



SNEAK PEEK INTO “IN DARKNESS, A LIGHT STILL SHINES ... FOR KIDS!”

Currently available at the Mission's Thrift Store (1312 N Kansas), Barnes and Noble and Amazon.com!
Proceeds support Topeka Rescue Mission Children's Palace.

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN: “One Vet’s Story”

Even if my father and mother abandon me, the LORD will take care of me. Psalm 27:10 (GW)

Johnny was a really cool kid. He grew up in the countryside and loved playing with the animals on his farm. After he graduated from high school, there was a war going on and the Army asked him to come help them fight. Johnny was scared and really didn't want to go, but he didn't have a choice. He said good-bye to his parents and his brother and flew on an airplane to a faraway land.

Johnny saw a lot of things that were scary when he was away. He was very sad and could not wait to get home. When he finally did, something awful happened ...

When Johnny started walking up the steps and onto the porch of his old house, his dad came to the door. He was acting very strange. He told Johnny that his brother had also gone to a faraway land but that he wouldn't be coming back.

His dad was very sad because he loved Johnny's brother very much. So much that he wished Johnny would have stayed away instead of him. That made Johnny feel TERRIBLE! But what his dad said next made him feel even WORSE. He told Johnny he wasn't welcome home and he never wanted to see him again. He said some other mean things before turning around and slamming the door right in his face.

Johnny started to cry. He was super sad and had no idea what he had done to make his dad so upset.

Johnny didn't have anywhere else to go so he had to live outside for a long time. He even lived in dirty garbage dumpsters at times so that he could stay dry and a little bit warmer when it snowed or rained. No matter where Johnny went, all he could think about were the horrible things his dad had said. “I must be a terrible person,” Johnny said to himself over and over. And the more he thought that way, the more he actually started to act that way. It was very sad.

Johnny had forgotten what a nice person he really was!



After a long, long time had passed, Johnny heard about the Topeka Rescue Mission and decided to go there to live. He wasn't nice to very many people but nobody knew why. One day, he came to Barry and told him what had happened with his dad. Barry felt sad for Johnny and realized that the only reason he hadn't acted very nice was because his dad had been so mean to him and told him lies. Barry knew then that Johnny wasn't a terrible person – he just had his feelings hurt really badly and didn't know what to do about it.

Barry started telling Johnny about God, and how even though we can't see Him with our eyes, He's the BEST DAD in the whole universe! Johnny was surprised when Barry told him that God loved him very much and wanted to be his Dad. Barry taught him about Jesus and how He could make his heart feel better too. Johnny listened to everything Barry said. He was excited to become God's son and ask Jesus to heal his heart.

While it's true you have a mom and dad just like Johnny, God is also your Dad. He's the one who created you when you were inside your mommy's belly (Jeremiah 1:5)! Since He made

you, He knows you REALLY well and thinks you're super swell.

There are a lot of children in this world who no longer have parents who live with them. You might be one of those children. Even though Mom or Dad might not be around, it's not your fault. Even if someone might have told you it was your fault, that's not the truth. Just like it wasn't the truth when Johnny's dad said mean things to him. No matter what anyone else might say, the truth is - YOU ARE AN AMAZING CHILD. Even when others cannot, God promises to love and take care of you always (Psalm 27:10).

If you think nobody else likes you, God does! He'll be your Dad forever. And if your heart is hurting because someone said something mean to you, Jesus can come and make it better. All you have to do is ask!



Dear Lord,

Thanks for being my Dad and loving me more than anyone else in the whole world. Help me to remember how special I am to You – even when people say things to me that aren't nice. I know I can count on You and I'm thankful for Jesus who makes my heart feel better too. In Jesus' Name. Amen! †

TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION MONTHLY REPORT JUNE 2016

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Neighborhood Empowerment &
Transformation (NET) Reach
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Operation Street Reach 785-230-8237

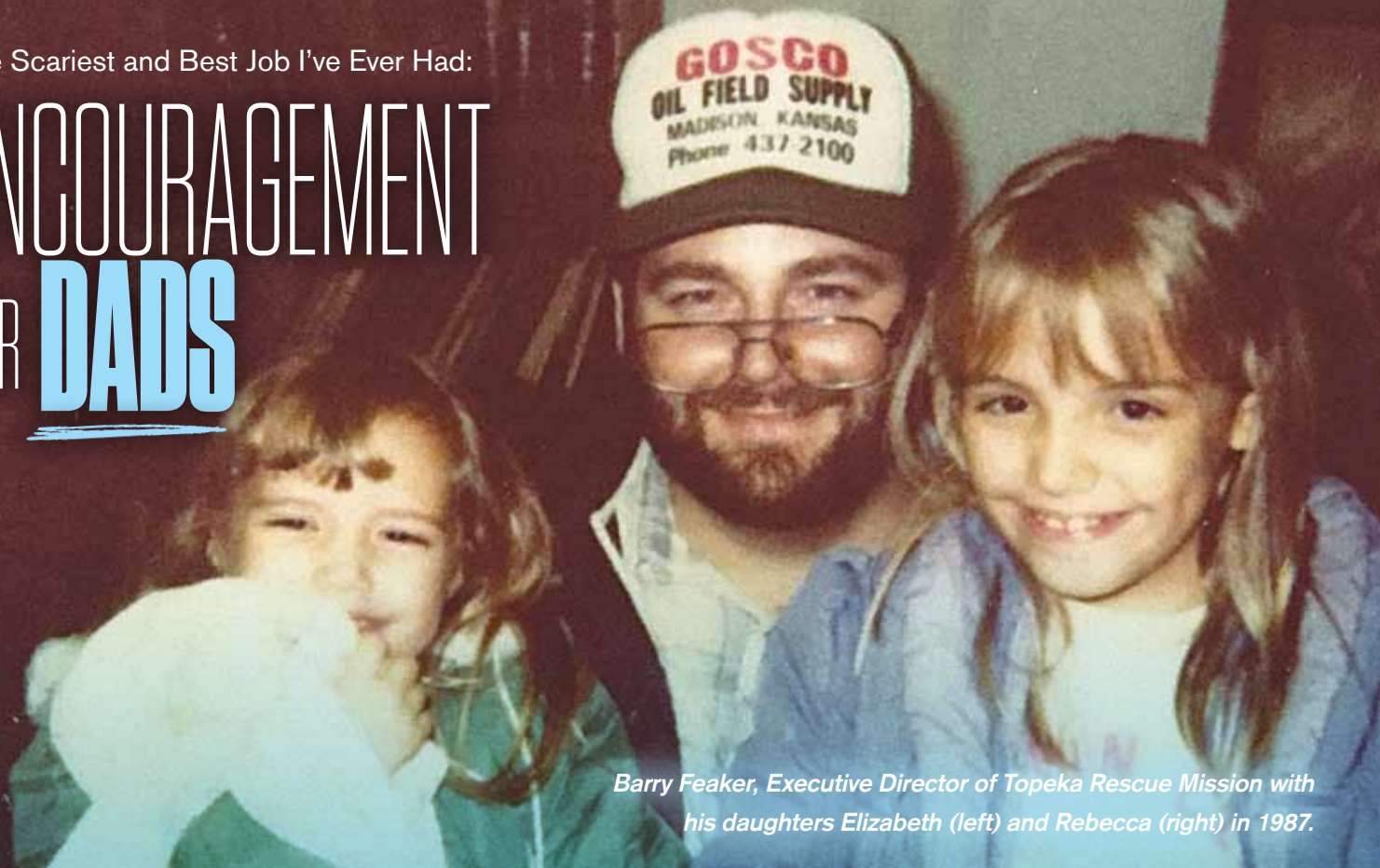
Donations:

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Material: 785-357-4285
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The Scariest and Best Job I've Ever Had:

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR **DADS**



Barry Feaker, Executive Director of Topeka Rescue Mission with his daughters Elizabeth (left) and Rebecca (right) in 1987.

The Scariest and Best Job I've Ever Had:

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR **DADS**

A number of years ago I received a visit from a radio reporter covering national news stories. One of her final questions was, "What is the most difficult part of your job that you face every day?" I paused and had to think about that for a little bit before answering ... I am on call 24-hours a day/seven days a week and daily responsible for potential life and death issues of people who have nowhere to go, oftentimes confronted with individuals strung out on drugs, highly intoxicated, mentally ill, or extremely angry with weapons that could harm me or someone else. Even though I'm faced with these battles and on the frontlines of the "war on poverty" each and every day, that's not the hardest part of my job. I shared that, in all honesty, the most difficult and scariest job I face each and every day is attempting to be a good dad ... but it's the job I love the most!

At that time in my life, my two small children, Rebecca and Elizabeth, were five and nine years old. I had read books on how to parent, gone to seminars and listened and learned as much as I could. But I realized that being a dad is a very personal and day-by-day process of success and failures in this journey of life. I remember telling the reporter, "I fear, as much as I love these two little precious girls, that I'm not

going to do a very good job. And that is the hardest thing that I face every day." The journalist paused and, as tears welled up in her eyes, she reached over and turned off the tape recorder. With tears flowing she began to tell me that she knew exactly what I meant. She said that she was a mom who was attempting to raise a little baby boy. She said that she loved him so much, but felt so guilty when dropping him off at daycare every day. "Every time I hold him," she said, "I wonder if I am doing this right or if I will fail him." We spent the next hour discussing life, God and parenting. At the end of that interview I felt like I had a new friend around the commonality of this most incredible, sometimes frightening, opportunity we have of being a parent. I never had another interview with that reporter, but we did run into each other periodically throughout the years. She later became a press secretary for an elected official and, from what I can tell, she did a great job of being a mom.

Today, in spite of any of my successes or failures as a dad, I have two amazing daughters and we have an

Barry Feaker with his family in 1992.



outstanding relationship. I'm so grateful I can say that we are truly friends!

Many dads that come through the doors of the Topeka Rescue Mission experience a common challenge of feeling like they have failed. Due to their actions, unwise decisions or from events and circumstances that were beyond their control, many have been separated from their children and feel hopeless and depressed as a result. Often times I will receive calls or letters from children, now adults, looking for their dad in attempt to try to let them know that they miss them and would love to offer forgiveness for the hurts and mistakes that were made years before. It's difficult for some of these dads to feel worthy of their children's forgiveness. At other times, it's the children that have experienced such hurt that they cannot bring themselves to embrace the dad who failed them. These situations are some of the most difficult for both dads and their children, as well as Mission workers who attempt to navigate a potential reconciliation.

One of the things that I learned from my young children many times

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over, was their great capacity to forgive and overlook my mistakes. Sometimes all it took was for me to humble myself and apologize, admitting that I blew it and would try better next time. How often they extended grace to me when I did not feel I deserved it.



Barry Feaker with daughter Rebecca and grandson Jake.

Whether it's the children at the Mission who find themselves homeless or children who have most of their needs met, there is always a built in desire to have a relationship with a dad.

Fatherhood has taken a serious hit in this country. According to the National Center for Fathering, "More than 20 million children live in a home without the physical presence of a father. Millions more have dads who are physically present, but emotionally absent. If it were classified as a disease, fatherlessness would be an epidemic worthy of attention as a national emergency." More often than not, we see homeless and impoverished children throughout the ministry struggling through life without an effective dad present in their lives. Yet how they all hunger for someone to call "daddy."

Maybe you know someone who is struggling to be a dad; they could even be in your own household. Maybe you

have been hurt by your dad. Perhaps you have not seen him for a very long time or you may never have even met him at all. Regardless of your situation, there is still a Dad who loves you very much. This everlasting Father says, "I will never leave you, nor forsake you"

(Deuteronomy 31:6). He wants you to know that you are more than precious in His sight and there's no mistake you could ever make that He will not forgive.

Maybe you are a dad who feels like you are blowing it every day or you're thinking about giving up. Don't do it - **your life makes a difference and your kids need you more than you can imagine!** If you are feeling hopeless and feel like you are a failure at being a dad, know this: God wants to forgive you no matter how much you have blown it ... and your children probably do too. God can help you be the best dad that you can be for your



Barry Feaker with daughter Elizabeth.

children, whether they are little today or all grown up. Whether you think you blew it earlier this morning or many years ago, it's never too late to ask your heavenly Dad for forgiveness and the courage to turn to your children and ask them for their forgiveness too.

This Father's Day, we can celebrate that there are many wonderful dads throughout our country; but we should also come to the realization that there are some dads who need some help and encouragement. Throughout this month, please pray with me for our nation's dads. For those who have made

"His preaching will turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the hearts of children to their fathers."

— Malachi 4:6

mistakes, that God would heal their brokenness and that there might be a miracle of reconciliation between dads and their children. And also for all of our younger dads who may be scared to death about this most wonderful job that they could ever have, being a dad! Please also pray for our children, whether they are little or already grown and considering becoming a dad themselves. It just might be the scariest job we'll ever have ... but I guarantee, it's also the best!

Thank YOU and may God bless you and our dads! †

Barry Feaker

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Want to help children and parents to become all they're called to be? Please consider these opportunities:

- 1 Pray for dads and families in our community and nation.
- 2 Become a mentor with the Dare 2 Dream program at the Topeka Rescue Mission shelters or at NET Reach.
- 3 Financially support and/or volunteer with this summer's programs at Hi-Crest NET
(details included below).
- 4 Consider giving to the operation fund for the new Children's Palace for 124 infants, toddlers and preschoolers.
- 5 Consider volunteering in one of the more than 1,500 volunteer slots needed at Topeka Rescue Mission Ministries every month.
- 6 Consider volunteering at some of the other wonderful ministries and organizations throughout our community who are on the frontlines of helping children who need dads, as well as dads and families.
- 7 Consider giving financially to support the many ministries of the Topeka Rescue Mission Ministries. All operations are supported entirely by donations by people like YOU!

To get involved with volunteering, please visit our website and sign up online (trmonline.org) or call 785-354-1744-x393. To make a donation, you may do so securely online, by mail or by calling 354-1744-x316. For general inquiries, please email us at trm@trmonline.org.

SUMMER HAPPENINGS WITHIN TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION MINISTRIES

To get involved or learn more about any of these events, please contact our volunteer department at 785-354-1744-x393, email volunteer@trmonline.org or sign-up online at trmonline.org.



Dare to Grow Summer Program: Hi-Crest NET Reach and Doxazo will be working together this June and July to reach children aged 0-18 living in the Hi-Crest community. Monday through Friday, children will enjoy learning about gardening, experiencing the arts, and participating in sports fun and cooking classes. They will also receive meals and biblical teaching with caring mentor volunteers desiring to pour into the lives of our children. We currently have needs for kitchen help, classroom helpers/coaches and art helpers.

Wynnewood Camp:

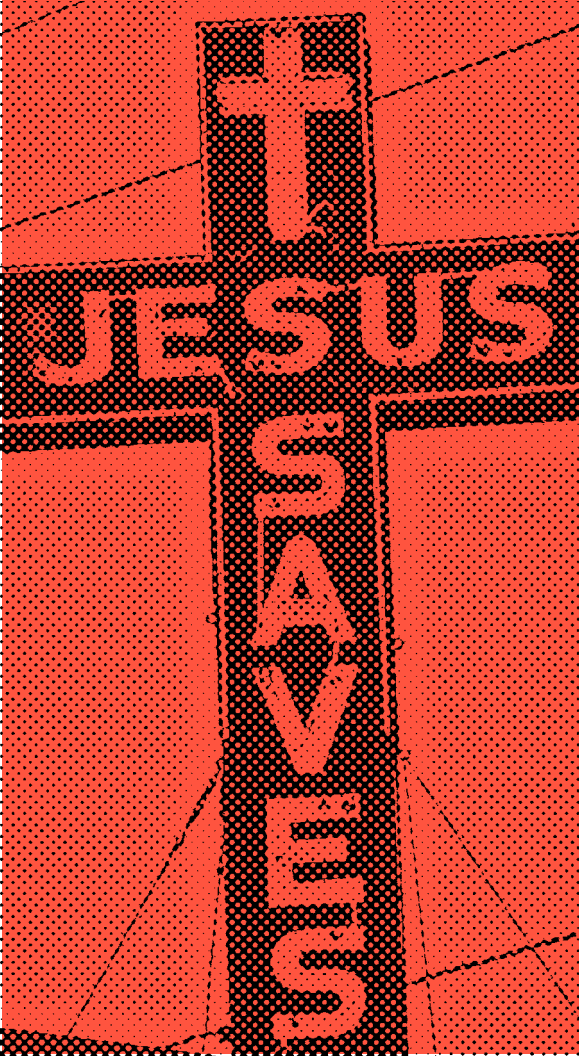
Wynnewood 2016 will take place June 6-10 and June 13-17. This camp is for 1st-8th grade boys from the greater Topeka area. Campers are taught to be Godly men of character through extreme sports, athletics, biblical training and discipleship. To register, please visit www.doxazotopeka.com.

3 on 3 Basketball Tournaments:

Christ-centered basketball tournaments for children living in the Hi-Crest neighborhood take place monthly at the NET Center. Dates for summer tournaments are June 11, July 9, August 13.



Doxazo Missions Trip: This short-term, local opportunity allows students and adults to demonstrate the love of Christ to their Topeka neighbors. During the day, the team serves at different sites across the city: running children's camps, rehabilitating houses, and serving the homeless. In the evening, the team gathers together for worship and community building. The 2016 summer missions trip will be July 31-August 4. Please register at www.doxazotopeka.com/missions/trip.



CURRENT NEEDS LIST

For the most up-to-date needs list, please visit our website at trmonline.org.

FOOD ITEMS:

Gallon Cans of Vegetables & Fruits / Coffee / Gallon Cans of Chili Beans
Bottled Water / Sack Lunch Items (i.e. *Pudding cups, fruit cups, granola bars, etc.*)

SUPPLY ITEMS:

Purex Crystals / Kirk's Original Coco Castile Soap / Arm & Hammer Washing Soda
20 Mule Team Borax / Fels Nephth Laundry Soap / Tall Kitchen & 30 gallon Trash
Bags / Blankets / Storage bags – quart & gallon / Sheet sets: (Full, Queen & King
sizes) / Bath Towels / Diapers – All Sizes / Pull Ups – Sizes 3T, 4T and 5T
Razors (Men's & Women's) / Deodorant (Men's & Women's) / All Purpose Cleaner
Shaving Cream (Men's & Women's) / Disinfecting Wipes / Dish Soap

CLOTHING:

Men's Pants & Jeans – All sizes (Especially 30 - 40) / Men's Underwear & Boxers –
Sizes 30 to 38 / Men's & Women's Shoes – All Sizes / Plus Size Clothing – Men &
Women / Women's Underwear – Sizes 5 - 9 / Children's Clothing & Shoes – 2T & Up

FURNITURE (in good condition)

Furniture – i.e. couches, recliners, loveseats, dressers, tables, mattresses, etc.
Large & small appliances – i.e. washers, dryers, ranges, refrigerators & microwaves

SUMMER PROGRAM

Paper Plates / Plastic Forks, Knives & Spoons / Bottled Water / Sack Lunch Items (i.e.
pudding cups, fruit cups, granola bars, etc.) / Sunscreen / Bug Spray / 5 Volleyballs
20 Basketballs / 10 Soccer balls / 10 Footballs / 20 Frisbees / Beach Towels

SUMMER HAPPENINGS

WITHIN TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION MINISTRIES



Doxazo Missions Institute (DMI): DMI is a leadership development program for college and high school students. The institute experience includes biblical training classes, personal mentorship, growth in community, and an internship with one of our partner ministries. Students can apply to be in DMI for the summer, or year-round. Applications for Summer 2016 are currently closed. Apply for the year-round institute at www.doxazotopeka.com/missions/institute.

CHILDREN'S PALACE UPDATE

If you have driven by or visited the Palace for a tour lately, you'll notice that some exciting changes are taking place outside! We are in the final stretch of construction as we finalize playgrounds, fencing, landscaping and other exterior work. The main areas of support needed at this time are for prayer (that all remaining pieces would come together) and operational funds. In order to break the generational cycle of homelessness in families and help children become all they can be, we need approximately \$1.5 million annually. Our goal is to raise at least half of those funds before opening our doors. If you'd like to invest in lives today to influence significant change for the future, please make your donations payable to the Topeka Rescue Mission, marked "Children's Palace." To schedule a tour, ask questions or see how you might otherwise become involved, please contact 785-354-1744-x325 or jhosman@trmonline.org. The Palace is located at 601 NW Harrison Street, Topeka.