



# Roseburg Rescue Mission

*A Beacon of Hope  
for the Homeless*

**48** *Years*  
1964-2012

MARCH 2012

752 SE Pine St • PO Box 1937 • Roseburg, OR 97470 • (541) 673-3004 • [www.roseburgrescuemission.org](http://www.roseburgrescuemission.org)

## UNSHACKLED

Tim is putting the finishing touches on a mural in the Mission's new Dayroom-Chapel. He discovered his artistic talent as a child in grade school. He never took any classes, he just developed his ability over the years by trial and error. Capability, however, does not always mean immediate success. Environment plays a big role in achievement.

Tim's parents were alcoholics. His mother left him when he was 7-years-old; his father left when he was 13. He was then raised by his aunt and uncle. They were Christians that did not allow drinking. They wanted the best for Tim, insisting that he go to college. They refused to sign him into the Air Force when he was 17. When he turned 18, he joined on his own. Tim says his aunt and uncle then disowned him, just like his parents had. He said drinking heavily was considered normal in the military in the mid-1960's. It was a temporary escape.

Upon leaving the service, he said, "It was a natural transition into the Woodstock generation, my surrogate family." He partied. He went to college, receiving certificates in metallurgy and electronics. He worked in chemical plants and television manufacturing. And always he drank, skipping from job to job. Tim was married and had two children, still he drank. He said, "I became my dad. I was disowned; I disowned."

Tim is retired now, living in a rented room at the Mission. He volunteered at the VA golf course, until they recently closed it down. Now he paints signs and does wood carving like ornate walking sticks. He agreed to paint this mural with a sense of excitement and purpose. We

discussed picturing Jesus as the Shepherd knocking at the door, Jesus walking down the path of life with His protective arm around a person, but it was this unshackled image that really said Gospel Rescue Mission. Tim was not sure at first. As he painted and contemplated the meaning of the mural, his own uncertainty came into view. He said, "I put the shackles on myself right after I got out of the service. I could have written on each link of the chain as I painted

them an issue in my life: disowned by parents, disliked, unworthy, alcoholism, no faith, peer pressure." Tim said that he believes in God, his relationship with God is not what it should be and somewhat reluctantly accepts that he is a sinner (like all humanity). He believes that God convicted him to stop drinking 20 years ago. He accepts God as the double edge sword that broke his bondage. He believes the Bible is the Word of God and he believes in the historical Jesus. But its the



**"Now I will break their yoke from your neck and tear your shackles away."**

**Nahum 1:13**

cross at the top of the sword its very artist stumbles over. Tim said, "I'm battling within myself about accepting Jesus and the cross. By seeing the mural come into shape, maybe it will come into shape in my life. I'm not a finished work."

The mural is a message of evangelism, an image of our human condition and hope in Christ. Its ironic that the artist wrestles with the meaning and application in his own life; yet, it so anticipates the impact on so many others as we open our new dayroom and chapel. Still, it is paint on a wall. The Lord is in Heaven, He is convicting the unbeliever and living within the believer.

## Items Needed:

**Vegetable Oil**

**Rice**

**Canned Foods**

**Dry Beans**

**Laundry Soap**

**Shampoo**

**Deodorant**

**Disposable Razors**

**Undergarments**

**Diapers**

**Baby Wipes**

**Bicycles**

**Remember the  
Roseburg Rescue  
Mission in your  
Estate Planning**

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are many ways to be  
"A Beacon of Hope for the  
Homeless".

*Here are some of our current  
needs:*

**Samaritan Inn**

Chapel Services

Bible Study

**Men's Mission**

Chapel Service

Thrift Store

GED Tutors

*Apply on our website or  
in our office.*

### BASIC SERVICES

For men, women and children

**Food:** 3 meals every day

**Clothing:** Available to all

**Recovery Program:** ..... 20

**Transitional Housing:** ..... 36

**Client Shelter:** ..... 120

**Emergency Shelter:** ..... 24

**Total Beds Available:** ..... 200

**Dayrooms:** Open all day

Laundry, showers, phone, etc.

**Thrift Stores:** Items vouchered  
to those in need, sold to others

**Chapel:** A part of our daily lives.

# War On Drugs

The Mission is on the front line of the war on drugs. We are not involved in the physical fight going on over the supply side; we are involved in the psychological and spiritual battle going on over the demand side of the problem. If there were no demand for drugs, the supply would not be an issue. Drugs are a deceptive idol, promising great things, but producing destruction. Demand exists because of temptation, which will not be removed this side of the resurrection. So, we are stuck with the problem. Always trusting in God is the answer. And there in lies the role of the Mission.

Prevention is a major role for us, beside the more obvious work in recovery. Most of our clients do not use drugs. Alcohol and mental illness are bigger issues here. The homeless come to us expecting and deserving an alcohol and drug free environment. We deliver. Our policy is "no obvious use", not an overly rigid "zero tolerance". We use discernment to detect drug use, but we also use urinary analysis (UA's) as needed. When we disallow services to a person, it does not reduce our population, because another person will come in recognizing the hopeful environment and stay to work on his or her recovery. Possession of drugs or related paraphernalia cause a person to be disallowed. We work with police, and parole and probation, never as an extension of their organizations, always in complete cooperation.

Accountability to relationships of humanity and God are critical for victory. Our purpose is to establish and develop saving relationships with Jesus Christ among the homeless. We unashamedly require chapel, the same as any Christian school or college, for only in the Gospel is the power to transform lives. For those that volunteer for our New Life Program, there are Bible studies, obsessive-compulsive-addictive behavior classes, life skills classes and personal counseling. We get to the root of the temptation, the thought process leading up to the behavior.

Each battle front in the war on drugs requires its own disciplined approach. In regard to the homeless, one area worthy of discussion is approaching those who camp out. Random acts of kindness can be counterproductive. Panhandling cash can fuel the fire of demand for drugs. That cash may end up in the hands of a local meth producer or foreign drug lord. The Mission does not give out vouchers to our Thrift Stores for free camping equipment, like sleeping bags and camp stoves. We do not want to enable anyone to continue in a drug lifestyle without accountability or hope. It is defeatist to say they are going to do it anyway. Drugs are poison leading to death. Offering some form of temporary comfort, enables the addict to continue in self-destruction and will not break the shackles of bondage.

**We have to draw them out of camp,  
not support their promiscuous behavior.**

Needle exchange programs (clean needles for old) encourage continued use, not abstinence. To assume that one is saving lives by preventing needle-sharing diseases, but destroying those lives with drugs and allowing the addiction to spread like a disease to other people perpetuates the problem. Its not a handout, not a humane love, that is going to cause repentance. Success is not just a change in behavior, because they will return to the behavior. They need a new identity as individuals. Under the influence of drugs, it is nearly impossible to perceive the conviction of the Holy Spirit of God. Staying in a camp under the influence and surrounded by drug influences dulls the senses. They need to come into a clean and sober environment like the Mission and discover that God loves them just like they are. There is a much better way to live, drug free and joyful in the Lord.

Our dayrooms, one for women and their children at Samaritan Inn and the other for men downtown, are open to homeless campers. We provide a warm, dry, safe place during the day with restrooms, shaving gear, showers, laundry, meals, clothing. And beds are available at night. These services are not enabling a wayward lifestyle, because clients are accountable to "no obvious use" while on Mission grounds. That requirement in itself is the first step to recovery. No program accepts people under the influence, it disrupts and discourages others wanting recovery. Our New Life Program requires a clean urinalysis and thirty days either as a transient client here or on our pre-program Pipeline work therapy.

Sometimes, we just want to reach out and offer any assistance to show them that we love them. But, it takes a disciplined approach. Word of mouth on the street is powerful, they know their options. No one can help a drug addict until he or she is ready and takes that first step. Too often, they have to reach bottom before seeking the way out. Its a tough love, but its a tough, destructive demon. We are here. Pray for them. We remain a beacon of hope for the homeless.



*Lynn Antis, Executive Director*