



@Bob Siemon Designs

The Salina Rescue Mission

# The Beacon

Voice of the Salina Rescue Mission  
July, 2005

*"Offering the Promise of a bright future."*

# Celebration

## Getting Straight With God



Two important things happened in Brent's life when he was 11 years old. First, he accepted Jesus Christ as his Saviour and second, he began using alcohol and smoking pot. He grew up on a farm in Missouri, the second youngest of 5 children. He describes his mother as a "good mom" and a good Christian. His father was an alcoholic who soon left the family and moved to California, but he had already introduced young Brent to alcohol. Now, in the fourth grade, a cousin persuaded him to begin smoking pot. "Starting early, it becomes a

part of you", says Brent. And so it began.

At 16, he hitchhiked from Missouri to California to see his dad. The cost of living was high there and the jobs he found weren't enough to pay for rent and food so he would work at a country club during the day and live under a bridge at night. He eventually ended up back in Missouri, sometimes living at home and sometimes just camping outside somewhere and he continued to drink and use pot.

Eventually, he became sick of living like a vagabond and knew he had to get straight. He tried other treatment programs but he knew deep down that he was a Christian and he had to get "straight with God". He came to the Salina Rescue Mission and heard about the New Life Program from another man, but he was not ready to totally surrender. Brent wanted to make sure he was going to commit, and listen.

But, after being arrested on drug charges, he came back to the Mission. "I was desperate enough by that time so I joined the Program." With good food to eat, and a clean place to stay, he could begin the hard work of getting straight. He found Scott McDaniel, the Program Director, understanding, positive and encouraging. Scott says, "Through the New Life Program, Brent was able to understand that he needed others who were committed to Christ and that he could not live life on his own. He saw the value of human relationships as he began to deal with past hurts and how these relationships mirrored the most important relationship, that of Jesus Christ."

Brent has graduated from the New Life Program and has a job in Salina. He's clean and sober and he's looking at possibilities for the future including art lessons. He loves to work with his hands. And now, he knows he is in the Master's hands!



## SRM Website Offers Better Connection to the Mission

The Salina Rescue Mission is pleased to announce the official new website. We encourage you to check out the new site in order to learn more about SRM and see how we are changing the lives of the homeless. We hope that our new website makes it easier for you to get involved in our organization so that together we can help the poor and the homeless of our area.

Our website was made possible by the generosity of Globalink Consultant/ Designer Lynda Shipe and Globalink owners Chris and Brenda Chelvan.

[www.salinarescuemission.com](http://www.salinarescuemission.com)



- \* Safe and secure on-line donation page makes it easy for you to contribute to SRM anytime!!
- \* Explore pages on special events, prayer, needs of the month, ministry opportunities and services of the mission.
- \* Request a copy of the public relations video.
- \* Link up to our Association of Gospel Rescue Missions website and learn even more about homelessness.
- \* Getting involved is easier. Log on and see how you can help!

## He Sets the Example



Nathan Farmer

We are amazed at how young people are giving to help the homeless and the example they are setting for their families and communities. One young man is Nathan Farmer, a student from Meadowlark School. For his past several birthdays, he has asked his family and friends for donations to help charities instead of presents. For his 10th birthday this year, he gave to the Mission because he wanted to help people that were poor and on the street. Nathan says, "I have enough food for meals and to go to school, other people don't."



## Matches, Popsicle Sticks and Elmer's Glue

The Salina Rescue Mission recently had a guest with a very unusual talent. When David Carmonda isn't doing a day labor job, he builds detailed models with matches and Popsicle sticks, cardboard, string and Elmer's glue. He arrived in America in 1976 from Puerto Rico and has wandered the country, sometimes renting an apartment or living in homeless shelters. He has three grown daughters he could live with but he prefers the nomadic life-style. "I'm free like a bird", he says. Ships are his specialty, but he also builds other items such as the lighthouse he gave to Mission Director, Steve Kmetz. He sells his creations to anyone making an offer and prices are negotiable. They may range from \$50 to \$150. The money goes to buy more materials for his next creation. Everything he owns he wears--blue jeans, a shirt from a secondhand store and sneakers--or carries in a worn black backpack. He stays for a while, crafting his whimsical creations, then moves on wherever the wind may take him.



David Carmonda with two of his creations

### *The Beacon*

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.

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## God Answers

- A shelter guest has returned from surgery in a Wichita hospital and is doing very well and has found a job.
- A shelter guest is recovering from a severe illness in Wichita.
- Ananda Premalal, a former client, and his family in Sri Lanka were kept safe in the tsunami.
- God continues to open the hearts of the men in the New Life Program.

## Please Pray

- Continued wisdom relating to the men at the Mission-- to encourage and challenge them to follow God's direction in their lives.
- Severe health problems for several men.
- Staff/Board wisdom regarding development for the Mission finances.

## Coming Events

- August 13 - Beef Up the Mission at the Tri-Rivers Fair 4-H Auction
- September 8 - SRM Talent Contest.
- October 11 - Rescuing the Lost Banquet

## Thank You

A big THANK YOU to the corporate sponsors for the 6th Mulligan Stew Golf Tournament:  
 Crestwood, Inc.  
 Long McArthur  
 Salina Media Group  
 Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Kansas  
 Frisbie Construction  
 Bamford Fire Sprinkler  
 Floorperfect-Tom & Mary  
 Rupp and John Sackrider

## Meet the Board

"This is a love story, 'For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son...' for me", says SRM Board secretary, Ron Kramer. He volunteers at the Mission because God told him to. In 1998, he had the compelling feeling come into his head and his heart, "Get involved with your church youth group and volunteer at the Salina Rescue Mission" After trying to out-wait God for about a year, he became obedient and called Steve Kmetz to volunteer. "I was perfectly equipped for what I had volunteered for and I felt completely comfortable and at home from the first moment. The Mission is a wonderful place!"

Ron has a wonderful Christian wife, Jane, and a son, Kody. He enjoys camping, canoeing and backpacking when he's not working as the Safety Director and Operations Administrator at Blue Beacon.

Ron learned about Jesus at an early age but, like many, spent years pursuing the good life in this world. "I could not do life on my own terms and I could not be self-sufficient, no matter how hard I tried. I desperately needed God. I got on my knees, used my God given free will, cried out to the Lord, "Please take me. I am empty and I am nothing. Please forgive me, Jesus, please come into my heart. Without You, I am and I have nothing. I will be obedient to You and follow You the rest of my life!"

He says, "Life is not about me. It's about my Lord, my God, my Master who I serve; who saved me from my own misery and from Hell, for His purposes and now it's up to me to just DO IT.

If you relate to Ron's story then now is the time for you to just DO IT! Please call the Salina Rescue Mission at 785-823-2610 and have someone on staff pray with and for you. There is no better time than now to ask our heavenly father to come into your heart for a love relationship that comes from no one else but him. This is the best decision you will ever make. God cares and loves you very much.



**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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Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Salina, Kansas 67401  
Permit No. 417

Rev. Stephen Kmetz  
Executive Director

## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### SRM NEEDS:

#### YOUR PRAYERS

Deodorants, foot powder, razors, sunscreen  
Paper napkins and paper towels  
Dry cereal, fresh fruit, lettuce, tomatoes, coffee, eggs, milk,  
cheese; fresh beef, pork, poultry & bacon.  
Sugar, baking powder, baking soda, spices, salad dressing  
6-ft. fiberglass ladder; Bike helmets and bike locks  
Jeans-sizes 30, 32, 34, 42-48; belts-size 40 or smaller; shirts -  
XXL, XXXL; work boots; backpacks  
Hand mixer

#### YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

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## The Director's Dialog

I received this list at the beginning of the Season of Lent. Now that Easter has passed, maybe we can continue applying these to our lives. Enjoy.

### What to Give Up for the Season of Lent -

**GIVE UP** grumbling! Instead, "In everything give thanks." Constructive criticism is OK, but "moaning, groaning, and complaining" are not Christian disciplines.

**GIVE UP** 10 to 15 minutes in bed! Instead, use that time in prayer, Bible study and personal devotion.

**GIVE UP** your worries and anxieties! Instead, trust God with them. Anxiety is spending emotional energy on something we can do nothing about: like tomorrow! Live today and let God's grace be sufficient.

**GIVE UP** judging by appearances and by the standard of the world! Instead, learn to give up yourself to God. There is only one who has the right to judge, Jesus Christ.



*Steve*