



# OPEN DOOR MISSION

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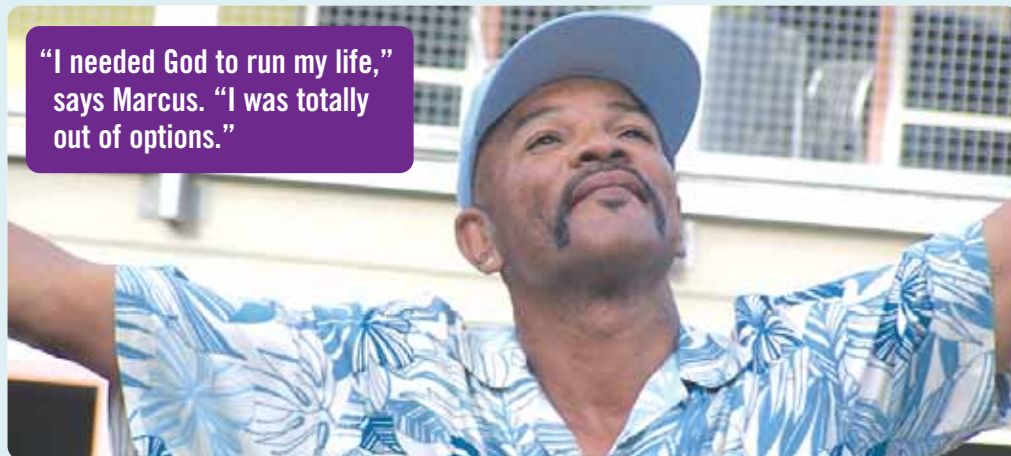
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## Marcus embraces a new life in Christ...

"I needed God to run my life,"  
says Marcus. "I was totally  
out of options."



For more than three decades, drug and alcohol abuse dominated Marcus' life. His vices led to prison, a failed marriage, and countless unsuccessful rehab attempts. And just when it seemed things couldn't get worse, he discovered crack cocaine. "That took me to being homeless, jobless, and penniless," Marcus says. "I was in and out of jail for petty crimes."

### The lack of options turns a crooked path straight

By September of 2004, Marcus was tired and willing to do whatever it took to get clean. He came to Open Door Mission seeking a hot meal, shelter and help to change his life. What he got was admittance to the DoorWay Recovery Program, and a hefty serving of God's love. "I needed God to run my life. I was totally out of options," he says.

### Moving on!

After graduating from the DoorWay Recovery Program, exciting new options are opening for Marcus! He's moved out of the dorms at ODM and into our new transitional living facility—New Hope Housing's Canal Street Apartments. Through our partnership with New Hope Housing, 18 of our graduates are able to save money and eventually move on to permanent housing, ending their cycle of homelessness. "Now I'm on a straight and narrow path. It's not like drugs and alcohol don't cross my mind, but when that happens I read a scripture." The scripture passage that most fortifies Marcus is: "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit..." (John 15:5, *NIV*) Marcus feels his efforts to live a good life are finally bearing fruit.



### He is Risen!

This Easter, Open Door Mission will celebrate Christ's gift of new life by serving up meals and hope to more than 400 of Houston's hungry and homeless. Thank you for helping to make new beginnings possible!

MY VIEW

A Message from Rick Hill



*As we celebrate the miracle of Christ's resurrection, let us also*

*reflect on how His promise of new life is being realized every day at Open Door Mission. Men who walked in darkness and despair are seeing the world in a new light—the light of God's eternal love that fills their hearts with hope and makes incredible transformation possible.*

*Because of the faithful support of friends like you, we're able to help many of these men shed relentless addictions that wreck their lives, marriages and families. We also share God's word. And we watch in wonder as our clients grow in confidence, health, and spirit. It's a joy to witness the fulfillment of Jesus' words, "...I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10) We see this in the lives of men like Marcus, Brady and Robert, whose stories are included in this newsletter...and so many more!*

*I hope you'll be inspired and humbled as you read about the hope, redemption, courage, faith and transformation they've experienced. And I encourage you to join us in prayer this Easter for all the homeless and hurting of Houston, that they too will reclaim their lives through Christ.*

*Richard H. Hill, Jr.*

Richard H. Hill, Jr.  
Executive Director

# A hot meal brings Brady home!

When Brady arrived at Open Door Mission, he was a little conspicuous, with body piercings and blue spiked hair. At six feet tall, he weighed a skeletal 120 pounds. Crystal meth addiction had left him homeless, starving and lost. But a simple meal, a good night's sleep and a hot shower at the Mission began Brady's journey "home" to God. The very next day, he enrolled in the DoorWay Recovery Program in hopes of casting off addiction and filling the spiritual void he felt.

Today, instead of courting death, Brady is brimming with life! He's gained 90 pounds and his face has a flush of health as he talks about his plans to attend the College of Biblical Studies and become a minister. In the meantime, Brady has returned to playing drums. He is excited to be able to mix his passion for music with serving the Lord by volunteering for KSBJ—a popular Christian radio station. Brady, along with several other Mission men, help to staff KSBJ's concert set up and tear



Brady has a new life after feeding both body and soul at Open Door Mission.

down crew. This labor intensive volunteer work is rewarding for all our men involved. About his amazing transformation, Brady says, Its God. That's all it is. Its God.

**"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."**  
~Matthew 5:6

## CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT:

### A Memory in the Making

Open Door Mission's third annual Easter Egg Hunt gets under way immediately following our Easter Sunday dinner that will provide hot

meals for more than 400 men, women and children in need. This lighthearted egg hunt is a small step toward healing families broken by addiction and homelessness. And it's a chance to make happy memories for the children of the men at the Mission as well as for neighborhood kids. If your church or group would like to be involved with one of our Easter events, including the ones featured, please call Lindsey at 713-921-7520, ext. 214.



**OPEN DOOR MISSION**

**Visit us online at**  
**www.opendoorhouston.org**

Our door is open to you 24 hours a day, seven days a week—and you never have to leave your home! Simply visit us online at [www.opendoorhouston.org](http://www.opendoorhouston.org) to connect with our ministry and learn how your faithful support is changing lives. You'll find information on upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, prayer requests, wish lists, and more. Drop in anytime!

# Robert crosses the threshold to a new life

After spending six months in prison for selling crack, Robert waited alone by the side of the road for a bus. He was on the threshold of a pivotal decision: whether to return to his old life of addiction and turmoil, or follow a new path. When the bus driver gave him a free ride to Open Door Mission, he chose the latter. Mission staff took Robert in, fed him, and offered him the hope of transformation through Jesus Christ. After deciding he wanted to change, Robert entered the DoorWay Recovery Program.

For the first week, he struggled with cravings to drink and use drugs. But he found a student prayer partner, and the cravings vanished! Nine months later, Robert was still praying—and still clean. He graduated from the DoorWay Recovery Program and is now taking computer and office administration classes at Houston Technical. "At the Mission I've been able to focus on getting and staying clean, and learning God's word," says Robert, who now looks forward to a promising future.



## Faith opens doors for ODM graduates

By God's grace, two recent graduates of the DoorWay Recovery Program are stepping forward into a future of hope. Here's what Edward Ford and James Daly have to say about how their faith has opened the door to a brand-new life:



"To place one's eyes on a lost life and to bring forth a better life with God will inspire me...to spring forth good works for people to see."

~Edward Ford



"Being here has saved my life and spirit. I thank God that He made it possible for me to have a second chance at life."

~James Daly



## Dare 2 Share

On April 7 and 8, Dare 2 Share will be bringing 4,500 kids together to help Open Door Mission collect food. The event is expected to raise more than 10 tons of donations.

# A broken life made whole



As a boy, many opportunities—both positive and negative—came up for David. But the one he chose led him to 12 years in prison, a heart attack at age 21, and three suicide attempts. All the pain and struggle of his youth landed him homeless on the streets of Houston. “Worst of all, [my] choices separated me from God,” says David. “But thankfully, He has a way of turning things around and repairing a totally broken life.”

**David knows firsthand that no life is too shattered for God to repair.**

Things began to turn around for David when he came to the Mission for a hot meal and a place to lay his head. He got food, shelter and so much more when he entered the DoorWay Recovery Program. It was there that he reconnected with God and began to put the pieces of his life back together. Today, having graduated, he’s helping

*“We are all one of a kind and if we could only see our true potential and value the same way God sees it, I think the entire world would be different. The good news is God is able to see all of our foolishness from His seat in Heaven, and He is so anxious to repair our lives, if we’ll ask. Only when we ask.”*

(From “A Broken Life” by David)

other men reach their true potential and gain self-esteem by teaching them to read. “If we could get to the point where we value our lives as much as [God] does,” he explains, “we’d all have better lives.”

If you'd like to read the full version of David's story, "A Broken Life", please visit our website at [www.opendoorhouston.org](http://www.opendoorhouston.org).

## SALT & LIGHT CONFERENCE

Open Door Mission will be represented this year at Global Vision's Salt & Light Conference on April 29th, here in Houston. With the purpose of uniting and mobilizing the body of Christ in communities worldwide, “Living Your Faith” is a fitting theme. Come and hear keynote speaker, former Attorney General, John Ashcroft as he shares about living out his faith on a daily basis. For more information, visit [www.g-v.org](http://www.g-v.org)

## MATT MUSIL GOLF CLASSIC

Save Monday, May 22, 2006 and plan to attend the annual Matt Musil All-Star Golf Classic at Raveneaux Country Club! To sponsor or play, please call Becky at 713-921-7520, extension 218.

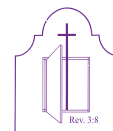
# Here's my special gift for Houston's neediest men:

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