



Roseburg Rescue Mission

*A Beacon of Hope
for the Homeless*

49 *Years*
1964-2013

AUGUST 2013

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

Starting Over Again

Dennis used to have a good job with a local boat manufacturer until they shut down. He moved to another state for a while to be near family and to have employment. There, he found a job and fell in love. But before they were to be married, she suddenly became ill, was diagnosed with cancer and passed away. He had left his job the last few months of her life to care for her at home. Dennis had a very hard time overcoming his loss. He tried going back to his old job for a time, but life was just not the same. He bought a train ticket back home to Oregon.

Dennis had a job prospect lined up at a sawmill; but upon arriving here, it did not pan out. Before long, he was out of money. He had been living in a family member's garage. From there, he moved in with a friend in a rather small, remote town from Roseburg. Each day as his friend would drive into Roseburg to work, he dropped Dennis off in town to look for work. Then at the end of his friend's work day, he would pick Dennis up again to drive home. All day, he walked the streets picking up applications. At night, he filled them out at home. Before long, phone calls started coming back to him. After two weeks of looking, his third interview and an estimated 150 applications, Dennis got hired. It's a part-time job in a fast food restaurant, and he is delighted for the opportunity.

He had to move into Roseburg for his job schedule. He had never been to a Mission before. Dennis said, "Thank God for you guys. This

place is very important to me. You cannot live in the bushes and work with the public. I had no other options and you guys were here for me. I was looking for a hand up, not a handout. This was a good place to come to get my life started again. It's very hard; it takes a lot of effort and diligence to find a job, but you can. Fast food is not the greatest job in the world, but work is work. I have worked my way up to management before. You get out of it, what you put into it."

When asked his thoughts on the Mission chapel services, Dennis continued to articulate his experience so well. He said, "Faith is a big part of reconstructing my life. If you let the Lord guide you, you can accomplish a lot.

He brought me here. I didn't think that I needed the spirituality; but since I've been here, I realize that I do." He explained that he had gone to private Christian school through ninth grade and accepted the Lord at thirteen. When he was a child, both parents died. He said, "Something just got lost. The Mission reconnected me with my spiritual side, and made me feel close to God, which I hadn't been in a long time."

Then he quoted John 3:16-17 very well from memory and added that he especially likes verse 17, "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him." Dennis has been reassured of his salvation. He concluded by saying, "I like happy endings. I want to get back to life as I used to know it."



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School Supplies Needed

- Children's Backpacks
- Over the Shoulder Bags
- Zippered Pencil Pouches
- Flash Thumb Drives
- 8-10 oz Hand Sanitizer
- Hand-held Pencil Sharpener
- #2 Ticonderoga Pencils
- Pencil Top Erasers
- Spiral Bound Grid Paper
- Notebook Paper College Rule
- Spiral Notebooks Wide Rule
- Composition Notebooks
- 3-Ring Tab Dividers
- Scientific Calculators
- Certificates For Shoes
- Facial Tissue
- Fiskar Scissors
- Protractor
- Rulers
- Highlighters
- Erasers
- Colored Pencils
- Glue Sticks
- Color Crayons
- Black & Red Pens
- 2" Binders
- Felt Markers

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.

School Daze

"Oh, I'm so sick of new kids", was one greeting eleven-year-old Bethany received her first day in a new school. Another was, "Why did you transfer schools? We don't need you here." That was school daze, a tiring shock of classmates needlessly belittling another.

Before arriving her first day in a new fourth grade class, Bethany awoke in a homeless shelter, the Mission's Samaritan Inn. She felt the stress her mother is under, and worried that kids would ridicule her if they found out where she is living. By the time this article is printed or school starts again, mother and daughter will have their own place and being homeless will not be an issue. She had transferred schools because her mother needed to move them to an area in a different district. Then the transition went so bad that Bethany did poorly in school. She transferred again just to find a learning environment that would work for her.

Her new school worked out well. When asked what class is her favorite, she gave the expected, "I like recess." But then said, "I like the Manners Class, because its about being nice to people. We read a book about bad behavior, then learn how to respond nicely." Now there is a class that has her attention and meeting a need!

At Samaritan Inn, Bethany discovered a couple of Bible verses that have particular meaning to her, especially in light of the way her peers treated her at school.

"Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth. Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; someone else, and not your own lips." Proverbs 27:1-2

Then she encountered the Inspiration of that Scripture, the Lord Himself. One night as mother and daughter were consoling one another over a bad experience, Bethany accepted the Lord. What a great hope she has now beyond her present situation. She likes to spend time in her Bible, increasing her reading ability and drawing closer to the Lord.

There is something more we can do for these children that are disadvantaged. They are self-conscious enough as they develop a healthy confidence. We can offer a greater sense of support beyond providing this safe living environment and Christian community; we can provide for the details, the things personal to them that give them a greater assurance that we really care about the tough conditions they are experiencing. If we can take away some points of teasing or bullying, regarding appearance like having nice clothes and school supplies, they are greatly encouraged to go to school and do well. Bethany was hoping to trade in her old school backpack for a new over the shoulder bag, a simple, but meaningful point to her. So we made sure that she received one.

School supplies can be dropped off at the Mission office at 752 SE Pine St, Roseburg.

Thank You!

Lynn Antis, Executive Director

