



THE **MISSION** **GATE**

JANUARY 2022

A PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE RESCUE MISSION



**All Things
New in 2022**

You Gave John-Paul a “Completely Different Outlook”



At the Mission, John-Paul says, “People were genuinely concerned about me. They wanted to help me as much as they could. It was a really good feeling.”

Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

— PHILIPPIANS 3:13-14, ESV

“I grew up poor,” says John-Paul. “It was a bit of a struggle, but we persevered.” Then his stepfather passed away, leaving ten-year-old John-Paul and his mother on their own. They moved from the small town of Wilton to Nashua. As he grew up, he was diagnosed with epilepsy, so he was unable to drive or go to college like his peers. With free time on his hands, he tells us, “I went down the wrong path and made a lot of bad choices. I became an alcoholic, and I ended up going to jail.”

Jail set John-Paul’s feet back on the right path. “I met some people in there who had a good moral and religious background.” When he was released after ten months, he had nowhere to go ... but he knew he didn’t want to go back to his old life. He called 211 and connected with Southern New Hampshire Rescue Mission. “It was a godsend,” he says.

At the Mission, John-Paul says, “People were genuinely concerned about me. They wanted to help me as much as they could. It was a really good feeling.”

Looking back on his life before the Mission, John-Paul recognizes that his illness had made him selfish. “I didn’t have any social skills. I only thought about myself. Being here has humbled me. Now, I’m a very outgoing, happy person. I want to sit down and converse with people. I want to help other people who have gone through struggles like mine.”

John-Paul’s mother had a background in social work, and he plans to follow in her footsteps. He is currently an intern at the Mission, and he would like to go into



John-Paul enjoys internship at the Mission and would like to go into counseling.

counseling. “I want people to know their past doesn’t define them. No matter what has happened to you, you can be the person you always dreamed of being.”

Being at the Mission allowed John-Paul to see “the kindness of people who believe in Christ. The love and understanding the Mission provided helped me break out of my shell and gave me a completely different outlook on life. For a long time, I believed everyone was just out for himself. Here at the Mission, Christ showed me that good people exist.”

More Hope on the Way for Women in Nashua

At Southern New Hampshire Rescue Mission, it has been our heart’s cry for some time to do more for women who are homeless in Nashua. While we have always served our entire community by providing food and clothing and building relationships that point to Jesus, we have not had the privilege of offering overnight shelter to women in need. But God has affirmed and blessed our plan to move forward with the renovation and opening of a women’s shelter!



Located at 36 Tolles Street in Nashua, the Hope Center for Women will be our largest project in some time. It is a 7,700 square foot, two-level, 25-bed shelter solely for women. The Center will offer food, showers, clothing and discipleship programs that allow women to strive for true life change centered on their relationship with Jesus Christ. Here, they are surrounded by the encouragement of Christians to defeat addiction, recover from abuse and live fruitfully for God’s Glory.

We are excited to offer everyone the opportunity to become part of building out this new Hope Center for Women. Large or small, your financial support will provide for safety, security and comfort in every detail to show women how much God cares for them. Thank you!

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Mission Statement

We exist to share the hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as well as provide shelter, food, and clothing to the poor and needy in obedience to Him.



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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Lloyd Curtis
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



ALL THINGS NEW

Dear Friend,

As we turn the page onto a new year, we see God doing many wonderful things at the Southern New Hampshire Rescue Mission. He is creating witnesses to amazing life transformations here, like John-Paul in this issue of *The Mission Gate*.

So many guests who come to us discover that life on their terms, even as the result of unfortunate circumstances, does not need to steal their hope and joy. Jesus was clear that life would not be easy, but He also promised to give us living water, abundant life and peace that surpasses understanding.

This year we are already developing relationships with new guests interested in our R12 LifeChange and Work Program. They see their relationship to God as a priority and a hope beyond anything the world can promise. It is our privilege to serve them as Jesus would.

This year will also mark the planned opening of a new Women's Shelter, Hope Center for Women, located at 36 Tolles Street. I am pleased to report that demolition and renovations are already underway!

What else is new? God is moving us toward hiring our new Program Coordinator, who will help us invest further in the lives of men to develop their mind, body and spirit as servants of Jesus Christ. God is providing a new Administrative Assistant to help us offer better care and information to all guests, volunteers and donors who contact the Mission.

So, great new things are coming in this new year. **You** are part of celebrating the work that God is doing. **You** are part of offering hope and help to the homeless and needy in Nashua. **You** are part of each story that praises God for the life-transforming hope provided by Jesus!

Thank you for caring with your continued prayers and support.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Curtis
Executive Director

I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

—PHILIPPIANS 4:13, ESV