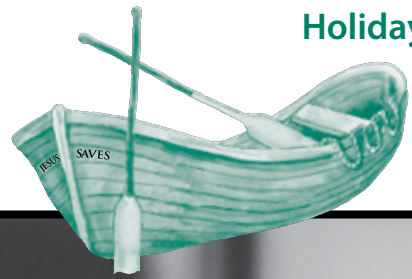


The **LIFELINE**



Thanks to you...

**AL HAS
HOPE THIS
Christmas!**



Don't miss... **2** Celebrating the HOPE
of Christmas

3 "I'm proud of
myself now."

4 Christmas at
the Mission

A Message from
DAVE SCOTT

Celebrating the HOPE of Christmas

How comforting it is to know that our Lord, Jesus Christ, has shared in our humanity. He knows our struggles and the struggles of our homeless neighbors too!

On the eve of his birth, Jesus and his earthly parents Joseph and Mary experienced being turned away and told there was “no room at the inn.” It reminds me that Christ understands the pain and fear of our guests who also have nowhere else to turn.

Here at the Jersey Shore Rescue Mission, we will always do everything in our ability to welcome and support a hurting person who comes to our doors. Even so, many of our guests have faced years of homelessness... poverty... and other challenges that have left them feeling unloved and unwelcome.

During the holidays, caring friends like you help remind them they are not forgotten. Your gifts to provide hot meals, safe shelter and addiction recovery are meaningful expressions to them of the Lord's kindness and care in their life.

This Christmas, I invite you to extend Christ's love and grace to our neighbors – like Al (whose story is on the next page). Your generosity will surround them with hope this holiday season! Thank you, and may God bless you now and into the New Year.



G. David Scott
CEO/Executive
Director

Scan to watch a special holiday greeting!

Share Hope AND A Christmas Meal...

It's hard to have hope when you're struggling with homelessness or addiction. **YOU can make this Christmas a time of celebration for our neighbors in need with your gift to help them today!**



\$2.82
for 1 hot meal



\$29.97
for 1 night of
safe shelter

**CAN GIVE
SOMEONE**



Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!

Shop for a *Gift that Keeps on Giving!*

Looking for a fun Christmas gift that also makes a difference?
Check out our Mission merch store!

We have hoodies to keep you warm this season, as well as T-shirts, hats and stickers with Mission designs. Your purchases help to provide meals, shelter and addiction recovery for our Mission guests – so you can give a gift to your loved ones AND to a neighbor in need!

Visit **JerseyShoreRescue.org/Merch** to shop for our Jersey Shore Rescue Mission and Market Street collections.





..... “ ”

“I’m **PROUD** of myself now.”

..... ” ”

“I want to try that,” Al said when he saw that his friend had drugs. He was curious – but he never imagined his choice that afternoon would lead to decades of addiction.

Al grew up in a loving family with everything he needed, and he was set to receive a scholarship to play baseball in college. But once his addiction began, he got in trouble with the law and his future plans were crushed. “When I got out of jail, I went back to doing what I knew,” he says.

It wasn’t until he was 60 years old that he finally knew it was time to get help. When he went to receive medical care for an injury, they noticed he had drugs in his system. Someone recommended he join the Mission’s Life Change Program, and he decided to give it a try.

It wasn’t easy at first. “My biggest challenge before coming to the Mission was trusting people. It was a struggle,” he says.

But throughout his first month in the program, he noticed that our staff truly cared about him and wanted to help. That realization softened his heart and opened the door for growth.

Through Bible studies, he found answers to his questions and learned about the importance of forgiveness. He also saw changes in his character and behavior as his struggles with materialism, anger and distrust began to fade.

“I’m more content now,” he says. “I met people that I’ve gotten close with, and I’d do anything for them. I have a better relationship with Jesus, too.”

Thanks to your prayers and support, Al graduated from our Life Change Program and was chosen to serve as an intern at the Mission. He has been a great addition to the team at our Sussex County location, giving back and helping care for the men who stay in our hospitality room.

Moving forward, he has more goals for the future: taking online college Bible classes and spending as much time as possible with his grandkids.

Your generosity opened the door for Al to find healing through the hope of the Gospel – and his new life is a beautiful reason for him to give thanks and celebrate this Christmas!

“I’m proud of myself now,” he says. “I have people that can help me spiritually, and that’s where I really want to grow.”

Scan to read the rest of Al’s story!



Alumni Goals & Gratitude



As the New Year approaches, some of our Life Change Program alumni are sharing their goals and gratitude!

“I’m grateful for finding my way to the Mission, where I learned that recovery is more than ‘stop using and drinking’ – it was finding my way back to God.” – Russell

“My goal is to continue the process of reconciliation and restoration with God and my family.” – Shawn

“Being sober has given me clarity, strength and purpose. Every day, I wake up with a deep sense of gratitude for the opportunity to live a healthier and more fulfilling life. Jesus’s unwavering love and grace are my anchor.” – Miguel

It’s your support that makes life-change like this possible... thank you for believing in our residents and giving them hope!

YOU MAKE CHRISTMAS AT THE MISSION SPECIAL!



Christmas Morning: Thanks to the generosity of people like you, each resident in our Life Change Program receives a bag of gifts for Christmas – letting them know they are loved and cared for.



Holiday Feast: Your gifts help provide a delicious Christmas meal for our residents – for many, the first holiday feast they’ve enjoyed in years.

The Miracle of Jesus: Worship, prayer, fellowship and a message of God’s love – our guests gather in the chapel to celebrate the hope of Christmas together.



Thanks to you, our neighbors don’t have to spend this Christmas on the streets. Your support provides gifts, hot meals and a reminder of the true reason for the season!