

DENVER
RESCUE
MISSION

123 YEARS OF SERVICE

Changing lives

DenverRescueMission.org

May 2015



DAILY CHOICES



... I HAVE SET BEFORE YOU LIFE AND DEATH, BLESSINGS AND CURSES. NOW CHOOSE LIFE, SO THAT YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN MAY LIVE AND THAT YOU MAY LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD, LISTEN TO HIS VOICE, AND HOLD FAST TO HIM.

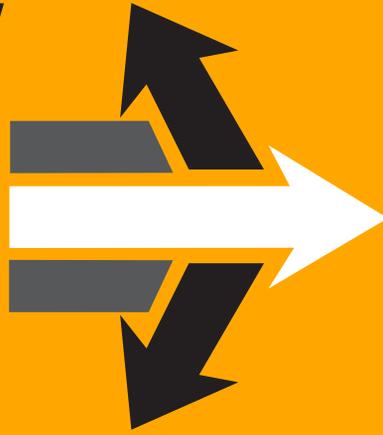
DEUTERONOMY 30:19-20 (NIV)

ADDICTED **SYMPTOMS** **ANGRY** **ALCOHOL** **OPPRESSION** **PROBLEMS** **DIAGNOSED** **SYMPTOMS** **HELP** **WARING** **COST** **EVICTED** **ADDICTED** **WITHDRAWAL** **HOMELESS** **UNSATISFIED** **DRUGS** **OPPRESSION** **COST** **DEPRESSED** **HOMELESS** **PROBLEMS** **DRUGS** **ANXIETY** **HATE** **WARNING** **DEPRESSED** **ALCOHOL** **STRESS** **WITHDRAWAL** **ANGRY** **HATE** **HELP** **COST** **OPPRESSION** **DRUGS** **OPPRESSION** **COST**

"MY ADDICTION RULED MY LIFE.
I WAS CONTENT WITH DYING A DRUG ADDICT."

— MORGAN

DAILY CHOICES



“THE MISSION DIDN’T CHANGE MY LIFE. GOD DID. BUT THE MISSION MADE IT POSSIBLE BY BEING THERE AND OFFERING GUIDANCE.”

— MORGAN



Morgan shared an encouraging testimony with New Life Program graduates last December. Looking at him today, you wouldn't realize that **just six years ago he was heavily addicted and spiraling out of control.** “I didn't have a drug of choice,” he says. “I'd use anything to make my mind blank.”

And it started early. His mother struggled with alcohol when he was a child, and he fought with his parents often. **Before he was 16 years old, he had experimented with cigarettes, alcohol and marijuana.** When he was 17, he was diagnosed with bipolar disorder. “That threw me off the deep end. I wasn't mentally mature enough to accept it,” he says. His already rocky relationship with his parents

became increasingly strained, leading him to choose to cope more and more through drug use.

Seeking satisfaction in his life, Morgan became a firefighter after high school and traveled around the country, but his drug habits continued to grow. **A year later, his alcohol and marijuana habits developed into heavy substance abuse of anything he could use to get high.** When his career ended, he tried going to school but dropped out. “I was mentally unstable at the time,” he says, describing a short period of time when he was admitted to a psychiatric hospital because of his drug problem.

His addiction was ruling his life.

After being released from the psychiatric hospital, his substance abuse caused him to lose his apartment. Evicted, angry and depressed, Morgan says he hated God and Christians. **Despite his reluctance, he quickly came to the Mission to keep from living on the street.**

The Mission's New Life Program helped Morgan get clean and sober, but more importantly, it showed him **what he was missing couldn't be satisfied with drugs.** "I went from having no concept of God or Jesus and no faith whatsoever to more or less having it in my face every day," he says laughing quietly.

Several months into the program, he asked for a Bible. He started reading in Romans, and his depression began to fade. Shortly after, he decided to step out in faith. **He had done nothing but ruin his life so far, so he prayed and asked Jesus to forgive him and take control.** "If someone hadn't donated that Bible, there's a good chance I wouldn't have had that experience," he says. "That's the Bible I still use today."

Morgan graduated the New Life Program more than four years ago. Today, he works for Integrity Auto Specialists here in Denver. "They operate under a biblical business model, and all the guys I work with have that sense of faith in God and serving other people. Which is often counter-cultural for the used car industry," he laughs. He says his community at work helped him remain clean and sober.

But that's not the end of the story. **Daily life after the Mission can still be hard.** "Life's good," he says smiling. "It's hard though, and it's even harder to make the choice to stay clean and sober, but it's worth it." Morgan says it ultimately comes down to a question of what he chooses to do each day. "The Mission didn't change my life," he says, "God did. But the Mission made it possible by being there and offering guidance."

And that guidance helps him make those choices each day. "Recovery doesn't happen by chance. It happens by choice," he says firmly. **He visits the Mission regularly to encourage others struggling with drugs and alcohol.** And when he needs encouragement, the Mission is still there. "The idea of being a new creation in Christ has been playing out a lot in my life," he says. "It's tempting to think that I'm defined by my addiction. **My addiction is part of what made me who I am, but that's not who I am now.** The truth of that is really strong and important to me."



"I need to be in a community of people who share what I believe and are committed to a common goal," Morgan says. And at the Lawrence Street Shelter on Saturday afternoons, Morgan enjoys volunteering and sharing his experience at a group session for new program participants.

Six months after graduating the program, Morgan began going to school for psychology and criminal justice. **He wants to use his first-hand experience to help other people struggling with addiction.** "When it comes time to do my internship for my degree, I'm probably going to talk to the Mission about taking an internship there. I would love that," he says smiling.

Thank you for helping us make Morgan's life-changing experience possible. **Because of your support, he's gone from abusing drugs and alcohol to making better choices every day.** And thank you for helping us provide the same opportunity for all our guests and New Life Program participants!

DONATE TODAY

AND HELP US PROVIDE OUR HOMELESS AND STRUGGLING FRIENDS WITH GUIDANCE, ENCOURAGEMENT AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR LIFE-CHANGING CHOICES.



Look for Morgan's story on the Mission's Facebook page: [Facebook.com/DenverRescue](https://www.facebook.com/DenverRescue).

Share his inspirational words and life change!



Dear Friends,

I often receive phone calls from people worried about family members who are suffering with an addiction. They call to find out if there is any room in our New Life Program which focuses primarily on restoring people who are broken by alcohol abuse and drug addiction. Usually, they are at the end of their rope—they don't know what else to do, or where to turn. They want to know how to go about getting their loved one in this Christ-based program.

As I explain our program, I tell them we would love to help their family member, and I let them know that there is hope. I tell them the most important factor in their loved one getting better is how they answer this question: *Are you willing to enter our program?* I know it sounds like such a simple question but it is the single deciding factor as to whether or not someone wants to get better. To answer yes, they must have hit rock bottom, with no place else to turn, without another option. For some people, this means simply saying, "I have had enough." For others, it takes a lot more to get to that point.

For Morgan, featured in this month's newsletter, it took being evicted from his apartment without any place else to go. He came despite the fact he hated God! Today, Morgan is doing well with a new hope in his life and a new faith in Jesus Christ, like so many of the 918 New Life Program graduates we have had since 1987.

So if your friend or family member needs help, I can tell you from experience that there is great hope through the power of Christ to change lives. If they are not ready to seek that help yet, stay in relationship with them, share this newsletter with them and be there when they finally hit bottom and say, "Okay, I am ready to get some help." Your love for them is so important.

Thank you for your support of our work here at Denver Rescue Mission. We could not do this without you!

God Bless,

Brad Meuli
President/CEO



Happening Now: Break the Cycle II

Mission President and CEO, Brad Meuli, is leading a team of six employees and one board member in Break the Cycle II. Their 10-day cycling tour began on May 16 and lasts until May 26. As you're reading this, the team is likely nearing the last half of their more than 900 mile journey from Reno to Seattle. Their goal: to raise \$48,000—enough money for 25,000 meals.

Get involved!

Donate

Help us reach our goal of providing 25,000 meals by making a donation today! Donate online at DenverRescueMission.org/BreakTheCycle.

Pray

Please keep our riders in your prayers as they complete their 900+ mile journey.

Share

Tell your friends about this opportunity and tag it online with [#BreakTheCycle](https://twitter.com/BreakTheCycle) and follow their journey online at Blog.DenverRescueMission.org.



Mission Events



Spring Graduation

The Crossing Amphitheatre
6090 Smith Road
Friday, June 12th
9:00 – 11:00 A.M.

Please RSVP by Friday, June 5,
to Shelby by SGreen@DenRescue.org.



Restock the Pantry with Fox31

Each spring and summer, the kitchen shelves at our ministry locations start to become a little bare, and we need your help! Join Chris Parente and Kathie J to restock the pantry at the Mission. From June 1-14, watch the Everyday show weekdays at 10 A.M. for details on how to make a donation or visit DenverRescueMission.org/Everyday.



Harvest Farm

Natural Beef



No hormones.

No antibiotics.

Pasture born & pasture raised.

\$4.50/lb hanging weight, sold in quarters.

To inquire about our natural beef or CSA produce shares contact:

Brad Rhoda

BRhoda@DenRescue.org

970.568.9803

HarvestFarm.net

Statistics

How You Help

March

YTD (fiscal year)

Meals provided



Nights of shelter provided



Chapel attendance



Clothing distributed (lbs.)



Clinic services provided



Denver Rescue Mission *Outreaches*

Lawrence Street Shelter

Meals, shelter, clothing, and medical care.

Champa House

Residential facility offering long-term help toward self-sufficiency to single mothers with dependent children.

Harvest Farm

Rural rehabilitation program near Fort Collins, Colorado.

Fort Collins Rescue Mission

Meals, shelter and transitional program.

The Crossing

Transitional program for families and rehabilitation program for men.

Ministry Outreach Center

Administrative and warehouse facilities; food, clothing, and household goods distribution.

Family Services

Transitional housing, assistance for permanent housing, and mentoring.

Global Ministry Outreach

Offering consultation, resources and support to city/rescue missions around the world.



Changing Lives is the monthly news publication of Denver Rescue Mission.

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