

MORNINGSTAR

CHRONICLE

Good News About Changing Lives!

Thanksgiving Issue 2016



An Encouraging
Word from Marilyn . . .
Pg. 2



Going from fear
to faith . . .
Pg. 3



Spring Fling
Star Ball 2016
Pg. 4



MORNINGSTAR
MISSION MINISTRIES

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From losing everything ... to finding my way home to Jesus

My name is Myles. Today, I can finally say I enjoy peace of mind, something a heroin addiction never gave me. Because of what God is doing in my life here at MorningStar Mission, I'm becoming a new creature in Christ. I'm 31 years old, and for 17 of those years I was locked up in Joliet prison.

In the past, all I engaged in was criminal acts, drug abuse and animalistic behavior. I had that street mentality where I kidded myself that I could use my power to change the world. But the world didn't change — not a bit.

**"Rather than using drugs,
I find myself spending time
on my knees, praying to a
merciful God."**

I don't know where I'd be today if it were not for MorningStar Mission. I sure never thought I would be a servant to others, like washing dishes, serving food and making deliveries for the Mission. But I do all this with a thankful heart because of what God, the Mission and someone like you keep doing to give me a second chance.

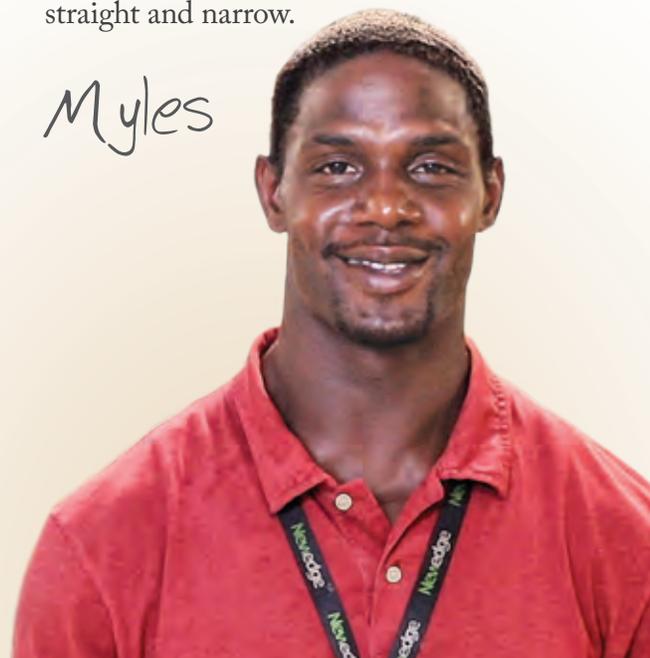
I'm learning to surrender to God 100%

When I came to the Mission, I arrived with one hand behind my back. I eventually had to learn to surrender to God 100%. I'm

still not there, but I'm getting close. I want to say something more about the donors and volunteers. I've never known such wonderful people in my life. To think that someone like you reaches out to me, and, up until now, you didn't even know my name.

Today, I have no more excuses. Rather than using drugs, I find myself spending time on my knees, praying to a merciful God. I'm grateful for the food and the safe shelter. But most of all, I'm grateful for my relationship with Jesus Christ. I was once hopeless, but now I have hope in my heart. Once, I thought there was no way out of my addiction; today, I am clean, and with God's help, I will stay that way. Thank you again for all you do to help me stay on the straight and narrow.

Myles



CITGO Volunteers and Retirees



We want to thank the CITGO volunteers and retirees who celebrate monthly birthday parties for the children in our Women and Family Center. They bring the children gifts, decorate the multi-purpose room, dress in costumes, perform, and provide beautifully decorated cakes or cupcakes. We thank CITGO for celebrating the birthdays of the children who would not otherwise have any kind of festivity for their special day. We are very grateful for CITGO's generosity and kindness.

An Encouraging Word from Marilyn . . .

Dear Friend of MorningStar,

I receive lots of thank you cards and letters, but it's always a special joy when former guests come to my office and share with me how God continues to work in their lives. I remember one man who came in and said he's now working, he's clean and he's so thankful he can pay his utilities *like a normal person*. He said he even just bought a washer and dryer. You and I may take these kinds of things for granted, but when a person moves from a life of addiction to one of physical, mental and spiritual health and begins to feel "normal," it's a brand-new world for that individual. The bottom line is that without your ongoing, faithful support, success stories like this would not be possible. And if you are unable to give a monetary donation, I hope you'll consider coming to volunteer at Morningside Mission. Volunteers tell us they come to the Mission to reach out to others, but end up being more greatly blessed themselves.

Thank you for who you are and what you do to help so many

At this Thanksgiving season, each person we serve continues to express deep gratitude for food, safe shelter and clean clothing. But most of our guests tell us they are even more thankful that we are a faith-based Mission, and that it's here they have come to know Jesus as Savior and Lord. Thank you for helping our guests reach goals long put on hold because of wrong life decisions *as God now becomes the center of their lives*. Your donations of time, money and other means of support are helping so many go from darkness to light. Thank you and God bless you for all you do to reach out to so many.

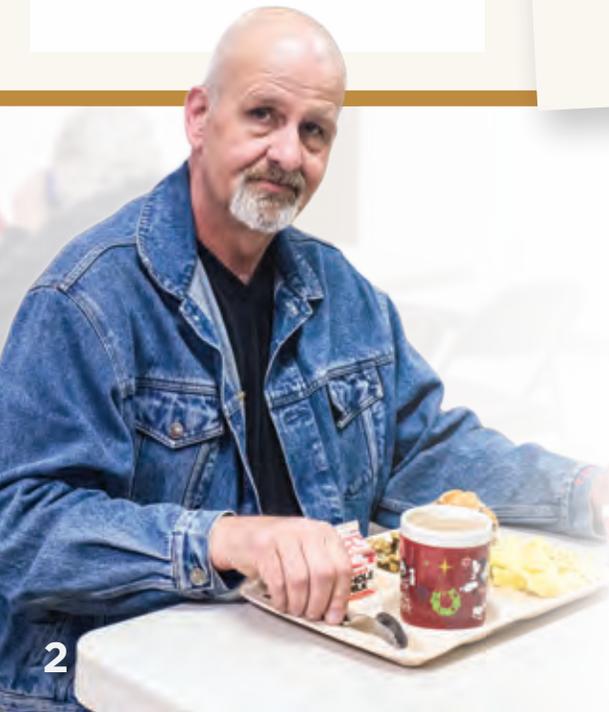
Your servant,

Marilyn Farmer

Marilyn Farmer
Executive Director



"Thank you for helping our guests reach goals long put on hold because of wrong life decisions . . ."



It All Depends on the Kinds of Seeds We P

More than 2,000 years ago, Socrates discussed the law of "cause and effect." In essence, the philosopher said that if you want to keep having the same outcome, go back and see what you did that produced the effect you wanted. The flip side of the coin is the same . . . *if you don't like your results, go back and see what you need to change*. Most of us probably agree the vast majority of things do not happen by accident: our lives work by the law of cause and effect. But more important than the words of Socrates, Scripture reminds us again and again we will always reap what we sow. So the question we ask our Mission guests day after day is this: *What life seeds have you sown that brought you to the Mission?* Next question:

Going from fear to faith ... *and knowing* *God has special plans for my life*

My name is Kristin. I have been afraid most of my life. Afraid of dark places. Afraid to be in other people's houses. Afraid to live on the streets — *afraid of life itself*. In the past, I lived in abandoned barns where I was abused by other homeless people. Because that's part of my past life, maybe you can see why I'm so grateful for the safety of MorningStar Mission. Here, I don't have to watch my back. I know

“While I am still fearful of many things, I'm not nearly as frightened as I used to be.”

people around me are on my side. Another great thing about the Mission is the Bible studies we enjoy each day. I love the times when we're together reading a booklet called *Daily Bread*. It educates me in the things of God. It helps me understand what's important in life. *It also helps me not to be so scared.*

I now wake up with joy in my heart

I also want to say a word of appreciation to you who give so much to keep the doors of MorningStar Mission open. You give me good food, something I didn't have on the streets. And I also thank you for the clothing. I've already mentioned how much I appreciate the safe shelter, but I can't emphasize

that enough. It's so great to wake up in the morning and be joyful, warm, to be able to take a shower and not to have angry people around me. If you have ever been in my situation, perhaps you know how I feel. While I am still fearful of many things, I'm not nearly as frightened as I used to be. That's because God is now in my life, and He is helping me to become the person I want to be. If you were to meet me, you would discover I'm a bit shy. But I really hope you would look beyond my shyness and see how grateful I am for all you do to help me at this time of my life. I hope you and your family enjoy a happy Thanksgiving.

Kristin

Thank you for standing by my side as God helps me put my life back together.



Plant in Life

Do you think it might be time to plant some different seeds . . . and achieve some different results? When our friends decide to plant new crop with new seeds, we remind them they've come to the right place. Because once those new seeds of hope in Christ are planted, they begin to discover they're now becoming the people God designed them to be. Thank you for being a vital part of this seed planting process — not only during this Thanksgiving season, but throughout the year.

To send your donation today to help people in need, please use the remit slip enclosed, or make your Thanksgiving donation online at www.morningstarmission.org. Thank you for helping us plant *seeds of hope* that promise new life in Christ.

Thank you for helping us *plant seeds of hope.*



In Memory of

Daniel McGuire Terrance McGuire • **John Russ** Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hoerner • **Ken Moody** Carolyn Moody • **Teresa Ranalli** Marcy Scatena • **Ardele Spiess-Burke** Sharon Merwin • **Evelyn Merwin** • **Millie, Gene, Iggy & Angie** Audrey Montalto • **Mary C. Larkin** Katie Larkin-Nelson • **James Harper** John Fair • **Bernice Wojenik** Mike Schlachter • **Uncle Jim Riley** Erin George • **Kevin Hansen** Eric Hansen • **Marilyn Dimonte** Tom Perzee, Raymond Perzee • **Cheryl Sarich** Karen Volante • **Pat Haugen** Susan Cieslik

In Honor of

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Spring Fling Star Ball 2016

We congratulate and thank Edward and Gloria Dollinger for being the 2016 Star Award recipients.

We want to express our thanks to all the event sponsors:

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My Thanksgiving Gift

RM_46-0905_H01JO

YES, Marilyn,
it's my pleasure to
continue my support
of the Mission at this
Thanksgiving season.

Here's my donation 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
- Please bill my credit card: VISA MC DISCOVER

ACCOUNT NO. _____ EXP. DATE _____

NAME _____ SIGNATURE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

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