



Roseburg Rescue Mission

*A Beacon of Hope
for the Homeless*

SEPTEMBER 2016

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A Baby Was On The Way

Dawn was pregnant, homeless, on drugs, poorly nourished, lacking a social network. Those were the facts. Whatever circumstances brought on all these conditions, what mattered now was that a baby was on the way. She said, "I went to the Emergency Room for a test. I was one month pregnant, sick from dope, only eating something once every few days and living with a guy that was abusive. I knew if I didn't get some help, that my baby would die." Using the Oregon Health Plan, she checked into an inpatient treatment program. Dawn graduated after 60 rough days of detoxifying and stabilizing on antidepressant medication. But, she still needed a place to go.

Our Samaritan Inn is a maternity home for adult, homeless mothers. We also care for women without children. She needed accountability to stay off drugs and a safe place to bring her baby home after delivery. Those were the conditions for having custody of her child, indeed requirements for the baby to be with his mother. We put her on the buddy system, so someone was always with her when she left here. Dawn said, "I received shelter, bed, food, support emotionally, mentally, friendship, love, God. I rededicated my life to the Lord. I finally turned my head and surrendered to my Lord. I am happy, not depressed, no anxiety, more at peace." We assigned her a private room for mothers weeks before she was due to give birth, so she could begin nesting, gathering baby clothes and other essentials. She said, "I needed to sleep, put my swollen feet up." Still, she had a surge of energy for decorating, as she prepared to be a mother.

It was the Fourth of July, and it was four weeks too early. But, it was time. At 10pm, a taxi was called to

take her to the hospital. Dawn pleaded, "I am scared and alone." Our staff supervisor texted Linda, our manager, who was watching fireworks. She arrived at the hospital at 10:40pm. Dawn's response was, "I felt good, loved and cared for." They listened to worship music and prayed, asking for an easy delivery. Two hours later, at 12:40am, July 5th, a baby boy was born. He was five pounds, nine ounces. Hospital staff took him to the nursery down the hall. They had record of her drug use, and he was born premature. Her first contact with Child Protective Services would be at the hospital after delivery. A blood sample was taken from

Dawn and Gabriel (one day old)



**Dawn pleaded,
"I am scared
and alone."**

the umbilical cord to determine her compliance with the custody stipulation of no further drug use. She already knew the reality of her own behavior, but would the tests agree? Would they bring her baby back to her? Anxious, she waited. Tests were good; baby was healthy. She named him Gabriel, after an angel. This angelic message was, "God loves me and my baby."

Linda brought Dawn and Gabriel home three days later. First, Gabriel had to pass a car seat tolerance test for premature babies. We gave Dawn that car seat and a donated stroller to relieve her of those motherly concerns. Diapers, baby wipes and formula, all aided in the rescue of this homeless mother and child.

Dawn is now receiving a Domestic Violence grant and a Temporary Assistance for Needy Families grant. They are designed to help families achieve self-sufficiency by getting the parent back to work. Soon, she will be moving out with a new identity – a Christian mother who is addiction free and not homeless anymore.

New Logo For Old Namesake

The lighthouse logo change is subtle, yet significant when compared to our other, more pixelated symbol. This image has cleaner, bolder lines, yet maintains the detailed complexity. It was designed specifically for our use and was first used in our June 2016 newsletter.

A lighthouse is a Biblical image. The tower of strength sets upon the solid rock while the turbulent waves of life crash upon it. In the storm and darkness, a beacon of light (God's Word) shines forth as a point of orientation, warns of danger and guides to safe harbor. It is a symbol of hope.

In our early years of operation, we went by the name "Lighthouse Mission". When the time came to formally incorporate, "Lighthouse of God Mission" was chosen as a more purposeful name. A few years later to avoid any confusion of being affiliated with churches or denominations with "lighthouse" in their name, a "doing business as (dba)" name was selected, "Roseburg Rescue Mission." Our original name was retained. The Mission was founded as an independent organization and remains that way. With "lighthouse" as part of our actual name, it is the obvious choice for our logo. Companies of all kinds have adopted some form of a lighthouse as their logo for a variety of reasons. Names reflect the era of origination of an organization. To establish a unique identity, we followed a national trend at the time to name our city of location, "Roseburg",



and use the word "Rescue" from Job 29:12, "I rescued the poor who cried for help."

In 1964, Norman Williams moved his shoe making and repair store from Winston to Roseburg. From that cobbler shop across the street from the train station, he began to meet the needs of the homeless. He started by occupying a space at the corner of SE Sheridan St and SE Lane Av. In 1975, he personally purchased that building. The following year, he sold it to the emerging organization, that was transitioning from his family ministry to a nonprofit corporation. In 1977, the Mission was incorporated as Lighthouse of God Mission. Then in 1980, the name was changed to, do business as, Roseburg Rescue Mission. That same year, Norman resigned as the Founding Director and served as the interim President of the Board. Norman had used his existing rights to rent, then later purchase, private property for a homeless shelter; he did not demand new squatter's rights on public property for homeless camping. Our community has honored this method, allowing the Mission to make eight separate property purchases over the years for our downtown campus plus the old Umpqua Medical Center for our Samaritan Inn. "Lighthouse" remains both our actual name and logo lest we forget our purpose. Our mission statement is derived from that symbol, "A Beacon of Hope for the Homeless".

Items Needed:
Garden Produce
Canned Vegetables
Canned Fruit
Elbow Macaroni
Pancake Mix & Syrup
Coffee
Diapers, Baby Wipes
Car Seats, Strollers
Deodorant
Disposable Razors

Remember the
Roseburg Rescue Mission
in your Estate Planning

No Next Of Kin

Too often there is no emergency contact information given upon our request. There is no one in the world our homeless person wants notified in case of serious illness, accident or death. Sometimes there literally is no one, or the individual is too embarrassed to admit their situation, or is estranged from family - whichever side has more blame.

What friend is there for an isolated, homeless person to call for comfort from the hospital, when a major surgery is approaching or her baby is about to be born, in the middle of the night no less? And where do they go when there is nowhere else to go upon discharge? One cannot recover from illness or have custody of her child on the street. Wheelchairs, walkers, canes, oxygen concen-

trators and bottles, and all sorts of other medical apparatus are common here. The Mission is not equipped to be a hospice for end of life care, but the level of care some of our clients need borders on the line of too much. Death does happen here, in care facilities, under bridges. A deceased, indigent person is taken to a local, licensed funeral home that is reimbursed for services by the Indigent Disposition Program of the State of Oregon.

**Jesus said,
"I was sick
and you looked
after Me."
Matthew 25:36**

We are the kinfolk, the family and friends, to make the world a less lonely place.

Thank you,
Lynn Antis
Executive Director

