

December 2017

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Almost all of the Project Rescue members went home to enjoy Christmas with their families. As I write this, I am anxiously praying they make it back without a relapse!

Most of our members were reared in Christian homes. They enjoyed a **“sound mind”** (2 Timothy 1:7) in their youth. They were satisfied with God’s physical blessings to man (Acts 14:17). However, their use, abuse and addiction to drugs stole their God given ability to naturally enjoy basic physical blessings.

This is why Christmas and the whole holiday season is very dangerous for the recovering addict. He no longer can celebrate without a drug or a drink. He can’t seem to enjoy any activity unless he is drunk or high!

Modern science, through imaging technology, has discovered exactly what is occurring chemically in our brain when we are enjoying a meal, a relationship, a concert, the birth of a child, and such like. The neurologists have identified the Reward Pathway of the brain where neurotransmitters send pleasure signals to neuroreceptors that result in natural euphoria. They have also learned how drug addiction damages this part of the mind, but have not found a remedy.

Scripture uses the word **“heart”** when referring to the mind, because it is the seat of man’s emotion, intelligence, and will. **Proverbs 4:23 says “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.”** Yes, long ago, God warned man to diligently guard his mind, for it is the place where every attitude, purpose, action, and emotion, are determined!

At Project Rescue we fill a prescription written by God: **“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...” (Romans 12:2).** Project Rescue is a 1-year in-house addiction recovery program because being **“transformed by the renewing of your mind”** is a very slow process. Each member’s mind **“is being renewed day by day” (2 Corinthians 4:16),** as he prayerfully reads, studies and continues doing God’s Word.

The anxiety of ministering in this mission field of addiction recovery is because of the high probability of relapse, especially in the beginning of a member’s transformation process. The blessing is witnessing a prodigal son regaining his capacity to enjoy and be satisfied. Perhaps this is what Jesus meant when he said, **“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.” Matthew 5:6**

One of our greatest challenges is to help the guys learn to enjoy life without the help of intoxicants. The spiritual approach is our greatest tool in this effort, but that takes a while to sink in. We also see the need to provide joyful events and experiences which we hope will live on in their memories long after they have left Project Rescue.

They have a game room with ping-pong, pool, foosball and an Xbox. There is also a big screen TV to watch the games, etc. Outside, there is horse shoes, golf, volley ball and basketball. Of course, there is fishing in the pond, and we take them on hikes at various awesome trails in the area.

The guys always have a bag of goodies in their mail boxes on Valentine's Day, Easter and Halloween.

Special meals are prepared for holidays. Even when only a few remain on site, we try to make it extra special for them.

During the Christmas holidays, a big traditional meal is prepared for the guys and their families who are able to attend.

The message we are trying to convey – God is good, and He wants you to have an abundant life here and for eternity. LIFE IS GOOD!



Thankfully, we have a lot of help in this endeavor. The Madison congregation hosted a big party in our "Solley Center" complete with great food, games, a meaningful devotional, presents for all the guys and a generous contribution to Project Rescue. It was such a fun night that meant so much to all of us. [Video link of Madison church holiday party at Project Rescue.](#)

In addition, members from the congregations at Beltline, Priceville, Austinville, Grant Street, Arab, County Line, Florence Blvd., Mt. Zion, Grandiflora and many others have gone out of their way to help out. For these and all who support us financially and those who remember us in thoughts and prayers, we are so thankful.

We wish you all a happy and blessed holiday season and our sincerest love and best wishes for a wonderful 2018.

