

# MORNINGSTAR

CHRONICLE

*Good News About Changing Lives!*

Fall Issue 2013



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## Someone cared enough to talk to me for an hour on the phone . . . *and that brought me to tears*

**M**y name is Tara. My life started out in Guam, but before long it became a life of anger and abuse. Eventually I came to the U.S. with my father. I was a typical teenager, always doing irresponsible things. Except that I never did drugs or alcohol. But as I grew up, my life became a soap opera worthy of an appearance on Springer or Maury — a traumatic experience that eventually landed me at MorningStar Mission.

As far as Christianity was concerned, I was a skeptic. Mom had asked me to pray to Buddha. I was into feng shui and karma. But these weren't working for me. Here at the Mission, I'm beginning to build a relationship with Jesus Christ. The Mission is a secure, safe place. When I first tried to come here, a staff member talked to me for an hour on the phone — *after hours*. I couldn't believe it. Someone really cared about me. It brought me to tears. And when I arrived at the Mission, I felt that same atmosphere of compassion everywhere.

### **I wonder if you realize how much we appreciate you**

I never thought I'd be in a women's shelter. I wasn't a bad person. I'd just taken care of others better than I'd taken care of myself. Now I see life from a different point of view. The programs here are changing lives . . . not only



**"Here at the Mission, I'm beginning  
to build a relationship with  
Jesus Christ."**

during the Thanksgiving season, but every day of the year.

I also want to thank you for being so generous with your donations. I wonder if you realize just how much you mean to someone like me and to so many other men and women at MorningStar. You provide us with food, safe shelter, clothing and a place to learn more about God. Thank you.

Your friend, *Tara*



**MORNINGSTAR**  
MISSION MINISTRIES

MorningStar Mission  
Ministries, Inc.  
350 E. Washington Street  
Joliet, IL 60433-1150  
815-722-5780

[www.morningstarmission.org](http://www.morningstarmission.org)

hi there

nice to meet you

## People You Should Know:

### Walk A Mile In My Shoes Committee:

Carol O'Dell  
Mary Lancaster  
Natalie Manley

### Box City of Hope Committee:

Mary Gajcak  
Susan Lee  
Larry Walsh  
Jim & Vickie Murphy  
Bogdan Mircea  
John Albrecht  
Chuck Pelkie  
Thomas Skraba

## Donate Today!

Cars, ink cartridges,  
clean plastic bags and  
newspapers



## An Encouraging Word from Marilyn . . .

**D**ear Friend of MorningStar Mission Ministries, "I've not had a Thanksgiving feast like this in years," said one man. "I can remember when our family would get together at Thanksgiving. It was a happy occasion. I wondered if I'd ever be part of a family again," said a woman who'd just arrived at the Mission.

To you and me, it may only be a big piece of turkey with all the trimmings and a fine dessert. But for a person living in a homeless condition, that special meal is like manna from heaven. And *you* make it possible for us to reach out to so many in Christian compassion on Thanksgiving and throughout the year.

### Our guests are grateful

Long after the last dish has been washed and dried, many return to say thank you. Others eventually join our programs and further express their gratitude for the Bible studies, parenting classes, devotionals and the one-on-one counseling.

If there's one thing our guests are most grateful for, *it's the gift of hope. There's no hope on the streets* — only despair, loneliness and fear. But the Mission is a safe, secure, hopeful place, where men and women receive a second, third, fourth or hundredth chance to allow God to put their lives back together. God bless you for your faithful support as you help us reach out to so many in need.

Your servant,

Marilyn Farmer  
Executive Director



**" . . . if there's one thing our guests are most grateful for, it's the gift of hope."**



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

**O**ur 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 MorningStar, 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.

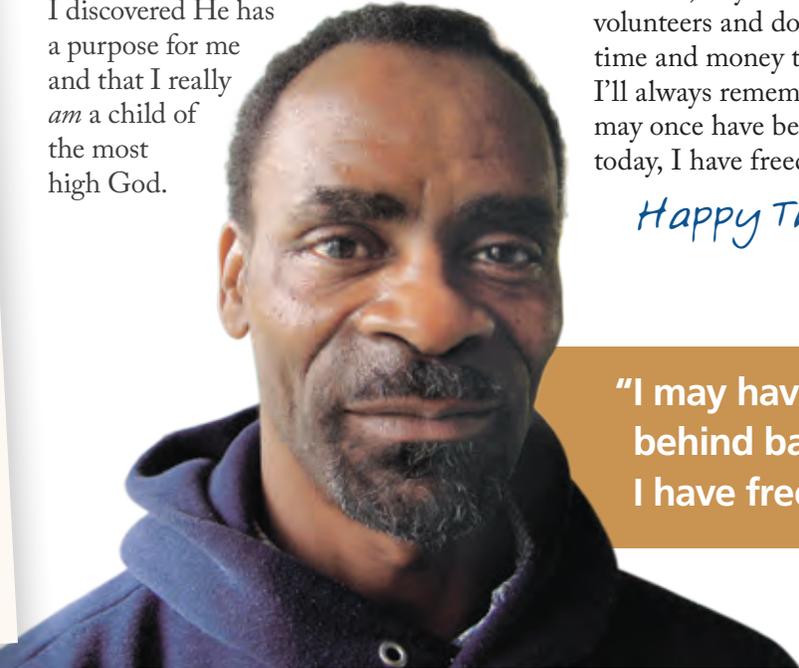
### The light of God begins to shine in their eyes

As our friends reflect on who they were and how far they've come, a light comes to their eyes — the light of a God who loves them and has

## When I was released from prison, *society didn't hold out its loving arms to me . . .*

**M**y name is Jeffrey. Society doesn't much like felons. I discovered that after I served 26 years for murder. When I was released, there was nothing for me. No job. No place to help me. I was told to start my own business since I'd received an AA degree in heating and air conditioning while serving time. But nothing ever worked out. So I just struggled, became homeless and basically gave up on life.

Then one day I walked through the doors of MorningStar Mission. The longer I was here, the more I found myself going from giving up on life to having hope for a new life. I started reconnecting with God. I discovered He has a purpose for me and that I really *am* a child of the most high God.



### **I once wanted to die . . . but now I pray to keep on living**

In prison I prayed for death. I didn't want to go on. But I figured suicide is going out sideways. It's a double standard. So I kept on living . . . although it wasn't much of a life. Now I pray for a long life so I can keep becoming the person God wants me to be. I'm glad the classes at the Mission are Bible-based because that's what I need most.

It's still hard at times. But I'm not going to give up. I know God has a great future for me. I just need to listen to Him and do His will. I'm grateful to God, the Mission, to you and to so many other volunteers and donors who sacrifice their time and money to help someone like me. I'll always remember your kindness. I may once have been behind bars. But today, I have freedom in Christ.

*Happy Thanksgiving,  
Jeffrey*

**"I may have once been  
behind bars. But today,  
I have freedom in Christ."**

## 2013 Star Ball

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## *. and for your ongoing support of this ministry of rescue*

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 enclosed remit slip, or you can make your donation online at [www.morningstarmission.org](http://www.morningstarmission.org). Thank you for being a friend of MorningStar Mission during the Thanksgiving season and throughout the year.

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

## in honor of

### In Honor Of

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## in memory of

### In Memory Of

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## My Thanksgiving Gift

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### YES, Marilyn . . .

you can count on my continued support for this ministry of rescue.

### Here is my donation of:

- \$20.50 to provide 10 meals and other assistance  
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