

THE MISSION Bell

"A NEW COMMAND I GIVE YOU: LOVE ONE ANOTHER. AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, SO YOU MUST LOVE ONE ANOTHER." JOHN 13:34

Chris Scott

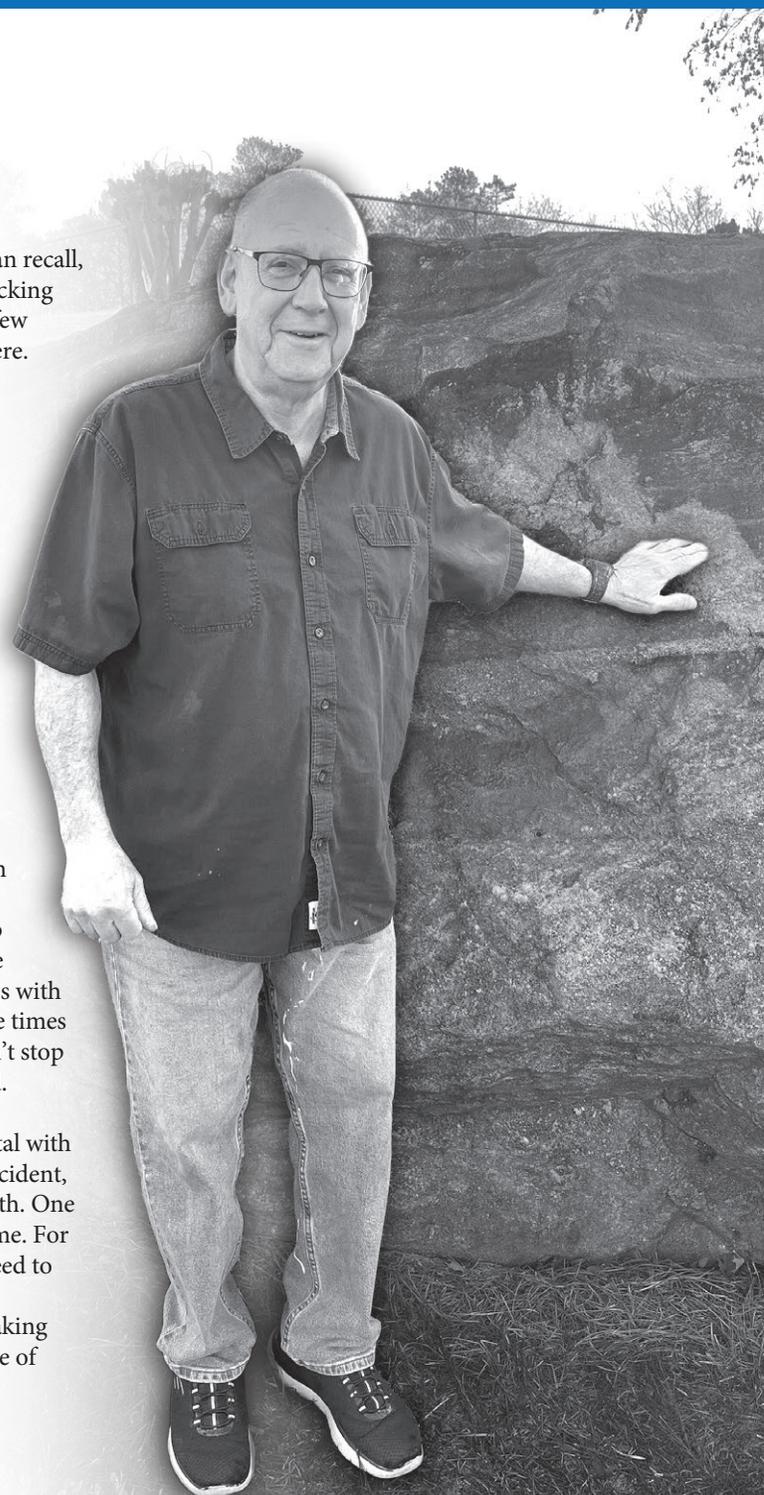
RESIDENT TESTIMONY

I was born in Macon, Georgia, in 1962, and from the earliest memories I can recall, moving was a constant. My mom, my sisters, and I seemed to always be packing up, heading to a new city, a new state, and a new home. We did this every few years. I never thought much about it at the time—it was just how things were. Moving was normal to me. I never really had a father figure in my life. My memories of him are hazy, almost like old Polaroid snapshots that quickly faded. I spent very little time with him, and we never built any real relationship.

The constant moving had its ups and downs. There was a certain excitement and a fresh start in each new place. But it also meant changing schools often, leaving behind friends, and always trying to fit in somewhere new. There was the cultural shock, especially until I was around twelve or thirteen years old. I always knew God existed. I was saved and baptized during this time, but I didn't feel worthy of His love. I believed He was unapproachable. Around the same time, I started partying socially. It wasn't just on weekends—it became part of my daily routine. Music played a big part in my life, both in school and out.

As high school began, I started drinking. What began as something social quickly became a demon in my life. By 1990, I moved back to Georgia from California. I quit doing drugs, but I couldn't quit drinking. That demon would control my life for the next 34 years. Despite attending several rehab programs, the urge to drink always came back. I lost many good jobs, some with companies that should have been a dream come true. My relationships with my wife, family, and friends became damaged and complicated. There were times when I disappeared for days or weeks, leaving destruction behind. I couldn't stop myself. This life I was living pushed me further and further away from God.

Then, in early 2020, as the pandemic began to unfold, I woke up in a hospital with a loss of memory. I'd had a seizure while driving and was involved in an accident, which led to a traumatic brain injury (TBI). I was in the hospital for a month. One day, while standing at the window, I knew something had changed inside me. For the first time, I didn't just know God—I felt Him. I also realized that my need to drink had completely vanished. For three years, things went well. I slowly recovered from my injuries, and I even got back to working with wood, making wall art, something I had always loved. But after a while, I made the mistake of



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taking control again. The alcohol didn't have the same effect on me, but the consequences were just as severe. I ended up back in the hospital for a week.

During those dark moments, I prayed to God, asking for His help, and He delivered. My sister, Cindy, told me she had contacted the Mission to find out about their Life Recovery Program. She had given my contact information to Brad, and a few days later, he reached out to me. He asked me some questions and then invited me to come to the Rescue Mission. That moment changed my life in ways I didn't fully understand at the time. Even though the journey had been painful, I believe God orchestrated everything that happened to bring me right here, to the Mission. It was exactly where I needed to be.

Since coming here, the most significant change in my life is my relationship with God. He welcomed me back with open arms, and now, my connection with Him is stronger than ever. I know now that God isn't unapproachable; He's always been right beside me, walking with me. It was just that I didn't recognize His presence before. The shame I used to carry—the guilt of the person I used to be—is gone. I know who I am now, and I'm okay with who I see. The relationships with my family and friends, despite everything I put them through, have actually improved. They're better now than they've ever been.

When I first arrived at the Mission, I was lost. But now, my life is so much better. I've gained confidence in myself and my abilities. I no longer worry about what others think of me. I know who I am in Christ and trust that He will lead me where I need to be. While I've always been an introvert, I've learned there's nothing wrong with that. I feel more comfortable expressing myself and sharing my thoughts, and it doesn't bother me when others disagree with me.

Looking ahead, my hope is to continue serving at the Mission after I graduate from the program, if it's God's will. I've learned so much during my time here. For most of my life, I was a taker. I took from others without giving back. But now, I want to give—without expecting anything in return. I've learned to feel emotions again, and that's a beautiful thing. I've gained wisdom from some very insightful people here, and I'll carry that with me. Most importantly, I've learned about grace. If there's one thing that defines the Mission, it's grace. Grace is something I want to carry with me, and something I want to give to others. The relationships I've formed here and the grace I've experienced are the things I'll take with me as I move forward.



"It is so very nice that the Mission is going to do a story on him. He is an amazing brother, we all love him dearly! We thank the Mission so VERY much for taking him in and helping him with his situation. It has been decades of work and love that we as a family have always been there for him. I truly hope that the Mission made the final step for him to stay sober for good. Love for all that you all do for those in need!"

Cindy Scott-McDonald (Chris' Sister)



If your organization, church or place of work/business would be interested partnering with us, a donation drive is a great way to start.

YOU COULD HOST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING DRIVES:

CANNED FOOD
DRIED FOOD
HYGIENE PRODUCTS

CEREAL
PAPER PRODUCTS
CLEANING PRODUCTS



If you are interested, your point of contact will be:
Patti Stevenson, email patti@rescuemissionga.com or call 478-743-5445, Ext. 403



APRIL IS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH



Cost of Child Maltreatment

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Such as Child Maltreatment



Can impair a child's social, emotional, cognitive, and physiological development

Increase chance of adverse health outcomes and risky behavior

Increase likelihood of disease, disability, and mental illness throughout adulthood

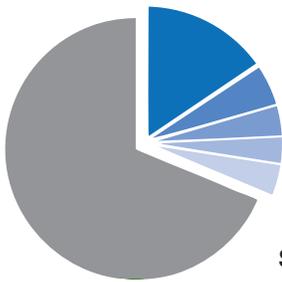
In Georgia, 58% of adults surveyed had at least one Adverse Childhood Experience⁵

Child abuse and neglect are not caused by a single factor but by multiple factors related to the individual, family, community, and society at large. Violent environments, lack of accessible and practical community resources, disproportionately affected by poverty or unemployment, are variables that contribute to child abuse and neglect.

Georgia ranked **37th** in the nation for child well-being in 2024.

2024 Number of Children being served by the Department of Family & Children Services in Georgia: **137,629**

The Total Direct Cost for ONE Victim's Lifetime is about \$226,822



- \$35,162 ■ Short-term health care costs
- \$11,341 ■ Long-term health care costs
- \$8,399 ■ Child welfare costs
- \$7,333 ■ Criminal justice costs
- \$8,693 ■ Special education costs
- \$155,894 ■ Productivity Loss

2024 Georgia Maltreatment Allegations Statistics

Total Intakes of Maltreatment Allegations:	122,866
Child Endangerment:	1,567
Emotional Abuse:	6,724
Neglect:	98,849
Physical Abuse:	18,627
Sexual Abuse:	7,193
Investigations Started in Georgia in 2024:	3,747

*Information from www.PACGeorgia.org and <https://dhs.georgia.gov/division-family-children-services-child-welfare>

Research has shown there is **no significant difference** in developmental outcomes for Children with a substantiated child abuse and neglect case Vs. Children subject to an investigation but not substantiated

HOW WE HELP AT THE RESCUE MISSION?

"What if there was a place so safe that the worst of me could be known, and I would discover that I would not be loved less, but more in the telling of it?"
- The Cure | TrueFace Publishing

The heart of the Rescue Mission is our 12-month residential Life-Recovery Program. This free Bible-based program is for men and women struggling with addictions, domestic violence, sexual abuse, homelessness, and other life-defining challenges.

Through counseling, life-skills classes, Bible study, peer recovery activities, work therapy, and other support, men and women are able to identify the underlying causes of their choices and behaviors, receive healing, and learn coping tools, all of which empower them to rebuild relationships with loved ones, secure employment, find housing, and live productive, transformed lives.

It's a life-changing program that produces real results.



Good Friday Community Meal

AT THE MISSION

The Mission will provide over **1500** nourishing meals to our hungry neighbors in celebration of the Easter holiday. The meals will be distributed on **Friday, April 18, 2025**.



Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- ▶ **Pre-Event Food Prep:**
Monday, April 14, 2025 &
Tuesday, April 15, 2025, from 10am – 2pm
- ▶ **Food Box Preparation:**
Friday, April 18, 2025, from 7am – 9am
- ▶ **Meal Delivery Drivers:**
Friday, April 18, 2025, at 8am & 8:45am

Donated items needed to prepare the meal are:

Hams or Turkeys

Large Cans of Green Beans & Corn

Instant Potato Mix

Dinner Rolls

Sugar, Bottled Water, Tea Bags, and Coffee

To Donate Items or Volunteer, contact:

Patti Stevenson at 478-743-5445 ext. 403 or patti@rescuemissionga.com



Complete the enclosed reply card or donate online at:

rescuemissionga.com/newsletter



Scan here!

Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia
6601 Zebulon Road, Macon, GA 31220
Monday – Saturday | 8:30 am – 6:00 pm
(478) 743-5445 | info@rescuemissionga.com
rescuemissionga.com
Instagram: [rescuemissionmiddlega](https://www.instagram.com/rescuemissionmiddlega)
Facebook: [maconrescuemission](https://www.facebook.com/maconrescuemission)

Schedule A Donation Pick-Up

Steve Floyd | (478) 743-5445 ext. 314
donate@rescuemissionga.com

Bargain Center Thrift Store

3375 Napier Avenue, Macon, GA 31204

Monday – Saturday | 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

(478) 743-5445 ext. 317 | niger@rescuemissionga.com

Facebook: [MissionBargainCenter](https://www.facebook.com/MissionBargainCenter)

Barn Center Thrift Store

6601 Zebulon Road, Macon, GA 31220

Monday – Saturday | 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

(478) 743-5445 ext. 406 | kyle@rescuemissionga.com

Facebook: [MissionBarnCenter](https://www.facebook.com/MissionBarnCenter)



GIVE YEAR-ROUND Consider becoming a monthly giver and have a lasting impact throughout the year! Find out how at rescuemissionga.com/monthly



Proud "Certified Excellent" member of City Gate, accredited by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, and recognized as a "Four Star Charity" by Charity Navigator.