

homewardbound

DURHAM

RESCUE

MISSION

Mending Shattered Lives Since 1974



From a lifestyle of fear . . . to living in the presence of a living Lord

My name is Vet, and that smile you see on my face is for real. But it wasn't always that way. For too long I was addicted to crack cocaine. I will never forget the day I tried to commit suicide and was sent to a psychiatric institution. After a while I felt better physically, but spiritually I remained empty. I thank God He brought me to the Durham Rescue Mission where I could begin to see the amazing light of Jesus Christ. God has opened so many doors for me over the past months. One of those doors was getting my CNA Certificate — Certified Nursing Assistant. At the moment I'm blessed to be Daycare Coordinator at the Durham Rescue Mission.

Aren't you glad we have so much to be thankful for?

Today, I have a new attitude because I am a new person. I'm no longer living that dangerous lifestyle where every day I feared getting robbed or raped. When Christ set me free a whole new world opened for me. Now when I look in the mirror I see a child of God — a person who used to be ashamed, but no more. I have so many people to thank for my recovery. Of course I start with my loving God, who makes all things new. I'm also grateful to the Mission and to you who donate so much of your time and service to reach out to someone like me. I may never meet you personally, but I know you have a big heart for the poor and the needy. I was once one of those people in distress. Now I have the privilege of paying back much of what you have given to me.

Your grateful friend, *Vet*

“I thank God He brought me to the Durham Rescue Mission where I could begin to see the amazing light of Jesus Christ.”

I was once lost . . . but my loving Lord saved my soul and my life

2 An Encouraging Word from the Founders . . .

3 I used to think my problem was alcohol and other drugs . . .

4 Fall Cleaning Time — Prepare for the Holidays

Year-End Reminder!

The Durham Rescue Mission accepts donations of:

- Stocks and bonds
- Real estate
- Cars, trucks, motorcycles, ATVs
- Campers, RVs, boats

As 2014 winds down, now is a great time to plan your year-end gifts. Make your final donation by December 31 and receive your tax deduction for 2014. To put your financial gifts to work even faster, donate online at www.DurhamRescueMission.org. Call (919) 688-9641, ext. 5028 if you need more information.

An Encouraging Word from the Founders Dr. and Mrs. Ernie Mills

Dear Friend of Durham Rescue Mission,

We have good news to report. *James is back in prison* — but this time for the right reason. Five years ago, James came through the doors of the Durham Rescue Mission. He had been in prison for most of his life. We remember the day he took off his shoes and socks and stepped into the ocean. *He'd never seen the ocean.* We then took him by a Christmas tree farm, something he'd also never seen. The longer he stayed at the Mission, the more God transformed his heart. During his year and a half with us, he became grounded in God's Word. He also developed a great heart for ministry. Today, he's returned to prison. **This time not as an inmate, but as an ambassador for Jesus Christ.** I'm sure you rejoice with us in knowing your donation, given many years ago, continues to bear fruit in the hearts of so many who live behind bars.

God gives you the privilege of being at the heart and soul of everything we do

As we approach another Thanksgiving season, our hearts are filled with thanks to God and to you who give so much to help make stories like this possible. If our research is correct, phrases with the root word of *thanks* appear more than 135 times in the Bible. That's a lot of gratitude . . . and that expression of Thanksgiving is something we share every day at the Durham Rescue Mission. Thank you for helping us put shoe leather to the most amazing story the world has ever known — the story of God's love for all who come to Him at their point of need. God bless you and thank you for your strong support at this Thanksgiving season and throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Ernie + Gail
Ernie & Gail Mills, Founders



We have good news to report. James is back in prison.



Reaching out to the needy . . . a privilege we share *together* at Thanksgiving . . . and throughout the year

Remember when we played *hide and seek* as kids . . . and when we shouted from our hiding place, "Here I come, ready or not?" Well, as some might say, *there's a sermon in there.* Because one day, it will all come to an end — *ready or not.* Sunrises and sunsets will be no more. It will no longer be necessary to go to the office or do the laundry. Our affluence, fame and influence will become insignificant. Our grudges, frustrations, worries and suspicions will also finally disappear. So will all our *to do* lists that served us so well for so long. Ready or not, some day it will all come to an end.

I used to think my problem was alcohol and other drugs

... I now understand my problem ...

My name is Melvin. I'm grateful God and the Mission keep choosing to give a man a second, third and as many chances as might be necessary to get it all together. I say that because I've been to the Mission before. When I went away I thought my problems were only alcohol and other drugs. But I didn't understand the root of my problem was sin. During the last 24 years, I've had six serious attempts at sobriety, but none of them worked. It was like cutting the weeds, but never getting to the root. Like weeds, I'd mow the drugs and alcohol down for a while, but they would keep coming back. Only when I allowed Jesus to take control of my life did I begin to know true freedom.

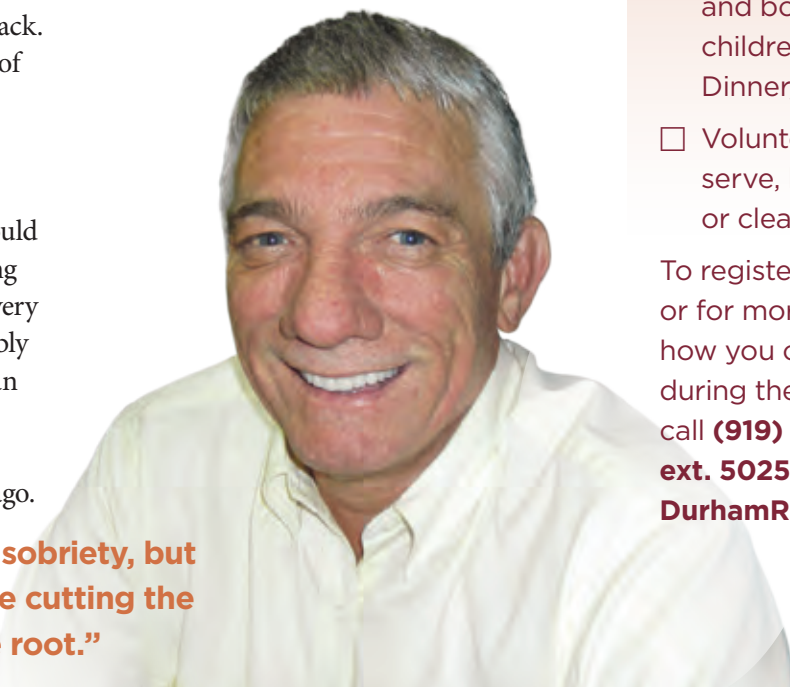
The Mission is teaching me how to understand God's Word

Jesus brought me to the Mission so I could learn about God. This is where I am learning the Truth, and that Jesus is the answer to every question and problem a person could possibly imagine. I now have the privilege of being an encouraging voice to others here at the Durham Rescue Mission — a position that would have been a dream only a few years ago.

"I've had six serious attempts at sobriety, but none of them worked. It was like cutting the weeds, but never getting to the root."

Another thing I like about the Mission is they don't just preach at you. When people do that, the message just bounces off. But the Mission teaches us how to stop, listen, meditate, and understand God's Word. And that's what makes all the difference. I'm grateful sin is no longer blocking my relationship with God and others. I am a new creature in Christ. Thank you for your donations, your friendship, and for stopping by when you can to give us a word of encouragement.

Sincerely, **Melvin**



Holiday Events To Do List

Help the Homeless and Poor in the Triangle:

- Donate frozen turkeys or Hams for upcoming Holiday Meals
- Donate gently used coats for Thanksgiving Dinner
- Volunteer at "Wish Tree" at Northgate Mall between November 28 and December 22
- Donate new toys, games, and books for at-risk children for Christmas Dinner, December 23
- Volunteer to set up, serve, host game booth, or clean up at events

To register to volunteer or for more details on how you can help others during the holidays, call **(919) 688-9641, ext. 5025** or visit **www.DurhamRescueMission.org**

It's all about choices . . .

In reality, in the end, it will not be about how much we got, but how much we gave. Did we live with a sense of entitlement, or were we thankful for God's mercy and for the opportunities we were given to reach out to those in need? When our final words are spoken, it will be all about our integrity, compassion, courage and empowerment of others. Living a life of significance doesn't happen by accident. It's a choice we must make every day. Thank you for making the choice once again at this Thanksgiving season to reach out to the poor, hungry, homeless and abused who come through the Mission's doors. To continue your vital financial involvement with the Mission, please use the remit slip enclosed. You may also make your donation online at **www.DurhamRescueMission.org**. God bless you for being a friend to people in need.

"In reality, in the end, it will not be about how much we got, but how much we gave."

SAVE THE DATE
April 24, 2015

"Grip It 'n' Rip It"

GOLF CLASSIC

4TH
ANNUAL



Calling all golfers!

Mark your calendar on April 24, 2015 and plan to join us at Hillandale Golf Course in Durham for our fourth-annual fundraising golf event. For more information, visit www.DurhamRescueMission.org/GolfClassic or call Tony Gooch at (919) 688-9641, ext 5048.

Chaplain's Corner Rev. D. Robert Tart, COO

What is it that makes a man manly? Paul said to the Corinthians "quit you like men, be strong." (1 Corinthians



16:13) He was telling the Corinthians to act like men. But what does a man act like? Many may debate the answer to that question, but one thing that a man should have is vision or purpose. Men without a vision and purpose in life are hollow men. Every Christian man should know why God has put him on this earth and what God has for him to do. Men who don't know God's purpose for their lives are depressed and frustrated. Men who know God's purpose will act manly in any vocation they find themselves.

FALL CLEANING TIME — Prepare for the Holidays

As you "Fall Clean," donate gently used clothing, shoes, and household items to help others. Bring your donation and receive a tax receipt at any of our five current locations:

1. Durham Rescue Mission Store #1, 3220 NC Hwy 55, Durham
2. Durham Rescue Mission Store #2, 10701 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh
3. Durham Rescue Mission Store #3, 3900 Chapel Hill Blvd., Durham
4. Men's Campus, 1201 E. Main St., Durham
5. Women and Children's Campus, 507 E. Knox St., Durham

MISSION STATEMENT OF DURHAM RESCUE MISSION

"Our mission is to meet, through the power of Jesus Christ, the needs of the whole person — spiritual, educational, emotional, physical, vocational and social — so those who are hurting may become fully functioning members of society."



MY THANKSGIVING GIFT

RM_44-0904_F05DU

YES, Ernie and Gail,

it's a privilege to continue to support the work of the Mission at this Thanksgiving Season.

Here's my donation 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 many meals and as much care as possible
- Please bill my credit card:
- VISA MC AMEX DISCOVER

ACCOUNT NO. _____ EXP. DATE _____

NAME _____ SIGNATURE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Durham Rescue Mission
P.O. Box 11368
Durham, North Carolina 27703-0368

► Please mail this completed form with your generous Thanksgiving gift, or you may donate on our secure website at www.DurhamRescueMission.org. Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt. Any gifts received above our current need will be used to help care for the needy throughout the year.