



Easter 2017 Edition

Once Was Lost...

Colt remembers vividly his lowest moment. He was “in the hole”, Housing Unit ‘D’ at Berks County Prison, for inmates facing discipline for institutional violations. Colt spent 24 hours a day in his cell, except to take a shower every three days. Colt reflected on his life and came up with a plan. His plan was to get out of jail, score heroin from a drug dealer, and overdose on the steps of Reading Hospital. His pain would be gone, and his lifeless body would easily get to the Berks County Coroner for processing.

Colt, 34 years of age, has been struggling with drug addiction since age 16. Before his last incarceration, he couldn’t stay sober for more than six months at a time. He has been in and out of jail on drug charges and other related charges time and time again over the last 13 years. Colt has four children, and one of his most painful memories was his two and four-year-old daughters visiting him in jail and crying for him to, “Come out here, Daddy, and play with us.” Through the thick glass of the no-contact visitation room, Colt tried his best to hold back tears and explain that he wanted to hold them, but he couldn’t.

Colt felt defeated. Colt felt hopeless. Colt wanted to end his pain and the pain he was causing his family over many years. It was at that time, in the hole, that he felt God told him what he needed to do. Colt heard other inmates talking about getting paroled to Hope Rescue Mission. Colt didn’t know much about the Mission, but he knew it was a faith-based program. Since Colt had been to church growing up, he felt he needed to turn to God for help to have any chance of real change.

Colt was paroled to Hope seven months ago, and he hasn’t gotten high in 19 months, a new record! Colt turned to his Creator, through Christ, for the salvation of his soul and the redemption of his life from drugs, crime, and unproductive living. Colt has been studying Scripture and growing in his spiritual life. He feels that God is changing his heart, because he doesn’t have the same desires. Instead of being enticed to get high on drugs, Colt is enticed by new desires. Colt wants to work hard daily, be reconciled to his family, be the father his children need him to be, start his own business, and have a suitable home to spend quality time with his kids.

Colt drives a donation truck for the Mission five days a week, and he is saving up to start his own tattoo artist studio with an apartment above his business to live in. Colt sees his children regularly. No cold concrete and glass keep him from embracing them. No sin and shame keep him from embracing his God.

“People need to understand that the Mission is much more than a homeless shelter, it’s a place to find a secure foundation to start building a new life,” shares Colt. “It’s a brotherhood of guys helping each other move forward in a positive light. I truly believe that without God’s help through this place, I would be in jail or dead.”

Continued on reverse side

...now found in Christ!

In 2016, **112 individuals died of a drug overdose, and 72 individuals committed suicide in Berks County.** After natural causes, those were the two leading causes of death.

Colt figured suicide through a drug overdose was the best way to end his suffering. Instead of being another number on the Coroner's annual report, Colt's life is healing and rebuilding.

**Colt is alive, forever, and he shall never perish.
This is what God is doing every day at Hope Rescue Mission.**

This is what you are supporting through your prayers, volunteering, and financial support.



We know many of you have loved ones who are suffering through addictions. May we all be filled with Hope this Easter, that tomorrow can be better, and that no one is beyond God's rescue.

Robert Turchi
Executive Director

Hope Rescue Mission - 2017 *Easter Season* Response Form

☐ COUNT ME IN! I'd like to help the Men of Hope with a contribution to your day-to-day ministry work of:

☐ \$25.00 ☐ \$50.00 ☐ \$100.00 ☐ \$250.00 ☐ \$500.00 ☐ Other - \$_____

Please have the Men of Hope pray for the following prayer request: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone #: _____

_____ Email: _____

Secure donations can also be made online. Go to: www.HopeForReading.org and click the "Donate Now" tab at the top of the page.

We at Hope Rescue Mission rely exclusively upon private donations since we neither seek, nor accept public funding of any kind. Your financial resources are applied directly to the operation of the Mission and helping homeless men in need physically, emotionally and spiritually. May God bless you for your support!