

PRODIGAL SON-TIMES™



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Bible Cross Word Puzzle	2
My name is Jim Donley. This is my story.	2
God bless you from Joyce Bowser	2
More New Year's Resolutions from our staff and clients	3
Field Trip Report by John Collins	4
"Trying" by Renee Johnson-Jackson	4

“My New Year’s Resolution for 2007 is...”

Morris R. Kennedy— To understand that God has saved me and has given me a new life. My heart has been touched by God and filled with the Holy Ghost. Everyday is not a good day, but believing in God makes my day. I always say I am blessed. We are all blessed when we wake up and see another day. So, I want to help anyone that God puts in my path in the New Year.

Latrell Clark— Dear Rescue Mission: I’m a single mother that came to the Rescue Mission for help. They lead me to Jesus and He delivered me from drugs. Meeting the staff here at the Mission showed me tough love. I never thought I would make it, but they showed me I can through Jesus and all my blessings followed. Thank you Rescue Mission. My new Year’s Resolution for 2007 is to stay focused in Christ and keep my children focused so they may grow unto Him. (and to stay drug free)

Susan Montgomery—To stop thinking of my past life, to look towards my new future, which wouldn’t have been possible if it wasn’t for the Rescue Mission. I thank God every single day for my new life and also to the woman who gave me the buss pass and showed me the way to the Mission. I thank God for everyday I wake up.

Crystal L Wallace—To have my GED and to take some nursing courses. The next thing is to look for a house for me and my babies and last, but not forgotten, to find a job.(cont. pg. 3)

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT G4, INC.



Thanks to Nadine Fafard (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-24-2001
 THAT'S THE BEST ONE-STAR HOTEL THAT I'VE EVER SEEN

The Lord is my Shepherd by Marcus McMenton

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want to go back to my old life. I want to start my life over and the Lord has given me another chance to start my life over again. I am going to take that time. Thinking it over, I see that I can turn my life around and stay away from the devil and love God. If you only knew what a wonderful gift God has for you, and who Jesus is, you would ask Him for a second chance, too. Then, once He gives you that second chance, then you can turn your life around and Praise God for giving you a second chance.



May God Bless You from Joyce Bowser (volunteer tutor)

It has been my privilege to spend time here at the Mission. I have met such memorable and wonderful people, worked with numerous residents in the Learning Center, served many meals, and often just chatted or listened, as I offered encouragement to those who walked through these doors. Doc Finnegan recruited me eight years ago while I was working at the White Wing Christian Book Store. God thumped my heart. From the moment I set foot in the building, I knew that God had a purpose for my being here. These lovely people have become like a second family to me. I came to the Mission, hoping to be a blessing, but the truth is, I have been blessed, and am every time I enter this place. I've seen many men who have gone through the program and graduated, now serving the Lord. It is such a joy to me to see former residents on staff and living victorious lives for Jesus Christ. These words from a song remind me of God's mercy and grace. "If it had not been for the Lord on my side, *(cont on pg 4)*

Good Day, My name is Jim Donley. This is my story.

One morning early, early in life my mother stood up from the breakfast table and walked across to her and dad's bedroom and called out. Dad answered her call with me at his side. She was pronounced dead at the scene. Dad never remarried. We lived motherless and wifeless. We lived with poverty growing up on welfare. My teen years moved on with some troubles. Using and abusing booze and drugs. Trouble in school. Trouble with others. My first marriage at 18. My first son on his way. A daughter followed. Our happy union didn't last. Disappointment came along as second nature. Time moved on. In 1983 my dad was in the I.C.U. at a neighboring hospital. Being the elderly gentleman he was, I was gravely concerned. Going to visit and check in on him daily. One afternoon I was hanging out in the visitors lounge down in the dumps. *(Cont. on pg 3)*

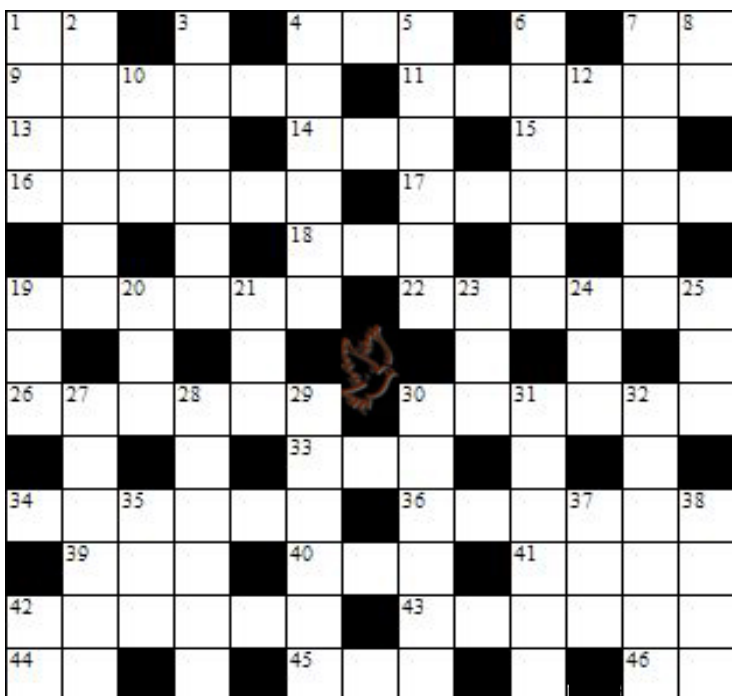
DOWN

- 1 ___ for that day! For the day of the LORD is near (Joel 1:15)
- 2 they never stop sinning; they ___ the unstable (2 Peter 2:14)
- 3 The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the ___ (Ps 19:7)
- 4 traps (Ps 141:9)
- 5 hypothesis
- 6 I will give the land of ___ as the portion you will inherit (Ps 105:11)
- 7 not the smallest letter, not the least ___ of a pen (Matt 5:18)
- 8 ___, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God (Rom 11:33)
- 10 I had rebuilt the wall and not a ___ was left in it (Neh 6:1)
- 12 nephew of Abraham (Gen 12:5)
- 19 When the hour came, Jesus and ___ apostles reclined at the table (Luke 22:14)
- 20 Where is the one ___ has been born king of the Jews? (Matt 2:2)
- 21 like to a ___ or to a young heart upon the mountains (Song 8:14) KJV
- 23 rowing device (Ezek 27:29) KJV
- 24 as in Adam all ___, so in Christ all will be made alive (1 Cor 15:22)
- 25 decay (Isa 50:2)
- 27 he being not a forgetful ___, but a doer of the work (James 1:25) KJV
- 28 spoken of through the prophet Daniel, let the ___ understand (Matt 24:15)
- 29 at his waist was a belt with a dagger in its ___ (2 Sam 20:8)
- 30 Praise be to the LORD, who has ___ my cause (1 Sam 25:39)
- 31 If, however, I am ___ of doing anything deserving death (Acts 25:11)
- 32 easier for a camel to go through the eye of a ___ than for a rich (Matt 19:24)
- 35 He who has ears, ___ him hear (Matt 13:9)
- 37 weight challenged (Jer 5:28)
- 38 I was given a ___ like a measuring rod (Rev 11:1)

ACROSS

- 1 Be perfect, therefore, ___ your heavenly Father is perfect (Matt 5:48)
- 4 Jesus found a young donkey and ___ upon it (John 12:14)
- 7 Stretch out your hand." He did ___, and his hand was completely restored (Luke 6:10)
- 9 "What is your name?" "My name is ___," he replied (Mark 5:9)
- 11 This will bring ___ to your body and nourishment to your bones (Prov 3:8)
- 13 father of Seth
- 14 The god of this ___ has blinded the minds of unbelievers (2 Cor 4:4)
- 15 they can do no harm ___ can they do any good (Jer 10:5)
- 16 after the ___ he took the cup, saying (Luke 22:20)
- 17 a certain ___ named Tertullus, who informed the governor (Acts 24:1) KJV
- 18 May my prayer come before you; turn your ___ to my cry (Ps 88:2)
- 19 I will give to thy servants, the ___ that cut timber (2 Chron 2:10) KJV
- 22 saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray ___ (Matt 26:36) KJV
- 26 The LORD reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant ___ rejoice Ps 97:1
- 30 The king's command was so ___ and the furnace so hot (Dan 3:22)
- 33 the socket of Jacob's ___ was touched near the tendon (Gen 32:32)
- 34 David returned to his ___ in Jerusalem (2 Sam 20:3)
- 36 The Israelites are stubborn, like a stubborn ___ (Hos 4:16)
- 39 Moses led Israel from the ___ Sea and they went into the Desert (Ex 15:22)
- 40 also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ___ it (Gen 3:6)
- 41 whereas my father did ___ you with a heavy yoke, I will add to (1 Kings 12:11)
- 42 My mouth speaks what is true, for my lips ___ wickedness (Prov 8:7)
- 43 small amount (Gen 44:25)
- 44 Your sins are forgiven, ___ to say, 'Get up, take your mat (Mark 2:9)
- 45 By faith Moses' parents ___ him for three months after he was born (Heb 11:23)
- 46 Woe to you who are well f___ now, for you will go hungry (Luke 6:25)

(Donley—cont from pg. 2) Suddenly and surprisingly this elderly women appeared out of nowhere. She came to me and sat down. Now mind you, I don't remember if I'd been praying. Prayer wasn't what I was into back then. Sharing with me a brief time about the Lord and His love. Before I knew it, I'm being lead in the Lord's prayer and asking Him into my life and into my heart. To be my God and Savior. As he became from that moment on. Blessings didn't come overnight. Seek ye first the kingdom of God and all these others will be added on to you. Eventually life got sweeter. In due time, they came abundantly. Life was very well. Being thankful. Praising and worshiping the Lord. Our relationship is blessed. Better work, and jobs. With money increasing, I met my second wife at a singles Bible study. Everything was great. Church on Sunday morning, Sunday evening and Wednesdays. Two Bible studies a week. We had a daughter and troubles started arising. Our son came along and life was getting harder between us. My beautiful wife couldn't hold up. So the divided house caved in. She was gone and so were the kids. I gave up. Church life dwindled as attendance suffered. Spiritual death consumed me. I threw in the towel and walked away. I'm now crossing the street to avoid the Lord. He stays close poking his nose in, every so often. Lovingly, touching me, causing my eyes to see. That Jesus wants beautiful things of my life. Time moves on. Years roll by. Ten years go by. It's October 2005 and I'm in New Castle, Pa. I lost track of Mandy and Joey. Without going into the reason, I'm now in Youngstown at the Rescue Mission. I haven't a clue how or what I'm to do to get back on my feet. Some weeks go by and I'm hooked up with the Mission's Resident program (a deterring program to assist men turning from their handicaps... whatever the case may be... life, booze, drugs, sin) It's about getting focused on Jesus Christ and a new way in life. Two classes each day I attend. One is an educational asset. The other is godly spiritual builder. Just a few weeks in this program and I feel a calling for the mission staff. I'm in the service of the clients and crew today. Serving in the 54-man dorm, I issue linens, hand out soap, toothpaste, and deodorant, etc. when they're settling in for an evening. I wake them up in the mornings and in many ways get to be of service and minister. Serving them is what I enjoy now. He blesses me so I hope to return the blessings. He may have in store for me something else to do down the road. For now I'm happy here at the Rescue Mission. I've traveled along a long, winding road and I've crossed some difficult areas in the mean time. But the Lord is good. Thank you Jesus for watching over a foolish man as myself. Thank you Lord for keeping me strong. May this fellowship follow me all the days thru. In your name Lord, I ask. Amen.



Solution on page 4

(New Year's Resolutions—Cont from pg. 1)

Derick Jackson—To continue to be blessed in all facets of my life, and to prosper spiritually, financially and to grow in the Word of God.

Jim Donley—For my God whom I'm convinced has made the heavens and the Earth by His great power and out stretched arms. In Him there is nothing to hard to do. I pray to serve Him more diligently and pray for a world full of corruption and destruction. I hope to be a beacon of light to help guide and lead His people home, into Him.

Rob Turner—Quit smoking and get back to where my life used to be.

Willim Corlus—To put God first in my life to help me to stop my drinking and focus on doing better.

James Higgins—To quit smoking so I may be able to have open heart surgery to hopefully prolong my life and to be healthier.



RESCUE MISSION

Food, Shelter, Safety
and a Second Chance
RescueMahoningValley.org

The purpose of the Rescue Mission of Mahoning Valley is to serve and glorify GOD through CHRIST-centered outreach of love and compassion that responds to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of disadvantaged men, women, and children without regard to race, color, or creed.

Rescue Mission of
Mahoning Valley
PO Box 298
962 Martin Luther King Blvd.
Youngstown, Ohio 44501
Voice: (330) 744-5486
Fax: (330) 744-1420
WWW.RescueMissionMV.Org

“Trying” by Client Advisor, Renee Johnson-Jackson

I try to understand
the ways of God’s plan,
To lift up my hands
and learn to stand.

I try to seek His face
in almost every place,
where time allows space
and I’m running slow in
the race.

I try to see the light
so that my Spirit may be right,
evil out of sight
but in my mind I continue to
fight.

I pray all day long
that God will make me strong,
When did I go so wrong?
Lord, how long? How long?
How long will this fight go on?

Searching, seeking, learning,
discerning all that I am trying
to be like,
He that abides in me is it
so I need to know if He is real.

Let me feel the touch of His
hand
see His plan,
help me understand.

That no matter what I say
He will never go astray,
hopelessly leaving me crying,
sighing, dieing to be set free.

Come I call. I fall at Your feet
leaving all my worries with thee.
knowing, growing to be like He
who has life and eternity.

Wrapped tight, how hard, how
long will this fight go on?

Never mind the pain
it is a symbol of the stains
of blood that He shed,
so that my soul may be fed
spiritual food from on high.

God our Lord by my side
comforting, caring, loving, shar-
ing all that He has just to make
me glad
to know that there is no one else
who can love me better than
Himself.

So here am I...sitting by
Waiting for you to continue to
build all that I am
in He who died for me.

Field Trip Report

by John Collins

In November the Resident Men took a field trip to the museum. I found it to be very interesting. The museum offers so many displays on the practice of medicine, nursing, dentistry, and pharmacy dating back to the 1700’s. Inside I saw a Polio respirator from the 1900’s. The respirator was a big, long tube, which your whole body fits in and your head hangs out of one end. An electric motor pumps it from the outside. I also saw pictures of presidential doctors that did surgery on President Lincoln, Roosevelt, Nixon, Kennedy and many more. The museum can also be scary with the displays of amputation kits with a bone saw that still had blood on it. And the old x-ray machines that looked as if they were from a Frankenstein movie with an electric current. They also have old microscopes, rare books, dentist office archives and uniforms. The museum is at 655 Wick Ave (by YSU) and the hours are Mon.—Fri. noon to 4p.m.

“May God Bless You” Continued from page 2)

tell me where would I be?” Jesus is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. (James 4:3) I gave my heart to Jesus at a young age and was privileged to be born and raised in a Christian home with loving parents who took me to church regularly, prayed for me and taught me Proverbs 3:5-6. “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths.” Remember that God is faithful and He honors faithfulness. May God bless you. *(Joyce and her husband moved away in December to Pennsylvania. Joyce, we thank you for all of the love and time you have given to the Rescue Mission.)*



This publication is written, edited and printed by the Staff and Residents of the RMMV. The contents of this publication may not be reproduced without the consent of the Executive Director of the Rescue Mission of Mahoning Valley. If you wish to reproduce or use any article contained in the Prodigal Son Times, call: (330) 744-5485.