"I know God has a plan for Ronan and me."

GOD HAS MADE A TREMENDOUS CHANGE IN OUR LIVES

My name is Paige. I am 25 and grew up in a small town in southwest Colorado near hot springs & ski areas. I believe my parents loved me, yet they worked many hours as chefs and our home was one of addiction. Smoking pot and drinking was an every day affair.

Because of this, as a child I had a lot of anxiety about my parents' health and well being.

At nine years old my grandma took me to church and I clearly remember inviting Jesus into my life as my Savior. But, I stopped going to youth group as a young teenager. My grandma moved and did not stay in touch.

As I grew older the way I coped was to join my parents, older sisters and brothers in drinking and substance abuse. My dad's addiction got worse.

At 14, I quit school and began working full time as a dishwasher at Wolf Creek Ski area. I stayed there 8 years, working my way up to assistant supervisor. During those years I would come home and often stay up all night drinking, sniffing cocaine, then go to work in the morning. At times I would drive with my knees while sniffing coke. It is nothing short of a miracle that I am alive.

I got my GED at age 18. At 20, I started a relationship with an opiate addict, and I started using heroin because I didn't want to lose him.

I was in and out of jail, since 21, on different levels of theft - related to drug use. I never tried to stop using until I found out I was pregnant and 5 months along. I was so skinny and such a mess I knew I needed help.

I went to a detox center and my son Ronan was born healthy April 17, 2017. But he had to be detoxed off methadone with morphine. It is a miracle of God's grace that he is happy and healthy. And today he is developmentally above average for kids his age in most areas.

I was on probation, but was non-compliant and ended up in jail again when Ronan was 5 months old.

My attorney was a godly woman who knew about Capital City Rescue Mission's New Life Program for men because of another client. She learned about the Mission's New Faith program for women and fought to have me allowed to leave the state and enter the program.

At 6 AM Saturday, March 24th I left jail with my attorney, was joined by my son and the three of us flew into Albany that night.

God has made a tremendous change in my life. He has strengthened me in my recovery from addictions. He has opened up a whole new world of possibilities to break the cycle of addiction that's been in my family for such a long time.

I've learned I had serious codependency on my parents—my best friends who then required my support for their addiction.

I'm understanding and putting into practice what a healthy life means. My desire now is for more of Jesus in my life—not drugs. I want to embody the love of Christ, the best I can. He has changed the desires of my heart.

I was baptized recently at Legacy Church, confessing my personal faith in Jesus' death and resurrection. My church family has embraced me.

It's a beautiful thing to experience first hand how Christ knows the smallest desires of my heart. Those moments help me feel His love and know He has a plan for Ronan and me.

Being at the Rescue Mission, I get to explore what His plan is for me. I am learning how to raise up a believer for God's family.

I never thought about furthering my education until I came here. Now I am working on cooperating with God and His plan.

Romans 8:28 says, *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."*

Thank you for a place to heal and grow and learn. Today, I know in all things in my life, God is working for the good. Praise God.

Thank you for your partnership which changed him from "grumbly" to grateful

My name is Joe. I am 56 years old. I grew up in San Diego thinking I did not need to pay attention to the law although the sad consequences of that lifestyle were all around me.

As a teenager my friends got shot and died next to me. My father, mixed up in organized crime, was arrested, but had a heart attack and died before he even went to jail. My mother died of a broken heart.

I moved to the Capital Region, to be near my grandparents, but I lived foolishly. For 40 years I began my day at 5 AM with alcohol, and drank all day long.

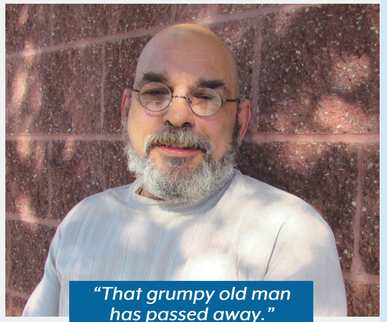
After two failed marriages and a construction business that went bankrupt I could not cope. My third wife cared for me until I slipped into an alcoholic coma and was admitted to the hospital. The doctors were surprised I woke up. My wife told me, "You are on your own until you change your ways." I was homeless. I know now, that God had His hand on me in many ways.

With only a $20 bill and a cell phone I was released and took a taxi to Capital City Rescue Mission.

Four years earlier I had started the New Life program and stayed only 3 weeks. Now, I turned my will and life over to God. My self sufficiency was broken. But, it was hard. Part of me did not want to be here, yet I knew I needed to stay. I was the "grumpy old man" in the program.

Slowly, I began to understand the magnitude of what Christ did when he died for me and rose again. I began reading the Bible and started praying for a renewed mind. I knew He was changing me when my fierce fighting nature did not respond when I was provoked.

I renew my faith in Christ every morning and He keeps chipping the stuff off my life that displeases him. I am learning life is not about me. It's about Christ in me. God is showing me what it is to be thankful and to be a servant to others.



"That grumpy old man has passed away."

I graduated from the New Life Program in October and now am part of the Transitional Living Program. I am employed as a maintenance manager in a hotel, a job I look forward to every day.

I'm in awe of how God has entered my life. I let go and now Christ works in me. My wife has seen the difference and our relationship has been renewed. I invite her for dinner and give her flowers. Our love is growing.

Thank you for your part in giving me an abundant and grateful life.

With your support holiday meals and gifts abound

Don't Forget to Remember

A recent study conducted in the UK found the average adult forgets three things each day including:

- Where you left your keys
- What you meant to buy at the store
- Charging a mobile device
- Replacing a toilet paper roll
- Where you parked your car

While we're all guilty of forgetting from time to time, there's a long list of things you would never think of forgetting. For instance, a good parent would never forget to teach their child how to reach 911 in an emergency, or to look both ways before crossing the street.

But every day parents neglect to pass along equally vital information to their adult children or loved ones—by simply omitting to communicate crucial personal plans only they know.

Senior individuals who prepare for unanticipated life events exercise a unique form of love for their family. One of the best ways to do this is with an up-to-date will or estate plan. Another is by compiling a special group of documents that outline information like:

- Passwords for all existing accounts—financial, social media, etc.
- Details regarding investments, accounts and insurance policies
- A list of charities they support
- Explanations of the values and beliefs that have shaped their lives

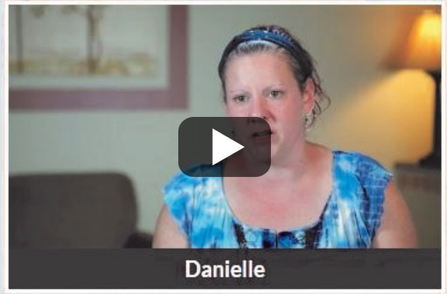
Remembering to care for your loved ones during *and after* your life is a beautiful gift.

So is remembering a ministry like Capital City Rescue Mission in your will. Don't let time or good intentions get away from you.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "Are You Forgetting the Most Important Thing?" - by emailing sjones@albanymission.com or bless your family today with a God-honoring will at www.christianwill.org/ccrm.

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests

Thank You



Thank you friends! You participated in our Annual Banquet Matching Challenge and not only met the match but surpassed it.

Your partnership raised over **$140,000**, including sponsors, the silent auction donations, and the generous offering to benefit women and children.

On behalf of scores of women, like Danielle pictured above, who will be blessed by a new home .....thank you with all our hearts.

Visit www.capitalcityrescuemission.org/videos to learn about the ***New Home for Women*** project and how you can help!

Thank you for your compassion in action!

A MESSAGE FROM
PERRY JONES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Christmas is about giving! Presents, parties and get-togethers have meaning to me because we are celebrating the greatest Giver and the greatest gift of all time. God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, Jesus. He is Emmanuel - God with us. His sacrifice provides a Savior and the gift of eternal life.

This celebration has special meaning at Capital City Rescue Mission. You see, your support means hundreds of men, women and children who are fearful and hurting can know God cares for them personally through delicious hot meals, safe shelter and Christmas gifts. You are God's blessing and provision for those in need. Thank you for your kindness.

In this issue you will read about Paige, her son Ronan, and Joe whose lives have been transformed by the power and grace of God. Today they have new hearts and new desires.

If you have never visited Capital City Rescue Mission, do come and see how you are making a difference. How we thank God for each patient in the Free Clinic, each community member receiving clothing, each disciple in a recovery program and each graduate now employed or in college. Your partnership is invaluable and life changing on every front.

Thank you for your sacrificial giving, your volunteer hours, and compassion. May God give you a blessed Christmas.

Warmly,

Perry

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given—And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

Thank you for your generosity throughout the year . . . And *especially during the holidays*

Once in the year - and only once - the whole world stands still to celebrate the advent of a life. Only Jesus claims this worldwide, undying remembrance. Christmas celebrates that moment when God stepped down from heaven as a baby. Aren't you glad His light shining from a humble manger is strong enough to lighten our lives? Thank you for helping us share His light with so many who have lost their way.

Once again you have sustained this ministry of rescue for another year. You have been generous month after month. You stand alongside those in need. *Thank you.*

Now with God as your strength, please continue to carry on your own personal ministry of rescue.

To send you donation today, please use the remit slip enclosed. Or, make your donation online at **capitalcityrecuemission.org.** Thank you as *together* we reach out to the homeless at Christmas . . . *and every day of the year.*

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

YEAR END IS HERE AND I WANT TO HELP

YES, PERRY! I'm giving a generous gift to help bring God's restoration and hope to those who come through the Mission doors. Enclosed is my gift of:

☐ $500 ☐ $100 ☐ $50 ☐ $26 ☐ Other $ _____

Please enclose a check or enter a credit card: VISA, MC, AMEX, DISCOVER

Account #_____Exp_____Code_____
Name_____Email_____
Address_____

☐ Please send me a FREE copy of "Are You Forgetting the Most Important Thing?"

Capital City Rescue Mission | 259 S Pearl St | Albany, NY 12202

Donate online at capitalcityrescuemission.org

THE MISSION: RESCUE

HOLIDAY 2018

Stories of hope...lives transformed

CAPITAL CITY RESCUE MISSION

Giving Hope... Transforming Lives.

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It is nothing short of a miracle that I am alive.