



Thanksgiving Issue 2010

Bay Area HOPE

A Publication of the Bay Area Rescue Mission

Director's Message

The Perfect Thanksgiving Prayer

Dear Friend,

If there were ever a time for giving thanks, it is now.

If there were ever a perfect prayer of thanksgiving, it is Psalm 100:

*Shout for joy to the LORD,
all the earth.*

*Worship the LORD with
gladness; come before Him with
joyful songs.*

*Know that the LORD is God.
It is He who made us, and we
are His;
we are His people, the sheep of
His pasture.*

*Enter His gates with
thanksgiving
and His courts with praise;
give thanks to Him and
praise His name.*

*For the LORD is good and
His love endures forever;
His faithfulness continues
through all generations.*

(continued on next page)

"Things Started to Get Out of Hand..." "...Alcohol Was Ruining My Life"

Tom has traveled a long way from his hometown in Iowa.

His journey has had a lot of twists and turns... just like the tornado that hit the restaurant he was working in and started him on the road west. But Tom still sees God's hand guiding his steps.

"I was pretty much a mess when I got here," remembers Tom. "I was working in the construction business and I lost my job and everything kind of went down hill after that."

Being out of work wasn't Tom's only problem. "I let alcohol get into my life and things really got out of hand. The amount I was drinking nearly ruined my life."

"...reestablishing a relationship with God."

Tom got to the point where he was about to lose his home in Danville!

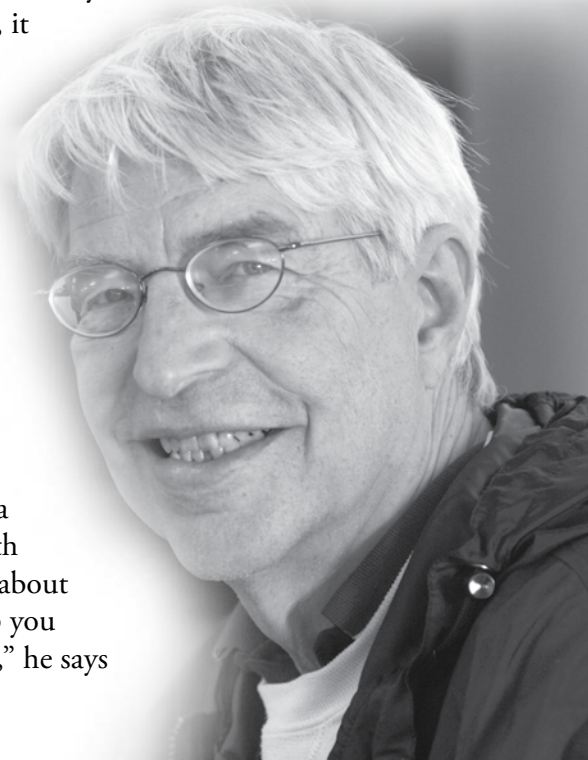
"I was praying and called the homeless hotline." The counselor interviewed Tom on the phone and suggested he check out the Bay Area Rescue Mission.

Tom felt comfortable with the Rescue Mission's residential recovery program because of his religious background and beliefs. Combining Biblical training with addiction recovery and counseling, it seeks to equip people like Tom with the resources they need to become independent and self-sufficient.

For Tom, the best part has been "reestablishing a relationship with God." "It's not about the relationship you think you need," he says

with a smile. "It's about the relationship you need to have."

The "opportunity to help others," whether it's through Bible study or computer education, is the direction Tom is "hearing from God" these days. And that's the path he's taking on his journey away from addiction.



Director's Message

(continued from front page)

As you gather with family and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving, I pray that you will "shout for joy to the Lord" for all the blessings He has bestowed, just as we will praise Him for blessing us with ministry partners like you!



Rev. John M. Anderson
Executive Director

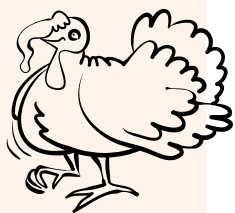
Visit Us Online!



Get to know us better, learn about volunteer opportunities, read about the latest news and events and donate securely at www.BayAreaRescue.org.

Thanksgiving Needs

Turkeys
Potatoes
Sugar
Laundry Detergent
Blankets



Donations can be dropped off at the Mission at 123 Macdonald Ave., Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. or any other time at 200 Macdonald Ave.

Turkey In the Tent 2010

Thanksgiving is coming and we need your help to get ready! During the week of Thanksgiving, from November 21 through 27, we will serve dinner to our guests in a large circus tent set up in the Rescue Mission's parking lot.

We expect to provide 29,478 meals during the week of Thanksgiving. We

can't do it without you!

Here's how you can help: give a gift using the form on the front, donate food or supplies from the list below or volunteer.

Visit BayAreaRescue.org or call Dave Kachurka, Director of Volunteer Services, at (510) 215-4865 for more information.



Getting Ready for Christmas

Last year at the Rescue Mission, we distributed toys to over 2,100 disadvantaged children and youth during the



Christmas Season and this year we expect to serve even more. Not only did we provide gifts that their families could not afford, but we gave a priceless gift to each and every person who visited: we shared the true meaning of Christmas.

We are already preparing for Christmas and want to encourage your family, church and other groups to collect toys for children of all ages, 0-17 (non-violent

toys, please) and donate them to the Rescue Mission.

You can sign up to conduct a collection drive or to participate in our Christmas Day Toy Distribution event by visiting our website at www.BayAreaRescue.org or calling Dave Kachurka, Director of Volunteer Services, at (510) 215-4865. Thank you for making the holidays bright for the neediest people in the Bay Area!

Christmas at the Family Center

Here at the Bay Area Rescue Mission, Christmas is a time of joy and celebration. We work especially hard to make the holidays bright for the families from the Bay Area who come in for services and those who stay with us.

In the next few weeks, in our Family Center, we will host family Christmas parties, decorate cookies,

open up the Christmas Store where kids can pick out gifts for their parents and begin our Adopt-a-Family program. We can't do these things without you.

Please remember the Rescue Mission and the guests we serve in your prayers. And if you are interested in volunteering to help at an event, to adopt a family for Christmas or



for more information, please contact Carey Kachurka, Family Center Director, at (510) 215-4863 or CareyK@BayAreaRescue.org.

\$20.50 Does So Much More Than Feed 10 Hungry People

A sandwich... a bowl of hot soup... or a special feast like "turkey with all the trimmings" during the week of Thanksgiving... sometimes, ending homelessness is as simple as providing a meal.

Because once a person is fed, it's much easier to begin taking care of other problems like addiction, abuse, lack of education or joblessness. So your gift to provide meals actually opens the door to all the services that get people back on their feet!

Not everyone who comes to the Rescue Mission to eat is homeless. Between gas and rent and utilities and medical bills, many families don't have enough left over to buy food. They come to the Rescue Mission for a meal to help "tide them over," to keep them on their feet!

So please, provide as many meals and as much help as you can this Thanksgiving. Mail your gift today in the enclosed envelope, or give online at www.BayAreaRescue.org.

