

# RESCUE

# NEWS

MOBILE • PENSACOLA • FORT WALTON BEACH

## HOLIDAY GREETINGS!



Bill Bru  
Executive Director of Mobile

The weather is turning colder and holiday decorations are adorning the floors, wall and ceilings at all the stores now. As we enter another holiday season at the Mission, we give God thanks for His many blessings that He has shown us throughout the year. Being able to serve and fellowship with thousands of individuals, helping men take the first step to conquering their battle with addiction, and sharing the love of Christ to those who have lost all hope makes the Mission a light to many who are walking alone in the darkness.

There is a lot happening at the Mission including the Holiday banquets that are included in this newsletter. A few other items that I would like to share with you includes the new Veterans Administration (VA) program at the Mission. Our chaplains are working with VA representatives who are referring homeless VA clients to us who have no where to stay. The Mission currently has four beds set a side exclusively for these clients and they are allowed to stay up to 90 days. After the 90 days, the veteran is allowed to stay longer if he is actively searching for a home or apartment to reside in.

The Mission also just opened a new Recycling and Donation Center located on Moffett Road. This location can receive all your donations and recycling materials - all in one spot! You no longer have to sort through old clothes to find the reusable ones. Give it all to us and we will sort it for you! We will also take your old Christmas decorations and lights, scrap metals (i.e. copper, aluminum, brass, stainless steel, etc.), linens, books, magazines, etc. By providing this service, we make it easier for you to recycle materials and less items will go to the landfill. Items that can be sold will go directly to our Mission Bargain Center in Foley, AL. Visit our website at [www.waterfrontmission.org](http://www.waterfrontmission.org) for more information.

On November 20th at 8:00 AM, the 2011 THANKS FOR GIVING Save-a-Sole 2 mile run/walk will take place at Providence Hospital. This run will benefit the Waterfront Rescue Mission by asking participants to donate food, shoes and race shirts. If you would like to sign up or get more information, please visit McCoy Outdoors, Running Wild in Fairhope or go to [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) or call (251) 639-0303.

In addition, I would like to thank Mobile Gas who recently donated two commercial laundry dryers for the clients who stay at the Mission. The Mission has a laundry room for the men to wash their clothes, but the dryers were old and would take a very long time to dry their belongings. With these new dryers, it takes half the time and the men are very appreciative to have their items washed and dry.

Everyday is a blessing here at the Mission. I thank the Lord that we have volunteers and donors who step up and out of their comfort zone to help others in need. Let us all be thankful for God's blessings this Thanksgiving and Christmas and start 2012 with hope for a better future for our country and peace throughout the world.

Have a very blessed holiday season,

*William B. Bru*



[www.facebook.com/WaterfrontRescueMission](http://www.facebook.com/WaterfrontRescueMission)

# THANKSGIVING & CHRISTMAS BANQUETS

Every year on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day the Waterfront Rescue Mission continues the tradition of opening its doors to the homeless and hungry men, women and children of Fort Walton Beach, Mobile and Pensacola by hosting its annual Great Thanksgiving and Christmas Banquets at all three sites.

A traditional holiday feast is served to those in need along with a celebration of the season. Each year the Mission serves hundreds of meals on-campus through the help of our amazing volunteers. Food is served, music is enjoyed and those who attend join together in rejoicing the holiday season. We would like to extend this invitation to all who are homeless or in need to join us at the Mission!

## Holiday banquets are held at all three Mission sites on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day

Fort Walton Beach Mission  
112 Hollywood Blvd. SE  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548

Mobile Mission  
206 State Street  
Mobile, AL 36603

Pensacola Mission  
16 W. Main Street  
Pensacola, FL 32502

## DONATIONS NEEDED!

With the change of seasons, many people will be coming to the Waterfront Rescue Mission with literally just the shirt on their back! They come to the Mission from all walks of life and under different circumstances, but the one thing they have in common is that they need help.

We need your help in stocking our shelves with everyday items like:

- Aspirin and cold medications
- Backpacks
- Bed Linens (twin-size)
- Belts
- Body Soap
- Combs/brushes
- Deodorant
- Envelopes
- Facial tissue
- Fingernail clippers
- Flannel shirts
- Gloves
- Individually wrapped candies
- Jeans
- Kleenex packets
- Knit caps
- Pens/Pencils
- Postage stamps
- Razors
- Scarves
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Shaving cream
- Shoes
- Skin lotion
- Small Note Pad
- Soap
- Socks
- Stocking Cap & Gloves
- Study Bibles
- Sweatshirts
- Thermal Underwear
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- T-Shirts (Small to 3X)
- Underwear (Med. to 3X)
- Writing tablets



## HOLIDAY BANQUET VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP

If you would like to volunteer for the Thanksgiving Banquet please call beginning November 1, 2011 to sign up for a position. If you would like to volunteer for the Christmas Banquet please call beginning December 1, 2011 to sign up.

There are several positions to fill over the holiday season. If you are unable to volunteer on Thanksgiving or Christmas Day, be sure to ask about volunteer positions that are needed leading up to the events.

Please call one of the following numbers based on where you would like to volunteer:

Fort Walton Beach (850) 796-0700  
Mobile (251) 433-1847  
Pensacola (850) 429-0656

# “I SURRENDERED MY LIFE AND FELL AT THE FOOT OF HIS CROSS.”

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*Heather shares her story of addiction and what has transpired in her life since coming to the Waterfront Rescue Mission.*

Born into a family where alcoholism and depression were prevalent, Heather built her life's foundation on this dysfunction. When she left home, she soon faced the reality of a fast-paced world and got caught up in it. "The world whirled me around like

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*The world whirled me around like a tornado, chewed me up and spit me out without hesitation.*

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a tornado, chewed me up and spit me out without hesitation," Heather stated. "While spinning around in that tornado, I got lost in drugs, mostly meth, the 'devil's drug of choice.' Meth is the most evil substance that man can come in contact with!" Soon her self-worth, her purpose, and her desire to live was taken away.

Heather became frightened by what was happening in her life. Feeling secluded and lonely, she had no one to turn to for help. She was afraid and ashamed of what her family would think of her. "I had fallen a notch below nothing. I just wanted time to stand still. I didn't want to look at the past or deal with my future," Heather said.

"My thoughts were covered with darkness, my body became numb, but something was keeping me alive." Despite her feelings of despair, somehow Heather still had hope. "The thing that was keeping me alive was the only thing that I ignored all my life, God's love."

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*"The thing that was keeping me alive was the only thing that I ignored all my life, God's love."*

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Heather entered the Mission's Women's Recovery program in April 2010 and the Lord did a mighty work in her.

"My heart was tainted and torn from the torture of the world, but God brought me to my spiritual birthplace. Ezekiel 36:25-26 says, 'Then I will sprinkle clean water on you and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no longer worship idols. And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.' My heart still has scars on it, only to remind me of how God's redeeming strength saved my soul."

Heather graduated from Phase I of the Women's Recovery program in December 2010 and has been enrolled in the Mission's Women's Career Development Program for 10 months. She is now a junior at the University of West Florida, studying History and Education. "I never want to forget the pit the Lord pulled me out of, because that is when I start to forget His holiness and saving grace."

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*I never want to forget the pit the Lord pulled me out of, because that is when I start to forget His holiness and saving grace.*

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Heather wakes up every day thanking the Lord for another day and for giving her purpose in her life. "I surrendered my life and fell at the foot of His cross. He picked me up and wrapped my heart with His love and tenderness." As she reflects back over her life and the struggles she faced, she realizes, "God had been with me every moment."

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*The Waterfront Rescue Mission Women's program is located in Pensacola, FL. If you would like more information about the Waterfront Rescue Mission's Rescue and Recovery programs, please call us at 888-853-8655 or visit [www.waterfrontmission.org](http://www.waterfrontmission.org).*

# HIGH IMPACT VOLUNTEERS... A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

One of the common characteristics of the people who volunteer at Waterfront Rescue Mission is a desire to do the Lord's work in such a way that they only bring glory to Him and His Son Jesus Christ. They believe the service is their blessing. Bob and Anne are two of these people. Married for over 52 years, they have had the opportunity to live in a variety of places and enjoy life in a number of different situations.

Bob went to Georgia Tech University, then joined the military where he spent 22 years serving his country in the Marine Corp as a communications officer. After retiring from the military, Bob and Anne moved to the Denver, Colorado area. They decided to use their home as a travel base and began touring the countryside, eventually coming to the Emerald Coast of Northwest Florida. It wasn't long before they put their house up for sale and moved to the Gulf Coast.

Soon after arriving in the area, they found a church home and became very active doing the Lord's work. "We're active in our church, and the prison ministry is where we felt God led us," said Bob. Bob serves as a volunteer prison chaplain three days a week, and Anne leads a basic education class and chapel on Thursdays.

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***"What the Mission offers is just unbelievable!"***

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Bob and Anne became interested in serving at the Mission through the

prison ministry. "What the Mission offers is just unbelievable. They can come here and stay and grow spiritually, and experience ways to deal with everyday life. Their lives can really be elevated by this program, and it's free to them!" Anne stated.

She went on to say, "We came and met the chaplains and realized that this place is very real, that the chaplains really do love the men who stay here and only want the best for them. They're willing to give them chances, and a lot of men, particularly those who get out of prison, need a second chance."

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***"Even if you get out of prison, and you've given your life to Christ, and you've turned your life around, when you step out, it's a tough place out there."***

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Bob added, "Even if you get out of prison, and you've given your life to Christ, and you've turned your life around, when you step out, it's a tough place out there. A program like the one the Waterfront Rescue Mission has allows them to get their feet on the ground. This is a turnaround, a complete turnaround for these men. It's tough, and they have to commit, but it's a chance!"

Bob and Anne consider themselves just two people who have a heart to help and a calling on their life. When asked if they had anything



to say to those who will read their story, Anne said, "How can you say it without sounding trite, but we are blessed so much by just being part of it. God just blesses us."

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***"It works, it just works!"***

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The last word came from Bob, "It works, it just works! When we see people at the Mission's Men's Career Development Program, what they're doing, and what goes on at New Hope Home, we know it's a fact that it works. People change. They go through it and come out the other end with their feet on solid ground, spiritually growing and with a job."

Serving others. Volunteer today.

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*The Waterfront Rescue Mission Men's program has several locations in the Gulf Coast. If you would like more information about the Waterfront Rescue Mission's Rescue and Recovery programs, please call us at 888-853-8655 or visit [www.waterfrontmission.org](http://www.waterfrontmission.org).*

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