



OPEN DOOR MISSION

Your Generosity At Work!

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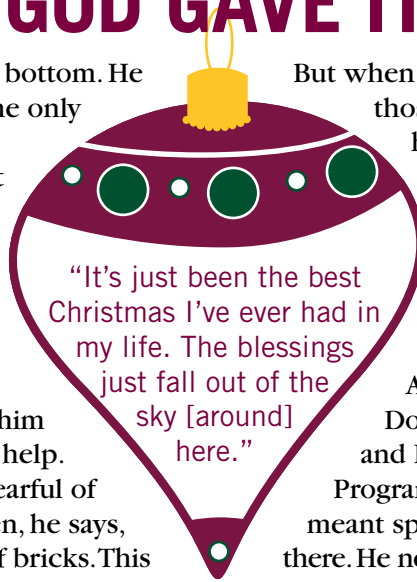
Drugs stole his life...AND GOD GAVE IT BACK

David had struggled since the age of fourteen with substance abuse. At first, he didn't understand the grip drugs had on him. He was able to use, and still work and function. But as he became an adult, his addiction worsened and began to rob him of everything he held dear. "I could see my life being totally wasted," he says. "My family was leaving me. I went through one marriage...I'd really lost control of my life."

Eventually David hit rock bottom. He knew he had to change. "The only person who could help me was God," he recalls. "[I] got down on my knees in my living room in front of the family Bible and truly asked Him to free me of this addiction." Shortly after, his brother's wife came to him and asked him to go to the Mission for help. At first David resisted, fearful of a life without drugs. Then, he says, "it just hit me like a ton of bricks. This was God, trying to answer my prayers."

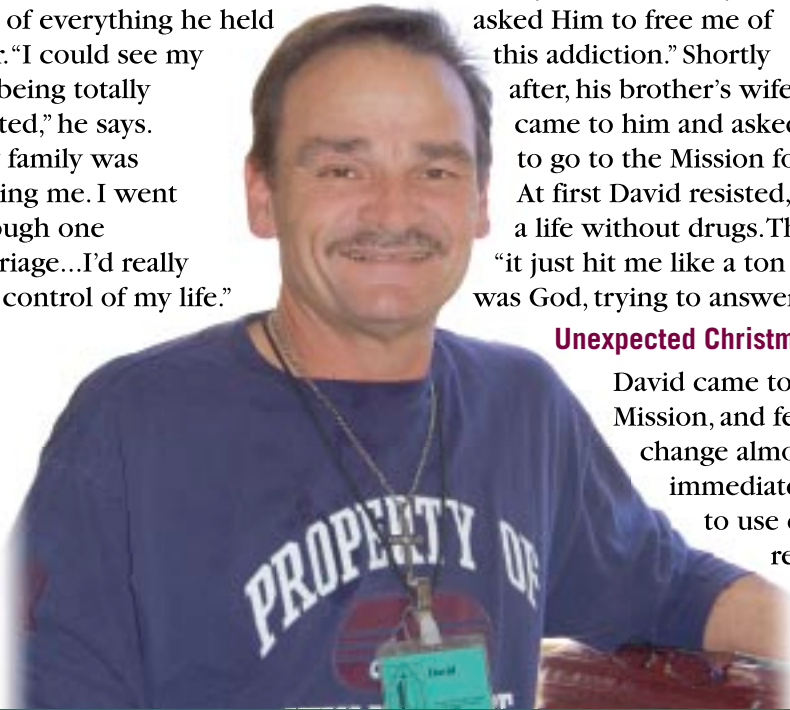
Unexpected Christmas blessings

David came to Open Door Mission, and felt his life change almost immediately. "My will to use drugs was really strong.



But when I walked through those gates, I didn't have any more desire," he remembers. Determined to make the change last, David committed to our Alan and Ann Craft DoorWay Recovery and Rehabilitation Program, even though it meant spending the holidays there. He never looked back. Holidays at the Mission took

David by surprise. "It's just been the best Christmas I've ever had in my life. The blessings just fall out of the sky [around] here." And now, after finally ridding himself of the addiction that plagued most of his life, he wants Mission supporters to know the miracles they help accomplish. "I owe this place my life...it's just a wonderful place, thanks to the people who give."



CHRISTMAS AT THE MISSION:

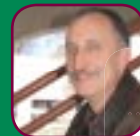
A Home for the Holidays

A hot meal, shelter, and an abundance of God's healing love: these are some of the blessings Open Door Mission brings to the men in our programs who might otherwise be sleeping on a cold sidewalk and eating discarded scraps of food on Christmas night. Support from friends like you makes it all possible.

Friends gather over a hot meal. Families reunite. Gifts of comfort are distributed. God bless you for making Christmas a special time for the men at Open Door Mission.



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MY VIEW

A Message from Rick Hill

When we say that Open Door Mission is providing hurting men with a home for the holidays, we're not just talking about shelter. The word "home" conveys feelings of warmth, safety and comfort. And home is not just a place to eat and sleep. It's a place of spiritual refuge where the heart can abide in peace with God. When a man has wandered down a wrong path, making his way "home" is the only way for true healing to begin.

This kind of healing happens each day at Open Door Mission. Men once cast adrift by life find shelter in God, in fellowship with others, and in the assurance that comes with knowing that people like you care about their well-being. I can't stress enough how grateful these men are for your encouraging support. Your prayers and donations are helping "build homes" in their hearts and minds—this holiday season and all year round.

On behalf of the men in our programs and all of our ministry team, thank you so much for your compassion. We wish you and your loved ones all the joys of the season.

Christmas Blessings,

Richard H. Hill, Jr.

Richard H. Hill, Jr. Executive Director

...you will fill me with joy in your presence. Acts 2:28

MASON'S CHRISTMAS MIRACLE

At one time, Mason had it all. Money, success, a wonderful wife and three children. He was vice-president of his company—a position that allowed him to travel worldwide. God had blessed him with abundance. And life couldn't have been more perfect...or so it seemed. But trouble was brewing, and it came in the subtle disguise of prescription medicine. Before they knew it, Mason and his wife were both hooked.

As their addiction worsened, the couple's 17-year marriage began to unravel. Unable to deal with the pain, Mason turned to cocaine. His habit escalated dangerously after he and his wife divorced. "I just went from a real productive life to

survival mode," he recalls. In just a few years, Mason lost everything. He even sold his cell phone to buy more drugs.

Survival instinct

Then one day, when Mason was in a bad part of town looking for drugs, his car was stolen from him at gunpoint.

"I just realized, looking at these guys, that they didn't value my life at all. They'd have killed me in a second," he says. That was the shock Mason needed to stir him to action. He walked 12 miles home that night. The next day he came to the Mission, thinking "I'm a survivor. I can get my life together and do good again."

Today, Mason is doing more than surviving. Thanks to our DoorWay Recovery Program, he's found sobriety and renewed his faith in God. "This nine months has been...the best thing that ever happened to me," he says. "I

just know [God] has a plan for me and He's going to reveal it as I go."

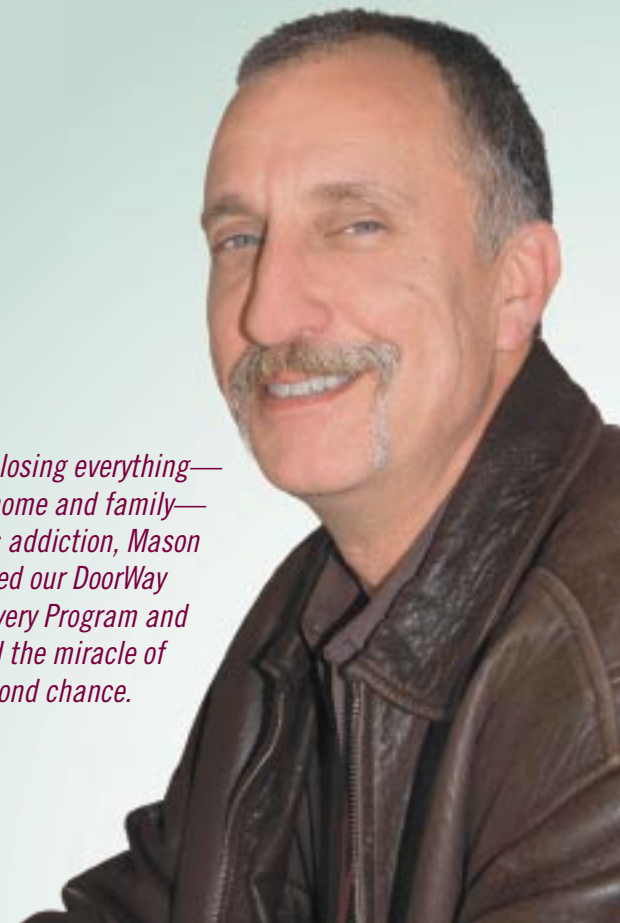
Just around the corner...a Christmas miracle

Perhaps the greatest blessing Mason received was the chance to be a father again. Our Toys for Kids Christmas program allowed him to give his children gifts after years of negligence. "It was probably the best Christmas they've had in a long time," he says gratefully. "There's always a miracle around the corner."

Mason is now looking toward the future, and wants friends like you to know that when you give to Open Door Mission you're helping provide more than just food for the hungry. As he says, "They really are taking people from all walks of life and changing their hearts and their minds...forever."



After losing everything—job, home and family—to his addiction, Mason entered our DoorWay Recovery Program and found the miracle of a second chance.



Online Now!

Open Door Mission 2008 Christmas Gift Catalog

Unique gifts to honor your loved ones this Christmas...and give hope to the Houston area's neediest neighbors.




Shop now at opendoorhouston.giving-hope.org



TOYS for KIDS

Your support helps bring families together

Our annual Toys for Kids project helps men in our recovery programs reconnect with their families by providing them with gifts to give to their children and grandchildren at Christmas.

Through the simple act of giving gifts, our residents have the opportunity to experience holiday warmth and heal wounds. Often, it's the first step toward restoring a damaged relationship between father and child.

Last year, hundreds of children's gifts were donated thanks to businesses, groups and caring friends like you. Over 200 children benefited from this special project. Thank you for helping reunite families this holiday season!

Open Door Mission's "Toys for Kids" helps transform men's lives and bring joy to children at Christmas.

Friends with Foresight

Our Board of Trustees bears the responsibility for the financial health of Open Door Mission. This responsibility includes not only current needs, but also the financial needs of the future. One of the ways the board addresses this future obligation is through Planned Giving.

While some planned gifts are aimed at current needs, the bulk of these gifts provide resources for tomorrow. For example, our endowment program sets in place an assortment of enduring funds that address the ongoing needs of the Mission.

Another example is our gift annuity program that provides resources to the Mission when the annuity payments are completed. And another example is our emphasis on bequests, whereby donors can make gifts from their estates at death.

All of these planned giving donors express foresight: "Care or

I thank my God every time I remember you.
—Philippians 1:3

provision for the future; provident care; prudence."

These friends understand that the future may hold unusual challenges and opportunities...and they want the Mission to be financially able to meet those needs.

We appreciate our friends who stick by us year after year with annual contributions and special gifts. We could not exist without you. We also want to honor those of you who look into the future and address the unseen needs that lie out there before us. You give us hope and confidence in a bright tomorrow.

The fact is, we need all our friends to support the Mission in every way possible. We have a complimentary brochure on the subject of planned giving. You may request it by using the response form below.

You can also request a personal visit. We will be happy to show you how you too can demonstrate your foresight through a planned gift.

GIVE NOW TO ENSURE YOU QUALIFY FOR A YEAR-END DEDUCTION!

It is the season of giving, but that doesn't mean you can't receive as well. Make one final, life-changing donation to the Mission in 2008, and we'll send you a receipt so you can get a tax deduction. Be sure to postmark your year-end gift by December 31 to qualify. In addition to cash gifts, we accept cars, stocks and other types of donations. For more details, please call Becky at (713) 921-7520, ext. 218. Time is slipping away, so please don't delay!

Please note: In order to responsibly steward funds, interviews for our newsletter stories are conducted long before the print date. The information herein is based on the interviewee's opinions and experience at the time of the interview.

✂ Clip & Mail

- Please send me the free brochure on making a planned gift to the Mission.
- I (we) have already made a planned gift to the Mission in the form of _____.
- Please contact me about the possibility of a personal visit. My phone number is _____, and the best time to reach me is _____.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Place the completed form in an envelope and mail to:
 Open Door Mission • P.O. Box 9356 • Houston, TX 77261



Here's my gift for Houston's neediest men: \$25 \$50 \$150 \$ _____

I commit to a monthly gift of \$ _____

To give a gift by credit card, visit us online at www.opendoorhouston.org or call (713) 921-7520, ext 214.

Please make your check payable to: Open Door Mission

Please return this form with your gift to:
 Richard E. Hill, Jr., Executive Director
 OPEN DOOR MISSION • PO Box 849 • Houston, TX 77001-0849

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
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THANK YOU! Your gift is tax deductible to the full extent of the law. We will send a receipt for your records.

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