

MORNINGSTAR

CHRONICLE

Good News About Changing Lives!

Easter Issue 2016



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No longer am I sleeping in my car . . . and I am no longer drinking

My name is Michele, and this is my daughter Brinkley. All I can say is MorningStar Mission has saved my life. No longer am I sleeping in my car — and no longer is alcohol ruling my life. But it was a huge part of my life for more than 18 years. When I think of the thousands of dollars I wasted drinking, it makes me feel terrible. My husband was a big drinker, and I just drank to try to keep up with him.

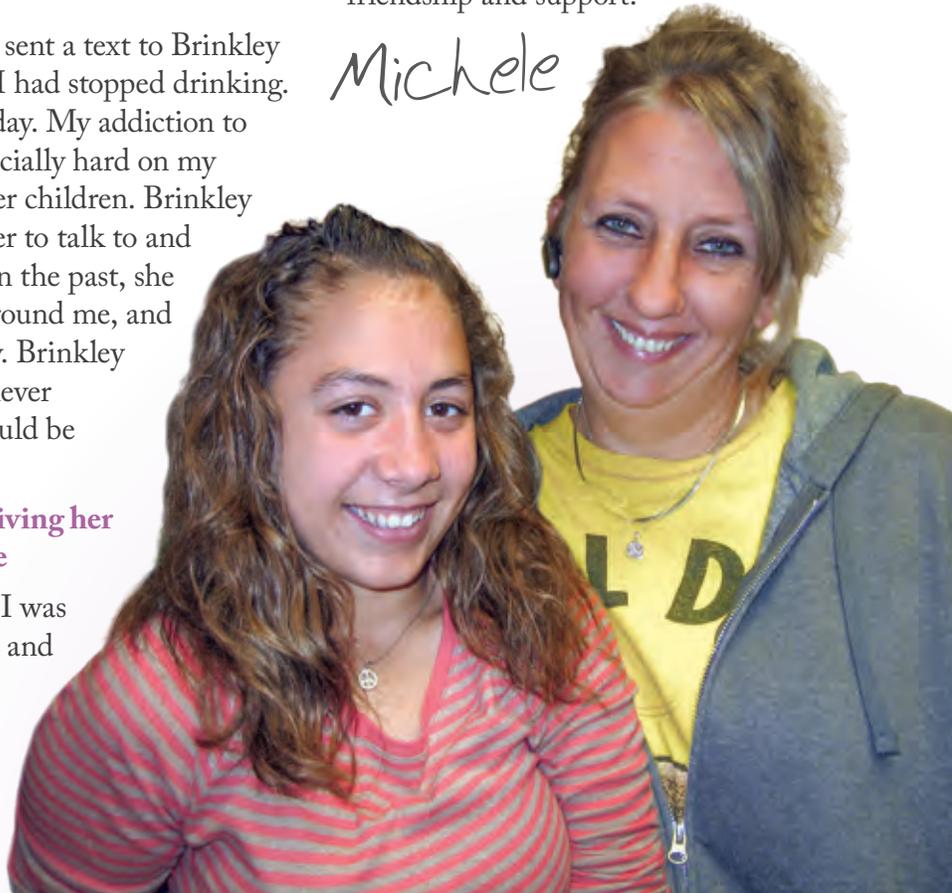
I remember the day I sent a text to Brinkley at school, telling her I had stopped drinking. I'll never forget that day. My addiction to alcohol has been especially hard on my daughter and my other children. Brinkley now tells me I'm easier to talk to and to spend time with. In the past, she never wanted to be around me, and I can understand why. Brinkley would often say she never thought her mom would be sober again.

Brinkley says she's giving her mom another chance

For so long I felt like I was living in a black hole, and I just kept digging it deeper and deeper. I saw no way of escape. Alcohol was my life and I did not

know how to stop drinking until I came to MorningStar Mission. I'm so grateful to the staff and to you who donate so much of your time and money to keep these doors open for someone like me. Brinkley says she's now giving me another chance. I don't want to disappoint her. But most important, I don't want to disappoint myself. I'm in a good place for now, but I know I have a long way to go. Thank you again for your friendship and support.

Michele



"Brinkley would often say she never thought her mom would be sober again."

MorningStar Mission would like to recognize its partnership with Joliet Junior College's (JJC) interior design program. The students did the interior design and painted the offices of the administration wing of the Mission, and they decorated a transitional house for men who have completed an intensive six-month recovery program and our two veterans' homes. They designed and decorated the entire interior of our newly opened B.E.T.H. House, a home for pregnant women seeking an alternative to abortion.

They are currently working on another project at B.E.T.H. House. With grant funding, the interior design students are creating a garden, constructing a playground and assembling new outdoor furniture. We extend our most sincere thanks to JJC's interior design program for their time, creativity and manpower. God bless you!

An Encouraging Word from Marilyn . . .

Dear Friend of MorningStar Mission,

Our friends come to MorningStar Mission not knowing which way to turn. They are discouraged. Their lives are in shambles. They have great physical and spiritual needs. Most tell us they have nowhere to go but up. However, when they embrace the power of the resurrection, things begin to change dramatically in their lives. Old things pass away and all things become new. These men and women move from misery to joy. They begin to look different, feel different and act different. Once addicted to alcohol and other drugs, they now focus on their relationship with Jesus Christ. They realize the Son of God died and rose again for them, and that He is preparing a place for them in Heaven.

Your donation of any amount helps so many who've lost their way

You may be able to give a large gift or it may be small. But I want to tell you this: We are able to take whatever you donate — large or small — and maximize it as we reach out to the hundreds who come through our doors each month. *Every gift is great when God is in it.* Now we're coming to the Easter season and just as you are an encouragement to so many, I want to give you a word of encouragement as well. Please remember how much God loves you. He cares about you and He wants you to turn your burdens over to Him because He will meet you wherever you are. This same God who changes lives at the Mission is the same Savior who gives you and me the power to live life abundantly — not only at Easter, but every day of the year.

Your servant,

Marilyn Farmer

Marilyn Farmer
Executive Director



"Every gift is great when God is in it."



The Easter season holds great promise for th

The entire staff at the MorningStar Mission thanks you for your overwhelming support of this ministry of rescue during the past several months. As challenging as life may be for many of us, it's even more difficult for the men and women who come through our doors during the Easter season. They are the homeless, the ex-offenders, the addicted and the lost.

The good news is this: Those who choose to make positive changes in their lives are finding new hope, new opportunities and new life as they decide to walk with their Savior and Lord.

I know the power of my risen Lord will keep me sober

My name is James. When I came to the Mission, I thought my problem was drugs and alcohol. But I had a God problem . . . *meaning I refused to have God in my life.* Because of my addiction to marijuana, I lost friends, jobs, property and my self-respect. In the process, I burned all my bridges with those who loved me. I supported my drug habit by stealing, begging, panhandling, bartering, trading and pawning whatever I could get my hands on.

My dad was a police officer for 27 years, and during that time he was a functioning alcoholic. So that's the environment in which I grew up. I had my first drink at 14 years of age. My dad died when I was 16. Now, as I think of him, every day I wish I could be with him and be sober together, and to spend time with him so we could just love each other.

A thousand thank-yous are not enough

Only now am I assembling the building materials needed to rebuild so many bridges once destroyed. I never thought it would be possible to be sober. But now I know, with God's help, I have the opportunity to become accountable for my actions and once again be a responsible citizen. I want that more than anything. I also want to say a word to you who donate so much of your money and time to the Mission.

A thousand thank-yous are not enough. You are helping me turn my life around, just as you are reaching out to so many others. I will be eternally grateful to you. God bless you at this Easter season.

James



“Because of my addiction to marijuana, I lost friends, jobs, property and my self-respect.”

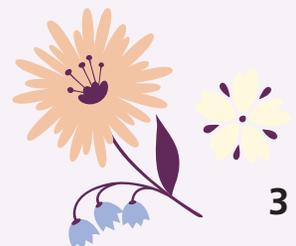
ose in need . . . thanks to your generous support

God bless you for giving from a loving heart

Thank you for continuing to reach out to so many who need a friend who will listen to them and understand what's going on in their lives. I cannot thank you enough for your ongoing generosity, which gives us the opportunity to see lives changed every day. To send yet another donation to help those in need, please use the remit slip enclosed. You may also give your gift on our secure website, www.morningstarmission.org. Thank you for being a friend of the Mission as *together* we reach out to the homeless in our community during the Easter season and throughout the year.



“Thank you for
being a friend of
the Mission . . .”





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We want to thank our friends at Hampton Inn-Joliet I55 for their generosity in remembering MorningStar Mission this Thanksgiving. They collected donations in the amount of \$1,200, delivered 52 pair of homemade mittens, a turkey and toiletries — shampoo, conditioner and soap for our guests.

Thank you Hampton Inn-Joliet I55 for remembering our guests at the Thanksgiving holiday and thank you to Linda, Julie and Karen for delivering all the items to us.

Thank you



My Easter Gift

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YES, Marilyn,

I want to do my part to continue to help people in need during the Easter season.

Here's my gift 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 _____

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► 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.