

THE BEACON

Stories of Light and Transformation
from Las Vegas Rescue Mission

SUMMER EDITION

Facing His Fears

Emmitt was running from his problems, but your compassion caught up with him

Remember the old Bible story of Jonah and the whale?

God tells Jonah to go to Nineveh, but Jonah balks and runs away, only to end up swallowed by a whale. Jonah prays for help, and God answers by having the whale spit Jonah out ... and onto the shores of Nineveh, where he was supposed to be all along.

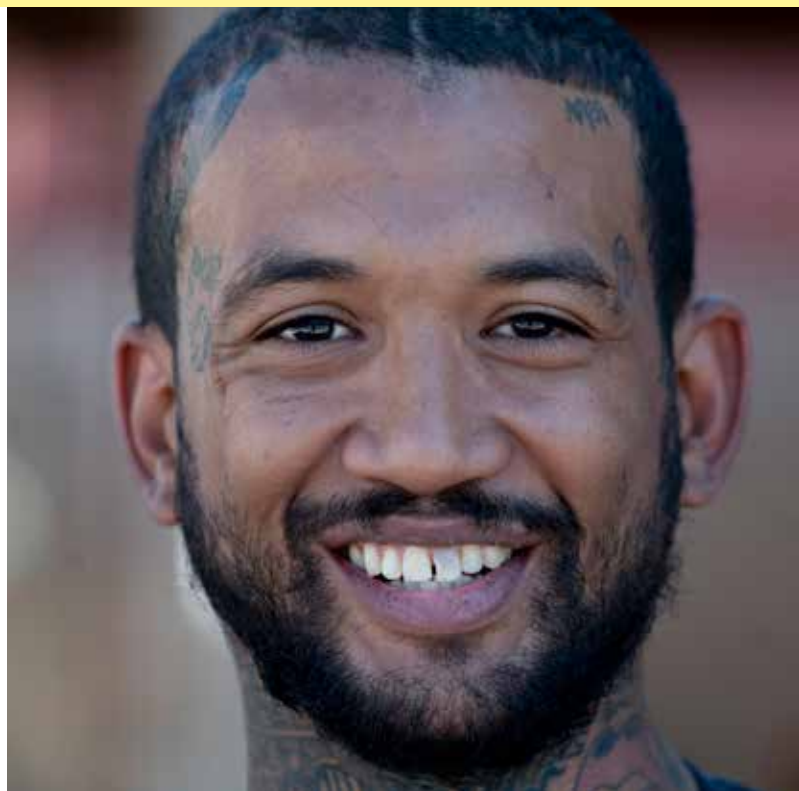
Emmitt can relate to that. Like Jonah, he tried running from his problems ... and from God. And like Jonah, he was swallowed by a great beast — the beast of drug addiction.

It started with marijuana, then escalated to crystal meth, and then to MDMA, better known as ecstasy.

“Drugs were my way of running from my problems,” Emmitt says. “I never stood up to my problems. I always tried to get away from them.”

*“I was so used to running,
I had to learn to sit still.”*

One of his problems was depression; the drugs were his way to escape. But they also led to poor choices and a lack of responsibility. He had seven children by several



Because of you, Emmitt has turned his life around, and he's grateful.

different women, and he never kept a job for long.

Emmitt's family tried to help, but with limited success. Finally, his father told him he had to face his fears.

Shortly after that, the beast spit him out ... right onto the shores of the Las Vegas Rescue Mission.

“It feels amazing”

At the Mission, Emmitt started attending chapel, where he learned that “God was talking to me. I was so

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A Note From the CEO

I hope you'll read our cover story on Emmitt in this edition of *The Beacon*, a newsletter prepared just for you.

I love the running imagery in Emmitt's story. He once ran from his problems and from God, only to learn that all the while, God was running toward him. Today, Emmitt is running the race of faith, of new life.

And yet, we also know that it's important to be still when listening for God. At the Las Vegas Rescue Mission, we offer that: We're a place of rest, a safe haven.

How about you? Are you running or resting? I know I need to remember that a healthy life balance includes both.

In any event, I know this much about you, regardless of whether you're running or resting: You're giving ... of your kindness and compassion.

And for that, I'm grateful.

Thank you!

Heather Engle

Heather Engle
CEO



Sam found new life at the Mission, thanks to you.

"It Was Humbling"

How you rescued Sam from the streets.

In some ways, Sam's homelessness began in childhood. There were major communication problems with his parents, so Sam, who grew up in New York City, kept to himself. (Looking back now, as an adult, Sam believes one of his parents has multiple personality disorder, which resulted in family dysfunction.)

Sam left home in his late teens, and lived on the streets and subway cars of New York. He earned a meager living by working with dogs, teaching them obedience training. He also started drinking heavily.

He moved to Las Vegas a few years ago "just to do something different." Depression set in, and his drinking worsened.

"My health got so bad," he says. "It was humbling."

A staff member from the Las Vegas Rescue Mission met Sam on the streets, and offered to help. Sam eventually accepted the invitation, and entered our recovery program. It was also the first time in almost a decade since he'd slept in his own bed.

Today, with a fresh start, Sam is thankful for the Mission and your support. Without that help, "things would have gotten bad. Like real, real, real bad."

Instead, things are quite good, and Sam says, "It's a blessing, and I'm beyond grateful."

Because of you, men like Sam have an opportunity to turn their lives around. †

"My Own Resurrection"

Because of you, Caitlin found the freedom to love herself again.

After years of drug addiction, Caitlin got into some legal trouble and spent six months in jail.

On her first day behind bars, she found a Bible on the shelf. She saw it as a sign, and decided to spend her incarceration as a time to turn her life around.

"I spent a lot of time praying, and a lot of repenting on my own," she says.

Upon her release, the courts sent her directly to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission to continue getting her life in order.

It was April 5, 2021 ... the day after Easter. Another sign.

"It was like my own resurrection, my freedom," she says. "Everything was lining up."

Caitlin's new life was lining up much differently than her old one of drugs, couch surfing, cheap hotels and the streets.

She thought about how and why her life had derailed in the first place. She had some regrets — including dropping out of college when just a few credits short of a degree in marketing and communications.

"I had a lot of time to think about the things I'd done and to come to terms with it," Caitlin says. "I've learned a lot about myself, with the help of others."

She thanks the Mission, and friends like you, for that.

"I'm so grateful for the Mission," she says. "Everybody has been so kind and nurturing. I've felt very safe and loved."



Caitlin says she found compassion and safety at the Mission.

Caitlin hopes to perhaps return to school for her degree. She wants to stay sober. She hopes to start a family. And she wants to give back.

"Thanks to the Mission, I'm able to love myself again. I want others to have that," she says.

Because of you, women like Caitlin are finding freedom and fresh starts. Thank you! †

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Facing His Fears

used to running, I had to learn to sit still."

While he'd been running from God, God had been running toward him — much like the father in the story of the Prodigal Son. When the wayward son wises up and heads home, the father "ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him" (Luke 15:20).

That's the kind of relentless love Emmitt found at the Mission, where our recovery program helped him address his issues and beat his addictions.

"It feels amazing to be sober," Emmitt says. "It feels like a gift from God. I'm able to think straight, to focus on what got me through yesterday to let me see

tomorrow." He's even been able to hold a steady job.

Today, Emmitt is running again ... but it's the best kind of running — toward God. It's the kind of running Paul writes about — running the race of Christian living. "Run to win," Paul writes (1 Cor. 9:24, The Message).

Emmitt's running to win these days. And it's all thanks to friends like you and the help of the Mission.

"If it wasn't for them," he says, "I'd still be drugging, or in jail or dead."

Thank you for giving Emmitt new life, where he's running the good race. †

Help Neighbors Beat the Heat

The last two years in Las Vegas have been among the warmest on record. In both 2020 and 2021, the average low temperature was 71.5, higher than the normal of 70.1.

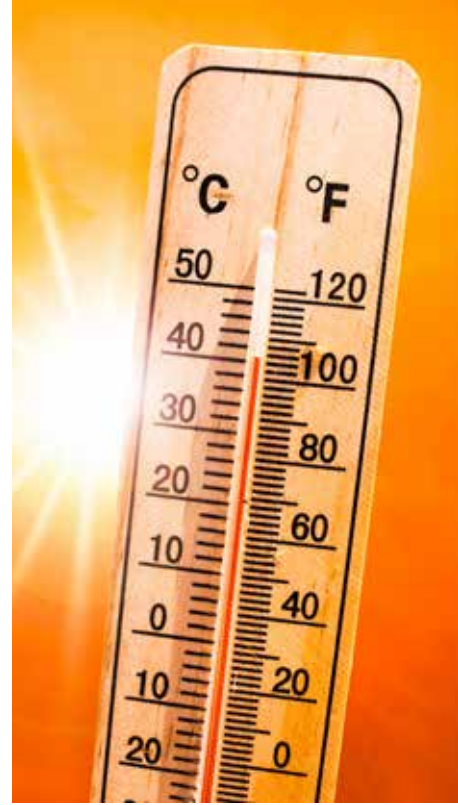
While an average in the low 70s might seem rather comfortable, recent summers have been among our hottest ever. Temperatures reached a scalding 117 degrees last July 10, tying a Vegas record. And we had 87 days total of 100 degrees or more.

Such heat is downright dangerous for our homeless neighbors who sometimes have no escape from those brutal conditions. Over the last 15 years, there are an average of more than 40 heat-related deaths annually in Las Vegas.

This summer is likely to be much the same, if not worse. That's why your support is so critical at this time.

Please send a generous gift today so we can distribute the thousands of water bottles needed every day — and so we can keep our air conditioners running to give our homeless neighbors respite from the deadly heat.

Your gift today might just save a life. Thank you!



Save the Date to Walk a Mile

Our 11th Annual Walk a Mile in My Shoes event will be held Saturday, October 8, 2022. This event raises awareness and funds to help neighbors in need — those who come to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission for help.

Come join other members of the community in taking "steps" to draw attention to our neighbors who are unsheltered. All funds raised during the event go toward providing food, shelter and addiction-recovery services to those who need it most.

Details at vegasrescue.org/events

▼ ▼ PLEASE CUT OFF THE REPLY FORM BELOW, AND RETURN WITH YOUR GIFT. THANK YOU. ▼ ▼

I WANT TO TRANSFORM LIVES THIS SUMMER



480 West Bonanza Rd.
Las Vegas, NV 89106-3227

To give online, visit
vegasrescue.org or use your
phone to scan this code
Thank you!



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Yes! I want to help my neighbors in need this summer. Enclosed is my gift of:

- ☐ \$17.36 to provide 8 meals and other care.
- ☐ \$28.21 to provide 13 meals and other care.
- ☐ \$56.42 to provide 26 meals and other care.
- ☐ \$_____ to provide as much care as possible.

☐ I'd like to give monthly. My first gift of
\$_____ is enclosed.

Please make your check payable to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission.