

# The Connection

## Hope-Full HARVEST

### *"God Kept Me Safe All Through Prison."*

Just getting out of prison earlier this year, and feeling lost, James needed a safe place to turn. Good Samaritan Rescue Mission was suggested to him and he decided to give it a try. He says he felt "hopeful" as he entered the Mission.

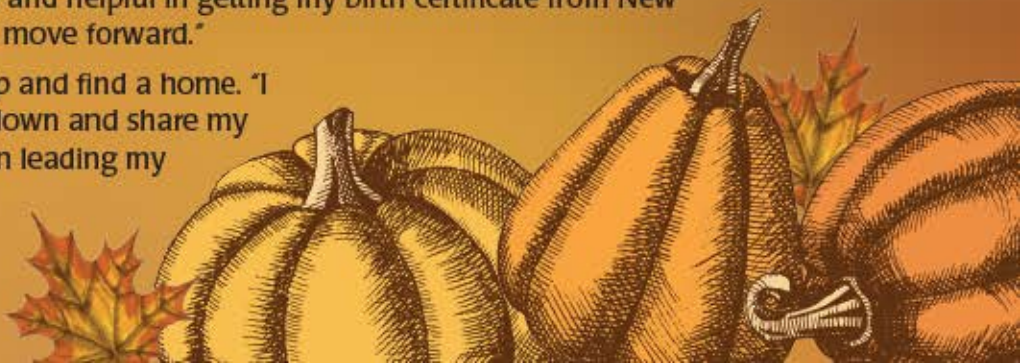
James grew up in New Jersey and later moved to Virginia. Starting early with his career at the age of 16, he began as a first responder working with the fire department and as an EMT. Later he enjoyed a successful and long career driving tractor trailer until he had an unfortunate rollover. With that episode on his record, he could not get hired anywhere. Because of these circumstances and having no savings built up, James wound up broke and homeless. He found himself in and out of shelters.

While searching for employment, James answered an ad on-line. He found a job making decent money. Things seemed to be looking up. After some time passed, James realized he was involved in something illegal. Desperate to hang onto an income, he continued in the job. Eventually James found himself in federal prison convicted of passing bad checks. The man who employed him, never was charged.

James spent eight years in prison. When he was released, he was transferred to Ogemaw County jail in Michigan to face additional charges there. Through the grace of God James was able to avoid more prison time and was released. Having nowhere to go and being a man of faith, James talked with a pastor at a local church. The church members helped him out with temporary shelter and some meals. Eventually they even gave him a ride to the Good Samaritan Rescue Mission.

It's been a long road, but James now has help and hope. He remarks, "Rick and Pastor Eric (GSRM men's shelter staff) have been very supportive and helpful in getting my birth certificate from New Jersey so I can get my Michigan ID and move forward."

James' plan is to build his credit back up and find a home. "I would like to get married again, settle down and share my life with someone. God has always been leading my life, even through prison."



# DIRECTOR'S DESK

*2 Corinthians 9:6-7 "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."*

This is the time of year that we focus on harvesting. The fall harvest is always such a great practical example of God's principles of sowing and reaping. There is the very visible application of fresh vegetables in your garden. Your bounty or lack of bounty right now reflects how you have spent your time over the last several months. Preparing the ground, weeding, watering, fertilizing. Preparation is the key to success.

I think because of Covid-19 and everything that has happened in the world this year that harvest time has snuck up on us. I am sure that the pandemic has altered many things in your life. Here's a personal question. Has Covid 19 caused you to lose sight of your spiritual preparedness? It has definitely changed life at the Mission.

The interruption of Covid 19 changed our daily schedules and put a lot of things on pause. It changed our worship schedules and now we find ourselves six months later still partially paused. Circumstances outside of our control can temporarily impact our yield, but circumstances shouldn't impact our effort.

In 2 Corinthians 9 we see that sowing and giving originate from the purposeful intent of the heart. We have to intentionally prepare our heart to accomplish God's tasks. Just like the good gardener maps out their efforts for a bountiful harvest, we need to pursue God to prepare our heart for His work if we have any hope for eventual spiritual yield.

Time is a great revealer. It is one way we can truly measure the effects of what we have been sowing. It's easy to fool ourselves with spikes of momentary effort, but sustained effort done God's way will produce clear results. I am reminded of that each day as I enter the doors of the Mission. For 115 years, people before me purposefully gave of themselves to grow and nurture this work to spiritually benefit this community. The fruit of Rescue Ministries hasn't happened by coincidence, but it has happened by the purposeful intent of many donors, prayer warriors, and laborers.

So, as we enter this year's harvest time, maybe the last six months haven't reaped what you had hoped for spiritually. The good news is we don't have to wait until spring for the start of a new growing season. God's ground for spiritual sowing is ready anytime.

Dan Streeter  
Chief Executive Officer



## Thanksgiving NEEDS LIST

- WHOLE TURKEY (FROZEN OR FRESH)
- BUFFET HAMS
- FRENCH STYLE GREEN BEANS
- CREAM OF MUSHROOM SOUP
- CANNED YAMS
- FRENCH'S CRISPY ONIONS
- BROWN SUGAR
- CANNED CREAM CORN

# Gala <sup>2020</sup> TO GO

Rescue Ministries of Mid-Michigan celebrated its 115th anniversary with a virtual Gala. The 2020 Gala to Go premiered on September 22nd via Rescue Ministries website r3monline.org and Facebook page. The Gala raised over \$25,000.

## PREMIER EVENT SPONSORS:

Dick Williams Gun Shop • InCal Technologies  
John E Green Co • Saginaw Spirit  
Serenus Johnson Construction

## HOST SPONSORS:

Bay City Noon Optimist Club • Dornbos Printing Impressions  
Essexville Community Church • Great Lakes Dream Center  
Maier & Associates • Maple Leaf Golf Course  
Oak Beach Resort • Reimold Printing • Tri-City RV  
Westminster Presbyterian Church



## Al Christiansen Memorial Golf Challenge Results

The 20th annual Al Christiansen Memorial Golf Challenge was held July 8th at beautiful Apple Mountain Golf Club. The Golf Challenge sponsored by InCal Technologies & Serenus Johnson Construction raised over \$74,000, providing over 2,400 nights of hope & care to the homeless in the Great Lakes Bay Region. Our top three teams raised \$37,852.

### 1ST PLACE TEAM:

**Craig Laszlo, Pat Lagan, Ken Streeter & Kurt Schwannecke**

### 2ND PLACE TEAM:

**Stan Sobol, Eric Norquist, Charles Lange & Pat Curry**

### 3RD PLACE TEAM:

**Tom Najawicz, Frank Dawe, Bill Denno & Jim Jones**

### PREMIER EVENT SPONSORS:

InCal Technologies  
Serenus Johnson Construction

### CLUB HOUSE SPONSORS:

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Wilber & Associates

### PUTTING CONTEST SPONSOR:

Fullerton Tool Company

### CLOSEST TO THE PIN SPONSORS:

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Saginaw Bay Underwriters

### HOLE SPONSORS:

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Perfusion & Associates  
Powell Fabrication Manufacturing  
Stevens Van Lines • Thrivent Financial

### HOSPITALITY SPONSOR:

Smith & Klaczkiewicz, P.C.

### GIFT IN KIND SPONSORS:

Apple Mountain • Begick's Nursery  
Keits Nursery • Hobson Media

# Mission Statement:

To glorify God by serving people in need, proclaiming the Gospel, and establishing disciples among disadvantaged people.

## ACROSS THE BAY

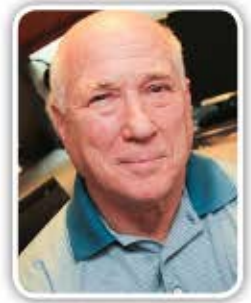


Welcome to "Across the Bay." In this space we will share news about our Saginaw shelter, City Rescue Mission.

Across the Bay - City Rescue Mission received a \$11,000 grant from Dow Promise to update its children's playground. Dow Promise is an employee-led initiative of Dow with a mission to positively impact African American communities that face education and economic challenges. When the playground project is completed in October it will include new landscaping, benches, picnic table, a new pavilion, lawn games and outdoor movie screen.



The year was 1952, a time when moms stayed home spending the day cooking and cleaning. That year WSGW radio launched a new radio show, called "Listen to the Mrs." Art Lewis, a classified "foodie," and Sue Smith took over the show in 1987. In May 2019 WSGW debuted a podcast version of Listen to The Mrs. with co-hosts Art Lewis and Ann Williams.



Art Lewis

If you are a fan of Listen to the Mrs. you can get a copy of the "The Art of Cooking" cookbook when you make a \$25 donation to the Samaritan Youth Shelter. "The Art of Cooking" cookbook celebrates Art Lewis' 50 years in broadcasting. The cookbook makes a nice Christmas gift. To receive your copy please complete the coupon and send along with \$25 for each copy. A special thank you to WSGW for donating the cookbooks to help raise funds for the Samaritan Youth Shelter.



**Yes, I would like "The Art of Cooking" cookbook.**

Number of copies \_\_\_\_\_

(Please make check payable to Good Samaritan Rescue Mission)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

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