

The MorningStar *Chronicle*

MAY 2024

MorningStarMission.org

A SUMMER TO REMEMBER



MorningStar
Mission™

From Kevin to You



On mission at the Mission

Dear Friend,

Thank you for helping people here at MorningStar Mission. You helped us celebrate Easter with good food and praise for our Risen Lord Jesus. Thank you!

Now, summer is right around the corner, and with that comes new trials.

I am sure you sometimes ask yourself why life has to be so hard? We see people come here worn out from living in places no human should live and going hungry to the point of weakness. Why is that?

Sometimes they suffer because of the people they were with. More likely, trouble came to them, and they went with the trouble. They sowed the wind, and the whirlwind came. Bad decisions brought a bad harvest.

But it's not always that way. Sometimes things go wrong for no understandable reason. A person can get sick or lose a job or a loved one. And life falls apart. They lose their will to live or try. It's sad to see people overcome by troubles.

God doesn't give us all the answers, but He gives us enough evidence to trust Him. He is the answer to every problem, giving the required strength for direction.

This season, I am encouraging the staff and volunteers to stay "On mission, at the Mission". The goal is to spread the love of Christ by meeting people where they are, creating a relationship with them and sharing the faith.

We love to see our guests trust God and feel welcome here at MorningStar. As the facilities receive a new look, our focus is to stay guest-focused, so men, women and children feel comfortable and at home.

In time, guests find themselves standing on solid ground, confident things will work out. Even when it seems the whole world is out of control, faith in Jesus holds us strong.

May God bless you today. No doubt you are waiting for something good to come through for you. I hope you can cast your cares upon God and let Him carry your heavy load for you.

In His Love,

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

Kevin Watson
Executive Director
MorningStar Mission

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

— Ephesians 6:18, NIV

P.S. You carry heavy loads for us. I thank God for you. His guidance helps men and women find peace and comfort when they come to MorningStar Mission. New lives begin as relationships build and faith in Jesus holds them strong.

“God has called me here ...”

Robert is a pastor and Director of the Men’s Ministry, here at MorningStar. He carries with him a lifetime of experience shepherding people in a variety of non-profits, including schools and child services. He is passionate about seeing men grow in faith and follow the Lord Jesus Christ with all they have.

Robert is an indispensable and fruitful part of our staff. But there was a time when he almost left Morningstar for another job. He turned in his notice and went on a vacation.

But while on the trip, he had a dream that he was back at the Mission ministering to the men he knew there. The next day, as he was walking, he saw the same faces looking back at him.

“At that moment, I knew God was calling me back to

MorningStar,” he says. Convincing the staff he was committed, Robert came back and immersed himself in the ministry.

Robert would like to encourage and thank you for the support you give. He is on the front line of ministry but knows so well your partnership makes his work fruitful. “None of this is possible without your compassion. MorningStar is a place where care, healing and life change happen as we stay Christ-centered. You are part of this. Together we make a difference in our community. Thank you!”



Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17

Upcoming Events at MorningStar

Please mark your calendars and join us for these upcoming events!

Second Annual Car Show: Tuesday, June 25th

Come see a unique collection of cars and talk with their enthusiastic owners, at the Briggs St Property.

Progressive Dinner: Wednesday, August 7th.

Join us for our Annual Hop on the Bus Progressive Dinner, silent auction and raffle. All proceeds support the programs and services of the Mission.

Jump on the Bus Distribution: Tuesday, August 13th.

This event ensures hundreds of local children will have every school supply they need. You can support Jump on the Bus by donating backpacks, school supplies and clothing before July 28th. Please drop off items at 350 E. Washington St. Joliet, IL.



Interested in joining our team?

No experience is necessary, just a warm smile and a willingness to serve.

Questions? Contact Kelsey Teegen at 815-722-5780 or directorofdevelopment@morningstarmission.org.

Neal would never have made it without the help you provided.

Neal was struggling with a lengthy divorce. The pain and loss threw him into a downward spiral of depression and addiction. Unable to function, he lost his job, his car and his home.

Rehabs came and went but he relapsed time after time. He tried being sober on his own, but his body was so dependent on alcohol he had a seizure. If not for a friend, a nurse, finding him and reviving him he would be dead.

“Looking back, I know that was God saving me,” Neal explains. “God had bigger plans for me!”

As Neal recovered from his seizure, he heard about Morningstar Mission. “I went for an interview. I was nervous they would not take me in. I had nowhere else to go and no one to help me.”

We welcomed Neal and he he began to work the recovery program and listen in his Bible classes. He had questions about God, but he pondered what he heard. Then, one day, a pastor made an altar call. Neal did not move from his spot. The pastor singled Neal out from the crowd and called him forward.

“I can’t explain what happened,” Neal says. “The pastor laid his hands on me and prayed for me. My shaking stopped and I felt God with me at that moment.”

Neal committed his life to following Christ. He now works to live out his Christian life as a good, healthy and sober man. He recently graduated from the recovery program and began a new job. He is working to save money while developing his relationship with God and others.

Every day, Neal wears a bracelet that says, ‘Be the Change.’ “This encourages me,” he explains. “I want to be the change God provides. The bracelet also reminds me God has big plans for me!”

Neal is a happy man, living out the good God put in him. But he knows he would never be where he is without MorningStar Mission.

He says to you, “Thank you! Everything you do is significant and appreciated. MorningStar gave me not only a place to stay but the resources I need to heal physically and spiritually.”



*Always a joyful volunteer,
Neal brings big smiles to the
families at MorningStar!*