

The Beacon

Voice of the Salina Rescue Mission
February, 2006

"Offering the Promise of a bright future."

"The Rock We Can Stand On"

Shannon grew up in the small Kansas town of Wakefield . He started smoking marijuana and drinking beer at the age of 16 and graduated to methamphetamine at 20. He could make big money selling drugs and the more he sold, the more he used. But after 30 days in the county jail, he was evicted from his apartment, so he came to the Salina Rescue Mission. But he wasn't ready to surrender.

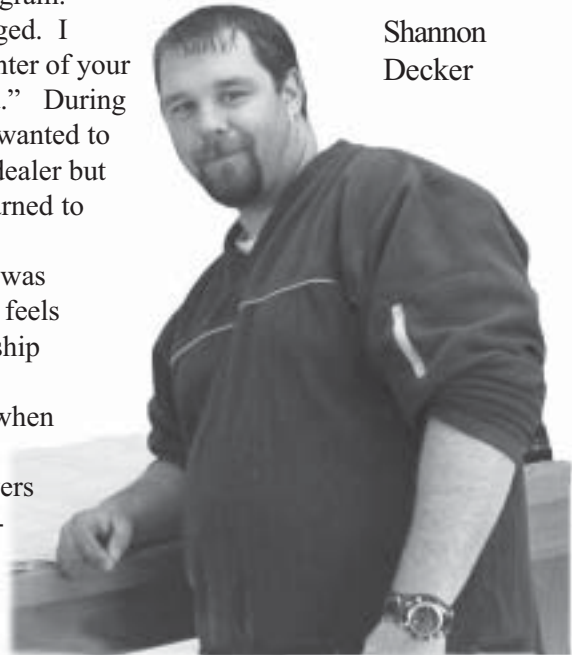
He went back to working in the bars and using drugs, but soon he was arrested again and this time he could end up in state prison. As he sat in the county jail, God spoke to him through a book called The Five People You Meet When You Go To Heaven. When he was released, he immediately got high but he also realized that things had to change. He walked 3 hours to get to the Mission and the first thing he did was join the New Life Program.

"My way of thinking was changed. I realized that putting God in the center of your life is an absolute must to succeed." During his 10 months on the Program he wanted to quit and go back to life as a drug dealer but he was able to use the tools he learned to keep going the right way.

His church, Crossroads Church, was also a big part of his success. He feels loved and accepted in their fellowship and feels a closeness to God.

Shannon says, "What do we do when we face challenges that make us wonder what's ahead? The answers are not always easy and the direction not always clear. In these circumstances, our hope is in God alone. Our lives and our times are in His hands and He assures

us that He is the Rock we can stand on through the storm." *Shannon, Continued on page 2*



Shannon Decker

A New Start

After being clean and sober for 2 years, a back injury forced Ron Kibler out of work for 9 months. The bills piled up with 3 children and a girlfriend. He had a lot of time on his hands and fell back into the old habits of drinking and smoking dope. Then he was fired from his job for being off so long and finally, his girlfriend demanded he move out.



Ron, center, with new friends

He lost everything; he was on the streets with just the clothes on his back, scared and worried about where to go and what to do. He had no way to protect himself from the weather and spent one night in a concrete culvert during a blizzard. Christmas, separated from his family, was the hardest day of his life. Ron despaired of life itself.

A friend suggested Ron talk to the mission about getting his life together so he came to the Salina Rescue Mission, nervous and scared, diagnosed as bipolar and struggling with depression and insomnia. At the mission, **Ron** continued on pg. 3



The 6th Dr. Brad Temple Food Drive was a HUGE success. Volunteers like Brian Fischer, pictured, collected 7229 items at all four Salina Dillons stores on Nov. 18 and 19. The value of the food plus the cash donations collected amounted to \$10,277.65. This will provide 5742 meals to hungry men, women and children.

Southeast of Saline and Security Savings Bank also held food drives that blessed SRM with many items to fill the pantries.

Shannon (cont'd.) Shannon has graduated from the Program and recently moved into his own apartment. He has a good job in construction and he remains surrounded by people with positive attitudes who keep him accountable. And he is still standing on the Rock of Jesus Christ.

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...The Crowd Goes Wild!



THANKS to Eagle Scout Brant Benjamin for designing and building a 25' by 25' basketball court for the Mission. The men have enjoyed his Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project.

Pastor Chad

We welcome Pastor Chad Young of the Mentor United Methodist Church to the volunteer staff at the Salina Rescue Mission. Chad is teaching a new class, Step By Step, to the New Life Program men. The class goal is spiritual growth in areas where the men have had problems before. In the past, Pastor Chad led a life similar to the men in SRM with many of the same problems and addictions. He says, "God has changed my life dramatically and I want to share with these men how they too can be successful in life when they walk with God."



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A publication from the
Salina Rescue Mission,
published four times a year.

SRM provides a Christian
ministry to persons in need
of food, shelter, clothing, or
other basic needs, and to
rehabilitate through the
teaching of the Gospel of
Jesus Christ.

Vol. 12 / Iss. No. 1



Almost 100 people enjoyed music, games and great food at the Christmas Eve celebration at St. John's Military School. In addition, 85 more people were served turkey and all the trimmings at our Great Thanksgiving Banquet in November.

God Answers

- New refrigerator
- Commercial washer fixed
- Boiler repairs completed
- Range fan above the convection oven repaired
- Garbage disposal fixed
- Food donations
- Professional guidance from the Self-Help Network

Please Pray

- The Lord's guidance
- Financial resources and God's continued provision
- The hungry and homeless that come to us
- NLP men
- The Staff
- The Board of Directors

Coming Events

- March 24 - Easter Lily Pre-Sale order deadline
- April 12 to April 15 - Flower Sale at Sam's Club
- May 12 & May 13 - Wal-Mart Hot Dog Fundraiser
- May 19 - Mulligan Stew Golf Tournament

Thank You

A big THANK YOU to the generous sponsors for the annual "Rescuing the Lost" Banquet:

Courtyard by Marriott
Salina Journal
Coldwell-Banker, Antrim-Piper Wenger, Realtors
Pettles Flowers

Should I Tithе My Estate?

Does the Bible tell us to tithe our estate? Proverbs 3:9,10 says, "Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine."

Most of us have increase in our estate from growing values of homes, investments, retirement plans, business or real estate holdings -- but we never thought about tithing that increase. Anyone with asset ownership can plan a future gift and tithe the increase without adversely affecting the provision for family needs. And many times a gift can be arranged by using tax dollars.

In addition to cash gifts, other creative strategies can be used in gift planning and tithing an estate to a charity such as the Salina Rescue Mission. For example:

- A bequest in your will
- A gift of life insurance
- A beneficiary arrangement in your family trust
- A beneficiary arrangement in your retirement or IRA plan
- A gift of stock or other securities or real estate
- Other gifts-in-kind such as vehicles

Prayerfully consider tithing your estate. You can have a great impact for God's work of rescue at the Salina Rescue Mission! God will honor your decision for He says in Psalm 41:1, "How blessed is he who considers the helpless; the Lord will deliver him in a day of trouble."

We encourage you to make an appointment with your attorney and update your will to give you peace of mind by providing for loved ones and supporting charities close to your heart. For more information, call Eric Frank, Director of Development at (785) 823-2610.

Ron (*cont'd from page 1*) he found open hands and acceptance. He has hope and peace knowing he has a hot meal and a place to clean up. He found love and people that care and he treasures his new friendships.

He has a friend in the New Life Program who is totally changed from the man he was before. Ron believes God has a plan for his life--perhaps starting with the New Life Program.

YES! I want to help SRM provide food, shelter and also offer the Promise of a bright future for the homeless and needy. My gift is:

\$100 \$75 \$50 \$25 \$10 \$ _____

I am a member of the Ambassadors.

I would like more information on the SRM Auxiliary.

I want to volunteer! Please call me at _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

Return in the envelope provided.

All gifts are tax-deductible and acknowledged with a receipt.

Salina Rescue Mission

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Organization
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Rev. Stephen Kmetz
Executive Director

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SRM NEEDS:

YOUR PRAYERS

Deodorants, foot powder, razors, toothbrushes
Milk, cheese, eggs, coffee
Vitamins, aspirin, antacid, cold tablets
8 1/2 x 11 spiral notebooks
55 gal. trash bags
Bike locks and Backpacks
OCCK bus passes
Long distance phone cards for shelter guests

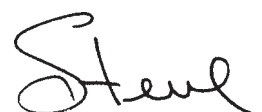
YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

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The Director's Dialog

We have just completed a year at the mission in which it has been unbelievable. From struggling with finances (we probably always will) to experiencing several breakdowns. However, God has been faithful and I want to give him the glory and the credit for all that has happened. The words of Psalm 111* say it best:

Hallelujah! I give thanks to God with everything I've got—
Wherever good people gather, and in the congregation.
A lifetime of study—endless enjoyment!
Splendor and beauty mark his craft;
His generosity never gives out.
His miracles are his memorial—
This God of Grace, this God of Love.
He gave food to those who fear him,
He remembered to keep his ancient promise.
He proved to his people that he could do what he said:
Hand them the nations on a platter—a gift!
He manufactures truth and justice;
All his products are guaranteed to last—
Never out-of-date, never obsolete, rust-proof.
All that he makes and does is honest and true:
He paid the ransom for his people,
He ordered his Covenant kept forever.
He's so personal and holy, worthy of our respect.
The good life begins in the fear of God—
Do that and you'll know the blessing of God.



*from The Message by Eugene H. Peterson