



The MorningStar

# Chronicle

CHRISTMAS 2023

[MorningStarMission.org](http://MorningStarMission.org)

# MERRY AND BRIGHT



**MORNINGSTAR**  
MISSION MINISTRIES

# From Kevin to You



## Walking in His Light

Dear Friend,

Every year, after Christmas dinner, our family likes to gather together and take a walk. This is when the good conversations happen. Everyone is fed, relaxed and enjoying the company of loved ones.

Here at MorningStar Mission, I like to do the same. People come in from the cold to receive a hot, delicious meal, and they are relieved to be here. Everyone enjoys a Christmas dinner of

baked ham with all the trimmings, served with a smile. As they finish their meal ... I take a walk around the tables. This is when the good conversations happen.

I hear stories of pain, loneliness, abuse and loss. People are hurting, right here in Joliet. But being welcomed with a warm smile and a heaping plate of good food gives some relief for the day. Sometimes I share how Jesus came for those who need him ... the sick, the broken, those disappointed with life. Trusting Him helps overcome our pain and fill our empty hearts, — not just today, but every day. These conversations can lead to warm Christmas moments when we share God's love for us. There is nothing quite like it.

You are part of sharing the true joy of Christmas with men, women and children who have lost so much. Some decide to stay, wanting to turn their life around to walk with God. Light has come into the world, and we no longer need to walk in darkness. Merry Christmas!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Watson".

Kevin Watson  
Executive Director  
MorningStar Mission

**P.S.** This Christmas, I hope you are blessed with good conversations as you take a walk around your own table or neighborhood. Sharing the joy Jesus brings is the best Christmas gift of all!

## Christmas Giveaway 2022

Last year was a great success for our Christmas Giveaway! Thanks to your generosity, 3,777 gifts were provided for the children of MorningStar. What a blessing! Also, 293 food baskets were distributed to families struggling to provide a Christmas meal.

Thank you for your generosity, you are making a real difference!





# Community gathers to bless MorningStar's children

Christmas time is a wonderful season of giving and sharing here at MorningStar Mission. Every year, the community gathers to ensure every child here has a special moment to make the holiday bright.

Police officers come together to host the New Lenox Cares event, sponsored by the New Lenox Police Department. The officers chaperone children on a shopping excursion in search of Christmas presents. In turn, Sheriff Deputies present "Shop with a Sheriff." The deputies spend time with the children and help buy Christmas presents for their parents and siblings. It also gives the children a positive experience with a Will County sheriff officer.

Entire families will also receive Christmas blessings through the Stars of Hope program. Qualifying families write two Christmas lists: one for needs and one for wishes. The lists are given to donors who offer to fulfill one (or more!) needs and wish lists.

Serving together, our community is strong when it comes to lifting up our neighbors in need. If you would like to bless a family at MorningStar Mission and take part in Stars of Hope, please contact **NAME** at **NUMBER** to receive your Christmas needs or wish list. Your donations will truly make a family smile!



# “My life improves every day now that I am following the Lord.”

Veronica grew up in a Catholic family, but there were few boundaries. She never learned to say no to anyone, and it led her into tough situations. Having no interest in the Church, Veronica worked her way through life trying to please everyone.

One day, it all caught up with her. A person she thought she knew and trusted began taking advantage of her financially. Her parents, brother, sister and her own daughter warned her of the imminent danger, but she refused to listen. Tension grew so strongly among the family that Veronica’s parents disowned her. She was no longer welcome to live in their home.

Veronica stayed with a friend for a couple of days as she scrambled to find a place to live. MorningStar Mission was her first choice, but there were no openings at the time. Another shelter became available, and she stayed there until a space at MorningStar opened up for her.

“The other shelter was not very welcoming,” she says. “There aren’t classes or programs to help you improve your situation. It was just a place to stay.”

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*“I never knew how much Jesus could help me. My life is now dedicated to following Him.”*

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When Veronica first came to the Mission, she had no idea how much she was really hurting. By hearing the Gospel and being supported by staff, Veronica began to see the healing powers of Christ. “I never knew how much Jesus could help me. My life is now dedicated to following Him,” she says.

Veronica has been a resident of MorningStar for a little over a year and is blossoming in her classes and Bible studies. “I am learning how to set proper boundaries and am seeking fellowship within my church,” she explains. “My life improves every day now that I am following the Lord.”

With graduation coming soon, Veronica is looking forward to spending time with her family. Her parents and siblings see the change she is making and have welcomed her back home. She also wants to give back to the community and help share the joy she has in her heart.

Thank you for supporting MorningStar Mission. You helped Veronica, and others, find hope in Christ and direction for their lives. This Christmas will certainly be merry and bright for Veronica and all our guests because you care!

