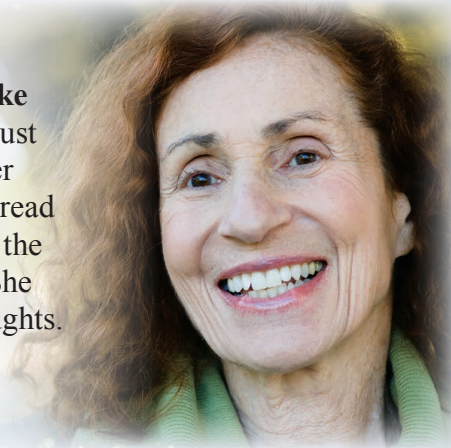


## OUR LORD WORKS IN *Miraculous Ways*

When things get difficult, it's easy to believe miracles don't happen anymore. But at Hope Gospel Mission, we see miracles happening every day. God is at work in the lives of those here, and we would love to share some of what we've seen. We pray this encourages you and gives you hope.

Once at the Mission, a woman shared that she had wanted to take her life for as long as she could remember. She said, "If I could just have one hour of not thinking about taking my life, I would consider that success." A Sunday morning came and she got up to pray and read her Bible. She went to church where she worshiped God and heard the Word preached, and came back to the Women's Center for lunch. She realized that God had given her seven hours free from suicidal thoughts. This was the first time freedom had come for many, many years.



He was a quiet man and only had one prayer he was focused on — to see his daughter again. The mother of his child ran off to another state, and he hadn't seen his baby girl since she was a year old. She was now five. Week after week, this man sought God for the opportunity to have a relationship with his daughter. A breakthrough came when he found out the mother would be moving back to Wisconsin. This quiet, faith-filled man is looking forward to the restoration of this relationship, and the opportunity to be the dad God intended him to be.

We offered one woman a bowl of soup after her intake interview, and while eating she shared about living in her car for several months. She started crying and we began to pray. Within the next four months, she contracted COVID, had severe intestinal issues, found out she had cancer, had her remaining teeth removed and got hearing aids. If she'd been living in her car, she would have never known about the cancer or other health issues. She is now cancer free! What the enemy meant for evil, God used for His good and glory.



**We serve a miraculous God!**  
**Lives change because you care. Thank you, friend.**

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love Him.

— James 1:12, ESV



*"I know I'm going to be okay."*

"I was ready to give up," says Debra. For 10 years, she had been smoking marijuana and then used crack cocaine for three years to quiet the voices in her head, what she today calls "a spiritual battle with Satan." Debra knew she could no longer live with her addiction, and she needed to get right with God. When Debra's sister told her about Hope Gospel Mission, she realized she didn't have to give up ... she just needed to give everything over to the Lord.

Debra arrived at Hope Gospel and found that following the program and taking the classes gave her exactly what was missing from her life: structure. "I didn't have a routine before," she admits. "Everything the Mission planned for me has worked out really well."

One thing Hope Gospel gave Debra was time to look back on her early years and understand why she turned to drugs for comfort. "My parents divorced when I was very young, and my dad died when I was 12." Debra, her two sisters and her mother lived with her grandmother. Then

her mother left them, and Debra felt abandoned for years. Since coming to the Mission, Debra recognizes that her mother had been abused. "I can't really blame her for abandoning me," Debra says, "and she's making up for it today."

In fact, Debra enjoys good relations with all her family, including her adult daughter and teen-age sons. "They all know I'm staying focused," she says proudly. "They're happy I'm here."

Debra will graduate very soon, and she plans to enter our Discipleship Transitions Program. She is sober and stable ... and the voices that troubled her are now silent. Right now, she says she is taking life one day at a time but looks forward to living with her family again.

"God brought me here to get help," Debra says of Hope Gospel Mission. She is thankful to you for "showing me love and kindness without even knowing me. Without your help, I wouldn't be able to get better. I'm getting healthier, and I know I'm going to be okay."

# the hope

Spring 2022

**HOPE**  
GOSPEL MISSION  
*Lives Rescued. Rebuilt. Renewed.*

*Blessed and Renewed*



PO Box 1127, Eau Claire, WI 54702 | 715-552-5566 | [HopeGospelMission.org](http://HopeGospelMission.org)

Love Never Fails • Celebrating Great Successes • "I know I'm going to be okay!"





**Sandi Polzin**  
Executive Director

## Love Never Fails

Dear Friend,

If you were hungry and tired, and walked into Hope Gospel Mission, you would receive a welcome to warm your heart. That's because you would be treated, perhaps for the first time in a long while, with respect and dignity.

We understand people who come here have seen some pretty hard days. In time, we hope everyone finds that Jesus Christ is ready to help carry their load and offer them a new beginning.

This is what you make possible for every hurting person who comes to Hope. Your donations, prayers and volunteer service allow our team here to draw close with compassion, sound advice and practical help. Because you care, our neighbors in crisis can break the cycle of poverty and addiction and look forward to stable, secure lives.

It's a great day when someone here realizes God loves them and they can help others, just like you lovingly helped them.

Love never fails. It warms hearts and renews lives. That's a wonderful thing! And there's no better time for a new beginning than spring.

May God bless you with joy!

Sincerely,

Sandi Polzin  
Executive Director



## You gave Ben something he'd never experienced ...

**B**en spent most of his adult life on and off drugs and in and out of jail. The last time he was arrested, he had been sober for several months but relapsed. "I was in a bad frame of mind," he recalls. "I was sick of my life and I wanted a change." That change came when Ben picked up a Bible in his cell block and began reading Hebrews 12. "When it mentioned that God disciplines the ones He loves, it really rang true for me. I'd always known about Jesus, but I'd never considered myself a Christian. That day, I gave myself to Christ."

Fortunately, Ben had a friend in jail who encouraged him in his new-found faith. He also told Ben about Hope Gospel Mission and how it could help him achieve the life change he wanted so badly. When he was released nearly two years ago, Ben came to the Mission and joined the Renewed Hope program. "Taking that first step was scary," he admits. "I was out of my comfort zone, but I knew it was something I needed. Everybody told me it would get easier, and it did."

Before long, Ben flourished with others at the Mission. "In the life I had before, I was around selfish, unhealthy people — and I was the same. Now I was around people I could trust, who loved me and cared for me. It was something I'd never really experienced, and it was amazing. It still is!"

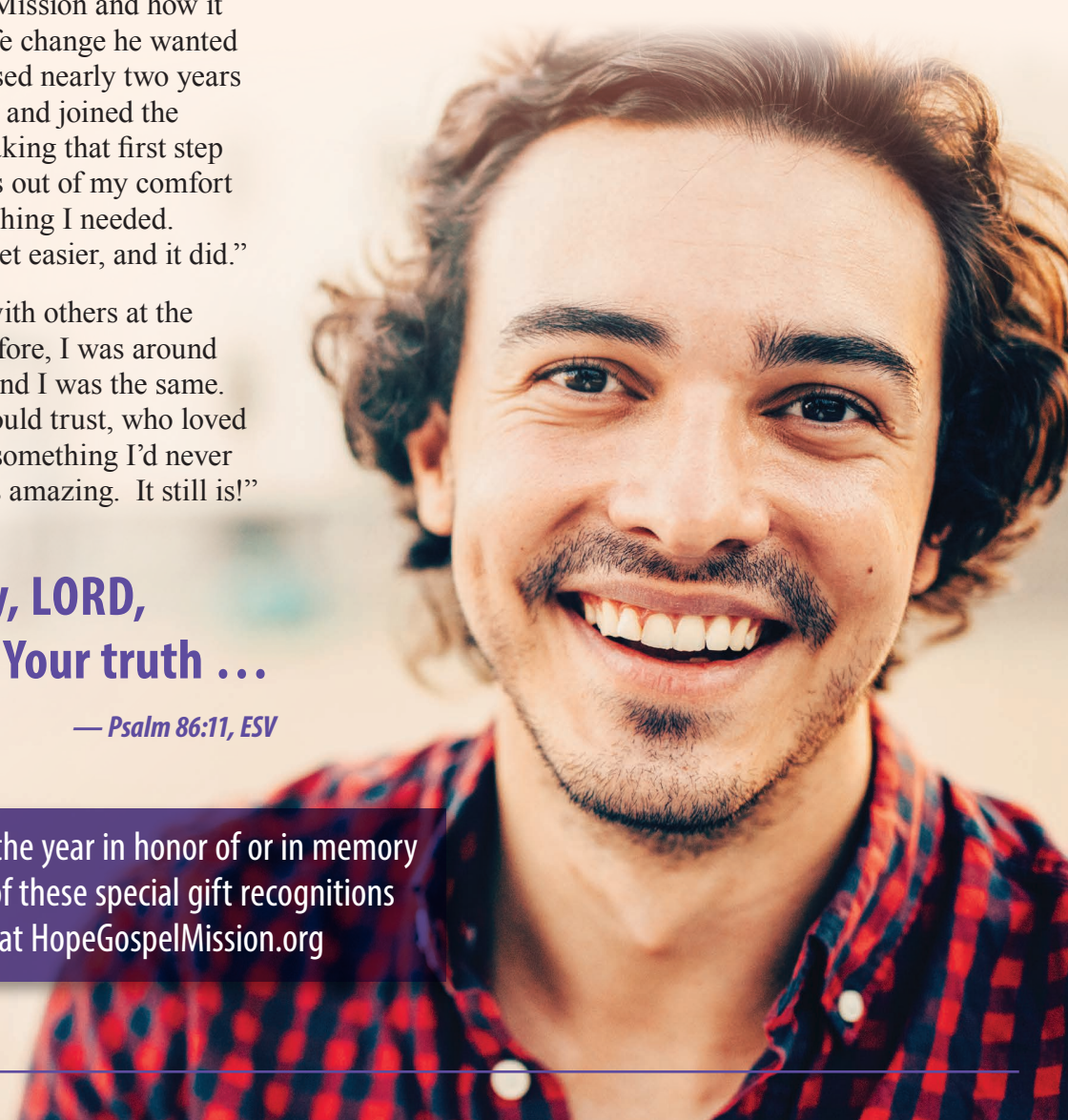
### Teach me your way, LORD, that I may walk in Your truth ...

— Psalm 86:11, ESV

Many gifts are given throughout the year in honor of or in memory of loved ones. You can see a list of these special gift recognitions by viewing the online newsletter at [HopeGospelMission.org](http://HopeGospelMission.org)

Today, Ben is ready to experience what it feels like to be "a stable, normal adult." He works full-time and plans to enter our Discipleship Transitions program when he graduates — which is very soon! Best of all, though, Ben now enjoys a close, loving relationship with his family, including his seven-year-old son.

"I'm forever grateful," Ben says when asked about friends who donate to Hope Gospel Mission. "You might not see the direct impact of your gifts, but they're life changers. My family can attest to that." Because you cared, he tells us, "There's one happy little boy who's glad to have his dad back in his life. And my mom's happy to have her son back."



## Celebrating Great Successes BECAUSE OF YOU

**O**ur residents work extremely hard to overcome troubles, fulfill goals and successfully start a better life. For many at Hope Gospel Mission, addiction, past abuse, mental health and education barriers kept them in a place of darkness. Now, they have a new life and can celebrate each of their great successes.

Each month, Hope Gospel Mission hosts a Celebration Dinner for our residents where we celebrate all of their "wins." Everyone hears stories of phase promotions in the program, course completions from the local technical college, salvations, baptisms, obtaining driver's licenses, finding employment and, of course, program completions.

And when we say "celebration," we mean it. Each milestone is met with cheers, applause, tears and hugs. And we know that Heaven is rejoicing as well because these beautiful victories are through Jesus.

Your support makes all of these great successes possible. Your loving-kindness offers an opportunity for those in need to come to Hope Gospel Mission, learn about Christ's love for them and find a new purpose in life.

This is an open invitation for you. Celebration Dinners take place at 6:00 PM on the last Friday of every month. **All are welcome!**

Thank you, friend, for making a way and rejoicing with us. Lives are truly changing at Hope Gospel Mission.

