



A Good Heart-to-Heart

“How did I ever waste 20 years of my life doing drugs?”

Usually, parents have to set boundaries for their children. But sometimes, the roles are reversed . . . like they were for Shannon and her 18-year-old son, Jake.

Shannon had been a meth addict for more than two decades, which means that every time Jake saw his mom, she was probably high. She tried to kick her habit for years, more for Jake’s sake than her own. But she never could quite get over it.

Then someone at Tri-City Union Gospel Mission had a suggestion for Shannon: *Sit down with Jake and tell him about your addiction. Tell him how sorry you are. Tell him you want to quit.* Shannon took that advice.

“We had a good heart-to-heart,” Shannon says now, tears flowing. “I finally put it on the table and got it out in the open. I told him I was going to get help, that I would go to the Mission and get my life together.”

Jake told his mom that he was proud of her, but had a couple of stern warnings too. He told her she had to stop hanging out with other addicts. And he demanded accountability:

“I’m going to tell you right now that if I ask you if you’ve been high, you better not lie to me.”

After that, she didn’t have to. She’s been clean for a year. And counting.

A second chance

Shannon says the Mission helped her quit meth and to see herself in a whole new light — as a child of God, loved unconditionally.

“One day I just asked myself, *‘How did I ever waste 20 years of my life doing drugs?’*” she says. “Now, I’m not a Bible thumper. But I believe in faith and I believe in God. Look at everything that’s happened to me since I’ve been at the Mission. How could I *not* believe?”

In addition to getting sober, Shannon is working toward certification to become a nurse. And she’s reconnected with her son like never before.

“Thank you for giving me a second chance in life,” she says. “A whole new life!”



Sowing for Tomorrow

Message from Andrew Porter, Executive Director



Dear Friend of the Mission,

As a young man, I was a hardcore drug addict. I shot heroin and coke every day. One time I stole about fifty bucks from my dad to get a fix. My dad found out and demanded the money back. When I said I didn't have it, this is what he said: "You're not my son. I totally disown you. Bye."

About four years passed before I heard from him again. I was in jail, and I got a letter from him. He said we have nothing in common, and that I was reaping what I'd sown. And here's the part I'll always remember. He wrote, "The good news is that you can start sowing for tomorrow." That stuck with me.

Because of Jesus, whose birth we celebrate at this time of year, there's always hope.

I became a Christian in jail, and when I got out, I started "sowing for tomorrow." I got a good job. I started a street ministry. I got into a good church. I got married and started raising a good family. It took my dad a while to see that I really was a changed man, but he eventually saw it.

And I know he was proud of me.

My dad ended up leading the Tri-City Union Gospel Mission for about 15 years, and helped it through some difficult times. I eventually stepped into his shoes as the executive director.

I tell you this story to say, *there's always hope*. Because of Jesus, whose birth we celebrate at this time of year, there's hope.

Thank you for providing hope to our guests at the Mission.

You are changing lives . . . and healing relationships!

Andrew Porter,
Executive Director

P.S. See how you're changing lives by reading Shannon's story on the front page. And may you and your loved ones have a blessed holiday season!



HELP HOMELESS AND HURTING NEIGHBORS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

It's getting close to that time when we start singing Christmas carols — including *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, where "Emmanuel" means "God with us."

It's a festive season, but it also can be a very difficult time for homeless, hungry, and hurting neighbors. For many of them, Christmas is a time without family or friends, without joy or hope.

But your gift today can go a long way toward easing that pain . . . and bringing peace and possibility into their lives . . . a little bit of "God with us." Just read the stories in this newsletter to see how what your support can do!

So, this holiday season, please remember your struggling neighbors. *To give today, please use the enclosed reply slip, or make your donation online at www.tcugm.org. You may also call us at 509.547.2112. Thank you for being a friend to men, women, and children who need your help.*

PLEASE GIVE TODAY

Online Donations Make a Difference

Did you know that online giving is actually safer than giving by check?

Thanks to advancements in security for credit cards and online transactions, your gift through our website is more secure than ever . . . and goes to work even faster!

Plus it saves postage, so it's a win-win all the way around.

Please consider making your next gift online today at www.tcugm.org.

Thank you!

"Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward" (Mark 9:41, NIV).