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God Is Always At Work

Greetings from The Sanctuary Mission. We are very excited to share with you our first digital newsletter. With gratitude in our hearts, we say thank you for the prayers and support. As we share our newsletter with you, we hope you will feel connected and part of the ministry. We pray you will be encouraged in your heart, mind, and spirit. God is at work in our world today, God is at work at The Sanctuary today, and we are so honored to play our part in the lives of the ones God brings us.

When our new residents arrive at The Sanctuary, they are hurting, confused, hopeless, and lost. More often than not, during the first few weeks, as the fog begins to lift, they can be very uncomfortable. The highs and lows are extreme. The idea that they have fought a long battle with life and lost can seem like too much. Our men and women show up looking for answers, real answers, something to relieve the pain. God is at work drawing people to Himself. (John 6:44) The process of God changing our hearts has begun.

Changing our lives is not an easy thing to do. When we come out of addiction or any life-controlling problem, this process takes time, maybe even a lifetime. God is at work during the process. Recently I heard a quote that said, "our lives don't change in one day, but daily our lives change". (1 Cor 15:31) I like that quote because it calls attention to the bigger picture. God wants more for our residents than a brief event; He is seeking a whole new life – this is the transformation process. (Rom 12:1-2)

Transformation can often be one of the most confusing times in our lives. We know we are going through something, and it will usually be painful, but we don't know how to get out of it; it can be challenging to realize that we are passing through an extraordinary time of growth. Our friends, family, and coworkers may not know how to interact with us as we pass through our seasons of transformation. People we know and love may question our behavior. Others will think we have missed it or messed up and are not going to make it. Little do they know we are exactly where God wants us. Little do we know we are closer than ever to the answers we have been seeking for so long. God is at work during these times.

Transformation is precisely what happens at The Sanctuary Mission. Lives go through a metamorphosis, birthing a new creation. (2 Cor 5:17) We see our residents struggle with fear, doubt, shame, and pain. We watch them slowly come out of their shell and begin to grow. We see the smiles return as their confidence in God grows. We see them at their best and worst moments, and we love and support them through it all. We know the struggle of doubt, fear,

and guilt. We also understand what lies ahead. The abundant life In Christ is waiting. (John 10:10) A life of purpose, joy, and confidence are waiting for us.

Although we come from a background of addiction, our struggle is no different from anyone else. We all face fear and doubt. We all face difficulty in relationships. We all know the deep feeling of emptiness. We all go through our dark times as we walk through life. So, today I wish to encourage you. God is at work during these times. God is allowing these times, so we turn to Him. God is using these times to answer the prayers we have prayed. God is at work, and God is after our hearts. One of the scriptures that I have found encouraging during these times is 1 Peter 4:12-13 "Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed."

God is always at work!

Joseph Elibri
Executive Director

Grace House News

Jessi Laytart - House Administrator

To God Be the Glory

My name is Jessi Laytart. I am the Grace House Administrator. Being here and able to serve others has been a complete blessing. I am able to help the ladies become not only productive members of society again, but I'm able to lead by example the life that is in God's will.

We have prayer time, bible studies, AA meetings, Celebrate Recovery Meetings, work therapy and attend church services together. We are focused on the renewing of the mind as in Romans 12:2.

We demolish arguments & every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 2 Corinthians 10:5

Beauty for Ashes

Praise God who binds up the brokenhearted, sets the captives free, and provides for his people who grieve, to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.
Isaiah 61:3

Pictured below on the right side column are two of our former residents who just graduated the program displaying their Certificates of Completion. Pictured directly below are our Grace House Residents on the day of the Graduation Celebration for two of our residents.



Resident Testimonies

The Sanctuary has helped me find freedom from drugs and alcohol through the power of Jesus Christ. I am forever grateful for the love, support and Godly wisdom they continue to provide. I now have hope for my future and a second family who continues to inspire me everyday. ***Stephanie B.***

When I came here, I had brought my life into a tornado of darkness. It was to the point I did not know how to crawl out of my hole any longer. Isolation, broken trust, and an emptiness I could not bear filled me. At first I was skeptical, not so much about the people, but of myself. I even tried to run, but they loved me through it. They patiently waited as my cage broke open. They showed me how to live again. It is a place with structure, that teaches routines, ways to cope with life, and work therapy. They brought me back to God, for that I am forever grateful. ***Sara W.***

The Sanctuary has made me feel alive. They have helped me through so much. The mission has brought God into my life and has made me not feel negative anymore and not to be fearful of anything, to stay positive always, and always keep a sober mind. The Sanctuary has taught me to always stay busy with work, and to praise & worship God. The Sanctuary Mission has taught me to stay strong and never give up and to stay focused. ***Kimberly F.***

Sanctuary Mission Men's House

Richard Torres - House Administrator



In our Faith-Based Program, God has allowed us to see the transformation from homelessness to self sustaining living. This transformation only occurs when Faith is restored and Salvation is obtained through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. By: Richard Torres.

Men's House Resident Praise Reports

God brought me back to the Sanctuary Mission to complete the work He started in me. *Gregg B.*

God has done wonders in my life compared to where I was when I came here. *Raymond W.*

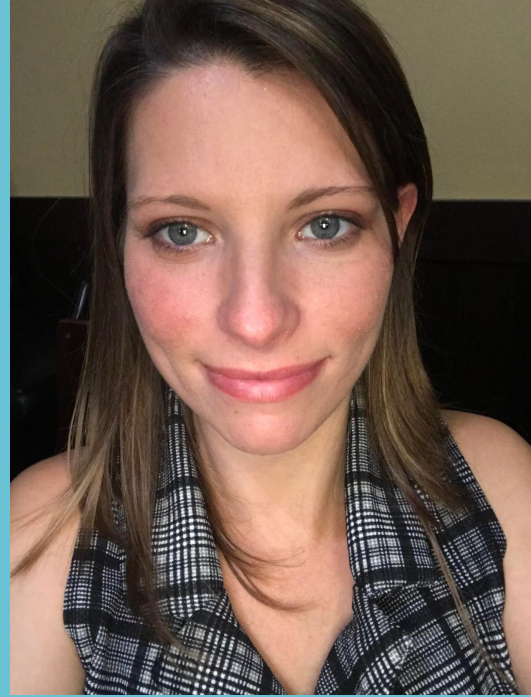
From the time I came into The Sanctuary Mission until now, I can feel the difference in my ability to process emotion through prayer. *Peyton S.*

Sanctuary Mission Thrift Store

Jena Pittman - Store Manager

Hey guys, my name is Jena. Not only am I the new thrift store manager, but formerly a resident and graduate of the Sanctuary Mission.

As a part of the program, the residents get to work here full time up until they are able to get a job. One thing I love about working here is watching the residents come alive again, gaining confidence, and getting to know Jesus. I'm blessed to get to work alongside these women. If you've recently been to our thrift store, you have seen that we have made some dramatic improvements. If you have not, I encourage you to check us out!



We have a new bric-a-brac room with awesome knick-knacks'. Our front room is now more opened and filled with lots more stuff and lots more smiles.

God is at work changing hearts and lives. I consider it an honor to be a part of what God is doing here.

[Volunteer](#)

There are various ways you can support the wonderful life-changing work taking place here at the Sanctuary Mission. If you are interested in volunteering please contact us at 352-621-3277.

[Donate](#)

You can also donate. Your support is greatly appreciated and making a powerful impact on the lives of our residents. Thank you!

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