

PRODIGAL SON-TIMES™



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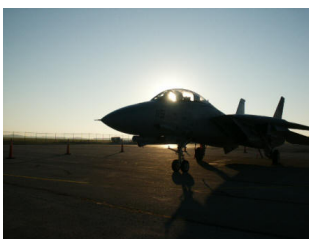
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Recently the resident men took a field trip to Canton to visit the MAPS Museum. MAPS stands for Military Aircraft Preservation Society. MAPS is located on the backside of the Akron-Canton Airport. The museum first opened in 1990.

When we arrived; our tour guide met us at the door. The first thing he did was take us over to the building where all of the aircraft are rebuilt.

Once inside; we saw planes in various states of completion. They also had an old anti-aircraft gun that we were able to sit on. They let us handle a 55 mm round that was shot from the gun. The amazing thing about this museum is that everybody there was a volunteer. All the people building these planes are aircraft mechanics, and could be out making a lot of money, but instead, they are donating their time because of their love for preserving our military heritage. The only requirement to work on the planes is an FAA mechanics license.

We then headed over to a massive aircraft hanger where all the completed planes can be viewed. Inside there were two Army helicopters along with a Russian MIG, which we were able to sit in. Then, our guide took us over and showed us the pride of MAPS, a F-14 Tomcat. If you have ever seen the movie, “Top Gun”, that is the same plane that Tom Cruise flew in the movie. All the planes in the hanger are able to fly with the exception of the MIG and the F-14. For security reasons (continued on page 3)



Thanks!

Thanks John and Brady & Elton & Gill & Mike for the compassionate and thoughtful things you did for us like buying and cooking the food you made for us each and every time. I, myself truly thank you for the gracious gesture and we are truly blessed by your actions! - Walt

Thank You! I really appreciate you providing a special treat for us! That was very kind and generous of you! Thanks again. - Randy

Thanks for the people who made and bought special food and who had anything to do with it. Special thanks to John Collins and Gilberto for going to pick it up and also to Mike Douglas. - Elton

Special thanks to John Collins for the Ribs and Chicken! Special thanks to all the other men who were involved with the cooking. -Brady

I'm glad to live in such a place as the Rescue Mission, where there are so many generous and caring people. Not just a "cot and a hot". Along with the council of God comes the little things; a hello and a smile, a firm handshake, a gentle pat on the shoulder, and yes even a "hot". Thanx to all of you who have contributed to our caloric intake with special meals; fried chicken, fish, liver and onions, and the fixins' to go with them. There are some generous people here who have dug into their pockets for cash and into their minds and hearts for skills to prepare great foods which led to great fellowship. I would specifically name four people and hope that others involved will know that I thank them also in my heart. John, Mike, Edith and our resident New Yorker, Gilberto. Thanx. - Geoffrey

The Gift— Tom Pitzo

This is a story about my trials in my life to stop drinking and doing drugs. At first I tried on my own but to no avail. Then, I went to drug and alcohol centers where they use drugs to combat the effects of trying to quit so your mind was never really clear. I had a counselor tell me I had a "monkey on my back" and I had to find a way to get it off my back. I did not realize that the monkey was Satan.

Well, the monkey stayed on my back for a long time. Then, there were the psychiatry wards, more pills and no-one really having the answer on how to get this monkey off my back. Then, I came to the Rescue Mission where the staff here knew the answer. They had all been in my shoes in one-way or another. They told me to turn my life over to GOD! I knew there was a GOD but really did not understand or have the knowledge of His power. This is the gift the Mission has given me. They have given

me the gift where to find this knowledge and to get this monkey Satan off my back through GOD the Creator of all.

For GOD so loved the world he gave his only begotten son, that who so ever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16 God sent us the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ if you believed in Him. For the Holy Spirit enables Christians to live a life that is pleasing to God something that is impossible to do on your own. He makes following Christ a joy rather than a duty. Thank you Rescue Mission for giving the gift to understand the Father, the Son and The Holy Spirit. To get the monkey off my back and keep him off.

For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.—II Cor. 4:6



My Blessing — Bobbi Desch

I didn't realize just how blessed I would be by coming to the Mission. I did not come here as an addict or an alcoholic. However, I did come here a very sad, bitter and broken lady. I want to let everyone know in what ways I have been blessed by the staff in family services. I am blessed by:

- ♦ Miss Rose for her loving smile that she so willingly greets us with each morning.
- ♦ Miss Renee for her crazy sense of humor and her ability to always make us laugh.
- ♦ Miss Crystal for her constant encouragement and willingness to pray with us.
- ♦ Miss Cecilia for loving each of us just the way we are, making us each feel special.
- ♦ Miss Doris who can scold us and hug us at the same time. She really cares.
- ♦ Miss Gloria for her grateful and innocent smile whenever she is paid a compliment.
- ♦ Miss Rae for had it not been for her encouragement and faith in me, this article may never have been written.

So yes, I did come here very hurt and bitter. However, I have made some very dear friends, and I have smiled more in the last month than I have in a year. So, I just want to say thank you Lord for healing my heart and allowing me to be so blessed.

(MAPS ... continued from page 1) the engines of those two planes were taken out. Every plane in this museum was donated either by a military or private donor. If you are ever in the Canton area, I would strongly recommend taking some time to visit this historic museum. The MAPS museum is trying to keep alive a part of American history that we should never forget. WWW.MapsAirMuseum.org.

The Path Not Taken — Kevin Miller

I was born October 19, 1970 in Warren, Ohio. I had a pretty normal life growing up as a kid. The oldest of three, I can remember my father working two jobs and going to college at the same time. We used to go to church every Sunday, but I never really paid attention to the Word that was being spoken. I guess you could say I just went because we had to go.

My life began to spiral out of control somewhere around 8th grade. That's when I discovered alcohol and marijuana. I had always been around alcohol but had never given it much thought until the 8th grade. All my friends were doing it so why not give it a try? You know I had to fit in with the crowd. From then on until my senior year in school my grades got progressively worse while my alcohol and drug use steadily increased. It got so bad my senior year that every chance I got to drink and smoke I took it. My parents had no clue. After high school I tried to attend KSU but wasn't ready for more school, so I took the leap and went into the Air Force. The whole time I was in the service I drank as much and as often as I could.

After the service I met my now ex-wife. We dated and got married. I put her through hell for the five years we were together. I had bouts of depression and panic attacks to where I couldn't get out of bed for days at a time. August 28, 1999 my life changed; my son was born. Shortly after that my ex-wife could take no more and we divorced. Even though we are divorced to this day we are still best friends. Strange, huh? After my divorce my weight went from 250 pounds to a little over 130 pounds. I was drinking myself to death and I knew it and so did she. I used to go to bed and hope that I didn't wake up.

Around August of this year it hit me that I needed to change my life. I didn't want my son to think it's all right to grow up like his father. She suggested that the (cont on page 4)



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.

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(**Path** ... continued from page 3) Rescue Mission might be a good place for me to try to get some help. I said, “No way am I going to a homeless shelter”. I had the false assumption that the Rescue Mission was a bunch of homeless drunks lying around doing nothing. I went to the library and found the Rescue Mission website and checked out some of the stories along with the mission’s history. I found that the Mission had been around for a very long time. So, I decided to take a leap of faith and come to the Mission. Amazingly when I got here the staff and the people here welcomed me with open arms. Not one of them judged me.

In the two months that I have been here I feel the Lord doing His awesome work on me and everyone around me. My parents and I are starting a new dialogue as we try and mend the past. My son and I are also talking again.

All you have to do is open your heart to GOD; with Him all things are possible. Look at

me; I’m living proof. I am just sorry it took 37 years for me to figure all this out. The bad thoughts are slowly being weeded out and good thoughts are taking over. Emotionally I couldn’t be happier right now. I am actually happy to wake up in the morning. I am reading the Bible daily and getting to know and understand His Word and what He has planned for me in the future. My future is looking bright. I have always wanted to move to North Carolina. I feel the Lord wants me to move there more than ever now. I would like to possibly go back to school and learn a new trade and with the Lord’s help open my own business.

I recently read an autobiography and the book ended with these words, which I will leave with you. “Obstacles are what you see when you take your eyes off your goals.” My eyes are clearly on my goals nowadays. *Psa 9:12 I will say of the LORD, he is my refuge and my fortress; my GOD, in Him I will surely trust.*

Q & A with family services client, Cynthia Anderson

Q-1. How did you hear about the Mission?

A-1. *I saw the commercials on TV.*

Q-2. Who or what inspired you to come here?

A-2. *My husband and I were evicted from our apartment. Then, I became sick and was in the hospital and then nursing home for six weeks. Because of health costs we ran out of money. We were having problems with housing because of the eviction and as I prayed for guidance, the commercial for the Mission came on TV. So I said, “OK, Lord. I understand”. And I thank Him for that decision everyday.*

Q-3 What were you expecting it to be like when you got here?

A-3. *I wasn’t sure. But, I was really afraid and apprehensive.*

Q-4. What was your life like before?

A-4. *Scrambling for money to pay bills. Living from month to month. Sometimes running out of food and being hungry and scared.*

Q-5. What (if anything) has changed since you’ve been here?

A-5. *I’ve always had a strong faith in God, but lately I had been feeling lost. Coming to the Mission has renewed my spirit. The staff and people here are loving and caring. I’ve made a lot of really good friends. And, I realize my best friend, “God” is still listening and looking out for me.*