



www.Hiway80Mission.org

Good News

Hiway 80 Rescue Mission • Men's Shelter • Women & Families Shelter

Vol. 13 No. 1 • Easter 2013

“A hole in my life was filled.”

Two years ago, Nathan knew he was “headed down the wrong path.” His drug use was increasing, and when his father died, he “went off the deep end.”

Like many before him, he was convinced that moving away from where drugs were available would move him away from the addiction. And, for a time, it did.

Nathan “sobered up” enough to get a new job working in a fracturing oil field. But working 18 to 20 hours a day wore him down. So **he started using meth** (methamphetamine, commonly called “speed”) to keep himself awake.

At first, he used the drug “just to keep my performance up.” Then, he began using it off duty. “It’s only by God’s grace that I didn’t hurt myself or anybody else,” Nathan admits. But it wasn’t long before a drug test revealed the meth in his system, and Nathan was fired.

The day after Christmas and a day before his birthday, **Nathan’s relatives dropped him off here at the Mission.**

“My first reaction was resentment and anger,” he says. Nathan struggled. Should he leave the Mission and try to get another job, or “swallow his pride” and stay?

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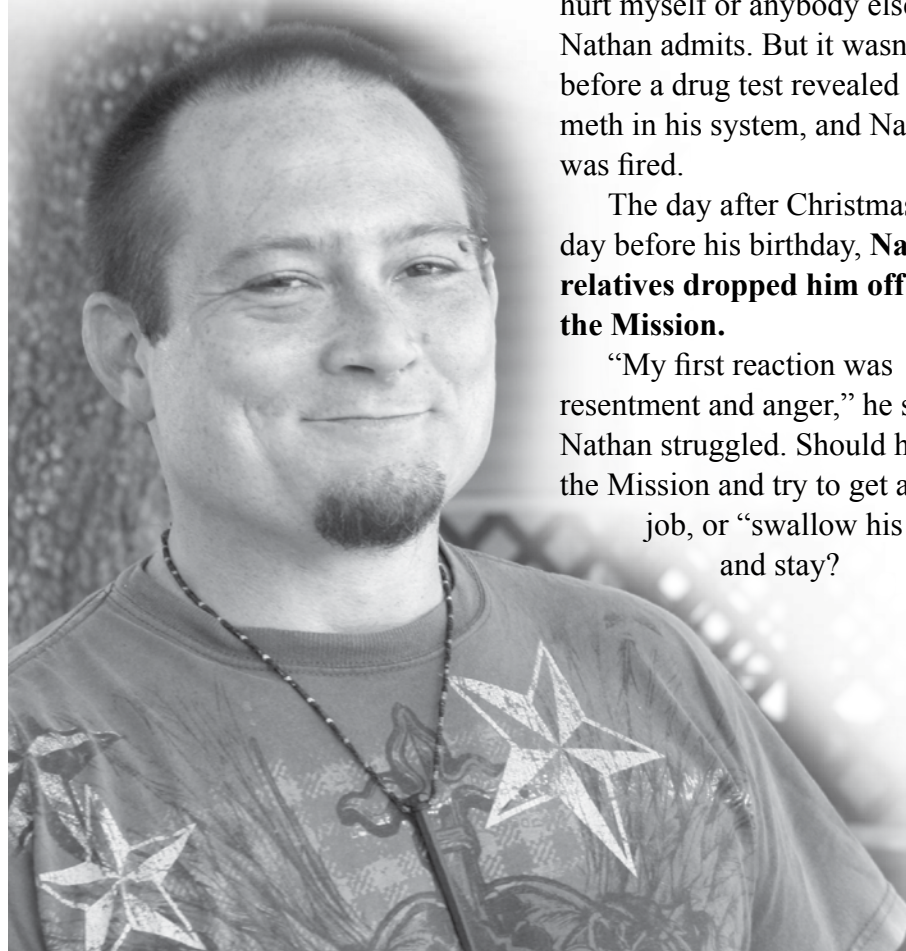
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Nathan decided to stay and join our New Creation Program.

Today, he has a “peace and joy” that he’s never known before. “It comes from finding God and following His will – listening to Him and giving my problems up to Him. He has filled that hole in my life for something that was missing.”

Nathan is grateful to the family members, who brought him here and are now so proud of the changes he has made in his life. “I used to think that for my family to be proud of me, I had to have a good job and be successful. But that doesn’t compare to how proud they are of me now for **turning away from drugs, seeking God and changing my life!**”



A Message From Eric Burger



The Strength to Start Over

"I had reached bottom." "I thought about ending my life." "I burnt all my bridges." "My friends and family gave up on me." "I had nowhere else to go."

Far too many of the men and women who come to the Mission each and every day have given up. Life has crushed them and left them without hope.

In addition to receiving food and shelter, they need to know that they are loved...that their lives have value...that they can begin again. At no time is this message clearer than at Easter.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Not just life today, or life tomorrow, but life eternal.

Your support brings this message to people who are homeless and hungry; it lets them know that they do have the strength to start over!

Road to a New Life Starts Here



Eric Burger
Executive Director

Mark Your Calendar: Annual Donor Banquet

Join us on **April 25** at 6 p.m. for our annual New Life Creation Banquet! Held at the Maude Cobb

Convention Center, it's a fun-filled evening that includes a delicious meal, music, fellowship and special guest speaker, Tony Nolan, author of the book *Hurt Healer*.

It's a small way of saying THANKS to our wonderful donors, who help us minister and serve Longview and Tyler's hungry, homeless and hurting all year long.

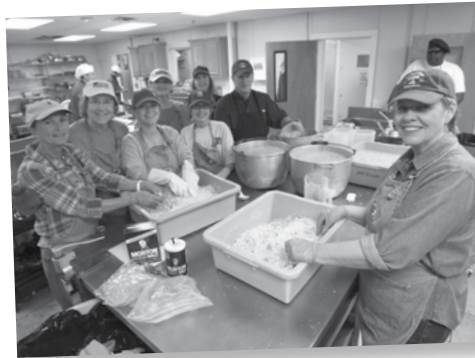
We hope to see you there!

For more information, or to make a reservation, call (903) 759-9875 or visit www.Hiway80Mission.org.



A Holiday Season Full of Blessings!

Thank you for helping make the holidays merry for so many people at the Mission!



With the help of our volunteers, we hosted hundreds of people over the holiday season – including serving

1,800 nutritious meals at our special Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners.

Special thanks to our volunteers and staff members who stepped up and did whatever was needed – which included decorating the Mission, preparing and serving meals, cleaning up, leading worship services, sorting and distributing gifts, and celebrating with our guests.

The care you provided for our residents and guests helped make holiday wishes come true for many hurting and homeless people.

For more information on our special events, visit our website at www.Hiway80Mission.org.

When hunger ends, hope begins

2013 Easter Celebration

You would enjoy being here at the Mission during the Easter season!

To celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, we'll host a festive Easter dinner on Good Friday. There will be all the traditional Easter foods including hams, yams and pies. And it's open to everyone in the community who would like to attend.

Right now, there's an air of excitement and a sense of anticipation as we get ready for this wonderful celebration.

Through your gifts and your prayers, you bring these special

celebrations to homeless, hungry neighbors in Longview and those who come to us from throughout the East Texas area.

Thanks to you, families have overcome poverty, men and women have conquered addictions and all are living healthier, happier, more hopeful lives!

Please continue to end hunger and bring people a message of hope by sending a special Easter gift today. You may use the enclosed envelope, or give online at www.Hiway80Mission.org.

“Giving it all to Jesus.”

Tina has memories most of us would rather forget.

Like her mom and dad locking her in the bedroom when they left the house. Being hungry and having food shoved through a vent into the room. And trying to give her dad a “wide berth” because she was afraid of “what he was going to do” if she got too close.

But the worst was the sexual abuse, which began when she was just eight and continued until she was 19...the one time Tina reported her father to Child Protective Services, he raped her in retribution.

But through much of this hellish relationship, **Tina knew that God was always with her.** And that helped her break the chains that bound her to her past! In fact, it was the very reason she forgave her father and carried on with a life that has been full of love and service to others.

Tina’s first contact with Hiway 80 Rescue Mission was through a youth ministry her children were involved in that helped with meals at the Mission. She and her daughter visited our women’s shelter one day to deliver some baby clothes, and Tina happened to mention she was looking for a job.

The Mission Director was looking for a secretary who “knew the computer” and could “follow directions.” **Tina had never seen herself working at a homeless shelter,** but with her husband wanting to go back to college and continue his education, she decided to take the job.

Today, 10 years later, Tina is here at our Women & Families Shelter as

a Women & Family Manager, sharing Jesus with hurting women. **“There’s not a woman here who hasn’t had something happen to them,”** she says. “[Many of them] have been sexually, emotionally or physically abused. I don’t know anybody that didn’t have something bad happen in their life. I don’t know anybody that didn’t need to come to God and cry.”

“You don’t have to go to a foreign country to become a missionary,” she says with a grin. “When we share our testimonies [with the women here], they realized ‘I am not alone.’ We are in the boat together. I keep telling them it is all in Jesus. Giving it all to Jesus. You’ve got to forgive. I know it’s not easy. It’s a step-by-step process. But you let go and then, you see where God takes you.”



Monthly Planner
**This month,
your gift will
help provide:**

15,000 meals
5,292 nights of shelter

**Our guests may not
see your face, but
your presence is felt
each and every day!**

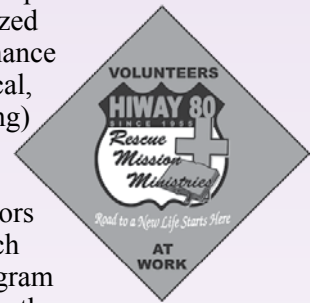
Volunteers Needed

Consider volunteering at the Mission – we could really use your help!

Right now, we especially need volunteers to help out in our computer lab as Learning Center Attendants, to pick up donations, to work as tutors with our residents preparing to take their GED test, to get involved with our children’s ministries, and to help with specialized maintenance (electrical, plumbing) and/or to serve as mentors and teach our program residents these valuable work skills.

There are so many ways for you or your group to get involved!

To find out more, contact Gary Crim at **(903) 759-8101** or **garyc@hiway80rm.org**, or visit **Hiway80Mission.org**.



Visit Us Online!

Get to know us better, learn about volunteer opportunities, read about the latest news and events and donate securely at **www.Hiway80Mission.org**.

Hiway 80 Rescue Mission

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Hiway 80 Rescue Mission Women & Families Shelter

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*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

The Good News is a publication
of Hiway 80 Rescue Mission.

Join us



Easter Food Needs



Donations can be dropped off at the Mission at 3117 W. Marshall. For more information about holidays at the Mission, call (903) 759-8101 or visit www.Hiway80Mission.org.

A Celebration of New Life!

Easter is a time of joy at the Mission, and we would love for you to join our celebration!

There are several events – our celebratory Easter dinner for the community and Mission residents on Good Friday, March 29 at 6 p.m.

On Saturday, March 30, we'll be having our community Easter egg hunt for at-risk kids and a special Easter service.

And to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, on Easter Sunday, March 31, we'll host a special sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. at the Mission, followed by a celebratory breakfast.

Please consider joining us for



dinner or breakfast, volunteering or donating food. We expect to serve more than 20,769 meals this Easter season (February and March) including 350 at our Good Friday dinner and Sunrise Breakfast...so we could really use your help!

For more information on getting involved during Easter, call (903) 759-9875 or visit Hiway80Mission.org.