

Spotlight

August 2015

Muncie
Mission
Ministries, Inc.

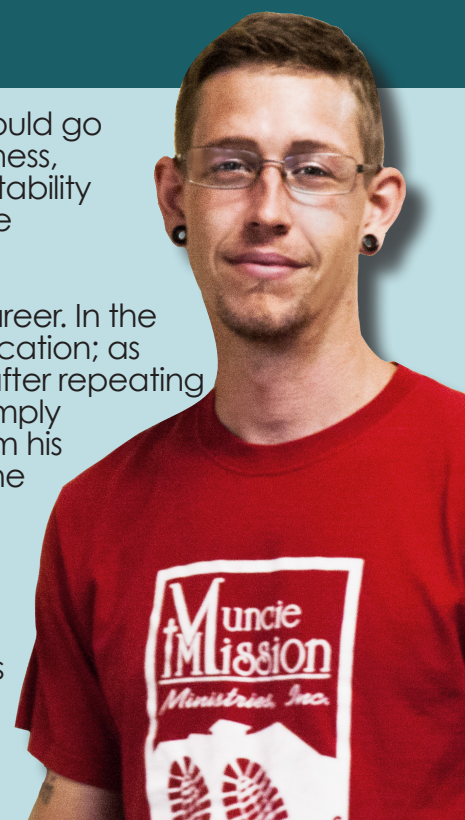
JAMES' STORY

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.

Check us out on Social Media or send us an email!
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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)**



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 Hoopingartner

Charles & Jackie Rector

Judith Galliher

Leslie Warstler

Nellie Garinger

Mary Jo Sgro

Naomi Henderson

Ray & Paula Raines

Robert & Carolyn Coder

Robert & Sheri Cereghin

Steve & Julie Norris

Susan Lockwood

Julie & Juanita Butler

Linda Decker

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Mr. & Mrs. Loren Lovegrove

Louise Morehouse

Norma MacKenzie

Polly Smith

Adrienne Badgley

George & Sheila Watson

Ron & Beverly Hoopingartner

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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