

# MORNINGSTAR

CHRONICLE

*Good News About Changing Lives!*

Holiday Issue 2014



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## I may be blind now, but one day I will see my Savior face-to-face

**M**y name is Jay. I am legally blind, and I often feel like that blind man in the Bible who needed a touch from the Savior to be healed. And even though I've not been healed, I know God has still given me work to do. I have received so much, and now it is my time to return the favor. This is my second time at MorningStar Mission. I was here nine years ago because of my addiction to pot and cocaine. It was a terrible addiction, and what I learned here has never been far from my mind over the years. After graduating from the program in 2006, I started working at a hospital because I enjoy the medical field so much. So why am I here now? Simple answer is to better myself. I can still feel the Spirit of God when I come back through these gates. And whenever I think of using, I know I have someone to talk to.

### **It took a relationship with Jesus to put me back on the right track**

It's so wonderful to have peace of mind. In the old days when I was out there stealing, robbing and just messing around, there was no peace in my life. It took a relationship with Jesus Christ

to put me on the right track. I may be blind now, but one day I will see my Savior face-to-face. I'll be able to take off these glasses and see the One who saved my eternal soul. I'm grateful to the God of my salvation, this Mission and to you who give so much of your time and money to keep these doors open for so many who've gone astray. Please never stop giving to this Mission. It's a beacon of light for more people than you might even imagine. God bless you and your family this holiday season.

Your friend,

Jay



**"Please never stop giving to this Mission. It's a beacon of light for more people than you might even imagine."**



**MORNINGSTAR**  
MISSION MINISTRIES

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# 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual



MorningStar Mission recently celebrated its 3rd annual "Walk A Mile In My Shoes" event (July 19) and would like to thank our generous sponsors:

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## An Encouraging Word from Marilyn . . .

Dear Friend of MorningStar,  
What would we do if there had been no Bethlehem? Where would we find our source of peace and joy? How would you and I get through the struggles of life and develop hearts of gratitude? And what would our guests at MorningStar Mission do if God had not sent his only Son to bring them life, hope and true happiness? But the good news is there *was* a Bethlehem, and there *is* a Savior who continues to reach out to all of us today. And when you come to the Mission you see the results of your generosity. You hear stories about entire families giving up their Christmas to minister to those who come through our doors. Little children are saying they don't want gifts this Christmas, but would rather give presents to boys and girls their age who are homeless. And when you sit down and talk to our guests and listen to their stories, you tell us your life is never quite the same.

### Jesus is the gift that keeps on giving

Now it's almost Christmas, and we will again present the Christmas story to our guests in a joyous party setting. We will provide good food, homemade cookies and wonderful gifts for all. And when our residents receive those gifts, there are tears all around. Many tell us they've not had a Christmas like this in years. But beyond the food and the gifts, the true reason for the season is to celebrate the birth of a child born in Bethlehem who came to give us life everlasting. Above all, this precious gift of Jesus Christ is a gift that keeps on giving. God bless you and your family at this blessed season. Thank you for your ongoing, enthusiastic support.

Your servant,

*Marilyn Farmer*

Marilyn Farmer  
Executive Director



"... when you sit down and talk to our guests and listen to their stories, you tell us your life is never quite the same"



## During the holiday season, the poor and the needy

During this joyous holiday season, you again have the opportunity to help MorningStar Mission continue to open doors of opportunity to those in need — people who are homeless, who have had little or no food to eat, who have no real friends, who are sick and who hold little hope of a future. For most, a happy Christmas is little more than a dream. The good news is your gift today helps make this dream a reality for those who come to the Mission. And as a faithful supporter of this ministry of rescue, you already know the joy you give to others always comes back to you.

### Thank you for being a special friend to those in need

In reality, in the end, it will not be about how much we got, but how much we gave. Did we live with a sense of entitlement, or were we thankful for God's mercy

## I am grateful for everything you give us . . . *absolutely everything*

**M**y name is Faith. Tommy and I were only three weeks away from getting married when he died of a heart attack. I was devastated. What I miss most is our Bible studies. We spent many hours studying God's Word. I ended up with no money and no job. I kept moving from shelter to shelter, trying to figure out what to do with my life. All I wanted was a friend, but no one was really there to help. Many of the shelters I stayed in were a far cry from what I'm enjoying here at MorningStar Mission. Some shelters just had thin prison mats on the floor. People were crawling all over each other because the quarters were so tight. But here at MorningStar I have my own place, the baby has a crib and my other children have nice beds. I never thought I would need a shelter, but here I am at the Mission's Women and Children Recovery Center. And this is exactly what it is: *a place to recover, regroup and to start over.*

### **I will remember your thoughtfulness for the rest of my life**

I also want to say a kind word to you who give so much of your money and service to help people like me. I cannot even begin to describe the beauty of this shelter. I want you to know from the depths of my heart how much I appreciate the good food you give us, along with the safe shelter and such nice clothes. Wherever I am for the rest of my life, I will always remember your acts of Christian kindness.

Sincerely,

*Faith*

**I love this Christian-based program. It's what's making all the difference in my life.**

## People You Should Know — Matthew Peale



"My name is Matthew. I am 11 years old and I'm from Crest Hill, IL. This

past week I was at CIY-MIX 2014 in Holland, MI. It's a weeklong retreat for preteens to learn more about God. It really taught me about helping the less fortunate. I built this campaign so I can follow the word of God and help others. MorningStar Mission provides food and clothing to the needy, shelter to the homeless and the Gospel of Jesus to all."

MorningStar Mission is thankful for Matthew's commitment to helping the guests that come through the Mission. We are grateful for the generosity and hard work of you and our donors.

## need to know how much you care

and for the opportunities we were given to reach out to those in need? When our final words are spoken, it will be all about our integrity, compassion, courage and empowerment of others. Living a life of significance doesn't happen by accident. It's a choice we must make every day. Thank you for making the choice once again at this holiday season to reach out to the poor, hungry, homeless and abused who come through the Mission's doors. To continue your vital financial involvement with the Mission, please use the remit slip enclosed. You may also make your donation online at [www.morningstarmission.org](http://www.morningstarmission.org). Thank you for being a loyal supporter and friend of MorningStar Mission during this holiday season and throughout the year as we carry on this ministry of rescue.

**"...the joy you give to others always comes back to you."**

**MorningStar Mission would like to thank the law offices of Rathbun, Cservenyak & Kozol for all of their hard work in putting on their first Charity Golf Outing for the Mission.**



**List of RCK golf outing sponsors:**

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**The Spirit of Christmas is Alive and Well at MorningStar Mission**



Until one understands the true nature of Christmas, there can be no Christmas. All else is outward display — an abundance of tinsel, lights and decorations. In the end, it isn't about the ribbons and the wreaths. Nor is it the tree or the firelight's embers. It's the warmth that comes to us when the authentic spirit of Christmas again captures our hearts.

And for the homeless who come through our doors during the holiday season, it's definitely not about the tinsel and lights. For most, their only concerns are for a hot meal, a safe place to rest their weary heads and an opportunity to meet someone who cares whether they live or die.

Thank you for reaching out to the needy at this holiday season. The good news is we do care about our friends and their needs — physically, mentally and spiritually — a spirit that prevails not only at Christmas, but, because of your generosity, is available to our residents and guests 365 days a year. We also do our best to encourage men and women in need to rekindle whatever happy thoughts they may remember from past holidays. When possible, we help them wrap themselves with that warm blanket of pleasant memories as we provide them with the inspiration to move their lives in a new direction. Thank you for taking the time to reach out to the poor and the needy who come through our doors during the holidays. God bless you for caring.



**My Holiday Gift**

RM\_44-1110\_H01JO

**YES, Marilyn,**  
 you can count on me to help give the homeless food, clothing and safe shelter during the holiday 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

► Please use this completed form and return it with your holiday donation, or donate online at [www.morningstarmission.org](http://www.morningstarmission.org). Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.