness of the plight of those experiencing homelessness in America and Will County.

Register Today

Call 815-722-5780

for more information
or visit our website:

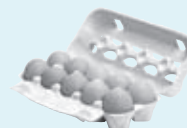
www.morningstarmission.org

Click on Events



MorningStar Mission Needs List 2010

- Canned Fruit
- Canned Vegetables
- Jelly
- Pancake Mix
- Syrup
- Sugar
- Flour
- Canned Soup
- Jell-O
- Pepper
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Rice
- Dry Spaghetti
- Garlic Powder
- Salad Dressing
- Milk
- Mashed Potatoes
- Eggs
- Coffee
- Season Salt
- Table Salt
- Paper Towels
- Napkins





Grant Holloman
USDA – NRCS
Carbondale Soil Survey

Wilburn & Mabel Huckaba
Mr. & Mrs. Robert
Hoerner

Dan & Theresa Jaicsetich
Dan & Jan Staniszewski

Harvey Johnson
Mrs. H. Johnson

Joan Lichtenauer
Fred Jankowski

Annette Medevesky
MorningStar Mission
Staff & Board

James McCann
Maureen & Ralph Severino

Deitra McCullough
Mrs. Reasie Smith

Matthew Moreau
Denis Grashoff

Joe & Adaline Ostry
Mr. & Mrs.
Michael Clutter

Bernadine Petak
Gregg & Karen King

“Joey” Des Rochers
Ruth Chew

G. Lee Weiskop
Family & Friends
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph P. Ward
Mrs. G. Lee Weiskop

Edward Wolgemuth
American Italian
Cultural Society
Gene DiVecchio & Family
Margaret Wolgemuth &
Mary Docherty
Graham Hogan
Phillip & Linda Mazaika
Virginia Tapella
Olivia Wolgemuth
Walter & Lois Wulf



In Honor of:

Jamie, Graham, Sue & Michelle

Ed & Jayne Radzke

DeWayne & Eleanore Baker
Katherine Schneider

Eulah Bessel
Geraldine Gallagher

John Born & Glenn Bowden
Ms. Karla Ingle

Harry Butcher
Frank & Jennifer Kowalski

Stu & Sue Clark
Mrs. Monica Lane

Partick Connolly
Mrs. Rita Brand

Clara Engle
Ms. Beth Engle

**Bob Fretch, Brenda Leisinger,
Gayle Herter**
Greg & Pam Kaumeyer

Grandma Foltys
Christa & Matt Haeus

Grandma Mini
Mrs. Connie Hermes

Peter L. Haas
Mrs. Katherine Gehrman

Mr. & Mrs. T. Langs
Isabelle Langs

Char & Eric Longman
Patricia & Debra Savage

Steve Medvesky
Donna Harris

Rev. Vytas Memenas
Ed & Olivia Wolgemuth

Merx
Holly Weitendorf &
Sally Pickell

Dale & Gladys Muir
60th Wedding Anniversary
Margaret & Dale Allen
Margie Jamerson

David Proszek
Burke Bowden

Jayne & Ed Radzke
Mrs. Laura Cohen
Graham Hogan
Joy Webber

Barry Ryan
Jane Siefker

**Mr. & Mrs. Marendra
Nath Sanyal**
Sanyal Papiya

Roma C. Schettus
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hurst

Dennis & Ann Siemsen
Jane Siefker

**Mark & Lorena Singletary
& Family**
Ramona Gudgel

Josh & Hailey Short
Barbara Ann Brixey

**Sharon Skelton &
Jeanette McWalter**
Karen Tamayo

Stella Slinkard
Mrs. Lisa Sidles

Lamar R. Smith
Reasie Smith

Grundy Steiner
Ms. Janet Steiner

**The Wild, Pierce &
Ruether Families**
Mrs. Kristen Wild

In Memory of:

Pat Cochrane

Carmen Benes

Charles Crump, Sr.
A. Walker

Emery C. Darling
Viola Barlow & Sons
Kim Bennett
Dawn & Donna Block
Michael D'Arte &
John Bailey

Jack & Beverly Duranto
Kathy Duranto-Huebner
Nick & Sue Grzetich

Don & Shirley Hoffman
Marge Kauzearic
Louis & Rose Meyer

Alice Ranzini
Linda Runh
Ray & Dorothy Smith
Gabe & Marion Soto

Carrie Demski
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Harris

Wendy (Likes) Dew
Paul A. Likes

**Dongarra, Klaeron,
Danca, Kobuch & Moll
family member**
Ronald & Kathleen
Dongarra

**Anthony & Roberta
Governale**
Daniel Governale

**Sandra D. Wood Hamdani,
MD**
Vera Wood

Donald P. Harris
Mrs. Mary K. Harris

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My Summer Gift

**YES, Marilyn, I want to
continue my support of this
mission of rescue.**

- Please bill my credit card:
 VISA Master Card

**To help poor and homeless people,
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



ACCOUNT NO. _____ EXP. DATE _____

NAME _____ SIGNATURE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

MorningStar Mission Ministries, Inc.
350 E. Washington Street
Joliet, IL 60433-1150

▶ Please mail this completed form with your generous summer donation,
or donate online at www.morningstarmission.org. Your gift is tax deductible
as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.