



Roseburg Rescue Mission

*A Beacon of Hope
for the Homeless*

OCTOBER 2019

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A New Life Has Begun

Jason lost his job and place to live at the same time. He was living with his sister and her boyfriend, who got into a fight over their commitment to one another. Drugs were involved. She was under Department of Human Services supervision. It was the third and last time her three children were taken away. Jason was the child care provider. DHS paid him \$1,200 per month for the five years he lived in that house. He was approved, because he is the children's uncle, there were not more than three children, he passed a background check, he did required training, his sister had a job, the home environment was approved, and periodic inspections passed. Yet, all three adults were codependent. Intervention stopped drugs from affecting the third generation and scattered each one to new destinations. His sister and boyfriend were in trouble. The children went to foster care and perhaps adoption. Jason looked on our website to see what the Roseburg Rescue Mission would be like.

When Jason was 15-years-old, he was curious about all the foot traffic in and out of the house, and what his father (now deceased) and these people were doing behind closed doors. When he opened the door, his father introduced him to a deceptive, hopeless lifestyle of drugs. Instead of nurturing his children, the father hurt them and indirectly set in motion an uncertain future for his grandchildren. His twisted reasoning was, "I would rather you do it with me than anyone else." Like it would protect him from bad drugs and people! Jason said, "Now I think that it was wrong and I wish I had never done it." He said meth caused him to lose his teeth, friends, family, school time, ability to concentrate, manage his dream business, deal with people, and have a marriage relationship.

Jason's work ethic is still intact. He worked three hours a day to stay here. He was held accountable to be drug free and look for employment. Prior to being a child care provider, he was regularly employed. While at the Mission, he started by doing outside day labor jobs, then landed a job in fast food.

All three prayers have been answered.

He went to church as a child, but said, "When I first came here, I really wasn't sure if I was a Christian." He voluntarily went to some of our morning chapels for men in our programs. Only evening chapel is required for non-program men. One morning a Mission staff member presented a message that Jason related to his own past. As has been testified before, the conversion did not take place during the message. After chapel while walking to a store, he prayed for the Lord to forgive him of all his sins, get a job, and be on good terms with his mother. All three prayers have been answered and a new life has begun.

First Mission In America

was started by Jerry McAuley (1839-1884), an alcoholic, Irish immigrant. His father was a counterfeiter. His mother was unable to care for him. His grandmother could not control his rebellious ways. At 13, he was sent to America to live with his sister. Soon he moved out to live with a family in the slums of New York. He said, "Stealing came natural and easy. A bigger nuisance and loafer never stepped above ground." In 1857, he was sentenced to 15 years in Sing Sing prison for robbery. Over the prison's entrance hung a sign, "The way of the transgressor is hard." Jerry knew the biblical message. He tried to do well in prison, but the deplorable conditions made it impossible. There were rodents, insects, and tuberculosis, that eventually caused his early death. He read the Bible in search of forgiveness, and was converted to Christ through the efforts of a missionary to the prison sharing his testimony.

started by a converted convict

His attitude and conduct changed so that he was released after just 7 years. He continued to struggle with alcohol and crime, and wrestle with his faith. He considered how working as a porter cleaned people on the outside and the Lord cleaned them from the inside, then vowed to serve the Lord. Jerry McAuley teamed up with Fredrick Hatch, a self-made wealthy man, to purchase a building on Water Street. Jerry raised the repair and operational costs from donors, then in 1872, the first mission in America was started by a converted convict. Singing, testimonies, and preaching competed with the shouts and noises of the slums outside. It became an example of Christian compassion to the homeless. Jerry knew that his new life was directly from the Lord, and he wanted to share that same hope with others, as someone once did for him.



New Life Program Remodel

Before and after pictures show the stark contrast of change in people or things because of some event. Above are photos of one of our men's program living areas. The photo on top is after the demolition of a wall and ceiling; the one below is after the renovation was complete. The scene is looking through what was originally built as three separate storefronts on Sheridan St. It was purchased by the Mission in 1977, being used over the years as our office, thrift store, chaplain's office, conference room, program area.

On the back wall is a mural painted more than 20 years ago, when that far room was an addiction recovery classroom. It depicts the cross of Christ as a sword breaking the chains of bondage on humanity. It is like in the hymn, "Amazing Grace," there is a line, "My chains are gone, I've been set free." When the shackles of addiction are broken, a before and after person develops. A new person is born, one with hope and a future. The mural and our purpose remain. Yet today, addiction is a growing problem.

Douglas County, like other areas, has a drug problem, not a homeless problem. The Mission has averaged 30 empty men's beds every night for many years. The population at our Samaritan Inn, for homeless women and children, is growing, but not full. Most of the people camping in town are seeking to satisfy their addictions, not looking for employment or housing. Addictions are also the reason for children being separated from their parents, the foster care crisis, and the growth of homeless women and children. The solution is to crack down on the drug problem. Innovative housing ideas will not break the chains of addiction.

Innovative housing ideas will not break the chains of addiction.

At Roseburg Rescue Mission, we are working on both homeless and addiction problems. They are far from being the same, and have to be addressed differently. Homelessness is relieved by providing meals, clothing and shelter, then assistance with employment and housing. Addiction is confronted with the same basic services plus accountability and recovery programs, before employment and housing can happen. We have a New Life Program in each of our men's and women's shelters, that addresses a wide range of obsessive-compulsive-addictive behaviors, as well as, destructive behaviors. Our program living areas are separate from transient client areas. Program areas have single beds, lockers, kitchenettes, living rooms, their own restrooms; whereas, transient clients have bunks beds, baggage rooms, and dayrooms. Program members take classes here and have work assignments, assisting staff in running the Mission. We also refer our clients to various other meetings and programs in the community. When the chains of addiction are broken, then a person can have a new life.

Thank you, Lynn Antis, Executive Director



Rescue

Commit yourself to the Lord; let Him deliver him; Let Him rescue him, because He delights in him.
Psalm 22:8

food needs

Spaghetti, Macaroni
Tomato Sauce
Diced Tomatoes
Mushroom Soup
Refried Beans, Salt
Oatmeal, Pepper
Cooking Oil, Mayo
Canned Fruit

other needs

Baby Diapers #5 & #6
Baby Wipes
Disposable Razors
Deodorant
Socks, Hats
Strollers 1 & 2 Seats

items accepted

At Our Dock
806 SE Pine St
Mon-Sat 9am to 6pm
Furniture
Household Items
Kitchen Wares
Sporting Goods
Electronics
Clothing
Bicycles

*Items need to be in good condition and working order.
Mattresses not accepted.*

vehicle donations

are accepted here.
Receipt for tax deductions provided.