

# Crossroads

INVOLVING THE COMMUNITY IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Fall 2013

A PLACE OF SAFETY. A PLACE OF GROWTH.



**"IT'S GREAT TO HAVE  
A REAL BED... AND  
NOT TO HAVE TO  
SLEEP IN MY CAR."**

**I used to take great pains to bad mouth God... but I'll never do that again.**

My name is Ben. I want to thank God, Crossroads Center Rescue Mission and you who donate so much of your money and time to help me at my point of need. When I arrived at the Mission's door, I was depressed. I didn't want to be here. But my life was going nowhere and I had to do something about it. Alcohol and other drugs were not my issues. I just couldn't get a job here in Hastings and I felt lost. I often went hungry, and when they were in season, I'd wander around town picking apples and cherries off trees just to survive. At night, I'd sleep in my car.

### **THE THIRD TIME WOULD NOT BE THE CHARM**

Now I've returned to the Mission once again. Because of my poor behavior, I was asked to leave twice before. I don't want to be told to leave a third time. To show my sincerity, I've changed my attitude toward the Mission and to the people around me. I'm also staying busy cleaning, helping in the kitchen and painting whatever needs painting. This is all good for me.

*(Continued, pg. 2)*

*To show my sincerity, I've changed my attitude toward the Mission and to the people around me.*

HASTINGS CAMPUS  
702 W 14th Street  
Hastings, NE 68901  
TEL: 402-462-6460

KEARNEY CAMPUS  
1404 E 39th Street  
Kearney, NE 68847  
TEL: 308-236-5688



SERVING THOSE IN NEED SINCE 1983

[www.crossroadsmission.com](http://www.crossroadsmission.com)

(Cont'd.) **It's great to have a real bed...**

As far as my faith journey is concerned, I'm much closer to God this time than ever before. In the past, I bad mouthed God. I figured if He *did* exist why was all this bad stuff happening to me. Today, I'd never dare say such a thing. I'll never turn my back on God again. Thank you for your part in helping me put my life back together. I hope you and your family enjoy a nice Thanksgiving.

Your friend,

*Ben*



**Thank you for reaching out to the poor and homeless.**

## **A MESSAGE FROM MY HEART . . .** **Jerry Bumgardner, Executive Director**



**"God bless you for giving us the opportunity to minister to all who come through our doors."**

Dear Friend of Crossroads Center Rescue Mission,

An elderly man was unable to live at home anymore. His behavior had become strange and his family could no longer care for him. So we had the opportunity to bring him to Crossroads and minister to his needs. As it turned out, Lonnie had a brain tumor. Once diagnosed, he went into surgery, and upon his recovery, he was reunited with his family. My point is this: not everyone at the Mission is an alcoholic. Not everyone is on crack cocaine. Many simply need some much-needed help from their friends. That's why we remain flexible in our approach to every Mission guest. But with all our flexibility, there is one constant . . . *that the miraculous power of Jesus Christ alone transforms a life.*

### **Prayer is the ultimate power**

For those who do not choose to accept Jesus as Lord, we believe in the Lord for them and we *pray*

on their behalf. Ultimately, it is a personal decision to accept or reject this freedom in Christ. But until that decision is made, we support our guests with the one thing we know will change their lives, and *that is power of prayer.*

None of these miracles would ever take place without your generous support of Crossroads Mission. As we approach this Thanksgiving season, my heart has never been more grateful . . . and our Crossroads staff has never been more thankful for your many acts of kindness. God bless you for giving us the opportunity to minister to all who come through our doors.

Your servant to the homeless,

*Jerry Bumgardner*

Jerry Bumgardner  
Executive Director

Our Mission guests come through our doors filled with regret, fear and anxiety. They are hungry, often sick and without decent clothing. Countless numbers have spent too many days living on our streets. But when they come to the Mission, they suddenly find themselves in a new, supportive environment. We remind them God loves them *and so do we*. The four words, *this too shall pass*, are often the most comforting words our guests have ever heard. As they embrace the love of Jesus, they begin to understand God has never given up on them.

### **The light of God begins to shine in their eyes**

As our friends reflect on who they were and how far they've

**I thought a Mission would be the worst place for us . . . but it's turning out to be the best place of all.**



**"THANK YOU FOR HELPING US DURING THE SCARY TIMES. WE DON'T FEEL SO ALONE ANYMORE."**



My name is Jane. There was no convincing him. My slum landlord in Lincoln said I hadn't paid the rent. But I had paid it. I just didn't get a receipt. Before I knew it, he evicted my son and me. In the process of leaving our

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*I have diabetes and two of my sons have had brain and open-heart surgeries. Sometimes life is just too much to bear.*

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apartment, we lost everything. *I mean everything.* We tried to get into a shelter, but there were no vacancies. That's when we decided to come to Hastings. My son called around and we were told about Crossroads Mission.

Down deep, I really didn't want to go to a shelter . . .

I was afraid. But we were pleasantly surprised by the reception we got here at Crossroads Center Rescue Mission. Even though things are going pretty well, my family is still battling many health issues. I have diabetes and two of my sons have had brain and open-heart surgeries. Sometimes life is just too much to bear.

**WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR YOUR KINDNESS**

My son and I were prepared to live on the streets in Lincoln. But we didn't have to, thanks to this Mission and to friends like you. You are helping me make it in scary times. I don't feel so alone anymore. I thought living in a Mission would be the worst thing possible. But it's turned out to be the best for us.

Sincerely,

come, a light comes to their eyes — the light of a God who loves them and has a plan for their lives. They learn no problem is too great for God. They also learn they'll never have to face a challenging situation alone again — unless they choose to reject the love of a God who cares.

However, none of these miracles would happen were it not for your prayers and faithful giving to this ministry of rescue. Thank you for all you've done

in days past. But hunger and homelessness are everyday occurrences . . . so we come to you again, asking you for your generous support. To give your gift please use the remit slip enclosed, or make your donation online at [www.crossroadsmission.com](http://www.crossroadsmission.com). God bless you for your compassion—not only during the Thanksgiving season but throughout the year.

**"The four words, this too shall pass, are often the most comforting words our guests have ever heard."**



## REASONS TO BE GRATEFUL THIS THANKSGIVING . . . and every other day of the year

**Be thankful** for the challenging times of life  
During those times you grow.

**Be thankful** you don't have everything you desire  
If you did, what would there be to look forward to?

**Be thankful** when you don't know something  
For it gives you the opportunity to learn.

**Be thankful** for each new obstacle  
Because it builds your strength and character.

**Be thankful** for your limitations  
Because they provide you with opportunities for improvement.

**Be thankful** for your errors in judgment  
They promise to teach you valuable lessons.

**Be thankful** when you're tired and weary  
Because it means you are making a difference.

It's easy to be thankful for the good things. But a life of richness and fulfillment comes to those who are also thankful for the setbacks.

GRATITUDE turns a negative into a positive. Find a way to be thankful for your troubles and let them become your blessings.

**To be thankful is to be aware of the presence of God in everything He has given us — and He has given us everything. Each time we take a breath it is a silent demonstration of his love . . . and every minute of our day is a gift from our heavenly Father. How can we not be thankful? It's something to think about at Thanksgiving . . . and every day of our lives.**

God bless you for sharing from your grateful heart with the poorest of the poor. Happy Thanksgiving from our entire Crossroads Center Rescue Mission staff.

RM\_43-0930\_C05HA



## MY THANKSGIVING GIFT



**YES, JERRY,** you can count on my continued support for this ministry of rescue. **Here's my gift 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  DISCOVER  AMEX Thank You!

Please allocate my gift to:

- Hastings campus
- Kearney campus

ACCOUNT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY / STATE / ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Crossroads Center Rescue Mission  
702 W 14th Street  
Hastings, NE 68901

► Please mail this completed form with your generous Thanksgiving gift, or you may donate on our secure website at [www.crossroadsmisson.com](http://www.crossroadsmisson.com). Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.