

homewardbound

DURHAM



MISSION

Mending Shattered Lives Since 1974



God is making me a productive human being again. Thank you for your part in my recovery.

“I was well acquainted with God’s ways and His values. But then there was that terrible day when I was 21 years old.”

Two gates: one gate to bondage . . . and one to freedom in Christ

My name is Gerald. My story is one about two gates. One gate led me into a jail cell, where I was held for 10 months. There I was locked away from the things I loved. Freedom was nowhere in sight. The second gate led me to freedom in Christ and gave me the opportunity to allow God to turn my life around. That was the gate that led me to the front door of the Durham Rescue Mission.

I grew up knowing Jesus. I was well acquainted with God’s ways and His values. But then there was that terrible day when I was 21 years old. That was when I started using cocaine. For years, I chased my first high.

I always figured, just one more time and I will find that high. But that high never came. Instead, I fell deeper and deeper in my sin and in my independence from God.

Thank you for opening the gates of hope

In the past, most of my Christmases were spent behind bars. That’s no place to be to celebrate our Savior’s birth. I praise God this Christmas it’s going to be so different. I say that because this holiday season I’m here at the Mission, growing in the things

continued on page 2

2 An Encouraging Word from the Founders . . .

3 The same God who is helping us will also see you through

4 Remember Others this Christmas

Testimony of Gerald . . .

continued from page 1

of God. I honestly never thought I would ever find freedom or peace in my heart again.

Thank you for donating your money and time to help people like me. You continue to open the gate to hope and a renewal of my spirit and my mind. What greater Christmas gift could you ever give a man?

God bless you,
Gerald

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.”

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

Dear Friend of the Durham Rescue Mission,

Jesus arrived on that Bethlehem night 2,000 years ago not to remain a babe . . . but to die on a cross to save us from our sins. The trouble is *sometimes the baby never gets out of the manger*. That’s why at the Durham Rescue Mission, we present the *complete Christmas story to our guests* — one that begins in Bethlehem and follows the life of Jesus to the cross and to His resurrection. Then, as the Holy Spirit works through us, together we’re able to be Christ’s presence as we share the Gospel with those who are lost.

Two photos . . . 19 years apart

Recently we received two photos in the mail. One photo was 19 years old. It showed a young mother and her 19-month-old boy — both had just been dropped off at the Mission by their grandmother. The other photo was a picture of the same mother and her son *19 years later*. Both are doing well. The young man has just finished high school and is on his way to college. What a wonderful Christmas gift this is for all of us — and one more example of how your gifts live on in the lives of our Mission guests.

This Christmas, because of your compassion and the kindness of so many others, we’ll be giving out over 10,000 toys to needy children and probably at least 10,000 pieces of clothing to families in need. We’ll also celebrate God’s love with our friends by holding a community Christmas party — all given in the name of Jesus. Thank you for your part in helping so many come to know the true meaning of Christmas.

Sincerely,

Ernie + Gail

Ernie & Gail Mills, Founders



“This Christmas . . . we’ll be giving out over 10,000 toys to needy children and probably at least 10,000 pieces of clothing to families in need.”



Thank you for being a friend to those who come to the Mission during the holiday season and throughout the year

Christmas is love in action. Each time you reach out to the homeless and destitute, you give to them as God gives to you. *Thank you for sharing from your abundance with those who come to the Mission for food, clothing and shelter* — all vital for physical survival.

But the greatest gift you give is telling others about Jesus Christ, sent to us in human form so we all might know what God the Father is really like. When you reach out to a lost soul and give of your finances and acts of Christian service . . . it’s always Christmas.

The same God who is helping us will also see YOU through

My name is Emma. My husband and I are so grateful to God and the Durham Rescue Mission. We are at the Mission because we had no place else to go. We had pretty much given up hope. We had looked for work in Virginia, but could find nothing. And it was not much different when we came to Durham. But even though we couldn't find what we wanted, God, in His mercy, directed us to this place of refuge where we are blessed to learn the plans God has for our lives.

It feels good to have a servant's heart

Here at the Mission, we are getting a greater understanding of the Bible and principles for living as Christians. At night, when my head hits the pillow, I often rerun the events of today. Most of the time, I just thank the Lord for His love and guidance. I'm also blessed to be able to work at the Mission's thrift store. I have the privilege of working as a dispatcher. It's a wonderful opportunity for me, and I appreciate being able to spend my days serving others.

I also want to say a kind word to you who give so much of your time and money to help people like us. We're grateful for the good

Thank you for giving us so much. *We will be forever grateful for your kindness.*

food, nice clothing and the roof over our heads. But most important, you're giving us an environment where we can learn more about the Lord. If you are facing trials and troubles in your own life, I hope you will also trust the Lord. Because the same God who's working in our lives *will also see you through.*

Your grateful friend,

Emma



Annual Christmas Community Dinner & Toy Giveaway — **We Need New Toys**

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 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.

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, neighbors or your grocer to help us restock the pantry for the holidays. Collect nonperishable food items for the Durham Rescue Mission and help your neighbor in need.

Thank you for providing this ongoing spirit of God's great gift, which we share at the Mission during this special season and throughout the year.

Lives interrupted by a loving God

Our Mission guests soon understand it's good to be interrupted by a loving God, who has a divine plan for their lives. During that interruption, our friends learn that their schedule is not for them to manage . . . *but rather that it be arranged by the Christ of Christmas.*

In the spirit of this great season of giving, we encourage you once again to give a donation of any amount to help lessen the suffering and pain of those who come through our doors. To put your donation to work today, please use the enclosed remit slip, or give your donation online at **www.DurhamRescueMission.org**. God bless you for being a Christmas friend to those in need!

“When you reach out to a lost soul . . . it's always Christmas.”



Year-End Reminder!

With 2013 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.

- Financial Gifts
- Stocks and Bonds
- Real Estate
- Vehicles, Boats, Trailers, RVs, ATVs, Motorcycles

To put your gift to work even faster, donate online at www.DurhamRescueMission.org

Remember Others this Christmas

From **November 22** 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, choose a name, and purchase a special gift for one of our residents! To volunteer at our Wish Tree, call **(919) 688-9641, ext. 5025**.

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

Have you ever wondered if God can save you? Many people have. They think God is so offended by their lives, He could never forgive them.



Consider Matthew 27:54, "Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, 'Truly this was the Son of God.'" Luke said of these same soldiers at the cross, "Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, 'Certainly this was a righteous man.'" (Luke 23:47). Someone who fears God, confesses He is Lord, and glorifies Him, characterizes the life of a saved person. God saved some of the soldiers who nailed him to the cross that day. He can save you, too!



Thank you for donating your money and your time *this Christmas*.

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My Holiday Gift

YES, Ernie and Gail, it's a privilege to help provide God's comfort to those in need during the holiday season and throughout the year.

Here's my donation 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 Holiday gift, or you may donate on our secure website at www.DurhamRescueMission.org. 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.