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### **Ministers**

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# Our “Crown and Joy”

*“For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you... ” 1 Thessalonians 2:19*

The Apostle Paul described the Thessalonian Christians as his “crown of rejoicing!”

In this passage, the word “crown” represents a prize (like in 1 Corinthians 9:25) and the word “rejoicing” expresses a good kind of boasting.

Yes, Paul viewed the brethren of the church he planted in Thessalonica as a prize that made him extremely proud! After all, Proverbs 11:30 tells us “...He who wins souls is wise.” The members of the church in Philippi “my joy and crown” (Philippians 4:1) were also Paul’s win for the Lord!

In the jail, prison and addiction recovery ministries, crowns of rejoicing are few and far between. Sadly, most of the souls we try to win back to the Lord “bring no fruit to maturity” Luke 8:14 (relapse). It is the victories that keep us pressing onward!!

Jason Cagle, Beau Nelson, Roger Jackson, and Zach Barrett are among the few Project Rescue program members who have excelled spiritually and completed our 1-year program. They are our crowns “of rejoicing!”



Jason graduated our 1-year program in June of 2011 and has been serving as our Night Manager ever since (5 years).



When Roger graduated in August of 2013, he also decided to serve with us in this mission field. As our Bible Instructor, he has the all-important task of teaching the men how to study the Bible.



Beau is also a 1-year graduate who decided to remain and help us. He has been our Day Manager for the last 4-years.



After Zach graduated, he stayed on for another 9-months helping us with the younger and troubled program members. When he moved out into his own home, he continued to visit and minister to the souls in our care. In January of 2017, he joined the staff of Project Rescue, serving as a very effective minister while living onsite. With the help from the Mike Nix Preacher Fund, Zach recently enrolled at Heritage Christian University in Florence, Alabama to study Bible and Ministering. This will equip him to become even more productive in the work of the Lord.

These four crowns of rejoicing are some of the reasons why we have had an increase of members staying in the program longer than 6-months! “And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of...” Clint, David, Travis, Craig, Rick, Aaron, Ben, Dustin, Paul, Bryan, Bobby, Brian, Jay, Sam, Jim, Kevin, Robby, Joe and others.

Yes, we all look forward to “that Day” when we see our crowns “of rejoicing” each receiving “the crown of righteousness.” Paul described this to his prize convert, Timothy:



*“Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”  
2 Timothy 4:8*

## **Hound Dogs & Ministers**

To run an effective addiction recovery program, you need types of hound dogs to keep the members safe from drugs, alcohol and bad women, and to keep order. We (Jason, Beau and myself) are the disciplinarians who mostly reprove and rebuke.

Ministers are also necessary to listen to, counsel and exhort. Ministers use friendship edification. They are the reason members remain with us longer and become “crowns of rejoicing!”

In the past month we have lost the services of both of our two ministers. Sadly, one very gifted minister had to return home to take care of his family. Then, with Zach starting Heritage Christian University, he needs to concentrate on his studies!

This is why we have set a goal to raise \$50,000 to cover the employment and housing for new ministers at Project Rescue. We must hire at least one minister soon, to maintain the quality of our program.

This is an emergency and crisis effecting the future of Project Rescue!



# EMERGENCY

If you can contribute to help us hire a minister, please make your check out to Project Rescue and write “for minister” in the note. Then send it to 179 Cave Spring Road, Decatur, AL 35603.

Please also help me (Ronnie) set up speaking appointments at congregations in our brotherhood. Our brethren need to hear the Project Rescue story.

To our supporters, please know that Jason, Beau, Roger, and Zach are also YOUR crowns of rejoicing! We could not carry out this work without you. Your support and prayers, as Paul penned, are certainly “...A sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.”

Philippians 4:18-20