



# IFRM NEWS

March 2018

## Finally Home

by Mark Matthews,  
Works Program Director

**A**t the Idaho Falls Rescue Mission we hear hundreds of stories every year. We have the privilege of being involved in these life stories and doing our best to provide help, hope and a future. Every once in a while, we get to share with you, the people who support the mission and make it possible, a story that inspires us, humbles us and challenges us to try a little harder and to be a little more grateful. *This, is one of those stories.*

James was born in Woodbury New Jersey, where his family made their living selling vegetables at a local farm stand. James was never a stranger to hard work, and was an avid athlete. He enjoyed playing soccer year round. James lost his mother at the age of 11 and that trial affected him for some time.

James grew up and graduated from high school and decided to go to college. James realized that college wasn't for him and he dropped out and found employment in the mortgage field.

For the next seven years James worked his way up the ladder and traveled all over the United States selling mortgages. After seven years of living a

very successful life James decided that he was going to join the navy. He was in the Navy for about a year and ended up getting kicked out for fighting, which proved to be another hard trial for James. After he left the Navy nothing seemed to go well. Though he had seen better days he is hard worker and did not give up easily. Like all of us, James just wanted a place to call home. So, he decided to go home to Woodbury New Jersey. James quickly found employment as an orderly at the same hospital he was born in. James stayed in Woodbury for five years.

Although drinking was always a part of his life, his drinking started to increase. It seemed like no matter what he did, Woodbury just did not feel like home anymore. Things got bad enough that James decided to quit his job at the hospital and go to Kentucky. Here, James would start a new life hopefully a home. This is where James' life took a turn that he could have never anticipated. Every opportunity closed and before long he was living in a park catching fish and eating dandelions to survive. James ended up at a local rescue mission in Kentucky. He was grateful for a warm meal and a warm bed, but he wanted to get on with his life. James joined a carnival that was passing through town and spent 4 years in that line of work. James' drinking increased even more as he was working and traveling, and he was stuck with no real hope. He landed in Billings Montana and

it was there that, with only seven dollars in his pocket, He lost his job with the carnival. He now had no job and no place to live. James quickly found himself living next to a river. After two weeks on the river banks, James decided that with nothing left and no home he was going to start walking the highways. He had never been in such a bad place.

That is when our gracious Savior guided him to the Idaho Falls Rescue Mission. James came for help and was welcomed with open arms. This is when James was given his next big trial in life. James was having some health problems and after some issues that were not getting better, went to the Doctor. After several tests and visits the Doctors diagnosed James with stage four liver disease. Doctors have given James six months to two years to live.

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Finally Home, Cont.

With no family to return to and no home to go to the Idaho Falls Rescue Mission decided to do the only thing that made sense. *We decided to adopt James and invite him to be a part of our family.*

Since then James has accepted that invitation and surrendered his life to Jesus. James has decided to not just give up, but to fight for a better life and to work hard at living a life worth living. A life that does not come with any guarantees. *James has successfully given up drinking and smoking and is on the road to spiritual recovery and restoration.* He is continually growing in Jesus with a new lease on life. He is currently working the graveyard shift for the City of Refuge and is also volunteering for several Mission operations. James is one of the go to guys here at the Mission and others can always count on him for comfort. Always smiling and upbeat he is truly an inspiration. Someone might just say that regardless of what the future has...

***James is finally home.***

## Welcoming Women with Children back to the Ruth House!

by Tyler Perkins, Executive Director

The need for family rooms at our women's ministry has been a concern for some time. These are rooms a mother and her children can come to in a time of crisis. Where we provide a safe warm place to stay while we help them through the crisis. As we have plans that will address this issue permanently, until those plans can be funded and executed we are left with a real need. Not only at Idaho Falls Rescue Mission, but in the community.

We have now been able to meet that need. Thanks to all of you, our donors. As of February 6th, we have been able to open one family room. Two more family rooms are in the works as well. We will be adding

at least one more shower which will make this possible. This enables

us to minister and provide housing for single mother families that have nowhere else to turn. Thank you so much to all who have so generously given to our women's ministry. Special thanks to H.D. Fowler Company who gave \$5,000.00 and made the showers possible. We thank God every day to be able to provide, in partnership with you, a safe, warm place for families.



## Prayer Requests

- Works program participants.
- That God would work mightily in the lives of our guests.
- For more volunteers to join our team.
- For God to soften hearts in our community.
- For strength and perseverance for the IFRM staff.

**“...prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters.”**

**EPHESIANS 6:18**

## Noteworthy Mentions

We currently need some volunteers! Volunteer needs currently include:

- front desk help with answering phones, prepare mailouts and help with clothing and food vouchers.
- Cooks to help prepare and serve our evening meals.

If you'd like to volunteer with us please visit our website, <http://ifrescuemission.org/volunteer>.



Every year, Old Faithful Christian Ranch in Island Park hosts the Engage Men's Retreat. This year through the gracious sponsorships of God's people, one of our staff members and four of our men living at our Mission went with me for a spiritually vibrant weekend away, March 2-4, in the deep snow. Actually, ten feet of it!

During our time, we ate like kings, played like kids, shot guns like mountain men, and snored like bears in the cozy bunks at the main lodge. Most of all, we intently listened to the teaching on the life of the apostle Paul.

## OFCR Men's Retreat

by Todd Wood, Chaplain

Pastor Jim Otto from Teton Valley Bible Church opened with Saul of Tarsus and his desperate need for Christ. Pastor Steve McClean of Eagle Rock Vineyard Church drove home the reality of true spiritual conversion and heart transformation in Saul whose name was changed to Paul. Pastor Roger Manwiller mapped at Paul's resume and his missionary journeys that literally shook and changed the world of Jews and Gentiles.



And I closed on Sunday with the last will and testament of Paul in II Timothy before he was beheaded by Nero. In response to the weekend, one of our men living at the Mission stated, "If Church was like this, I would be in Church three times a day." We loved our time away. Paul championed the gospel of Jesus Christ. And we are so thankful for Christ's impact in our midst during this year 2018. Thank you for your prayers. Jesus is Lord!

## Scoopy-Night at Culvers

by Amanda Chaplin, Event & Development Coordinator

The Idaho Falls Rescue Mission is partnering with Culver's in Idaho Falls!

Culver's will be having one of their Scoopy-Night's on Wednesday March 28<sup>th</sup> from 4-8pm.

Culver's Scoopy-Night is a fundraiser that Culver's does to help support non-profits in the area. We will provide some volunteers to welcome the customers as they arrive and

deliver their delicious food to the customers at their tables or cars.

Culver's will also be accepting donations of non-perishable food items that will go to the Idaho Falls Rescue Mission and help keep our pantry full. This will help to ensure that we have enough food to feed the 50+ people that dine with us each night of the year.

We will provide change jars to collect any loose change and cash donations



**Culvers in Idaho Falls located at 946 Pancheri Drive**

at the register, and Culver's will donate a portion of that night's sales to the IFRM! Be sure to come out to Culvers on March 28<sup>th</sup> from 4-8pm and support your local Rescue Mission!

# New & Improved Thrift Stores!

The Idaho Falls Rescue Mission has 2 thrift store locations:

1570 N. Holmes Ave  
&  
830 Park Ave

As we strive to better serve our community we have made some big changes to our stores!

Our stores provide clothing to those in need and the proceeds from the sales go directly into the IFRM. Be sure to stop by and check out what we have! **Our business hours are Monday – Saturday, 10am – 5pm.**

If you'd like to donate items to our stores please drop them off at our N. Holmes Ave. location.

Thank you to all who shop and donate! You are making a difference as you do!



# “I will get back up and keep going.”

by A Current Ruth House Guest

The Ruth House, located at 3130 South Yellowstone Hwy in Idaho Falls, is where we have our emergency shelter for women, and women with children. We are excited to finally be able to have children back there as that is a great need in our community.

One of our guests wanted to share her story about how God is working in her life while she is staying at the Ruth House.

*“The trials I have faced in my life have made for some very hard times. Life, at times, seemed meaningless and worthless.*

*As I have been staying at the Ruth House, I have had the opportunity to hear many of the guests and staff stories. Their stories of faith, trial and error have helped me to become stronger in my faith.*

*The day my son and I came to the Ruth House to look for somewhere to go was the day they were able to allow children to stay there again. I*



*felt so sad after losing our home, but as I listened to the stories of faith and trial I knew it would all work out.*

*I do believe in Heavenly Father, and even though times have gotten hard, I know that he does have a plan to help make things better, and that he loves us.*

*I had given up hope and faith but going to the Bible studies while staying at the Ruth House have helped my faith and hope to return! God has used all of the love and encouragement of these women here and I know that if I keep my faith and trust in my heart, and keep doing good, that I will return to him. Even when I fall I will get back up again and keep going. »*

Thank you to all who give of your time, talents and treasures to make the Idaho Falls Rescue Mission possible! It is only because of your willingness to come alongside us and serve those in need that ministries, like the Ruth House, are possible.

## In Honor & In Memorial

*In memory of George Miller  
by High Dessert Realtor Inc*

*In memory of Theodore Guy  
by Vicki Harder*

*In memory of Eyvonne Kay Chapin  
by John Chapin*

*In honor of Lundberg USCG WW2  
by Dick Lundberg*