

OK *AKB*

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MORNINGSTAR

CHRONICLE

Good News About Changing Lives!

Easter Issue 2014



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From drug abuse, to anger issues, to jail . . . *my journey to MorningStar Mission*

My name is Nick. I'm at MorningStar Mission because I needed a second chance to get it right. I would have joined the Marines but I've had too many felonies. I have lots of anger problems, and I've spent time in jail because of my abuse of alcohol. Crystal meth has also been my downfall. Meth can get you so high and excitable that you'd try to cut the lawn with a pair of scissors. The lawn might look good when you're finished, but it was hardly necessary. When I took the drug, I felt hyped up and happy — at least I thought I was happy. I didn't want to sleep and I didn't want to eat. Meth is the devil's drug.

I want to keep making good decisions

Perhaps you can see why MorningStar Mission means so much to me. God has taken me out of my old environment, and He's put me in a place where He can turn my life around. The people here are nice, the food is good, and I'm doing my best to follow the rules. It's also good that I have a job here at the Mission. I wash dishes in the kitchen. I just hope someday I can give

back more than I am receiving. I think I've wanted to find God for a long time, but I never knew where to start. Now that I'm here I know there's a God and a Jesus. Meanwhile, I continue on my journey, hoping to make more good decisions in the days ahead. Thank you for your donations and for keeping the Mission doors open for someone like me.

Sincerely,

NICK



"I think I've wanted to find God for a long time, but I never knew where to start."



MORNINGSTAR
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MorningStar Mission, our board members and staff would like to thank all the donors who provided for us during the holidays. We thank you for your generosity and continued support. Without your donations, MorningStar Mission would not be able to serve all the needs of everyone who comes through our doors. We are so blessed to have such a devoted community.

Thank you!

To see pictures of our holiday events and projects that you helped provide, please like our Facebook page at [MorningStarMission1909](https://www.facebook.com/MorningStarMission1909).

OK - ~~MSD~~

An Encouraging Word from Marilyn . . .

Dear Friend of MorningStar,
Thank you for your ongoing support as you help us reach out to so many who are homeless, addicted and lost. At MorningStar Mission, we don't focus on the problems of our guests. We recognize and address the many issues involved in our friends' lives, but we also take advantage of our unique opportunity to present them with a solution: to introduce them to a risen Lord, the Christ of Easter. And when our friends come to know the Savior, they're able to face their tomorrows. They suddenly have hope. So many have hit rock bottom, but now they understand there is a solution to the challenges they face.

There is hope in Christ who gives them strength

The homeless come to us when they have no place else to go. Many have burned all their bridges to family and friends, and now the Mission is the only family they have. The good news is bridges can be rebuilt, but it can take a long time to re-establish lost relationships. The good news is because He lives, our guests can now believe there's hope through Christ who gives them strength. This is what Easter is all about: hope, resurrection, new life and new opportunities. God bless you for all you do to help keep our doors open to the needy — doors of hope and a second chance. It's my prayer you and your family enjoy a blessed Easter.

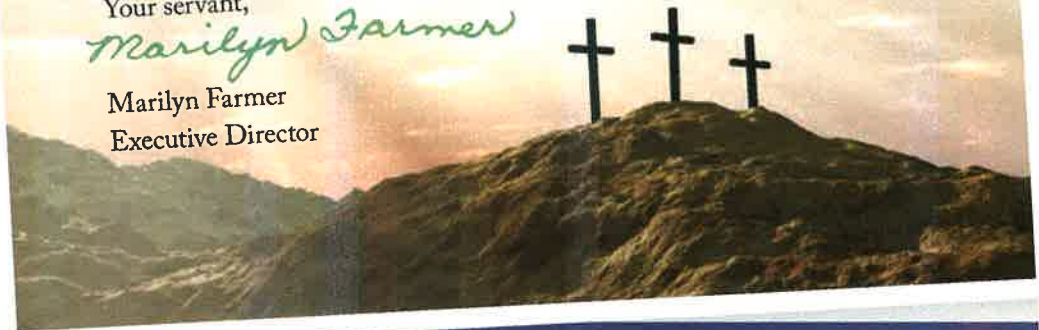
Your servant,

Marilyn Farmer

Marilyn Farmer
Executive Director



"This is what Easter is all about: hope, resurrection, new life and new opportunities."



Windows and Mirrors . . . Two biblical ways we share

Many of Jesus' stories are called *window parables* . . . windows through which we're able to catch a glimpse of what the Kingdom of God looks like. For example, *it is like buried treasure* (Matthew 13:44) or *like a net cast into the sea* (Matthew 13:47). Other stories Jesus told are *mirror parables* . . . messages which require us to look inward . . . to see ourselves as we really are. The story of the Prodigal Son is one such example (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32).

At MorningStar Mission, we share both types of Jesus' parables to inspire our guests and bring a ray of hope into their lives. These encouraging words of scripture give our friends the opportunity to *catch a glimpse of God's intentions and desires and to see themselves realistically* — and to know what they can become when they acknowledge



OK *[Signature]*

We're here at the Mission to start over . . . and we know God will continue to guide us

My name is Joyce. I don't have the words to express my gratitude to you for your donations of time and money to help reach out to me. I'm so amazed that you have such a heart to give and keep giving. When I came to the Mission's Women and Family Recovery Center, I only had two pairs of jogging pants and a couple of shirts. Today, I have so much more than clothes: I have peace and joy and a sense that I'm finally getting my life back on track.

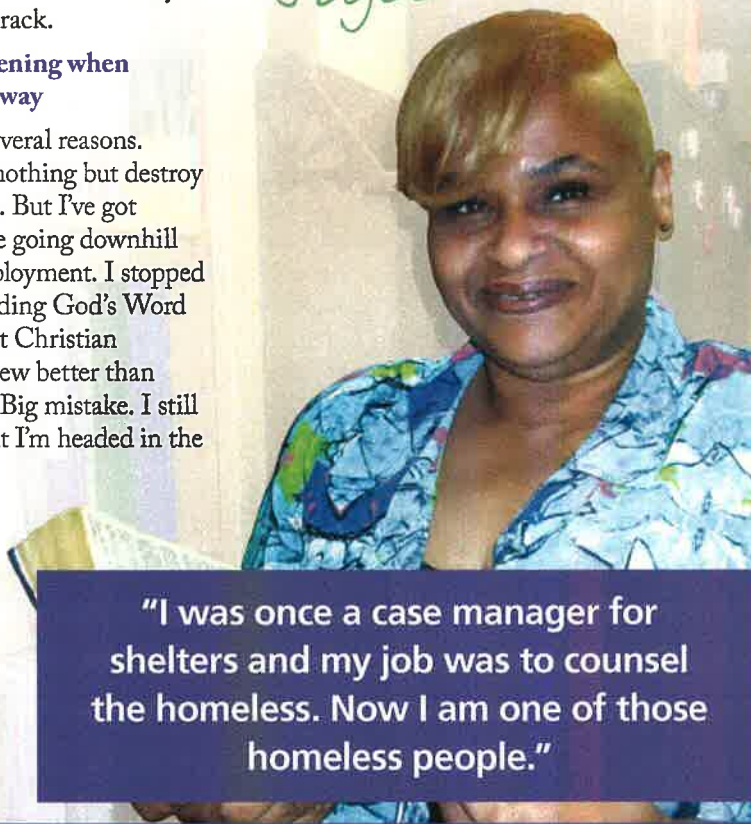
Bad things began happening when I decided to go my own way

So why am I here? For several reasons. I used drugs, which did nothing but destroy my life. I also lost my job. But I've got to be honest. Things were going downhill long before I lost my employment. I stopped praying . . . I stopped reading God's Word . . . I no longer sought out Christian fellowship. I figured I knew better than God how to run my life. Big mistake. I still have a long way to go, but I'm headed in the right direction. I used to work on the other side of the desk. I was once a case manager for shelters and my job was to counsel the homeless. *Now I am one of those homeless people.*

And help is what I'm receiving here at MorningStar Mission. Today I love God, I love His Word, and I know my future is brighter than ever. No longer am I walking down that dark, lonely road. Today I see the light, and it is the light of the risen Savior. Thank you for your friendship and support.

Your grateful friend,

Joyce



"I was once a case manager for shelters and my job was to counsel the homeless. Now I am one of those homeless people."

Easter Food Basket Needs List

- Ham
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Jelly
- Sugar
- Milk
- Cranberry Sauce
- Box Jell-O
- Dinner Rolls/Bread
- Flour
- Box Pancake Mix
- Spaghetti
- Box of Cereal
- Canned Vegetables
- Salad Dressing
- Coffee
- Potatoes
- Margarine
- Bottle of Syrup
- Bag of Candy
- Canned Soup
- Gravy Mix
- Dessert

- Donate cars, ink cartridges, clean plastic bags and newspapers.



the Good News with our Mission guests . . .

the saving power of a risen Lord.

The empty tomb is a message of eternal hope

As we approach the Easter season, our Mission guests need to know they are loved, accepted and appreciated for who they are. And when they hear the story of the empty tomb and come to faith in our risen Lord, *that's the day that turns their lives around.* To carry on this ministry of rescue at Easter and throughout the year, we continue to count on your enthusiastic support. To give your generous Easter gift today, please use the enclosed remit slip, or make your donation online at www.morningstarmission.org. God bless you for being a friend to people in need.

" . . . when our friends hear the story of the empty tomb and come to faith in our risen Lord, that's the day that turns their lives around."

OK

in memory of

In Memory of

Mr. Tom Murray
 Mr. Wilburn
 Ms. Mabel
 Ms. Sherry Huckaba
 Ms. Lillian Lyons
 Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd &
 Rosemary Mabbott
 Dr. Steven Mahalik
 Mr. Don Mahalik
 Matthew Mammosser

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 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hoerner
 John Abramic Family
 Mr. Andrew D. Verchimäak
 Mr. Aldo Desondre
 Mr. Aldo Desondre
 Jim and Sue Mammosser



Upcoming Events

- | | |
|------------|----------------------------|
| February 8 | Jtown Disc Golf Ice Bowl |
| April 13 | Easter Parade |
| April 15 | Easter Basket Distribution |
| May 2-3 | Tag Day |
| May 10 | Spring Fling Gala |

People You Should Know



A note from our Volunteer Coordinator . . .

There are so many volunteers at MorningStar Mission who work behind the scenes. I would like to highlight five very dedicated volunteers: Toni, JoAnn, Violet, Connie and Ruta. I am continually amazed at your grace for giving. You ladies have certainly kept me on task when I've felt overwhelmed with the big picture. I cannot thank you enough for all of your help, organization, generosity of time and using your God-given talents to help me see our projects through.

God bless you all.

Jackie Kinney,
 Volunteer Coordinator



Easter Meal Ticket

RM_44-0203_H01JO

YES, Marilyn . . .
 it's a privilege to continue
 to support this ministry
 of rescue during the
 Easter season.

Here is 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 _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

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

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