



Roseburg Rescue Mission

*A Beacon of Hope
for the Homeless*

SEPTEMBER 2017

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

On The Road Again

After a four week course in Umpqua Community College's truck driving school, Steve received a Commercial Driver's License. No less than six companies sought him for employment. He chose his new employer based on rate of pay and where the driving would be done. The western states will be his territory, giving him some balance between nights at home and away. His parents live locally.

Steve had been a truck driver for 15 years. He quit driving because he said, "I wanted to try to find a new career, because its hard to have any kind of social life." He was married twice during those years. He said that being gone two to three weeks at a time would cause feelings of abandonment at home. The money was good, but the expenses were high.

Four years ago, he quit driving. He was single then and had no household of belongings. What money he had saved was gone quickly. That is when he went to the Mission. He has a good work ethic and immediately went about looking for a new career. The only kind of work he could find, that suited him, was mostly minimum wage and part-time. During his time at the Mission, he left to work two fishing seasons in Alaska. On his last trip there, he developed pneumonia, effectively ending that career possibility. He was on our New Life Program for a while, and the last five months he was an employee of the Mission, supervising our clients.

Steve made an interesting comparison, saying "Truck driving is similar to being homeless, never staying in one place too long, always alone, always sleeping in a truck.

You go to truck stops for showers and food. You try to fix meals in the truck to hold costs down. The driver's lounge is like a dayroom. On Sundays, volunteers do chapel services in the TV room, or some have long trailers made into a chapel. A 48 foot trailer may hold 20 seats. You do your laundry at the truck stop. And homeless people hang out there, trying to get a ride, wash trucks, or help unload at a stop down the road."

He said of his experience at the Mission, "It has taught me a lot – patience, humility. There are a lot of people out there a lot worse off than I am. I made a lot of friends here. The Program classes made me stronger in my faith. It brings you closer to the people running this place, because you are constantly around those guys. I have been a Christian since five-years-old, when I went forward and made Jesus a part of my life. I knew that a Christian mission, would be more understanding of my situation of being homeless, not having anything."

So, Steve is on the road again, back to a past career. Truck drivers provide a vital service for our society. For long haul drivers that live in a sleeper cab, that can be their only home. A traffic ticket, an unhappy employer, or just the weariness of life on the road can cause a person to be unemployed and homeless at the same time. For an independent, missing a truck payment, not having money for fuel or repairs, or not picking up enough loads from a dispatcher can have the same result. The Mission is here for truck drivers with encouragement and an opportunity to change careers or head back to the life they know.



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New Security Fence & Gate

This new fence and gate encloses our men's courtyard. August's newsletter showed a picture of the other side of this same yard that had just been enlarged. This more secure area has gates on both sides that are open from 6am to 6:30 pm. Curfew and Chapel are still at 6:30pm, at which time those gates and the Dayroom-Chapel door are locked. It used to be that dinner was after chapel at 7pm. As a part of our security improvements, that movement of men crossing the street from our Chapel to our Dining Room for dinner now takes place at 5:30pm.

Dinner time changes from 7pm to 5:30pm for men in Dormitory.

So now at our 6:30pm Curfew and Chapel, the men staying in our Dormitory remain inside the campus of services for the night. Our 5pm dinner for staff, program and renters remains the same. This earlier dinner schedule of 5pm and 5:30pm is common among missions and makes the food service operation more manageable, as well as improve our security. Evening chapel is still a daily requirement for men staying in our Dormitory. They can eat dinner and not stay for chapel, or go to chapel and not stay the night. Our program men and renters go to morning chapels.

Full security has to be built into the design of a new building or campus. Our Men's Mission is the purchase of eight separate properties covering a block-and-a-half, over the course of 53 years. Given this circumstance and our budget, security is driven by need and affordability. We are addressing it as we are able. Ultimately, our security is in the Lord, not in fences and gates.

"But Thou, O Lord, art a shield about me." Psalm 3:3

Client reaction to these changes has been interesting. Two years ago, we moved Samaritan Inn, our women and children's facility, from three residential houses to a more commercial property. It has fencing around the whole perimeter, unlike the houses. The women then felt more secure. Men are different. Even with a significantly increased courtyard size, the same kind of fencing has a feeling of confinement for some men. They appreciate the security of their bicycles and limited access to areas after hours, yet some apprehension remains. Still, this gate in the picture has a lever handle that is unlocked from the inside. Any man staying in this campus of Dayroom-Chapel, Courtyard and Dormitory can leave at any time; however, if one leaves after curfew, he cannot return until morning without an authorized reason. Entry after curfew is allowed for verifiable employment, church, AA meetings etc. In time, we will get used to the improvements and even wonder how we ever managed without them.

Thank you, Lynn Antis, Executive Director



Rescue Roseburg

BASIC SERVICES

For Men, Women and Children

Food: 3 meals every day at Men's Mission and Samaritan Inn.

Clothing: Available to all who are staying at either shelter.

Housing: 128 beds for men in Dormitory, New Life Program, and Transitional Housing Program. 104 beds for women in Dormitory, New Life Program, and Family Rooms.

Recovery Program: Open to men and women.

Dayrooms: Open all day at both shelters. Restrooms, showers, laundry, telephone, social service help. No requirement to stay here to use these services.

**8589 MEALS
SERVED IN JULY**

ITEMS NEEDED:

Tomato Sauce

Coffee

Canned Goods

Egg Noodles

Elbow Macaroni

Rice, Mayo

Deodorant

Disposable Razors

Strollers

Walkers, Wheelchairs

Bath Towels

Remember the
Roseburg Rescue
Mission in your
Estate Planning