

homewardbound

DURHAM



MISSION

Mending Shattered Lives Since 1974



Thank you for keeping the doors of the Mission open for me. *God is changing my life.*

“I’m so glad I finally returned to God, and to where I needed to be all along.”

Just like you have to reboot a computer . . . God is now rebooting my life

My name is Michelle. What can I say except *thank you* to God, Durham Rescue Mission and to you who are so generous with your gifts and kindness? I don’t even want to think about where I’d be today if it hadn’t been for God leading me to the Mission. I’m still haunted by old memories. But I know, over time, God will continue to set me free.

For too long, my life was nothing but drugs. I often tried to kick the habit, but I never knew how to do it. My grandmother had taught me about God, so deep down I knew how I should be living my life. I just

wasn’t willing to allow God to take *control* of my life. Drugs robbed me of everything I held dear. I lost everything. I praise God today all that matters is my relationship with Jesus Christ.

The change in me is nothing short of a miracle

Just like you sometimes have to reboot a computer, I am in the process of allowing God to reboot my life. I’m studying God’s Word. I pray. I have fellowship with other Christians. The change

continued on page 2

2 An Encouraging Word from the Founders . . .

3 Thank you for the safe haven

4 Holiday Events - Mark Your Calendar

Testimony of Michelle . . .

continued from page 1

in me is nothing short of a miracle. For me, the Victory Program at the Mission has helped me understand *with God, all things are possible*. Thank you again for your part in my recovery. I'm so glad I finally returned to God, and to where I needed to be all along. I want to wish you and your family a blessed Thanksgiving.

Gratefully,

Michelle

Mission Statement of 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."

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

Dear Friend of the Durham Rescue Mission,

When a mother calls the Mission because her child is in trouble and needs a place to stay, we always want to be sure we have a bed for her son or daughter. Thank you for helping us make those beds available for the homeless and for those who've lost their way.

Luke 12:34 tells us, *for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also*. When you give your hard-earned money, and when you give your time and energy to reach out to others, you are giving of your treasure. We cannot thank you enough for supporting the Durham Rescue Mission — not only during the Thanksgiving season, but every day of the year.

Yes, our guests are grateful

On occasion, friends of the Mission ask us how we know our Mission guests are grateful for what they receive. Well, we see their gratitude in changed lives. We see it when they want to give back. We also see it when they return to the Mission at a later date, or drop by just to tell us how God is working in their lives.

We have now been in rescue ministry for 43 years. And during that time, the word *rescue* has been the centerpiece of all we do. When people are hungry, we give them physical food. When they're cold, we give them shelter . . . and when they are perishing spiritually, we provide them with the spiritual nutrition they so desperately need.

We can honestly say our hearts have never been more grateful . . . and we've never been more thankful for your support. Your encouragement and friendship help keep the light of God's love burning in so many hearts. God bless you for caring.

Sincerely,

Ernie & Gail

Ernie & Gail Mills, Founders



"We cannot thank you enough for supporting the Durham Rescue Mission. Your encouragement & friendship help keep the light of God's love burning in so many hearts."

Thank you for reaching out to the poor and homeless . . . and for your ongoing support of Durham Rescue Mission

Our 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 the Mission, 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.

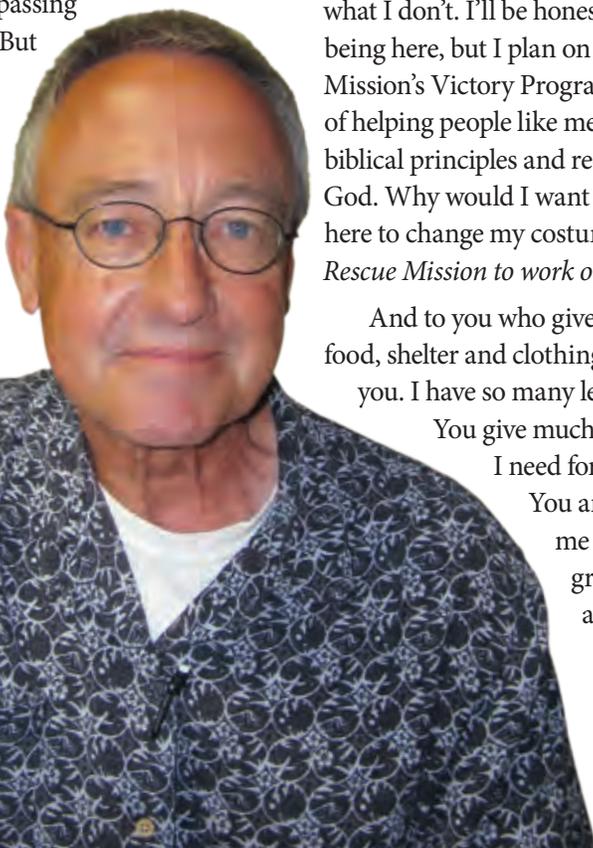


Thank you for the safe haven . . . and for the opportunity to take a good look at my life

My name is Mykel. I found myself at this gas station in a rough part of the country. The level valve on my big rig had gone bad and there I was, stuck in the middle of nowhere. It was 3 a.m. *Not a good place to be at 3 a.m.* In all the confusion, I'd lost my bag and all my documents. Out of the darkness, I felt a hand on my shoulder. This guy took me somewhere and told me to stay inside. My choices were slim. It was a cold November.

At the time I had a passing interest in Jesus Christ. But even though I was in a compromised situation, I wasn't about to settle

"I felt a hand on my shoulder. This guy took me somewhere and told me to stay inside. My choices were slim."



for a foxhole conversion. I knew all about atheists doing things like that. As it turned out, this man and his wife had rescued me. I can't go into all the details, but two weeks later they brought me to Durham Rescue Mission. Probably not the way most people come through these doors.

I appreciate all you are doing for me

But here I am . . . getting my life back in balance . . . re-evaluating what I believe and what I don't. I'll be honest. It's not easy being here, but I plan on sticking with the Mission's Victory Program that has the goal of helping people like me understand biblical principles and reconcile them with God. Why would I want to leave? I'm not here to change my costume; *I'm at Durham Rescue Mission to work on my character.*

And to you who give me so much — food, shelter and clothing — I say thank you. I have so many levels of appreciation.

You give much more than what I need for physical survival. You are also helping me understand what grace and mercy are all about.

In appreciation,

Mykel

Special Appointments by Governor McCrory

Ernie Mills has been appointed to the North Carolina Interagency Council for Coordinating Homeless Programs (ICCHP). The ICCHP advises the governor and the secretary of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services on issues affecting people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. In a joint and cooperative effort, the ICCHP works with member agencies on special initiatives aimed at ending homelessness in North Carolina. Ernie is excited to be a part of this special task force.

Gail Mills was honored to be appointed to the North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission, where she will serve on the Victim's Advocacy Committee.

Together, the Mills have over 83 years of experience ministering and helping addicted, homeless, hungry, and/or abused men, women, mothers with children, and intact families. Please pray God will give both of them wisdom as they seek to continue serving those in need in North Carolina.

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 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 make your donation online at www.DurhamRescueMission.org/Homewardbound. God bless you for being a friend to people in need . . . not only at Thanksgiving but throughout the year.

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

Holiday Events – Mark Your Calendar

Help the Homeless and Poor in the Triangle

Donate Frozen Turkeys or Hams for upcoming Holiday Meals

Donate gently used coats for Thanksgiving Dinner

Volunteer at “Wish Tree” at Northgate Mall between November 29 and December 23

Donate new toys, games, and books for at-risk children for Christmas Dinner, December 24

Volunteer to set up, serve, host a game booth, or clean up at events

To register or for more details, call (919) 688-9641, ext. 5025 or visit www.DurhamRescueMission.org



Chaplain’s Corner

Rev. D. Robert Tart, COO

How do you encourage someone to change? That is the most challenging question when serving the homeless. Someone once said, “You can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make him drink,” implying that no one can make the needy “want” what they need to change their lives. However, someone else said, “But you can give a horse salt, thus making him thirsty.”



As Christians we are not “helpless.” It’s true, we cannot make the needy “want” to be like Christ; but the apostle Paul gave us a promise in II Corinthians 5:14: “For the love of Christ constraineth us.” As we display Christ’s love, it “constrains” people to want what Christ offers.

 **Happy Thanksgiving from the entire Durham Rescue Mission staff.**

Year-End Reminder!

The Durham Rescue Mission accepts donations of:

- Stocks and Bonds
- Real Estate
- Cars, Trucks, Motorcycles, ATVs
- Campers, RVs, Boats

As 2013 winds down, now is a great time to plan your year-end gifts. Make your final donation by December 31 and receive your tax deduction for 2013. To put your financial gifts to work even faster, donate online at www.DurhamRescueMission.org. Call (919) 688-9641, ext. 5028 if you need more information.

To be thankful

is to be aware of the presence of God in everything He has given us — *and He has given us everything.*

Each time we take a breath, it is a silent demonstration of His love . . . and every minute of our day is a gift from our heavenly Father.

How can we not be thankful? It’s something to think about at Thanksgiving . . . and every day of our lives.



My Thanksgiving Gift

RM_43-0930_F05DU

YES, Ernie and Gail,

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

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 AMEX DISCOVER

ACCOUNT NO. _____ EXP. DATE _____

NAME _____ SIGNATURE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Durham Rescue Mission
P.O. Box 11368
Durham, North Carolina 27703-0368

► Please mail this completed form with your generous Thanksgiving gift, or you may donate on our secure website at www.DurhamRescueMission.org/Homewardbound. Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt. Any gifts received above our current need will be used to help care for the needy throughout the year.