



# MORNINGSTAR CHRONICLE

GOOD NEWS ABOUT CHANGING LIVES

Spring 2018 ★ Issue ##

**MORNINGSTAR**  
MISSION MINISTRIES  
350 E. Washington St.  
Joliet, IL 60433-1150

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, February 11**  
*Valentine's Day*  
*Ladies Tea*

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## GOD IS TURNING MY HEARTACHE INTO SOMETHING HE CAN USE

**M**y name is Brian. I was literally sitting under a tree reading my Bible when a woman

When my wife left me, I started abusing methamphetamines and landed in prison. I worked as an electrician when



*“I’ve been down and out, homeless, a drug addict and in prison, but I know God can use me.”*

came up and told me about MorningStar Mission. That’s how God led me to this place that’s helping me become the man I want to be.

My great grandparents raised me in Oklahoma. My great grandmother was a true example of what it means to be a godly person. The rest of my family struggles with drug and alcohol addiction and many of them are in prison. I’ve seen the destruction it can have in people’s lives.

I studied computer engineering in college. I got married, was working and thought life was pretty good.

I got out, but kept relapsing. Last year, I tried to kill myself and ended up in the ICU. I came up to Joliet as part of a church program, and ended up at MorningStar Mission.

### **Celebrating what Christ has done for me**

The counselors in the 180 Program have helped me develop a better way of thinking about my issues. We also get opportunities to give back. Over Thanksgiving I helped hand out turkeys and load cars with food.

This program is also about developing

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## OUR PRAYER WARRIOR MINISTRY NEEDS YOUR PRAYERS!

There is nothing more powerful than praying for other people,” says Don Jonker, director of the New Day Drop-In Center and coordinator of the Prayer Warrior Ministry. “The power of prayer runs so deep because it is a petition to our Almighty God and Father with Jesus interceding through us. And we can trust that God will answer our prayers, even if he doesn’t answer them in the way or timing we want.”

MorningStar Mission’s Prayer Warrior Ministry receives prayer requests from our friends and supporters and from the people we serve. We’re looking for people willing to join this ministry as a Prayer Warrior. When you join, you’ll be sent these requests and asked to lift up the concerns and praises to our Heavenly Father.

Don regularly asks the people who come to us for help if they would like someone to pray for them. It’s one way he shows them how much he cares. “We want people to know we care for them, because when we serve them, we glorify God,” says Don.

To join our ministry, please contact Don Jonker at 815-722-5780 ext. 3230 or [dropincenter@morningstarmission.org](mailto:dropincenter@morningstarmission.org). Thank you for considering becoming part of our community that “continue(s) earnestly in prayer.” ☆



## A LIFE WELL LIVED

*Marilyn E. Farmer (nee Perzee), age 70, passed away Thursday, December 14, 2017 at home, surrounded by the love of her family and friends. Marilyn was Executive Director of MorningStar Mission for the past 20 years and has been instrumental in the lives of so many here in Joliet. In lieu of flowers, memorials in Marilyn’s name to MorningStar Mission would be greatly appreciated.*

*Before her passing, she penned this encouraging word to you:*

Nothing in my life has brought me more joy than sharing the good news of Christ’s love with the men, women and children who come to us feeling hopeless and discouraged. Seeing the power of the resurrection at work in their lives has been a source of fulfillment throughout my life.

The apostle Paul writes in Romans 8:11 “But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.” (NKJV) The good news of Easter is that the same power that raised Jesus can also change people’s lives today!

One of the things I’ve learned over the years is that our job is to accept and love the people who come to us for help. We can’t change people’s lives, but God can. When we are faithful in our calling to love those God brings to us, He is faithful to do a life-changing work in them.

One of the most valuable things we can do is pray. We are so grateful for all the ways you support this work, including the ministry of prayer. You are a partner with us in bringing the good news of Christ’s love to those who are hurting whether you are a volunteer, a prayer warrior or a financial supporter. All of it works together, and through God’s power, the small pebbles we bring become mountains.

As we get ready to celebrate Easter, I’m excited, because I can say Hallelujah, Christ is risen! My deepest prayer is that others would know that new life in Christ as well.

With gratitude,

*Marilyn Farmer*

Marilyn Farmer  
Executive Director

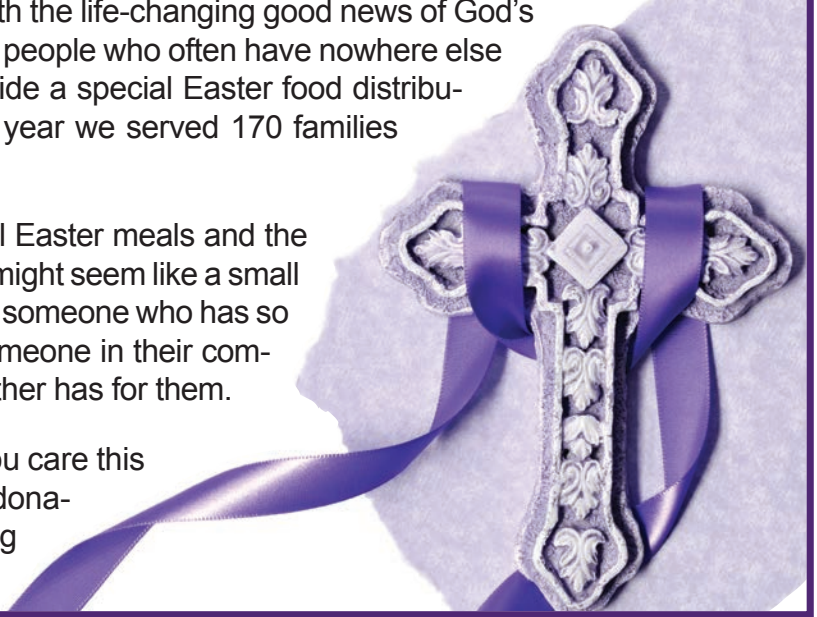
## THANKS TO YOU, WE'RE SHARING THE JOY OF NEW LIFE WITH OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Every day in our New Day Drop-In Center, in the 180 Program, at our Women and Family Recovery Center or at the East Side Café, we meet people who have lost so much in life. Many of them have suffered abuse, abandonment, poverty and loss and their lives have a lot of regret as well. It's hard to have hope in the face of so much disappointment. But we know there is hope when people put their trust in Jesus Christ.

This Easter we'll be bringing food and hope along with the life-changing good news of God's love! Our Easter dinner will serve approximately 250 people who often have nowhere else to celebrate this meaningful holiday. We'll also provide a special Easter food distribution and children's Easter baskets to families. Last year we served 170 families and gave out 487 Easter baskets to their children.

Your support today will help us provide these special Easter meals and the daily help and care we offer through our programs. It might seem like a small thing, but receiving a special meal means so much to someone who has so little. Even more importantly, it reminds them that someone in their community cares and reflects the love their Heavenly Father has for them.

Will you take a moment today to show how much you care this Easter season? You can give a gift online or send a donation in the enclosed reply slip. Thank you for helping us spread the joy of new life this Easter season. ☆



## THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME GET BACK ON MY FEET

**M**y name is Theresa and I just want to say thank you for contributing to the Women and Family Center. I came to the Morning-Star Mission because I needed somewhere to go to help me get back on my feet.

I came from a good family. My parents were together for 53 years and I had three brothers. While I was in high school, I had two children, so I didn't get to finish school. My parents were a big support during that time and helped me raise my children.

I had a variety of jobs – working in a factory, retail sales and home health care. I got a very bad staph infection on the job.

Since then I've had health problems, including struggles with depression and haven't been able to go back to work in home health. My children helped me out for several years, but they have families and that's been difficult for them. I'm here at MorningStar Mission to work on my health and focus on getting financially stable again.

### **This place is like a family**

I'm so thankful I've been given the opportunity to meet the director and staff here. The case managers are really good, and all of us have grown. It's like being a family here, the way we encourage each other and care for one another.

My faith has been central to my whole life and has allowed me to stand through everything I've gone through. One of the things they're teaching us here is how to build our faith in the middle of our situations and then to take it along with us when we leave. Jeremiah 29:11 is especially meaningful to me, and I trust that God has my future in his hands. ☆

***“My faith has allowed me to stand despite everything I've gone through.”***



faith and trust in our Savior. Many years ago I felt God calling me to join the ministry. I've been down and out, homeless, a drug addict and in prison, but I know God can use me and the heartache I've been through. My goal is to go to seminary so I can get equipped for that.

Easter is a time of remembering what my Savior's done for me. Graduating from the program this spring will be like beginning a new life that is dedicated and committed to Christ.

To the people who give to MorningStar: I hope you know that you are helping change people's lives. And those changed lives can touch even more lives. ☆

### THANK YOU TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF NEW LENOX

We're so grateful to the Rotary Club of New Lenox for holding their first golf outing in support of MorningStar Mission. The Rotary 4 Golf Outing – 4 clubs, 4 players, 4 fun, for Morningstar Mission – was held at the Green Garden Country Club in August 2017. Altogether, the event raised \$21,657.16 for our Women and Family Center. A hearty thank you for your generosity and compassion towards the families we serve. ☆

### IN MEMORY OF

**Phyllis M Anderson** – Don Anderson  
**Janet Beck** – John Latimer  
**Danny L. Brown** – Kathleen Austin  
**Deputy Mayor Leroy Brown** – Major Roger Claar  
**Joseph Butler** – Susan Mistretta  
**Edward Cain** – Kimberly Cain  
**Anthony Contreras** – Linda Contreras  
**Eddie Cruz** – Roberto Luciano  
**Mary Jane Culak** – Thomas Culak  
**Emily DeRaffaele & Jerry Stiehm** – Mariesa DeRaffaele  
**James R. Downing, Sr** – Janet Downing  
**Stephen Dzak, Jr.** – Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Keller  
**Dinah Rose Emocling** – Cesar Emocling  
**Bob Gibson** – Barbara Test  
**Bob, Jim, Don Kay & Greg Graham** – Stephen Graham  
**Master Sergeant James Harper** – John Fair  
**Josphine Hostert** – Nancy Thompson  
**Bill Johnson** – James Pollock  
**Dennis King** – Patrick King  
**Carol Kozak** – Karen Leonchil-Muzyka  
**Bob & Mary Larkin** – Katie Larkin-Nelson  
**Matthew Mammosser** – Jim Mammosser  
**Irene Mangune** – Jerry & Patricia Mangune  
**Glen Marcum** – Bob Wunderlich  
**Carole M. Mathisen** – Carl Mathisen  
**Eileen McDermott Hawke** – Mark McDermott  
**Dr. W. H. Miller, Jr., MD** – Laurie Miller  
**Suzanne Modrick** – Jeff Modrick  
**Martha Monstovich** – Bruce Monstovich  
**Hans Mueller** – Holly Cravens  
**Delores Poleski** – Ryan Degregorio  
**John Russ** – Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hoerner  
**Lionel & Stella Salinas** – Ruth Salinas  
**Jay & Dorothy Staley** – Juliann Budde  
**Richard Stewart** – Kenneth Stewart  
**Richard Swanson** – Laura Christiansen  
**Richard Tantillo** – Lisa Wrobel  
**Shirley & Wayne Tichelar** – Christian Tichelar  
**Richard Trevarthan** – Mr. & Mrs. Donnel Schwartz  
**Jay Vana** – Michelle Vana  
**Richard Wiener** –

Paul Wiener  
**Michael Wrobel** – Lisa Wrobel  
**Louis Zerlentes** – Steven Zerlentes  
**JD** – Denise Demetral  
**Roy** – Virginia Veerman

### IN HONOR OF

**Carrie Demski** – Bill & Shirley Harris  
**Hesham Kamel** – Maggie Bebawy  
**Rosemary Miller** – Laurie Miller  
**Marge Millet** – Lee Campbell  
**Donna Morrone** – Goeing Family  
**Danette Muscarella** – Andy Goodwin  
**Donald Pierce** – Joan Ruether  
**Margaret Louise Smith** – Thomas Smith  
**Bill Stanley** – Margaret Stanley  
**James Uremovic** – Ray Anderson  
**Joe** – James Kociuba  
**Carly & Jason** – Gary Krieg  
**Illinois Dynasty Baseball** – James Zdanwic  
**Joilet Township Girls Golf Team** – Jim Grzetic  
**Midland States Bank** – Dan Stevenson – LouAnn Peck

## MY EASTER GIFT

**YES,** I want to help men, women and families who need our help this Easter.

### 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 much care as possible
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ as a special gift in memory of Marilyn

Please bill my credit card:  VISA  MC  DISCOVER

ACCOUNT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

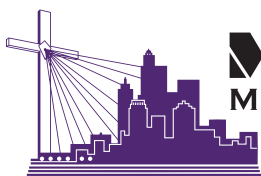
SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this completed form and return it with your generous 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.



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