

The MorningStar *Chronicle*

JANUARY 2023

MorningStarMission.org



HOPE
for the
Brokenhearted



MORNINGSTAR
MISSION MINISTRIES

From Kevin to You



Dear Friend,

This is my first letter to you as the new Executive Director of MorningStar Mission. After 20 years, Sandi Perzee has retired.

If you had the privilege of knowing Sandi, you would have noticed her heart for helping people. Both she and her sister Marilyn, who was President before Sandi, saw MorningStar as far more than a job. Serving others was a natural passion for them.

I saw that passion throughout the 15 years I've worked here and also when we traveled together. If they saw a person in need on the street, they would stop and talk with them and see if they could help. It was the way they lived.

Now that Sandi is working less hours with fewer day-to-day responsibilities, I know she will still be here talking with residents and guests and enjoying the good things going on.

She has made my job so much easier by making MorningStar strong financially. She also built a united and caring staff. Each of us has the same kind of passion for service we saw in Sandi.

Looking forward, I am enthused to see MorningStar continue to grow along the path set, to shine a light of service to our neighbors. So many volunteers and friends come together at MorningStar to help others. No wonder this place is so bright and cheerful!

Thank YOU for your partnership with MorningStar. You are part of a great tradition of care. I feel honored to serve the Lord here as part of that.

Sincerely,

Kevin Watson
Executive Director



In Memory Of ... **Bob Welsh**

All of us MorningStar mourn the passing of Bob Welsh into the presence of the Lord Jesus. He worked here at MorningStar for eight years and made an impact on everyone who walked through the doors. He will be deeply missed.

A Test of Greatness



A large ship passing by leaves a great wake behind it. The larger the ship, the bigger the wake.

When a historian looks to measure the greatness of a person's life, they ask, "What did that person leave behind that moved other people? Did they leave new thoughts that changed and continue to change people's lives?"

Did they leave a big wake?

By this measure, Jesus is the greatest man who ever lived — by far. In just 33 years, He left a legacy which continues to deeply transform more and more lives today.

When you leave a legacy which promotes Jesus, you will be part of the greatest life-changing revolution in history. As we become part of lifting Jesus up, He draws people to Himself and changes them forever.

If you would like to leave a legacy which promotes Jesus Christ to the neediest in our community, please contact us. We can start a conversation of how your legacy can change people for generations to come.

You can reach **Kelsey Teegen** at 815-722-5780 or directorofdevelopment@morningstarmission.org to learn how to write MorningStar Mission into your estate plan.

“I had to change.”

How you helped this lost father become his daughter’s “favorite person in the whole world.”

Bill said goodbye to his family and left his home in Kentucky when he was 18. He had \$100 in his pocket, most of which went for a bus ticket to Illinois. With just \$25 and a solid work ethic to his credit, he carved out a future for himself. He got a job, married and had two children. He seemed to be on a good, straight path.

But somewhere along the line, that path turned into a roller coaster. The devoted husband and father fell victim to substance abuse and everything else took a back seat. “I lost myself,” Bill admits. He turned to crime to support his addiction and ended up in jail. It was the best thing that could have happened to him.

While Bill was incarcerated, his public defender proposed he go for help to MorningStar Mission as an alternative to prison. Not knowing what to expect, Bill was anxious, but he approached the opportunity with his whole heart. “I didn’t want to go back into society that same person I was. I had to change. And that’s what I did.”

“I want to lead by example and show other people they can do this too.”

Bill admits it wasn’t easy at first. It was tough to accept constructive criticism and advice. But as time went on, he committed himself to the program and allowed God to work in his life. “All I had to do was get out of my own way,” he says.

Today, Bill is about halfway through the program — and he sees a bright future at the end of it. “God has put it on my heart to help people,” he tells us.

“I want to lead by example and show other people they can do this too. They can give everything up for something better.”

In the meantime, Bill has two enthusiastic supporters: his teenage daughter and son. “They see that I’m doing things for the right reasons, to become a better person. My daughter tells me I’m her favorite person in the whole world.”

Bill also has a caring supporter in you — and he understands the impact of your giving. “For some here, this might be their last opportunity,” he says. “If you change just that one life, the effects could echo around the world.”

