

MORNINGSTAR

CHRONICLE

Good News About Changing Lives!

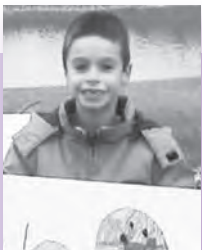
Easter 2011



An Encouraging Word from Marilyn Pg. 2



When I took those pills I didn't really want to die Pg. 3



People You Should Know Pg. 4

From sleeping in the woods and visiting crack houses... *to coming to this place of rescue and hope*

My name is Kevin. I started using drugs when I was 10 years old. I found out early that when I smoked weed or drank I found escape. The more I used, the more addicted I became. Here I was, being raised in a religious home — I sang in the choir and attended youth group meetings. People would look at me and say, “That’s how I want *my* kid to be — like Kevin.” But if they only knew what was really going on...

And the misery continued. Seven years ago I discovered crack cocaine. That was my ultimate downfall. I couldn’t control my use of the drug. I felt no guilt pilfering money from the joint banking account my wife and I had. I lost my house, my possessions, my career and my marriage. One day I found myself on the street, homeless. I couldn’t hold down a job. I slept in the woods. If I had any money, it all went to crack.

“Seven years ago I discovered crack cocaine. That was my ultimate downfall.”

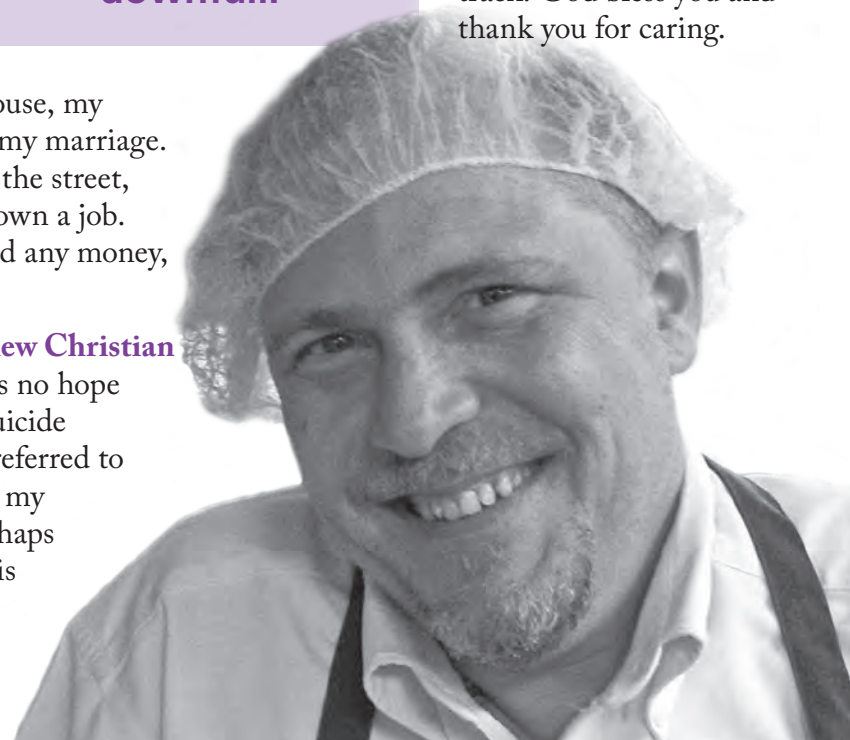
with myself for the first time in a long time. I’m reestablishing my ties with the church and a group of believers. It’s great to know I’m part of the Body of Christ. It was a long time coming, but I’m making progress.

I feel like a brand-new Christian, even though I grew up in the faith. And to think I used to smoke crack just two blocks away from the Mission. Now I’m a cook, and I see my former self in the faces of those we serve. It’s been a

long journey and it’s not over yet. I’m grateful to a loving God, a caring Mission and a compassionate person like you who is helping me get my life back on track. God bless you and thank you for caring.

Today I feel like a brand-new Christian

Basically I felt there was no hope for me. I tried to commit suicide many times. In fact, I was referred to MorningStar Mission after my last attempt on my life. Perhaps you can understand why this Mission means so much to me. Here I’m being honest



MORNINGSTAR
MISSION MINISTRIES

MorningStar Mission
Ministries, Inc.

350 E. Washington Street
Joliet, IL 60433-1150
815-722-5780

www.morningstarmission.org

MorningStar Mission Needs List for 2011

- Canned fruit
- Canned vegetables
- Jelly
- Mashed potatoes



- Canned gravy
- Pancake mix
- Eggs
- Syrup
- Sugar



- Flour
- Coffee
- Canned soup
- Jell-O



- Pepper
- Spaghetti sauce
- Seasoned salt

- Table salt
- Garlic powder
- Salad dressing



- Milk
- Juice
- Paper towels
- Napkins

- Contractors' garbage bags
XXL 55 gal. capacity (1500)
- Jackets

An Encouraging Word from Marilyn . . .



Because Easter is soon here, I can't help but think of Christ's resurrection as a metaphor for what is happening in the lives of many who step through our doors. The men and women who come to us are dead in so many ways: spiritually, socially, emotionally and, for some, almost physically. But when they come face to face with the risen Lord, death becomes life. The old life passes away.

This new hope often starts with a meal. A friendly handshake. A listening ear. Then the hard work begins. It takes time for our friends to work through issues that have dogged them for most of their lives. But we're patient. We know some may have to return to the Mission two, three, four times — perhaps more. But each time they come back they know what to expect. *They know we want to help them if they are willing to do their part.*

Resurrected people become responsible citizens

We begin to see our friends' "resurrection" in their new attitudes about life. Their self-esteem becomes stronger. When our guests begin to realize God loves them, it enhances their self-worth. And when we connect a resident with his or her mentor the change accelerates. Before long they learn new job skills. They become active in a local church. They settle in and settle down. When we look at their before and after photos, we can see the transformation. Faces once filled with despair now radiate Christ's love.

But none of this transformation would take place without your ongoing, generous support. Thank you for helping us share the living Lord with so many in need. Your donations and selfless acts of service are the lifeblood of MorningStar Mission. I don't have enough words to express the depths of my appreciation to you.

God bless you at this Easter season and every day of the year.

Your servant,

Marilyn Farmer

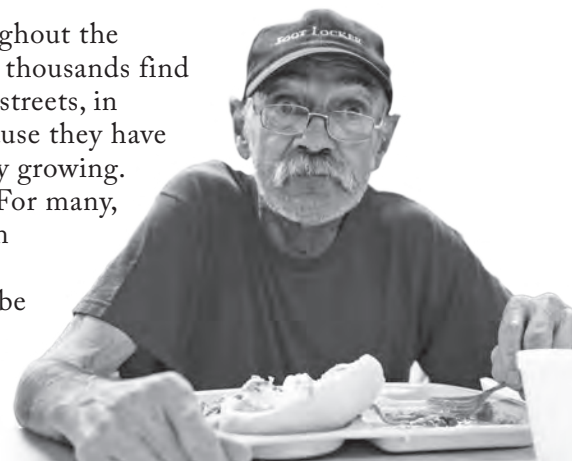
Marilyn Farmer, Executive Director

"Your donations and selfless acts of service are the lifeblood of MorningStar Mission."

MorningStar Mission relies on you once

As the number of homeless people throughout the United States rises to an all-time high, thousands find themselves living in the woods, on our streets, in doorways, in parks and in abandoned cars because they have nowhere else to go. And their numbers are only growing.

There are many reasons for homelessness. For many, a series of poor life choices has kept them from building a solid foundation to carry them throughout life. For others, homelessness may be a result of sickness, loss of employment or situations beyond their control.



When I took those pills I didn't really want to die... *it was just a desperate cry for help*

My name is Patricia. I'm at MorningStar Mission because my life was not going in the right direction. The father of my children dumped me, and I was devastated. I was so stressed out that I overdosed on pills. But I didn't want to kill myself. I now see my taking that half a bottle of Ibuprofen as a cry for help. I remember riding in the ambulance and thinking, *I hope I don't die. My kids need me. I don't want to die.*

So perhaps you can see why the Mission is so important to me and my kids. I'm angry and happy all at the same time. The care here is wonderful. I hate to think where I would be if MorningStar Mission had not opened its doors to the kids and me. I have a more positive view of life now and my kids finally have a future. They are going to school and are well behaved, for which I'm so grateful.

My tree has many words on it — words that are positive and uplifting

If I were to draw a graphic of my life it would be a tall tree with many branches. Hanging on each branch would be words like happiness, sadness, anger, joy, family, children, mother, hope

and faith. Every day I put more positive words on that tree.

I cannot even begin to describe how wonderful this place is for us right now. I'm going back to school, and I'm getting my driver's license. I'm also looking for a job, and with the Mission's help I know I'll find what I need.

I also want to thank you who donate your time, money and energy to

MorningStar Mission. You have no idea how grateful I am for all your kindness. When I leave the Mission, I promise to join you as a donor. My kids and I will be forever grateful to you for your kindness.

"I remember riding in the ambulance and thinking, I hope I don't die. My kids need me. I don't want to die."



again to help us touch needy lives

Getting out of the rut of homelessness is an inside job

But whatever the reasons for living a homeless lifestyle, MorningStar Mission is here to share God's hope with those men, women and children who choose to get their lives back on track. We know that unless our residents place the power of a living, loving God at the center of their hearts, nothing will change. Getting out of the syndrome of homelessness is an inside job, and changing people from the inside out is what God does best.

You have been a faithful friend of the Mission throughout the past several months. To continue to touch the lives of needy men, women and children during the Easter season, please use the remit slip — or you may donate online at www.morningstarmission.org. Thank you for your faithful support of this ministry of rescue now and *throughout the year.*



In Memory of:

Richard Allen

Victoria Girot

Merrim Auld

Truman & Elizabeth Thurman

Dennis Baker

Daniel & Christine Petro

Keith Crotty

Joseph Purpura

David Delrose

Bonnie Delrose

Carrie Demski

Mr. & Mrs. Billy Harris

Donald Gornik

Glenn & Diane Gorn

Anthony & Roberta Governale

Daniel Governale

Harold Grossman

Truman & Betty Thurman

Earl Peterson

David Hill

Gregory & Mary Hill

Richard & Wanda Belden

Joann Stukel

Greg & Mary Griparis

Ken & Beth Van Lengen

Jerry & Fran Fallon

Bob & Sally Wolff

Lyle & Gwen Amonson

Sam & Joan Benicks

Connie Hill & Family

Arlene Dittman

Grace Hutton & Family

James & Rita Paros

Patricia Berson

Lester & Patricia Bergstrom

Victor & Gloria Lukas

Phyllis Webb

Darold & Clara Hill

Joseph Hischier

Robert Hartley

Wilbur, Mabel & Sherry Huckaba

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Horner

Bill Jaugelas

Judith Wolford

Stephen Neubauer

James & Mary Gow, Jr.

continued on page 4

People You Should Know

Conroy (7) and Tanner (5) OBEN wanted to do something to help those experiencing homelessness here at MorningStar Mission, so they held a hot chocolate and cookie sale here in Joliet. MorningStar Mission wanted to thank them for their efforts and all the work they did to give a hand up to those in need.



Marilyn Prince
Charles & Rebecca Harris

Joseph Schmidberger
Georgette Vota

Dr. Tommy Seay, Jr.
Andrea Eng
Nancy Hall
Frank Mansella
Sandra Perzee
Eileen Reppy
Linda Seay

Ervin Edward Styx
Elaine & Bruce Gould

Thomas Turner
Edward Cain

Adele Watland
George Block



Spring Fling Star Ball

Mark your calendars for the May 14, 2011, Spring Fling Star Ball. This benefit for MorningStar Mission is being presented by Excel Electric, Inc. The Star Award Recipient for 2011 is Kevin Reardon.

Cross Creek Trikers

Cross Creek Trikers held a raffle benefiting MorningStar Mission. They then took time to present the check to MorningStar Mission and give of their time by serving dinner on October 3, 2010. Thank you so much for your support.



In Honor of:

Leonard Kiernan
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Page
A Friend

Carol Sassong's Retirement
Jane & Michael Schumacher

RM_41-0230_H01JO



My Easter Gift

YES, Marilyn, it's my pleasure to continue my support for this ministry of rescue. You can count on me once again during this Easter season.

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

MorningStar Mission Ministries, Inc.
350 E. Washington Street
Joliet, IL 60433-1150

▶ Please mail this completed form with your generous Easter donation, or donate online at www.morningstarmission.org. Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.

ACCOUNT NO. _____ EXP. DATE _____

NAME _____ SIGNATURE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____