

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

"Thank You for Keeping Me" ... *If you owe someone honor, honor that person. - Romans 13:7 (GW)*



Barry was at a high school one day talking to students about the Mission. As he spoke, he couldn't help but notice a boy who appeared to be in tears. While nothing Barry was saying was actually sad, it was obvious the boy was struggling not to cry.

When the class was over and everyone else left, the boy stayed behind. He introduced himself to Barry and once again the tears began to fall. He told Barry that when he was just a baby, he lived with his mom at the Mission. He didn't remember living there, but often heard his mom say it was because of God and the Mission that they were both alive today. It wasn't until the boy heard Barry talk about the Mission that his mother's words finally made sense. The boy had never really thought about what it would have been like for his mother to be homeless and alone with a little baby. After listening to Barry, he knew he had to go home and tell her thank you for being such a great mom.

When Barry went home that night, he couldn't help but think of his own mom. She also had experienced a lot of challenges when Barry was a baby and almost became homeless as well. Though she never talked about it, he knew she had gone through a lot to be a good mom and give him everything he needed growing up. He also knew he had failed to say thank you to her often enough.

Barry picked up the phone and called his mom. He cried as he told her how special she was, how very much he loved her, and how much he appreciated her love. He never wanted to take her for granted again.

Whether you have a mom or dad who lives with you or not, there are still people who love you and want what's best for you as you grow up. When we don't think about it a lot, it can become easy to see these special people day in and day out and never say thanks.

How do you feel after taking the time to do something like making a drawing or cleaning your room? Sometimes it can be hard work! But doesn't it make the hard work all worth it if someone smiles and tells you "thanks" after you are through? Moms, dads and

caregivers feel the same way! They might spend the whole day working outside the home to make enough money to buy you food or make sure you have a safe place to sleep at night. Or, they might spend all day working inside the home to make sure you are cared for and not left all by yourself. They probably are also doing a whole bunch of things you might not see, just to make sure you can stay together and be safe. Even if those things don't seem like such a big deal to us, they can be to them! Saying thanks to the people who care for you is a really big deal. They will appreciate it a whole bunch, and it hardly requires any hard work from you! All it takes is just a few seconds to tell them you love them so much.

Another way to say "thanks" is by being a good listener and doing what you are told. While your parents or caregiver might ask you to do something from time to time that you really don't feel like doing, listening to them and doing it anyway can be a tremendous gift. PLUS, it's something God asks us to do (Ephesians 6:1-3). He even tells us if we treat our parents with kindness, our day will be MUCH brighter! Who doesn't like a brighter day?! I'm sure you do... and your parents or caregivers do too!

What is a special way you can say thank you to the people who love and take care of you today? Don't wait for tomorrow. They need to hear that you love them today.



Dear God,
Thank You so much for the people in my life who love and care for me. Help me to always remember to say "thank you" and to show with my actions how much I love them.
In Jesus' Name. Amen. †



OFFICIAL BOOK RELEASE ANNOUNCEMENT

On May 19th from 5:30-7:30pm, Barnes and Noble (Topeka) will be hosting our official book release through a book signing and book fair. Bring your own copies of the original book or children's version to have signed, purchase hard cover copies, or just stop in to say hi! Books are also available at the Mission's Thrift Store (1312 N. Kansas Ave.) and on Amazon.com. Proceeds support Topeka Rescue Mission Children's Palace. Presenting the attached voucher at check-out will further support Topeka Rescue Mission Ministries.

**Barnes & Noble
Bookfair**

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**Topeka Rescue
Mission**

May 19, 2016, 5:30pm

Barnes & Noble

17 & Wanamaker

Bookfair ID# 11830684

Please present this voucher prior to making your purchase. A percentage of the net sale will be contributed to your school/organization.

*The purchase of gift cards, Barnes & Noble memberships, textbooks, magazine subscriptions, video games, digital content, purchases made at Café context and operated by Starbucks, and other items Barnes & Noble may exclude from time to time or its sole discretion are not eligible for bookfair sales. Institutional discounts may not be applied. See BN.COM/bookfairs for more details and to stop online.

TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION **MONTHLY REPORT** MAY 2016

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Facilities: 354-1744

Hope Center for Women & Families opt 8
Men's Shelter opt 0
Distribution Center x366
Thrift Store 235-9094



Programs: 354-1744

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

Community:

Neighborhood Empowerment &
Transformation (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: info@trmonline.org

A photograph showing a close-up of two hands being held together. The hand on the left is smaller and appears to be a child's, wearing a light purple long-sleeved shirt. The hand on the right is larger and appears to be an adult's, wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and a paved area.

REMEMBERING MOM
MOTHER'S DAY EDITION

“A mother is she who can take the place of all others, but whose place no one else can take.”
– Cardinal Gaspard Mermillod, Roman Catholic Cardinal Switzerland (1883-1891)

REMEMBERING MOM

MOTHER'S DAY EDITION



*She stood at the door of the Mission,
her five children in tow,
Their future now uncertain,
what would happen next she did not know.
Reflecting back over these painful years,
her heart broken from years of abuse,
The love of her life, once gentle and kind
now his hostility and addiction she could not defuse.*

*She was faced with a decision
that many moms must make,
Do I stay in this home and my children forsake?
She knew how to take the ridicule
and beatings by now,
But when it came to her children,
this she could not allow.*

*She had heard of the Mission -
a safe, loving place,
But if they did go there,
would she be viewed as a disgrace?
The battle in her mind of what decision to make,
Brought her to the conclusion
that her children were in danger
and that she would not tolerate.*

*They fled in the night
with just the clothes on their backs,
And wandered through dark streets
until they crossed over the tracks.
The ageless old cross still lit up at night,
Proclaiming “Jesus Saves”
brought her heart some delight.*

*Though the future still uncertain,
a peace began to fill her heart
That somehow this might be an opportunity
for a brand new start...*

Cont. on page 2

Cont. from page 1

Mary had done all that she could to keep her family together. As a child, Dennis suffered greatly from years of insecurity, being bounced around the system. One foster home after the next left him feeling abandoned and unwanted. He eventually turned to drugs to numb his pain.

When Mary met Dennis, she was hopeful he had kicked his dependency on substances. Twelve years and five daughters later, however, he had thrown in the towel and turned back to using and selling illegal drugs. Mary held her little girls tightly the night she and her daughters entered into the Mission; and even tighter a few months later when Dennis was sent to prison for the next 30 years. Struggling as she might to hold the family together - the oldest child being ten and the youngest still in diapers - Mary was tempted to throw in the towel herself. However, because of the encouragement and compassionate service of others, she became determined that with God's help she could not give up in spite of her circumstances.

Sometimes there is a tendency for others to judge people who find themselves living in poverty and homelessness. We might believe they must have done something terribly wrong to deserve what they have to deal with. Yet others realize that at any moment the unthinkable could happen to them - a health crisis, loss of employment, a natural disaster or, as in Mary's case, the love of our life turning in the wrong direction pulling our family apart.

May 8th marks another Mother's Day in our nation. As the years have passed by, my appreciation and admiration for the people we call "Mom" has grown significantly. In all honesty, I'm not tough enough to fulfill the role of being a mom, or a woman for that matter. Moms give us our passage from our creation into this world, feed us when we are hungry, and comfort us when we cry. Their work is never finished. They truly set our course for life. Unfortunately, as a society and a world, it's evident that we do not value our mothers or women nearly like we should.



In the past three decades as director of the Topeka Rescue Mission, I have seen some of the bravest, smartest, most dedicated, passionate, determined and at the same time challenged moms in this part of the world. The task of bringing a vulnerable new life into this world, protecting, nurturing, loving, caring and teaching is complicated enough; let alone attempting to do so without a home or while living in an environment where physical or mental abuse exists... many also living from meal to meal never knowing how or where they might find enough food for hungry little tummies to satisfy... some standing in the gap in order to protect their kids from abusers in the home or negative influences in a challenged neighborhood. Thank God He has touched the heart of many of you who give so that others have a place to escape, a refuge of safety, shelter, warm meals and the love of God's people.

Mary's journey at the Topeka Rescue Mission lasted many months. At times it seemed like she

would never be able to have a home of her own again, that place of refuge where she and her girls could feel normal again. However, through loving mentors, the job training program and some awesome new friends who watched her children while she worked, Mary was able to move forward.

I'll never forget Mary's last day at the Mission. As the family was getting ready to leave, her youngest daughter walked up to me, looked up at my face and said, "Pick me up!" I did so and then she said, "Give me a kiss!" I looked over at Mom who gave the nod of approval. I gave this precious little angel a kiss on the cheek and then put her back down. Wouldn't you know it, the rest of her sisters lined up one after the other, looked up at my face and said, "Pick me up and give me a kiss too!" With tears on Mom's face and little giggles from each child, they all got their goodbye kiss on the cheek. Mom then looked at me and said, "Once I thought we were lost but I realize through God's love and His people, we have been found."

***How often we judge those we cannot understand,
But when we walk alongside their suffering,
we begin to see God's plan.
To give them a hope that money can't buy,
A future with no more suffering in the sweet by and by.***

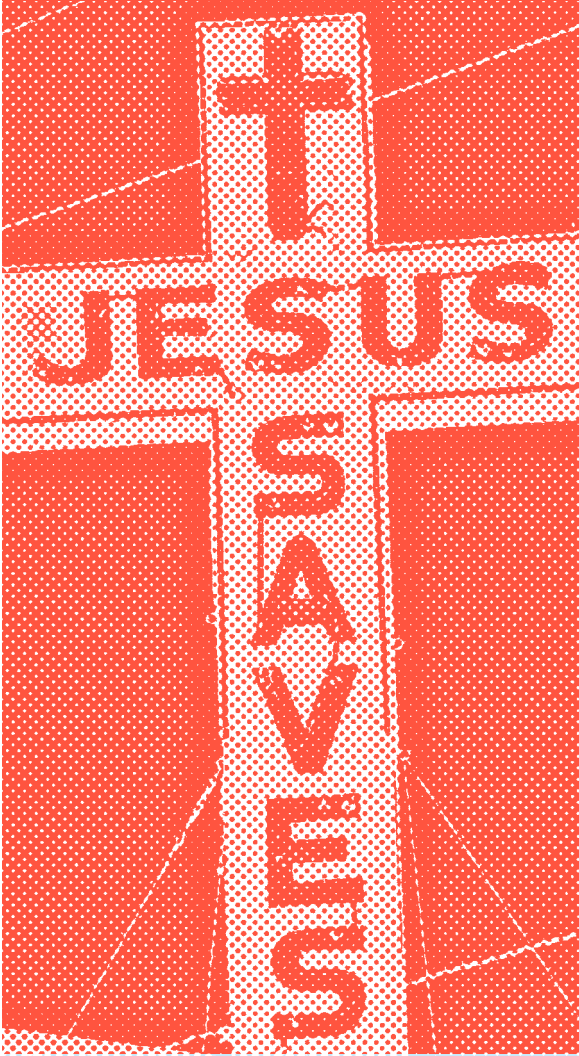
***Until that glorious day shall appear
We are compelled to tell them that Jesus is near.
Their hand we must take and walk by their side
To compassionately show them God's love,
in which they can forever abide.***

Happy Mother's Day to all of our moms. Thank you for bringing us life and thank you for persevering even when you didn't think you could! Our gratefulness and prayers are with each of you!

Sincerely on behalf of the ministry,

Barry Leah





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 / Granulated Sugar
Bottled Water / Mustard & Ketchup / Sack Lunch Items (*i.e. Pudding cups, fruit cups, granola bars, etc.*)

SUPPLY ITEMS:

Purex Crystals / 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 – Sizes 4, 5 & 6 / Pull Ups – Sizes 3T, 4T and 5T / Foot Powder / Razors (Men's & Women's) / Deodorant (Men's & Women's) / Kirk's Original Coco Castile Soap Shaving Cream (Men's & Women's) / Disinfecting Wipes / Cough Drops / Kleenex

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

TAKE A TOUR OF THE PALACE!

Interested in receiving a look inside the Palace prior to opening? We'd love to show you around! Tours take place Wednesdays from 9-10:30a and 1-2:30p. All tours must be scheduled in advance by calling Jessica Hosman at 785-354-1744-x325 or jhosman@trmonline.org.

If you are not available during regularly scheduled times, let us know and we'll do our best to accommodate. Additional tour information will be provided upon scheduling.

If you'd like to make a donation for the Palace, please make checks payable to "Topeka Rescue Mission" marked "Children's Palace." Credit card donations can also be made online or by calling 785-354-1744-x316. †

