

2017 CHRISTMAS NEEDS LIST

MEN/TEEN BOYS: Boxers, stocking caps and gloves, plus size clothing (2-5x) and sports team logo items

BOYS AND GIRLS: Educational toys/games for ages 8-17, boxers

INFANT & TODDLER: Diapers sizes 2 — 6, pull-ups all sizes, Baby Food and formula

MISCELLANEOUS GIFT ITEMS NEEDED: Bath gift sets, cologne gift sets, twin XL blankets, pots and pans, small appliances, coffee makers, toasters, 4-5 qt. crock pots, bath towels, , wallets, shaving bags, teen gifts, men's gifts, hair brushes, mini flashlights, sports team logo items (Hats, duffle bags, etc.), art sets, sports balls, nice razors, gift certificates for local stores

DONATION INFORMATION: As we make plans for Christmas-season activities at the Topeka Rescue Mission, we are happy to receive donations of new Christmas items for our guests and for community distribution.

It would be helpful to receive Christmas gift donations by December 7th. This allows time for us to get the gift area set-up. *However, we will gladly receive donations beyond this date as well.* We ask that, for Christmas, gifts be new items and unwrapped. Please also consider a year-end gift to Topeka Rescue Mission.

PLEASE BRING DONATIONS TO:

Distribution Center, 401 NW Norris:
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8am-3pm
Saturday 9am-1pm

QUESTIONS?

Please call 785-357-4285.

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF
THE TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION!***

CURRENT NEEDS LIST

FOOD ITEMS:

Gallon Cans of Vegetables & Fruits / Baby food (stage 1 and 2) and formula / Coffee / Sack Lunch Items (*i.e.* granola bars, fruit cups, pudding cups, snack crackers)

SUPPLY ITEMS:

Diapers & Pull Ups – size 3 and up / Dish Soap / All Purpose Cleaner/Pinesol Arm & Hammer Washing Soda / 20 Mule Team Borax / Fels Nephth Laundry Soap / Purex Crystals / Twin size XL sheets / Twin Blankets / Portable heaters / Any Tubs of Love (*found on the website*)

CLOTHING:

Winter Clothing and Coats for Men, Women & Children (clothing & shoes can all be used) / Men's & Women's Shoes – All Sizes / Plus Size Clothing – Men & Women

FURNITURE (*in good condition*):

Furniture – i.e. Couches, Recliners, Loveseats, Dressers, Tables, Mattresses and Box Springs, etc.

Large Appliances – i.e. Washers, Dryers, Ranges, Freezers, Refrigerators & Microwaves

TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION MONTHLY REPORT DECEMBER 2017

Topeka Rescue Mission • 600 N. Kansas Avenue • Topeka, KS 66608-1240

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FACILITIES: 785-354-1744

Hope Center for Women & Families #8
Men's Shelter #0
Distribution Center x366
Thrift Store 785-235-9094
TRM Boutique on the Blvd 785-478-5744
Children's Palace 785-730-8810



PROGRAMS: 785-354-1744

Dining Services x322
Food Distribution x366
Education & Mentoring x338
Volunteer Services x393

COMMUNITY:

NET Reach 785-783-2535 x106
Operation Street Reach 785-230-8237

DONATIONS:

Monetary: 785-354-1744 x316
Material: 785-357-4285
Food: 785-357-4285

website: TRMonline.org
email: trm@trmonline.org

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
AMERICAN
PRE-SORT INC

THE BEST CHRISTMAS



THE BEST CHRISTMAS



Has your life, job or ministry ever become so overwhelming and difficult that you felt like giving up? Before I began working at the Topeka Rescue Mission, I endured some great challenges that caused me to want to throw in the towel and walk away from it all. As I overcame, however, God used each one of the miracles in the midst of my trials to strengthen my faith and prepare me for what laid ahead. The following account serves as a powerful memory marker for me to recall when the responsibilities of the Mission became seemingly too immense...

When I first surrendered my life for the sake of ministering the Gospel full-time, I had a grand vision for my future. Because I walked away from everything comfortable in my life to follow the Lord, I thought my surrender would be rewarded with a life of exciting adventure filled with the abounding joy of saving the world. Nothing could have been further from the truth.

Within months, I was depressed, discouraged and angry at God. I wanted to run away and quit. I believe the only reason I didn't was because of something I heard a professor of mine share.

He shared with our class the story about the Israelites and how they frequently murmured and complained; wanting to return to their bondage because

they believed their oppression was greater than what they were experiencing. My professor shared that, in ministry, we too would be tempted to murmur, complain and desire to go back to where we once were. However, he reminded us that if we did we would be returning to nothing more than bondage. Though I was miserable in my current circumstances, I really did not

Cont. on page 2



PLEASE CONSIDER A YEAR-END GIFT TO TRM MINISTRIES

We consistently see more and more people who are homeless, hungry and in survival mode in this community. We track many numbers, but one of the most telling measures to me are meals served in the dining room. We track those daily, monthly and annually. Every month, I often see increases of 6-10% and more. I'm grateful God is bringing hungry people to us to feed and love. I'm grateful for you and all in this community who have so faithfully supported efforts to help our most vulnerable neighbors for 65 years. We can't do this without your help.

There are many ways to give:

Give online at trmonline.org

Call our business office
at 785-354-1744

Or mail cash or check to:

Topeka Rescue Mission Ministries
P.O. Box 8350
Topeka, KS 66608-0350

Cont. from page 1

want to return to a place of captivity from which the Lord had drawn me out.

In time, I learned that before we can do great things for God, we must become bankrupt of ourselves so that we can become fully dependent on Him. For me to be able to endure the tests and challenges that would come my way in the future, I had to first go through some fiery trials where my faith could be refined. It was during those first years at the Mission that I was frequently reminded of the many lessons I had already learned and the ways in which God always remained faithful to provide.

One such memory marker was Christmas of 1980. Had this experience and others like it not taken place, I'm not sure I ever would have had the faith to step forward in managing a homeless shelter that I knew nothing about.

The parsonage my wife and I lived in was cold and drafty. It was also located in a rough, impoverished and crime-ridden area of Kansas City where we knew no one. In all our lives, I'm not sure we had ever felt so alone. We had little income, no food, and no presents under our artificial tree. My father was dying of cancer and Tami was nine months pregnant, expecting our first child.

Our circumstances were bleak, but a glimmer of excitement shone in our hearts as we anticipated Christmas Day. We had made plans with family and would be enjoying the day in Topeka celebrating the joy of Christ's birth. However, our plans quickly shifted when, on Christmas morning, I woke up with the stomach flu.

With every part of my being ravaged with pain, combined with the dark realities already in front of me, I quickly became even more depressed. Tami tried to cheer me up, but to no avail. In a prayer of bitterness, I cried out to God, "So this is how You take care of people who have said they will serve You? You let them be broke, sick and unable to celebrate Christmas? You give them a father as a best friend, only to let him die of cancer? A wife who is pregnant with no food to eat and no money to buy it? And all this on Christmas? Really?" I fumed in my anguish and was sure He had turned a deaf ear.

We had \$1.90 to our name. By this time, Tami



could hardly fit behind the wheel of our tiny car, but she squeezed herself in and drove down to the gas station. She came back with a small bottle of Pepto-Bismol and a bottle of 7-Up. For lunch that day we dined on 7-Up and crackers, while I drank the pink medicine.

Tami was so pregnant she could hardly move, but her attitude remained positive and was truly commendable. On the other hand, I, all day long, chose to wallow in my self-pity while complaining to both her and God.

An unexpected knock on the door came around four o'clock, interrupting my saga of gloom. As we opened that door, we were greeted by a man and a woman standing there in the cold. We recognized them as neighbors from down the street. They knew we were going to the Bible School since we were staying in the old parsonage beside the church. They also had not seen us go anywhere or have anyone come by on this special day and wondered about us. "So," they said, "God placed it on our hearts to bring Christmas to you."

In their arms, they held leftovers from their Christmas meal. The crackers we were saving for dinner were soon replaced with warm turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans and pumpkin pie. They said they had experienced a really nice Christmas that morning and they wanted to share with us.

They had taken the wrapping

paper that had been on their presents and reused it to wrap presents for us. Inside several packages were food items and baby toys for our daughter who would be arriving shortly. All the items were used, but in good condition. Even though there were no stores open, this couple had taken what they had available and given it to us.

They smiled as they told us they appreciated what we were doing with our lives and that they felt God had shared His blessings with them so that they could share them with us. I was convicted, humbled and deeply grateful.

God clearly spoke to me that day and let me know that, even in the midst of my complaining and woe, He had not forgotten about me. "In spite of what you will go through," He said, "I will always meet you there." What started as the worst, turned out to be the best Christmas I'd ever had.

From that day forward my faith in God was strengthened and my trust in Him changed. It was obvious for where He was taking me that I needed to experience a number of lessons in faith. Prior to that event and others similar, I would have never had enough stamina to remain standing in the midst of the challenges I have since faced. How could I trust God to provide for others if I had never experienced great need and His provision for myself? I learned from His faithfulness and this couple's sacrifice that there would

always be hope, as long as I was walking with Him.

One of my favorite promises in scripture is that God will work all things out according to the good for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). I now believe, after meeting so many unique individuals, that each one of us are called with a God-given purpose in life. There is no one on this earth today that is purposeless in God. If we say yes to the Lord and begin walking with Him, this promise is one we can always be assured of.

I once lived in poverty and experienced great lack. I watched my family question as we wondered where our next meal would come from. I remember the anxiety I felt when the bills came and there was no money to pay them. I remember the sleepless nights wondering if I had missed God and questioning if things would ever change. However, I can look back now and know with all certainty that even through those trials, there was great purpose. Had I turned my back on the ministry and given up hope, I would have never experienced the richness of His miraculous provision, the best Christmas of my life, or the privilege of leading the Topeka Rescue Mission that stands as a testimony of God's goodness today.

There may be some unpleasant circumstances you are living in now. While they

are rarely enjoyable as we go through them, we can find hope in His promise that each one will be turned around and used for the good. May your eyes shift from the despair of your current circumstance to the hope of tomorrow that lies just within your reach. †

– **Barry Feaker**
Executive Director

‘The Best Christmas’ is re-printed from chapter 5 “In Darkness, a Light still shines.” If you haven’t read this collection of 52 Stories of Hope, copies are available at the Main Shelter, Thrift Store and Boutique on the Boulevard.



Santa Ritchey brings Christmas cheer to TRM children

CHRISTMAS HOURS!

The TRM Ministries Boutique on the Boulevard has extended hours for Christmas. They carry new and gently used items for a thrifty and beautiful Christmas! Holiday hours are Monday — Wednesday 10a-5p, Open Late Thursday and Friday 10a-7p and Saturday 10-5



TRM children celebrate Christmas together