



Changing Lives

Don't miss...



Celebrating rebirth this Christmas. page 2

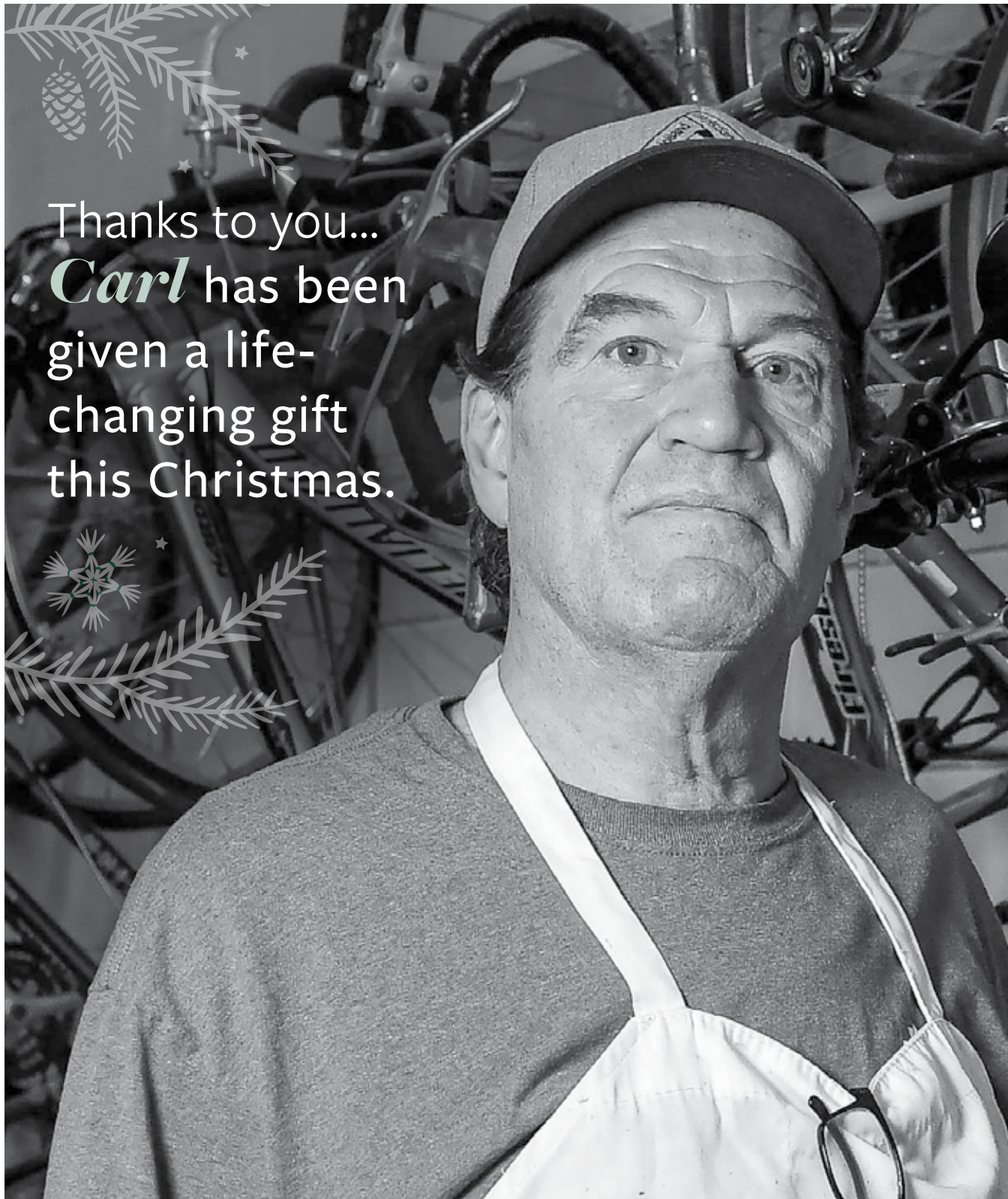


"The Lord showed me a different way." page 3



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**HOLIDAY
ISSUE
2021**



Thanks to you...
Carl has been given a life-changing gift this Christmas.

“The Lord showed me a DIFFERENT WAY to live.”

Carl and his fiancée left Michigan and moved to Florida in search of a better, slower-paced life. Then the pandemic hit.

“Immediately, neither one of us were working. We were struggling and stressed, so we fell back into some old habits,” he says.

Carl has struggled with drinking since he first took a sip at just 12. His parents were alcoholics, and “there was always alcohol in our house... and I fell into addiction.”

Carl experienced several stretches of sobriety but would backslide when times got tough. Recognizing that they needed help, Carl and his fiancée moved back to Michigan and came straight to Holland Rescue Mission on the recommendation of her sister.

“It appealed to me because the program here is Christian-based. I was like, ‘Well, nothing else has worked to change my thinking or habits.’ I didn’t know what to expect but I wanted relief.”

Carl entered our Gateway Discipleship Program and learned about the Lord for the first time. He surrendered his heart to God and experienced total transformation.

“They gave me the first Bible I’ve ever had. The stories and teachings really grabbed my heart. I feel the presence of the Lord in my life now.”

Carl is healing from old behaviors and learning how to walk with the Lord. He finds joy in reading the Bible and starting and ending each day in prayer.

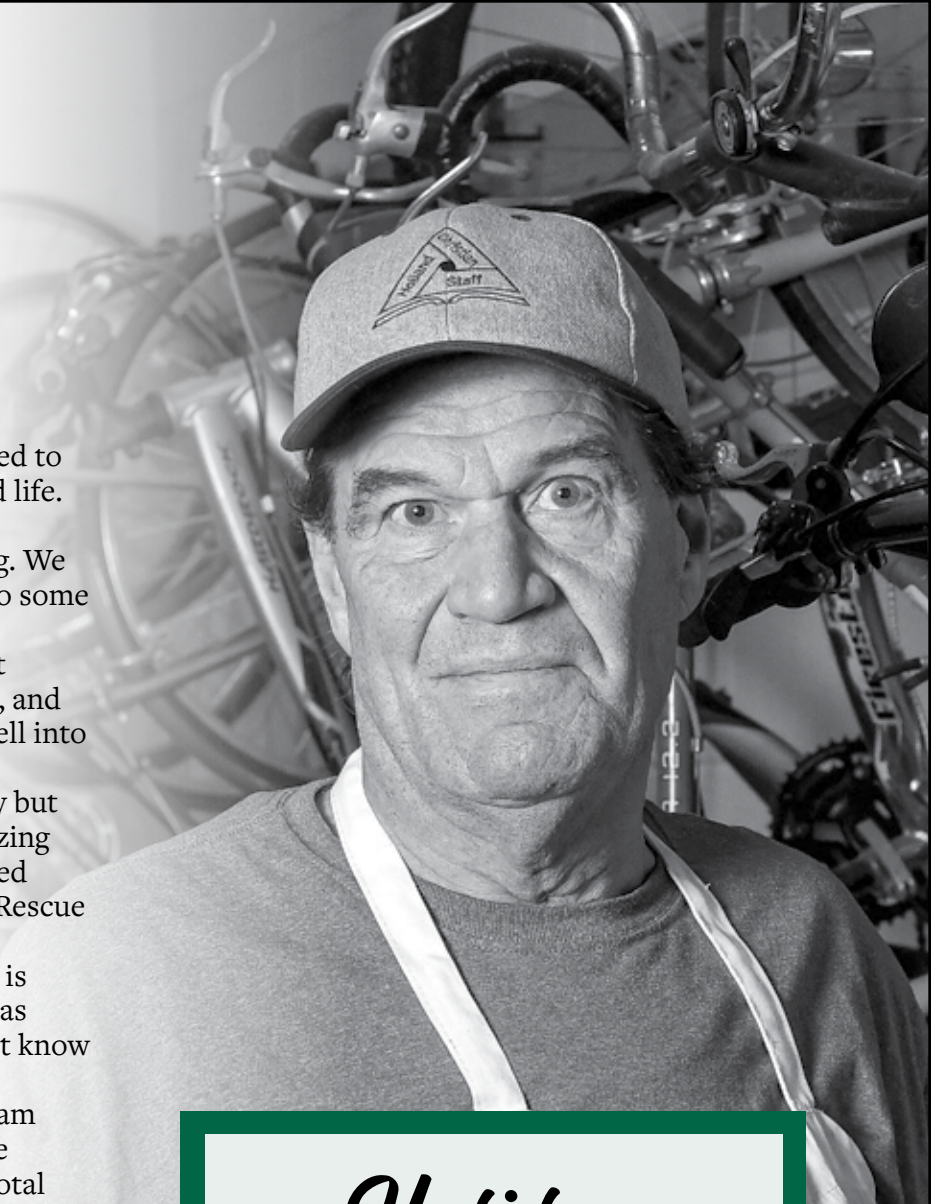
“Physically, I feel the healthiest I’ve been in 20 years. Emotionally, I’m more grounded. I’m growing spiritually continually. Daily.”

“At the Mission, I found out who God and Jesus Christ are. That’s knowledge I didn’t have before and I’M GRATEFUL.”

He and his fiancée plan to get married after graduation, using the skills they’ve learned here to find stable employment and a place to live.

It’s going to be a Christmas filled with joy for Carl and his fiancée – and they are grateful to you for this wonderful gift of a new life.

“I’m thankful that this place is here... it’s given me a different outlook. This has been life-changing for me.”



Holiday SHOPPING LIST



- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Hams</i> | <i>Cream soups</i> |
| <i>Canned vegetables</i> | <i>Dinner rolls</i> |
| <i>Canned potatoes</i> | <i>Cool whip</i> |
| <i>Instant stuffing mix</i> | <i>Foam cups and napkins</i> |
| <i>Canned yams</i> | <i>Paper towels</i> |

Donations can be dropped off at the Mission at 166 S. River Avenue. Call Rachael Neal at **(616) 396-2200** for more information.



A Message from
DARRYL BARTLETT

Celebrating Christmas with JOY for All People

In Luke 2:10, the angel says,
“Behold, I bring you good tidings
of great joy, which shall be to all
people.”

During the Christmas season,
we hear a lot about joy. It has me
thinking about how joy is something
all people can have in their hearts.
This time of year, our greatest joy is
celebrating the birth of our Savior
and the eternal life we have been
freely given.

That joy is what fills our hearts
Christmas morning... and, hopefully,
every day of the year. It's the same
joy I see on the faces of the children,
women and men that have come to
Holland Rescue Mission and
experienced God's life-changing love
up close and personal. The joy YOU
help them experience through your
heartfelt prayers and support.

This Christmas, as you reflect on
the “reason for the season,” I hope
you will remember our neighbors
who are hurting. As Carl's story
shows, your generosity offers help,
healing and a gateway to eternal life
with a loving God... as indicated by
our new name of Gateway Mission,
which you can read more about on
these pages.

I am continually humbled by the
faithfulness of friends like you who
joyfully bless others. Thank you, and
may God fill your heart with peace
and love.



Darryl Bartlett

Darryl Bartlett
Executive Director

A delicious Christmas meal for our homeless neighbors...

... STARTS WITH YOU!

As you prepare to celebrate the joy
of Christmas, please remember our
hurting neighbors. It's been another
really tough year for so many in our
community – and the very best gift
you can give them is the help they
need right now!

Just \$2.05 provides a meal and care for
one person.

That meal is often the first step
toward a new life through God's love.



\$2.05

for 1 hot meal



\$68.00

for 1 night of
safe shelter

**CAN GIVE
SOMEONE**

**Healing
Hope
And a Second
Chance!**

Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!

SEE HOW YOU HELPED CHANGE CARL'S LIFE!

A Monthly Gift Can Make a **LIFELONG IMPACT**

Overcoming hardships takes time. Long-term residents like Carl need months of counseling, classes, Bible study and encouragement to break free from their chains. But you can lend your support every step of the way!

By joining us as a monthly giver – we call these dedicated friends **Compassionate Champions** – you provide a reliable, consistent source of support. Simply choose your monthly amount to give through your credit card or checking account, and know your generosity transforms lives every month of the year.

To learn about becoming a Compassionate Champion, please visit hollandrescue.org/give. Thank you for caring!



Leave a Legacy & Make an Eternal Impact

As you plan for your future, it's important to create a will or trust to care for your loved ones. But have you considered including your favorite nonprofit organizations as well?

Leaving a legacy gift provides you with an extraordinary opportunity to support the work of Holland Rescue Mission both now and for generations to come. Your gift will create a lasting legacy of support to share God's love and mercy with hurting and homeless people in our community.

For more information about the options available to you, please contact Rachael Neal, our Development Director, at **(616) 396-2200**. If you have already included the Mission in your will, please call so we can say "thank you."



We will now be Gateway Mission!

The process of changing our name from Holland Rescue Mission to Gateway Mission is underway!

We landed on the name Gateway Mission after many meetings, lots of praying and careful consideration. This name better represents the work God is calling us to do in Western Michigan, through our campus on the 31 Highway that serves as a gateway between the northern and southern part of the state.

Our vision is to serve as the gate of our community. To provide a place that meets the needs of our struggling neighbors and acts as a gateway to lasting healing and a whole new future.

Thank you in advance for your prayers and patience during this time of transition. **Learn more at hollandrescue.org/gateway and look for more things to come on how we will expand our reach as Gateway Mission to transform the hearts and lives of the people we serve!**