RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Facilities: 354-1744
Hope Center for Women & Families opt 8
Men’s Shelter opt 0
Distribution Center x366
Thrift Store 235-9094

Programs: 354-1744
Dining Services x322
Food Distribution x366
Education & Mentoring x338
Volunteer Services x393

Community:
Neighborhood Empowerment &
Transformation (NET) Reach
785-783-2535 x106
Operation Street Reach 785-230-8237

Donations:
Monetary: 785-354-1744 x316
Material: 785-357-4285
Food: 785-357-4285

website: TRMonline.org
email: info@trmonline.org

30 YEARS:
FEAR TO FAITH, NEVER ALONE

A Message from Barry Feaker
DEAR FRIENDS

I write this month to express my gratitude and share some thoughts about my past 30 years at the Topeka Rescue Mission. April 21, 1986 was the beginning of this most incredible journey traveling from fear to faith. I also write this from the perspective that I have now spent over half of my life in this ministry, learning from those who suffer and from those who give comfort. Hopefully I can convey the most important aspects of three decades working with the poor and those who care for them.

The beginning of this journey comprised of a dichotomy of feelings from the start. It began with a fervent understanding and purpose that God had made clear – this is what I was to do. And led to an overwhelming fear that there was no way I could possibly be able to accomplish such an assignment.

Over the years I have been on this same roller coaster of emotions going from fear to faith, back to fear again, and by God’s grace, returning to faith once again. However, I have taken great comfort knowing I am not alone in this war between the two.

As the Apostle Paul was about to venture out from the familiar territory of preaching Jesus in the Jewish synagogues (what we might refer to this as Paul’s “comfort zone”) and into the unknown territory of the Gentiles, he must have been challenged with the fear of the unknown. How would he be received? What harm could come to him with this system-challenging message? Would he fail at such an improbable task of proclaiming the global changing message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? In the book of Acts, we read, “One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: ‘Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city’” (Acts 18:9-10). Paul undoubtedly was in some kind of turmoil, as not everyone gets a wakeup call in the middle of the night from the Lord. God was letting him know he was not alone and that He had already gone before him to line up Paul’s team. In other words, God had this!

Five years ago this month, I reluctantly stood in front of the community at a prayer and celebration service which recognized my 25th year of directing the Topeka Rescue Mission. I say reluctant because I did not want the attention brought to me. Undeniably I was honored by the recognition, but could only offer my true feelings when I said, “If you really knew me, you would not have come here today to honor me.” As another five years have now passed, and what some might consider a milestone, I would like to make one thing clear again. The undeniable success of this ministry and its impact on poverty and our community has little to do with Barry Feaker. This success story is about the unfailing love of a creator God and a wonderful Savior, along with an army of compassionate people that have heard His voice and answered with a yes through their loving hearts, working hands, servant feet, compassionate voices, tears of sympathy, personal resources and fervent prayers of faith. I, like Paul, have been comforted with the fact that indeed, “God has many people in the city” and I am simply honored to be a part of them.

Cont. on page 2
MY THANKS
With this comforting truth throughout these three decades, I humbly and gratefully give all my thanks to my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for permitting me to be, for a season, a part of this unfolding love story that God has seen fit to bless our city with. I am so thankful for you, who time after time have given sacrificially to shelter, feed, clothe, train and comfort those who suffer. I also thank my wife, Tami, and our daughters, Rebecca and Elizabeth, for their many years of sacrifice and willingness to serve, rather than be served. I’m truly humbled and grateful for all of you who have cheered me on when I wanted to stop. I thank you for listening to His voice and showing up at just the right time.

TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION STAFF
Over the years there have been opportunities presented for me to leave this ministry and go elsewhere. There have even been some strong suggestions that I should run for various forms of political office. First of all let me say, I’m grateful that is not my assignment! The last time I was asked to give serious consideration for running for a higher political office, I said with all sincerity that if I left the Topeka Rescue Mission for such a position I was afraid that the Mission would fall apart; most definitely not because of my absence, but because I would have to take each and every member of our amazing Mission staff with me or I wouldn’t go. I mean every word of that! Our community and this ministry are blessed with the most amazing, dedicated, sincere and hardworking people that have ever existed. Because of their reliance upon God, their faithfulness to Him and their love for those who suffer, I’m convinced they could accomplish almost anything they were asked to do. I would not be able to do what I do apart from God, but also apart from them.

THE VOLUNTEERS
The last time I checked, our volunteer director told me there were 1,292 volunteer slots to fill every month throughout this ministry and the need for more volunteers is growing. I can remember many times 30 years ago that I was hard-pressed to find more than 10 volunteers to accomplish the task at hand. Today this team of dedicated volunteers that serve and touch thousands of wounded and broken hearts throughout this community are precious gifts beyond adequate description of my appreciation.

THE BROKEN
Equally important in my appreciation are my friends who have been the Homeless, the Poor, the Hungry and the Broken. I have learned as much or more from them about the heart of a loving God than I could have ever imagined. I wish I could remember each of their names and tell you about every one of their stories. However, that would be quite impossible because in the past 30 years there have been more than 40,000 individuals who have stayed in our shelters due to homelessness. Thousands more have found their way through our doors for food, clothes and most importantly hope. Many have worn the face of Jesus.

30 YEARS: A TIMELINE

1986
Giving tour of old Mission building, 1986

1991
Barry and Al Frazier, 1989
Showing new shelter bathroom for CJ article, 1991
Barry with TRM founder, George Eutsler

Ribbon cutting for Main Mission building

2016
Topeka Rescue Mission
Sixty-three years since its founding and 30 years since I walked through the front door, the Topeka Rescue Mission is now a set of ministries. It’s gone from sheltering 15-20 homeless people a night and providing 50-60 meals per day, to now reaching thousands of homeless individuals annually, providing several hundred-thousands of meals, distributing tens of thousands of household, clothing and hygiene items, blessing homeless children and their families with a “palace” of love, educating and providing Biblical training, reaching the broken ones on our streets, in our neighborhoods and even victims of human trafficking. What a privilege to witness and be a small part of what God is doing through this ministry.

**TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION MINISTRIES**

Now that 30 years have come and gone, the question runs through my mind: How long will I be here? Exactly how long is my season? I don’t have that answer but this I do know, as Mother Teresa said, “Each of us is merely a small instrument; all of us, after accomplishing our mission, will disappear.” Whether I disappear because of another assignment on this earth, or whether it be the reward that awaits me in eternity because of Jesus, I will be just fine knowing that I will never be alone both in this world and thereafter! I am surrounded by a host of amazing people and I also know that Jesus walks with me, just as He desires to walk with each one of you. I am honored to walk with Him hand-in-hand every step of the way.

**HOW MUCH LONGER FOR ME?**

To those of you who read this today and wonder if God is calling you to do the impossible, He probably is. But let me encourage you. I understand the gulf between fear and faith, but I also understand the God who is more than able, who stands in that gulf with you, desiring to be your safe bridge of crossing from that place of fear to that beautiful place of trusting Him in faith. Whatever challenge you’re facing, you have a God who is more than able. If you would ask Him and trust Him, He will see you safely across and let you know that you are not alone. He is with you and He also has many people in the city who stand by your side.

**FEAR OR FAITH?**

May God bless you for your faithfulness to Him and those He loves.†
CHILDREN’S PALACE UPDATE

It’s been a few months since we’ve given an update on our Children’s Palace progress. We are happy to say that construction is about 95% complete with only outdoor work remaining. Once the weather allows for these projects to be completed and we have the necessary operating funds in hand, we will begin the interviewing process to find those who God has hand-selected to be a part of this exciting opportunity to love, nurture and minister to children and families.

Our hope is to open the Palace doors this summer, but that will be dependent upon operating funds received. Because of the large scope of this ministry that will care for up to 124 homeless children at any given time, operational costs are big – but not too big for God! Our goal is to have $750,000 towards operating costs before we begin caring for children.

If you’d like to assist in this area, donations can be made payable to “Topeka Rescue Mission” and marked “Children’s Palace.” Credit card donations can also be made online or by calling 785-354-1744-x316. If you have questions about the Children’s Palace or would like additional information, please contact 785-354-1744-x325 or email jhosman@trmonline.org. †

FOOD ITEMS:
Gallon Cans of Vegetables & Fruits / Coffee / Granulated Sugar
Bottled Water / Mustard & Ketchup / Sack Lunch Items (i.e. Pudding cups, fruit cups, granola bars, etc.)

SUPPLY ITEMS:
Purex Crystals / Arm & Hammer Washing Soda / 20 Mule Team Borax / Fels Naptha
Laundry Soap / Tall Kitchen & 30 gallon Trash Bags / Blankets / Storage bags – quart & gallon / Sheet sets: (Full, Queen & King sizes) / Bath Towels / Diapers – Sizes 4, 5 & 6 / Pull Ups – Sizes 3T, 4T and 5T / Foot Powder / Razors (Men’s & Women’s) / Deodorant (Men’s & Women’s)

CLOTHING:
Men’s Pants & Jeans – All sizes (Especially 30 - 40) / Men’s Underwear & Boxers – Sizes 30 to 38 / Men’s & Women’s Shoes – All Sizes / Plus Size Clothing – Men & Women / Women’s Underwear – Sizes 5 - 9 / Children’s Clothing & Shoes – 2T & Up

FURNITURE (in good condition)
Furniture – i.e. couches, recliners, loveseats, dressers, tables, mattresses, etc. Large & small appliances – i.e. washers, dryers, ranges, refrigerators & microwaves
CHAPTER ONE: A Man in the Street

... God does not see as humans see. Humans look at outward appearances, but the Lord looks into the heart. – 1 Samuel 16:7 (GW)

It was Barry’s first day of work as the leader of a homeless shelter called the Topeka Rescue Mission. This is where people who don’t have a home arrive to live and eat. Barry never worked with people who were homeless before and didn’t really know what he would do all day. He sat in his tiny office and talked to some people who were living there, but most of the day wasn’t very exciting – until the phone rang that is!

A man who owned a store down the street called and was not very happy. He saw a man walking down the street and, because he didn’t like the way he was dressed or how he walked, the store owner thought the man was up to no good. Because the man looked like he didn’t have much money, the store owner assumed he was staying at the Mission and he wanted Barry to go out and tell the man to “stay away from his store!”

Barry was a little bit nervous when he walked out of the building because he had no idea what to expect. He looked and saw the man limping down the street towards the Mission. The poor man’s pants had fallen down and he was having a really hard time walking. The man who had called on the phone thought this was because the man on the street had done something wrong. But when the man came closer, Barry wasn’t so sure...

The man’s eyes were very sad and his face was very old. He came up to Barry and softly asked him if he had a belt. Barry was surprised. Why would a man who was up to no good be taking the time to ask for a belt?

Barry realized that the store owner had been wrong. This old man had not been trying to cause trouble at all. As Barry talked to the man, he found out he had been in an accident and now his back really hurt. That was why he was slouched over and had trouble walking. He was also so poor that he didn’t have enough money to buy pants that fit him or a belt to hold up the old pants he did wear. Barry got the man a belt and helped him put it on. The man shook Barry’s hand, thanked him and said, “God bless you.” Then he walked away and Barry never saw him again.

The Bible tells us that people look at what others look like on the outside, but God sees inside – to their hearts (1 Samuel 16:7). That means He knows what each one of us looks like, inside and out. The store owner judged the old man based on what he looked like. Barry almost did the same thing but took the time to get to know him instead. When he did, he realized the man looked the way he did because of some struggles in life that weren’t his fault. It made Barry happy to be able to help the man, and it made God happy too.

Instead of listening to other people when they tell stories or make fun of other people, we should try to get to know the person instead. We might find out that the person is really nice and that they make a super friend! God made everybody special, no matter what others might say.

If anyone ever tells stories that aren’t true about you, remember that no matter what they say – YOU are a very special person and you are VERY loved! God loves everyone else on the planet too and wants us to be nice to them. It’s wrong to judge people based on how they look, but it’s never wrong to show love.

Dear God,

Help me to see people the way You see them and to be nice to everybody. Help me to never make fun of people or make up stories that aren’t nice. Instead, help me to be kind to everyone and make new friends! Thank You that no matter what anyone else says – You love each one of us SO much… and that includes me! I love You too, In Jesus’ Name. Amen!

†