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Good News

Hiway 80 Rescue Mission • Men's Shelter • Women & Family Shelter • Tyler Outreach

Vol. 15 No. 5 • Easter 2015



**"You've got to
turn it over to God"**

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Paula called herself a Christian because she grew up in a Christian home. But while the Gospel was etched into her head, it wasn't written on her heart.

Her husband was abusive. "You make your bed and you lie in it," she says. "I was with him for 27 years, raised his two sons, my two children from a previous marriage and a child we had together." When the marriage ended, Paula became depressed. "I was a shell," she says. **"My heart was dark, I had no real joy in my life."**

Paula lived on her own for 10

years, harboring this "void" in her heart. Then, for a time, she moved "from place to place," living with her children, with relatives and finally with a friend, until there was nobody left to turn to.

With "nowhere else to go," Paula was referred to the Mission and our Women & Family Shelter. "I was in shock that I was in a homeless shelter," she remembers. "It took me a while to realize that I was not only physically homeless, but **homeless in my heart!**"

Kindly but firmly, the staff kept telling Paula, "You've got to turn

it over to God." And when Paula finally decided that she couldn't fix her problems, couldn't "make them better," that's when things started looking up.

Paula came into the Mission in May of 2013 and left to live on her own in January of the following year. Today, she's rebuilding her relationship with her children, and with her Lord.

"Right now my life is not 100% hunky-dorey," Paula says. "But then nobody's life ever is. **I know the Lord is my savior and I will turn to Him!**"

A Message From Eric Burger



In the Apostle Peter's letter to persecuted Christians in what is now modern day Turkey, he talks about a "hope that never dies," a hope that will be with people even if they have "sorrow and all kinds of tests." Peter encourages them to endure, knowing that they will enjoy the salvation God has promised!

This hope that Peter spoke of nearly 2,000 years ago is the same hope we offer all those like Paula and Michael who come to Hiway 80 Rescue Mission and our Outreach Center in Tyler. It's just that finding hope takes longer for some than for others!

Because it's hard to be hope-filled when you're sleeping on the streets. Or when you're hungry every day, or looking at life through the bottom of a shot glass or the bowl of a drug pipe.

So, first comes help... meals, a bed, counseling and classes. Only then, thanks to the generosity and support of partners like you, can lives that are hopeless become hope-filled!

Thank you for all you do!

Road to a New Life Starts
Here


Rev. Eric Burger
Executive Director

You're invited

5th Annual Community Easter Celebration

Easter is a time of joy at the Mission, and we would love to have you join us for this very special celebration.

We'll begin with a Community Easter Dinner at the Mission on Good Friday, April 3, at 6:15 p.m. Saturday, April 4, there's an Easter egg hunt for our community's at-risk children and a special Easter Service for the whole family.

Join us Easter Sunday to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus



Christ at a special sunrise service at the Mission chapel followed by a delicious Easter breakfast.

Can you help with Easter Dinner?

To ensure we will have a bountiful Easter feast and sufficient treats for Saturday's Easter egg hunt, please consider donating:

Donations can be dropped off at the Mission at 3117 W. Marshall. For more information, call **(903) 759-8101**.

Ham
Potatoes
Canned vegetables
Canned fruit
Dinner rolls

Eggs
Pies
Butter
Individually wrapped
Easter candy

Serving up 15,267 heaping plates of hope!

You've probably seen people with signs. "Will work for food." "Hungry Vet." "Homeless. Please help."

But there's one sign you probably haven't seen. It's the one that says, "I need hope. Will you help?"

Because hope truly is the most basic need of people who are hungry, homeless and hurting.

Hope begins with meals, and we need your help to serve 15,267 of them in the

next 30 days.

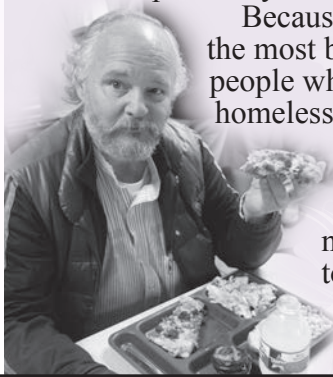
Hope grows with shelter, classes and counseling.

Whatever form hope takes, it begins with YOU.

Whether you use the enclosed slip, or give online at **Hiway80Mission.org**, your gift of \$1.79 will provide a hot meal and the hope that tomorrow will be a better day.

Just imagine how much a gift of \$25 or \$50 or even \$100 has the potential to do!

Please make a special Easter gift today to feed and bring hope to the lives of as many people as possible.



“My soul has been renewed!”



Michael’s stepfather was an abusive alcoholic. “I saw him drinking to cope with whatever he was going through and that’s how I figured out that maybe that would work for me,” he says. “I was a teenager when I started experimenting with alcohol, and it spiraled after that. Things just kept getting darker and darker for me.”

Michael hit bottom and was **contemplating suicide** when someone told him about the good work Hiway 80 Rescue Mission was doing through our New Creation Program. “God gives you paths. You just have to follow them. This time I chose to follow and it saved me,” Michael says.

Through the program’s chapels, devotions, Bible studies and life-skills classes, **Michael found his way back to the God he’d learned of as a boy** in Sunday school. “I’d forgotten how to accept God’s work in my life. I lost the tools, but I found the tools here that I’m going to need in my life, my relationship with my family, my relationship with myself and my relationship with God,” Michael says. “It’s not dark anymore and every

day it just gets brighter and brighter. **I went from having no hope to having all hope.**”

Michael graduated from the program and wanted to share with others what had been shared with him, so he entered the Mission’s Leadership Training Program. He now works in the administration office, helps with donations, answers phones, shows new guests the ropes and mentors men in the program. “I can lay my head down at night now and when I go to sleep, I know that I’ve helped somebody, and that’s a good feeling,” he says.

Michael’s life has been completely transformed through the Mission’s work. “Hiway 80 Rescue Mission has saved me in every way that a man can be saved. They saved me physically, mentally and spiritually,” he says. “I came here all beaten and broken up. Now, almost two years later, I’m just like a newborn child. It’s wonderful. It’s like getting a soul transplant. My soul’s been renewed.”

Mark your calendar

You’re invited to join us for great fellowship at the Maude Cobb Convention Center for the Mission’s Annual New Life Banquet. This year’s guest speaker is Kelly Wright, Fox News Anchor and Author of *America’s Hope*, and he’ll be sharing his testimony.

Make your reservation now for either the noon or 6 p.m. banquet by calling **(903) 759-8101** or by visiting our website at **Hiway80Mission.org** and clicking on “What’s Happening at the Mission.”



Thank you to all who helped take the expansion project at our Women & Families Shelter from a dream to a reality through your donations, gifts in kind and volunteer efforts. If you haven’t had a chance to tour our new family cottages or The Ann Lacy Crain Welcome Center, please drop by or give us a call at **(903) 759-8101**.

Hiway 80 Rescue Mission

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A higher standard.
A higher purpose.

The Good News is a publication
of Hiway 80 Rescue Mission.

An Enduring Gift

We would like to thank all those who have established legacy gifts to benefit the Mission or have named the Mission in their wills. This enduring support is a true blessing to the Mission, as well as a lifeline for men, women and children throughout the East Texas area who are hungry and homeless.



For those who are still considering ways to leave a lasting gift to continue your legacy of care for those in need, our Executive Director, Eric Burger, has some suggestions. Call him at **(903) 759-8101**. There's no obligation.

God Bless our Volunteers!

With more than 50 separate events happening here at the Mission between Veterans Day and Christmas Day, we are so very grateful for all the faithful volunteers who made them possible. We could not have accomplished so much without you and your hard work.

If you're interested in volunteering at the Mission this spring or summer, with a group or as an individual, please contact our volunteer liaison, Paige Brewer, by calling (903) 759-8101, or e-mail her at Paigeb@Hiway80RM.org.



Get connected

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www.Hiway80Mission.org

Like us 
www.facebook.com/Hiway80RescueMission

Watch our stories 
www.youtube.com/HiWay80RM

Please use my special Easter gift to
feed and care for people in need.

- \$19.69 to feed and care for 11 people
- \$50.12 to feed and care for 28 people
- \$75.18 to feed and care for 42 people
- \$ _____ to help as much as possible

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

Check enclosed Bill my credit card



CREDIT CARD # _____ CIV/SEC # _____

EXP. DATE _____ PHONE # _____

Donate online at www.Hiway80Mission.org,
or call (903) 759-8101.

Hiway 80 Rescue Mission
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Longview, TX 75606-3223



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Please return this completed form with your donation. Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.