

# homewardbound

DURHAM



MISSION

Mending Shattered Lives Since 1974

**“When the rains came, I got soaking wet. I was hungry, cold and far from God. Problem was . . . I didn’t think I had a problem.”**



*I’m finally becoming the person — and the leader — God has wanted me to be.*

## From being a leader of men . . . to being unable to lead myself

**M**y name is Marcus. I didn’t think it would happen to me. I came out of the service a captain. I had responsibilities. I was a leader of men. I was respected. But before I knew it, *I couldn’t even lead myself.* I became a prodigal son. I was addicted to drugs. I found myself with no clothes and no food. I didn’t live in a pigsty like the Prodigal Son, but how about a cardboard box? That *was* my home. When the rains came, I got soaking wet. I was hungry, cold and far from God. Problem was . . . *I didn’t think I had a problem.*

As my condition worsened, I was going down, down, down. My life was a living nightmare. I had abandoned my children and continued to hang out with people who were

not really my friends. Then, one day, God directed my steps to the Durham Rescue Mission — a place that is changing my life.

**My relationship with God is making all the difference.**

I praise God the relationships with my family are being restored. Last March I got married, and now I’m in the apprenticeship program at the Mission. I’m also studying marketing at Strayer University. What a difference a few months make . . . *when God takes over a man’s life.*

The longer I’m at the Mission, the more I appreciate  
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## Testimony of Marcus . . .

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all you do to help provide a second chance for someone like me. So I'd like to take this moment to express my gratitude to you for your kindness. This will be a wonderful Christmas for me . . . and I pray it will also be a blessed one for you and your family.

Your friend,

*Marcus*

## Annual Christmas Community Dinner and Toy Giveaway — We Need NEW TOYS

On December 24, we are hosting our Annual Christmas Community Dinner to help the Triangle's neediest. Please **help provide toys for at-risk children** in attendance. Last year, with your help, we distributed over 12,000 toys!

Visit **www.DurhamRescueMission.org** to learn how you can help and/or to make a secure online donation. New toys, books and games may be dropped off at 1201 East Main Street in Durham.

### Volunteers are needed!

Contact (919) 688-9641, ext. 5025 to register.



## An Encouraging Word from the Founders Dr. and Mrs. Ernie Mills

Dear Friend of the Durham Rescue Mission,

**W**hen the hungry need food . . . the Durham Rescue Mission is here to provide that nourishment. When a man or woman feels there is no hope . . . the Mission provides God's love and encouragement. And when the weary need rest, the Durham Rescue Mission is here with open doors and an open heart. Our goal is always to have one empty bed . . . so we can tell that distraught mother we have a place for her son or daughter who needs what we have to offer. We are determined to make sure there's always **room in the inn.**

**Thank you for your faithful support of the Durham Rescue Mission.**

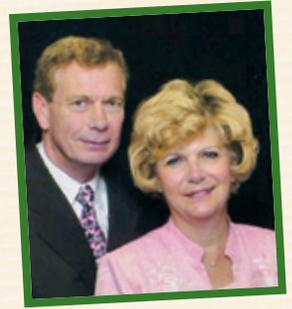
Whether your gift is \$5, \$50 or \$500, whatever you're able to give is being used to help change a life for all eternity. And then there is the amazing generosity of a friend like Sandra Peterson. Sandy's adopted son was addicted to drugs and left this world without the help he needed. After his death, Sandy heard about the Durham Rescue Mission. She so wished he'd come to us for help. She told us, "Even though my son did not come here, I want to do what I can to help others who need what the Mission has to offer."

In Sandy's estate, she left the Mission \$450,000 that will be used for Phase II of our Capital Campaign to provide more beds and better facilities for the homeless coming our way in the New Year. Thank you, Sandra . . . and, thank **YOU** for your donations of any amount . . . along with your ongoing, prayerful support during the holiday season and throughout the year.

Sincerely,

*Ernie + Gail*

Ernie & Gail Mills, Founders



**"Our goal is always to have one empty bed . . . so we can tell that distraught mother we have a place for her son or daughter who needs what we have to offer."**



## It was the Great Interruption of Time its and it took place in a manger in the

**I**t all started on that starry night, when God chose to embark on the *great interruption* of time itself . . . and He did it in a stable in Bethlehem. The first earthly sound of this interruption was the hushed cry of a baby, heard by a breathless Mary and Joseph, a village carpenter. In that moment of quiet interruption, everything changed. And since that special night *nothing on earth has been the same.*

**Follow me . . . I am the way.**

In like manner, God continues to *interrupt* the lives of the hungry, hurting and despairing who come through the doors of the Durham Rescue Mission. Lives once addicted to sin and selfish living are now *interrupted* by the truth of the Savior. People

## God is turning my anger into trust . . . and what was once despair into joy and peace

**M**y name is Maggie. When my mother insisted I go to the Durham Rescue Mission for help (my parents were donors to the Mission for many years), I thought it was probably a convent or something. Well, that's only one of my misguided assumptions about the Mission . . . when, in fact, the Mission is becoming my lifeline. Here, I'm finding a loving God. I now have a future — *and it no longer revolves around drugs and alcohol.*

I had been self-medicating for most of my life. I'd endured too many days and nights of physical and sexual abuse. Pain and anger ruled my world. I had no hope of ever living a normal life again. So there I was . . . with a college degree in psychology and a floral designer by trade. But it was all to no avail . . . *because I chose to allow drugs and alcohol to be my "gods".*

### **I now have a job and am becoming a productive member of society.**

But Jesus is giving me the strength to forgive those who hurt me, abuse that began when I was five years old. I'm no longer wallowing in my past. Instead, I'm asking God each day to keep me positive as I see His will. I'm replacing anger with trust. I spend my

*Because of God, the Mission and your encouragement, I'm finally doing the right thing . . . and I've never felt better in my life.*

days with women who encourage me . . . and who allow me to reach out to them.

I also want to thank you for your support of the Mission. You keep this place running. Because of your donations, I have found the help I needed to become a productive member of society. Today, I have a job and I just don't have the words to express the depth of my gratitude to you. Because of God, the Mission and your encouragement, I'm becoming the woman God wants me to be. And if you or someone you love needs help, please come to the Mission or bring your loved one to the Mission.

Maggie



## elf . . . town of Bethlehem

who once served the darkened world of alcohol, drugs and abuse find their former lifestyles *interrupted* by the power and majesty of the King of Kings. Others who've simply lost their way are being *interrupted* by the One who says *follow me . . . I am the way.*

We now come to the holidays once again. Thanksgiving will soon be here . . . and then we move on to celebrate Christmas, a commemoration of that great moment when all humanity was *interrupted* by the advent of the Son of God. To continue to be a partner with us in declaring this message of hope and joy, please use the remit slip enclosed to give a generous gift . . . or, you can make your donation online at [www.DurhamRescueMission.org/Christmas](http://www.DurhamRescueMission.org/Christmas). God bless you for being a special friend to the Mission's residents and guests.

## Stewards Fund Challenge Grant

The Stewards Fund of Raleigh has issued the Durham Rescue Mission a \$65,000 Challenge Grant beginning October 1, 2012 and ending January 31, 2013. This challenge is an "All or None" challenge. This means if we raise \$65,000, we will receive \$65,000 from the Stewards Fund, making a grand total of \$130,000. If we fail to raise \$65,000, we will not receive any of the additional funds.

The Stewards Fund, in their effort to help our ministry, will match dollar for dollar any financial gifts given by new donors who give during the challenge. This is a wonderful time to share the ministries of the Durham Rescue Mission with your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and civic club members and ask them to consider a first-time gift.

In addition, if your last gift was before October 1, 2011, your gift will be matched dollar for dollar, if you give a financial gift during the challenge. We encourage you to prayerfully consider giving a special gift to help us reach this challenge.

After reading the Founders' Letter, we hope you will prayerfully consider remembering the Durham Rescue Mission in your estate planning. If you have any questions, contact your financial planner or give Gail Mills a call at (919) 688-9641, ext. 5028



## New Thrift Store Open

Our new store is open and ready to receive your donations and for you to bargain shop! Come visit us at **3900 Chapel Hill Blvd.**, across from Sam's Club, in Durham.

### **You may also visit one of our other stores:**

- ✂ 3220 NC Hwy 55,  
Durham, NC 27713
- ✂ 10701 Glenwood Ave.,  
Raleigh, NC 27617

# Remember Others This Christmas

From November 23 to December 23, the Durham Rescue Mission needs your help to make Christmas an extra special day for men, women and children living at the Mission. Many have not experienced the joy of Christmas in years.

Visit our Wish Tree at the Northgate Mall in Durham, pick a name and purchase a special gift for one of our residents!

To volunteer at our Wish Tree, call (919) 688-9641, ext. 5025.

## Year-End Reminder!



With 2012 winding down, now is a great time to plan your year-end gift. Below is a list of opportunities to make your final donation and receive your tax deduction for this year. To put your gift to work even faster, donate online at [www.DurhamRescueMission.org](http://www.DurhamRescueMission.org)

- Financial Gifts
- Stocks and Bonds
- Real Estate
- Vehicles

## Food Pantry Restock

**Our food supply is running low. With the holidays upon us, we know folks will come to us seeking assistance. Please ask your church, co-workers and/or neighbors to help us restock the pantry for the holidays. Collect nonperishable food items for the Durham Rescue Mission and help your neighbors in need.**

## Chaplain's Corner Rev. D. Robert Tart, COO



**H**ave you ever wondered, if you could live your life over, if you would do things differently? Perhaps you would make better investments, or avoid a debt and other foolish decisions; perhaps you would complete more education; but, what about sin?

If you could live again, would you avoid sinful decisions? According to Romans 5:2, "By whom (Christ) also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand:" we stand in God's Grace. We are saved by Grace and we stand in Grace. It is God's Grace that keeps us from returning to darkness. Even if you could live your life again, and knew the future, but did not stand in Grace, then sin would still reign in you.

But by His Grace we stand, not knowing tomorrow, yet unmovable towards darkness.

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## Mission Statement of the Durham Rescue Mission

"Our mission is to meet, through the power of Jesus Christ, the needs of the whole person — spiritual, educational, emotional, physical, vocational and social — so those who are hurting may become fully functioning members of society."

# Instead of Dying, I Started Living

**T**he night I arrived at the Mission, I was prepared to call it quits. I didn't want to die under a bridge, so I came to the Durham Rescue Mission. I figured if I died at the Mission, they might at least give me a decent burial. But God had other plans for me. Instead of dying, *I started living*. I joined the Victory Program, began praying and started spending time in God's Word.

No longer does my life revolve around partying and alcohol. No more flea bag hotels. I've



rediscovered the God of my youth and *my Savior is transforming my heart*. I'm still paying a price for my wrong choices. But I know God has forgiven me. Thank you for your donations and for your many acts of kindness. I was once a person society didn't want. But you care about my eternal soul . . . and I am so grateful.

Your friend,

*Bobby*