

Spotlight

August 2015

Muncie
Mission
Ministries, Inc.



JAMES' STORY

James came to the Muncie Mission straight out of jail, uncertain where he would go next. Even more significantly, he was unsure who he was, as years of rootlessness, immersion in a dark community, and addiction had kept him from knowing stability and having his own identity. His story is one of finding the core of himself in the faithfulness of God.

James' childhood was marked by family moves due to his father's military career. In the beginning he would make friends, only to leave them behind in the next relocation; as time went on he stopped trying, both in friendships and academics. Finally, after repeating his freshman and sophomore years of high school more than once, James simply gave up and stopped attending school altogether. Nothing good came from his "freedom," as he fell in with people who led him into drug use, trouble with the law, and severance from his family.

With his life spiraling down, James knew he had to escape. He ended up in Muncie, but the new location did not change him, and he returned to work in strip clubs, where his emerging skills as a DJ were in demand. His life began to revolve around the clubs and their communities where his own addictions and insecurities were mirrored. He fell even deeper into drug use.

Again, James somehow was able to see that his life needed to change. He had been taught about Jesus as a child, and although he had chosen to make his own way in rebellion against God, the truth of His ways still had a hold somewhere inside him. He once again made difficult changes, stayed away from drugs for a while, and even stabilized enough to get married. However, this hopeful start sputtered to a stop after his marriage began to fall apart. Relationships became violent. Anxiety was his companion. Drugs became his comfort and escape once again, to the point of consuming ninety percent of his income. The consequences of using drugs eventually landed him in jail.



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A Letter from Frank

In contrast to our usual summer lull, the Muncie Mission is abuzz this summer. The Attic Window stores are bustling with customers and the shelter is bursting at the seams as we take in men in numbers we've never before seen. Although this summer is abnormal in comparison to past summers, the staff still goes about their usual duties, coming alongside the men to show them God's compassion. Our kitchen manager still gives his heartfelt devotions each day to a dining room full of restless kids and their parents; our counselors lovingly work to strengthen the men with God's word. As the Mission fills nearly to capacity, our resources are stretch with it. God's blessings are evident as he continues to supply our needs even when it looks as if we've reached our limit.

The summer is a time of hard work, prayer and hopefulness. Here at the Mission, we work, pray and hope for God's word to settle and take root in the hearts of the hurting. Please pray with us for ample provisions for the men, our customers, clients and guests as God speaks to each one, pouring His grace into them and drawing them near to Himself.

Serving together,

1 Chronicles 16:11
Look to the LORD and his strength;
seek his face always.

Graduation

Friday, April 24th, 2015, we celebrated here at the Mission. Seven men graduated from the final phase of the Liberty Street Recovery Program (the Mission's long term recovery program) that night, having spent over a year digging deep into who they are, who God is, and what their connection to Him means for themselves and for those they love. Many of these graduates will stay at the Mission as they prepare to return to their communities, finish a book study together, start looking for jobs and save enough money to start their lives from a new place.



We know this is not the end of the struggle for these men. It is the end of a respite but a beginning as well, as they get ready to go back to worlds that will not be easy to live in. They have had opportunities to strengthen their faith, to let God heal their hearts, and to build internal resources and external community. Please pray for protection, wisdom, humility and continued strong, helpful friendships for these men.

There were tears and laughter, hugs, handshakes, and suits and neckties. It was a community celebration, one that we look forward to seeing again in August, when the next transitions come. Please come join us! You will leave hopeful and encouraged, because God is truly at work, and hearts are truly softening and strengthening. Keep an eye on our Facebook for the date as it gets closer.

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James' story continued

James found himself at a crossroads in the winter of 2014. He had heard about the Muncie Mission while in jail; he hesitated at its front doors, debating whether to step inside toward something unknown and difficult, but possibly life-saving. He did walk through the doors and into the next part of the life God intended for him.

Coming to the Mission brought changes to James that he had never imagined to be possible. "It's in your head: you keep doing something for so long you don't feel like there is any way out. This place has shown me that there is a way out, there is an alternative. You just have to be willing to search for it." God's astounding gifts of grace have drawn James back to Him, grateful for His protection and provision. He is learning to let go of worry, to trust God to take care of him, and to live one day at a time.

James' outward life has changed, as he works hard during the day rather than partying all night. He has had to adjust inwardly to others respecting him for his integrity, thankful heart, and leadership, after years of not knowing he had these qualities. James has noticed that his anger has almost completely subsided, and he has started connecting with other people rather than building walls to keep them out. He is wrestling hard toward spiritual change as well, realizing that he never knew who he was, knowing he has to let go of everything he thought he knew. God is in the process of changing from the inside out, and it is clearly visible to those around him.

**Fear not, for I am with you,
be not dismayed, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.**
Isaiah 41:10 (ESV)



Golf outing update

God truly blessed the Mission, and the 59 teams (236 players) that participated, with beautiful weather for our 12th annual golf tournament on June 4th.

If you were a sponsor, played, donated items or volunteered, your involvement helped make this year's tournament very successful. You helped us raise \$34,690 to help fund the Mission's many life-changing programs and services.

THANK YOU!

We praise God for his provisions.

Morning flight winners

1st place—Sean Rice -17
2nd place—Johnny Carino's-16
3rd place—Doug Meranda-15

Afternoon flight winners

1st place—Chad Gilliam-18
2nd place—Eric Baize-17
3rd place—Star Financial-16



STAR VOLUNTEER!

Volunteers are an integral part of everything we do here at the Mission. This summer, we would like to give a special thanks to one in particular who has helped us every Tuesday morning during the school year, Kristi Thornburg

Kristi helps out with the food cart on Tuesday mornings. She says: "It is a blessing to me to have the opportunity to help with poverty relief. Also, I love knowing that the men who stay here are being taught about Jesus..." Thank you Kristi for all you do!

To all of our volunteers: We could not be here without you! We look forward to hearing about each of your experiences and being able to share them with our giving community. Thank you for all you do.

"Volunteering at the Mission is one of the best things that I do all week... Definitely a high point." (Kristi Thornburg)



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In Memory of (Gifts from 03/01/2015)

Charles Bebout
Richard & Norma Cline
John Blair
Sandra Blair Townsend
Eileen Booher
Jane & Larry Haugh
Jim Booher
Jane & Larry Haugh
Frances Bumbalough
Fairlawn Church of Christ
Mary Lee Coleman
John & Mary Ireland
Frank DeLong
Marilyn & DeWayne Goldman
Mary Elrod
Sally, Amy & Craig Elrod
Mick & Margie Elrod
Sondra Seibold
Howard "Whitey" Fights
Grace Harrold
Kevin & Marla Austin
John Benadum Family
(David, Diane & Jim)
Etta (Benadum) Barlow
Mary (Benadum) Lorance
Gerald Benadum
Charles Benadum Family
Jim & Joanna Winningham
Ralph Holsinger
Louise Harrold
Don & Donna Johnson
Warren Ross
Patty Sausaman
Don & Judy Moulton
The Howard Family
The Meeks Mortuary Staff
Ray & Paula Raines
Wendy Heinzen
John & Lisa Christy
JoAnn Christy
Mark & Vickie Walters
First Baptist Church-Gas City
Prairie Grove Sunday School
Tim & Mary Franks
The Chosen Ones – Judy Luckey
& Peggy Lynn
Glynda Beeson
Pat & Bob Saine
Ron & Beverly Hoopingarner
Charles & Jackie Rector
Judith Galliher
Leslie Warstler
Nellie Garringer
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Louise Morehouse
Norma MacKenzie
Polly Smith
Adrienne Badgley
George & Sheila Watson
Ron & Beverly Hoopingarner
Beverly Galbraith

Dr. H. Allen Neal
Wilma Neal
Harold G. Neal
Wilma Neal
Phyllis Nelson
Mary Jo Sgro
Tracy Norris
John & Jane Beekman
Richard Harris
Exchange Club of Muncie
Dick & Kathy Sollmann
Tommye Browning
Dick & Rhonda Williams

Mary Elizabeth Ryan
Charles & Sally Jamieson
V. Richard & Marilyn Williams
Mary Louise & David Neff
Anthony & Rosemary Grasso
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Isenbarger
Brian & Karen Francisco
Larry & Nancy Campbell
Wayne & Ruth Payne
Norma MacKenzie
Ted & Connie Fullhart
Adrienne Badgley

Jack Slagle
Roger & Frances Nelson
Dixie Smith
Jeffery Smith
Lee Swanson
Adrienne Badgley
Helen Tirey
Norm Tirey
Christy Lea Whittemore
Wilma Neal
Ray Wilson
Roger & Frances Nelson

In Honor of (Gifts from 03/01/2015)

Mary Ippel
Jane McDowell
Kate Marquell-granddaughter
Tom & Shirley Marquell
Thomas Marquell-grandson
Tom & Shirley Marquell
Paul Parkison
Emmett Duncan
Glen Smith
Tom & Shirley Marquell
Charlie & Claudia Sursa
Mary Jane Sursa

Today's Lesson:

I WILL NOT PAY RETAIL!!!

It's back-to-school season once again and we all know that shopping for back to school items for your kids can get crazy expensive really quickly. There are so many items that students need no matter what year they are in school.

No worries! We have a solution. Come check out the Attic Window Stores! We have great prices on school clothing and items for all age groups.

Mini refrigerators, microwaves, dishes, fans, bunk beds, futons, backpacks, lunch boxes, clothing, shelves and much more are here for you when you shop Attic Window. And you can be guaranteed a great price for a great cause.

Come see us!



Leave a Legacy for Ministry

Remembering the Muncie Mission in your estate planning is a wonderful way to ensure that the values you hold today will continue to make a difference after you go to be with the Lord. Leaving a legacy for ministry in your will is simple, safe and makes a lasting impact on the lives of our homeless and hurting. Please consider the Muncie Mission as you plan for the future.

We'll be glad to help discuss your options with you in a loving caring manner without any pressure to make decisions. Call today for a free brochure "Providing Hope for Generations to Come."

Contact Frank Baldwin, executive Director at 288-9122 ext 222 or Don Ford, Director of Development ext 224, or visit www.munciemission.org

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