

## *The Message Resounds*

Thirty eight years ago, Den Slattery stood up in the Mission chapel and rambled through his testimony. A Christian for only a few days, the young man had little experience with talking about God and even less talking in front of people. He hadn't even known what a "testimony" was until that very night, when his pastor asked him to speak at the Mission. To this day, he can't remember quite what he said or how he said it, but the words weren't as important as the message he was asked to deliver: a message of hope, of transformation, of rescue.

The eyes of men, worn by despair and marked by hopelessness, stared up at him as he tried to define in words just what Christ meant to him. On leave during his second tour in Vietnam, Den had experienced horror with friends killed, the tragedy of war, and rejection by the very country for which he fought. Den himself had little thought that this night, in a poky, dark little Mission six blocks from the capitol, he had reached a crossroads.

That night, speaking at the City Rescue Mission was only the first step on a journey. His life changed forever when he surrendered it to Christ's keeping. He returned to the military and became an Army chaplain. Ending his service to our country with the rank of major, Den shared his message of hope in Christ around the world and settled as a pastor in Ionia, Michigan. During all that time, he thought of the Mission but never returned there until November 29, 2011.

The unusually warm Michigan fall succumbed to a violent snow storm, but he arrived for the service with only one minute to spare. Last time had been summer; now winter had come. He stood up on the platform and looked out over the group finding shelter at the Mission that night. The faces were different. The place was even a little different. But the message was still the same: a message of hope, of transformation, of rescue.

For Pastor Den Slattery, 2011 marked an anniversary, a chance to look back on a life lived in Christ's service. For the Mission, 2011 also marked an anniversary, a chance to look back on a century dedicated to Christ's service: meeting physical and spiritual needs in Michigan's capital area. Truly, the Mission has changed over the years. The majority of those we shelter are women and children, and we have expanded to meet this increasing need. However, the message remains the same as when it was first presented by Thomas and Emily Dolton 100 years ago.

With your help, we go into 2012 with the same determination to shine the light of Truth to men, women, and children in need. To give them the good news that even when life seems dark, Hope lives and Rescue can be found, within sight of the cross.



## A Message from Mark: *"What is impossible with men is possible with God."* Luke 18:27

Over seven years ago, when I began to serve in the ministry of rescue, I quickly became familiar with Randall Tate. Randall would be considered the "town drunk." All the police officers and the emergency medical technicians (EMTs) knew him by name. There were days that Randall would walk down Michigan Avenue in a drunken slumber and stop traffic. If we heard horns blaring, we would know that Randall wasn't far away.

Randall drank heavily and often. He would fit perfectly most people's views of the homeless: "forty year old male alcoholic." It would only be by God's mercy that he would live to see another day. However, during my homeless trek recently, I was able to meet up with Randall. He was now 52 and very "weathered" by his many years of bad choices and bondage to sin. What was so unique about this reunion of sorts? Randall was sober and staying at the City Rescue Mission. He normally would not "darken the door" of the Mission until November or December, when the weather turned cold. However, Randall had already spent most of the summer with us. Yes, sober!

This was no small feat. I would even consider it miraculous. Can you imagine a decade or more of drinking? Drinking to the point that you are living by the river or in abandoned buildings because you are unable to successfully interact with others? Finding your next drink is your daily endeavor. This is your idol that you serve every moment of the day. It seems incomprehensible. But because of God's great love for him, we witnessed a change in Randall's life. He was listening to the word of God. He was attentive to God's plan of salvation, and he wasn't trapped in the lifestyle that had dominated his existence. Miraculous indeed.

Rightly, it would be fair to say that everybody gave up on Randall, but God never did. What seemed impossible for man was only possible with God. During my homeless trek, Randall shared a little about his life with me and took me around the city where he liked to volunteer and help others. It was important for him to stay busy to avoid idleness. Randall seemed very content with his relationship with God. I shared the Gospel with him, and he consistently recognized that "I am a Christian now...not perfect but I am a Christian." Only a few days after our reunion, Randall passed away. I am glad for the opportunity I had to see him at the Mission, sober and attentive, and to share with him that I had been praying for him for many years. Praise God that nothing is impossible and that men, like Randall, can still find rescue and transformation through the doors of the Mission.

To God be the Glory,



Mark Criss  
Executive Director



## New Women's Life Transformation Program

We are happy to announce that the Mission is scheduled to begin its Life Transformation Program for Women. This program is available for adult women wanting to gain freedom from the life dominating sin of addiction. As with our program for men, the women's Life Transformation Program is a Bible-based, residential program offered at no cost to those willing to submit to program expectations and able to commit to a year dedicated to study and transformation. For those wanting the needs list or information on the women's program, call 517.485.0145 or email [tiffany@lcrm.org](mailto:tiffany@lcrm.org).

# Thank you for hosting a holiday barrel to help “Pack the Pantry”!

AGATE Software	First National Bank of America	Michigan Treasury
Allied Cash Advance-Saginaw Hwy.	Fran's House	Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church
Allied Cash Advance-Waverly Rd.	Grace Bible Church	Northwind Hair Styles
Bank of America-Frandor	Grand Haven Manor	Okemos Chiropractic
Blockbuster-Saginaw Hwy.	Hannah Community Center	One Main Financial
Blockbuster-S. Cedar	Hostess	Option 1 Credit Union-West Rd.
Blockbuster-Okemos	IBM One	Option 1 Credit Union-S. Cedar
Calvary Baptist Church	Lansing MEPS	Runaway Bay Apartments
Capital City Baptist Ministries	MAIA	Senate Fiscal Agency
Consumers Energy	Maple Grove Baptist Church	Senate Majority Communications and Policy
Covington Woods Senior Apartments	Mason State Financial Center	St. Peter Lutheran School
David Chapman Agency	Maxima Supply Company	Sugar Beet & Bean
Finley's American Grill-S. Cedar	Michigan Dept. of Transportation	USDA Avian Disease and Oncology Lab
Finley's American Grill-Saginaw Hwy.	Michigan Miller's Insurance	Windsor Church

We are so grateful to the businesses, churches, and organizations who hosted a holiday barrel to help “Pack the Pantry” with non-perishable food, hygiene products, gloves, and other items, as well as to the many who host barrels all year. We are unable to list everyone who gave so generously, but we are so thankful for your “rescue” efforts in support of the Mission and the men, women, and children we serve!

## Christmas Comes to the Mission

We could not begin to list all the individuals, organizations, and businesses who helped make the Christmas holiday a blessed one for our guests. We have regular groups who do events for our women and children’s shelter; a woman organized gifts for our men’s shelter; different businesses held drives (LAFCU even created a parade of carts carrying cans past the capitol and down Michigan Avenue); but all of it resulted in sounds of celebration: the chatter of moms preparing presents for their children and the laughter and smiles when gifts were distributed on Christmas Eve, during our special Christmas celebration at Michigan Avenue. Best of all was the ability to celebrate the Greatest Gift: Christ’s birth. Thank you to everyone who helps give the gift of rescue, not just at Christmas but all year long!



## Volunteer Spotlight: Carolyn and Bob French

Carolyn French has been volunteering at the Mission for several years. During a Bible study, she turned to Isaiah 58, where God tells us to “extend our soul to the hungry and satisfy the afflicted soul.” Reading and studying this passage, Carolyn determined to put action to that vague inclination to find out more about the Mission and to become involved in helping those in need. After filling various volunteer roles, she and a friend began serving a meal at the women and children’s shelter in its former location near Wendy’s on South Cedar. Finally, Carolyn decided she wanted to do more, and she asked to regularly fill a spot on the weekly volunteer calendar serving the meal and teaching a Bible story to the children. As often is the case, her enthusiasm encouraged her husband to also begin volunteering. Together, they are a faithful team, still serving meals and helping the children at our new women and children’s shelter.



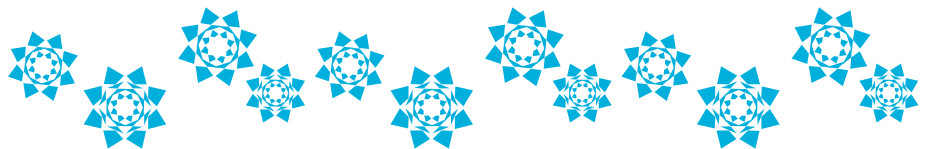
# Newsletters and Giving Reports Mail Separately in January!

This is another reminder that, due to donation notification regulations, our giving reports will mail later in January. Rather than hold the newsletter mailing, the newsletter mails separately from the giving report in the month of January. Please also note that the Mission sends monthly giving reports rather than annual or “end of the year” giving reports. Unless you have asked to be “annual” (receive a giving report only at the end of the year) or have given in December, you will not receive a giving report. This helps us be good stewards of your donations by limiting mailings. Being made “annual” will not affect your receipt of the Mission Outlook, our monthly newsletter. If you would like to receive only an annual giving report or have questions on the process, please feel free to email [info@lcrm.org](mailto:info@lcrm.org) or call 517.485.0145.

## What’s Ahead for the Mission in 2012

For the past several years, the need for shelter and food has increased. In 2006, we provided 20,649 nights of shelter and 61,190 meals. By November of 2011, we had already provided 44,094 nights of shelter and 107,871 meals for the year. The greatest increase being in the numbers of homeless women and children. With the increase, the Mission executive director and board have had to make some difficult decisions regarding where to focus our resources. Some services may undergo changes in the coming months; however, one of the pressures we face is the need for space. Moving administrative offices to Maplewood left the 607 building partially vacant. We hope to extend our men’s shelter, kitchen, and food pantry into this space. At the women and children’s shelter, there is a need for play space for the kids. Playground equipment, here since Maplewood was a school, is in need of replacement. Our local Kiwanis groups, with the help of a matching gift by Lake Trust Credit Union, have committed to build a playground as part of the “Mission: Play” project. To keep updated with these and other needs, you can “like” the City Rescue Mission of Lansing on facebook or keep reading your Mission Outlook.

## Housekeeping



### Tour of the Mission:

For those interested in a tour of our Michigan Avenue or Maplewood Centers, please call 517.485.0145.

### Personal ID Number:

Above your name on your receipt or newsletter envelope is your PID. This number will help if you have a duplicate or have questions regarding a monetary donation to the Mission.

### Tax Deduction:

Gifts given to the City Rescue Mission of Lansing qualify for a tax deduction. By law, we are not allowed to list a dollar amount for non-monetary donations; please keep your store receipts for new items to attach to your copy of the receipt. Monthly giving reports for cash donations are mailed in the middle of the following month.

### Too Many Mailings or Change of Address?

If you are receiving a duplicate mailing, please call 517.485.0145 or email [info@lcrm.org](mailto:info@lcrm.org). Fill in the enclosed card for a change of address.

### Mission Needs List

- Egg Noodles
- Canned Fruits
- Canned Vegetables
- Shaving Cream
- Double Blade Razors
- Hair Brushes and Combs
- Men’s Long Johns
- Men’s Underwear (30-36w)
- White Socks (men)
- Women’s Socks
- Boots and Shoes (larger sizes)
- Children’s Boots
- Women’s underwear (9 or smaller)
- Children’s boots