

“It’s Me, Buck and God”

A few years ago, Mike Emmanuel was living “the single man’s dream.” “I was completely hedonistic,” he admits, “but I would ask myself ‘Is this all there is?’”



Already a heavy drinker, Mike drank more and more to sedate himself. Then one day, he whistled for his four-legged friend, Buck, and the two disappeared into the woods for two years of hard drinking and thinking. “I was like a dog walking off to die or a man headed for a wilderness experience,” he recalls.

Family members finally persuaded Mike to enter rehab, but after completing the 30-day program and staying clean for a year, Mike went out and bought a beer. “I was a dry drunk,” he explains. “I was clean but there was no joy in my life, so I thought I might as well drink again.”

Mike’s mom finally persuaded him to try The Foundry. For her sake, Mike gave up his dog and joined our Recovery Program, June 6, 2007.

“There are times I call ‘wild moments’ when God gets you to a place where you have to believe,” Mike recalls. “Three weeks into the program, the police came to The Foundry looking for me. My mom had been killed in a car wreck.”

Overwhelmed and helpless, Mike gave his situation to God. “I told Him, ‘God, you got this one. Let me know what to do.’”

A year later, Mike graduated from The Foundry’s Recovery Program and prepared to leave. Then, to his surprise, Pastor Bill Heintz asked him to maintain the grounds of the newly purchased Foundry Farm.

“It was an honor to have Pastor Bill ask me to watch over it,” says Mike. “It’s a place where the lost who are hurting and have nowhere to go can come. A place where God is.”

Just after Thanksgiving, Mike got a call from the family who had taken Buck. “Can you take him back?” they asked.

“We’ve come full circle,” Mike smiles today. “It’s the stars, coyotes, trees, peace and quiet, and just Buck and me.”

We Believe — Even After the December Fire!

Thursday, December 11, flames roared through a leased warehouse in downtown Bessemer that was filled with merchandise for our SuperThrift Outlet. “Tens of thousands of dollars in merchandise burned up,” says Executive Director Bill Heintz, “but we believed God would see us through and that’s what He’s doing!”

The Foundry would like to thank our faithful community partners for your generous support. Many churches, businesses and individuals have blessed us with both in-kind donations and financial gifts to replenish what was lost in the fire. Your continued support of our SuperThrift Outlet is appreciated as we enter this new year. To learn more or to make an online donation, visit www.thefoundryonline.org. To schedule a thrift store pick-up call (205) 424-2400.

Through your generous gifts, our residents and their families enjoyed delicious holiday meals, parties and gifts chosen with love during the holidays. Thanks so much!



Where DO I FIND?

The Foundry SuperThrift Outlet
727 Bessemer Super Highway
Monday–Saturday: 9 a.m.–9 p.m.

Auto Sales and Service
1402 4th Avenue North
(205) 425-3290



Drive Away Addiction!
When you donate a vehicle to The Foundry, you benefit our ministry, our residents and community clients, and get a charitable tax deduction! Call (205) 426-9000 to learn more.



The SPARK

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE FOUNDRY RESCUE MISSION AND RECOVERY CENTER

At 27 Jacky Gann had already completed several drug treatment programs, but, he says, “Getting off drugs isn’t hard, it’s learning how to live without them that’s tough.”

Jacky’s knowledge of drugs, and what you can and can’t mix is encyclopedic. “Let’s just say I had an early passion with things that chemically altered me. I carried a physician’s desk reference with me. I was like a mad scientist.”

While Jacky was experimenting, his family—especially his grandmother—was praying. “The reason I’m here today,” he says appreciatively, “is the prayers of my family.”

March 6, 2008, Jacky came to The Foundry and entered our Christ-centered recovery program. His goal was simple: “I needed to know more than how to stop using drugs; I needed to learn to live.”

God worked fast in his life! “I was delivered from my addiction, then saved by Christ. Now the passion I have to live for Christ and my relationship with Him fills the void.”

In the program, Jacky developed new attitudes of discipline and self-sacrifice. As he matured, The Foundry’s staff recognized his leadership skills and gave him increasing responsibility—an honor he takes very seriously. “I’m accountable for people now. If I get complacent it will reflect on the people I lead. If I start to slack, it’ll affect me and others, so I have to follow through.”

Jacky believes addicted people are usually selfish people. “We are consumed with ourselves and we want to feel good regardless of who we hurt,” he explains. “So becoming a servant takes the focus off my problems and puts it on others’ problems. Now I build relationships on love, not corrupt motives. In the body of Christ, we reach out of ourselves.”

Today, Jacky divides his time between handling intake for newcomers to The Foundry, leading Bible study and enjoying his restored relationship

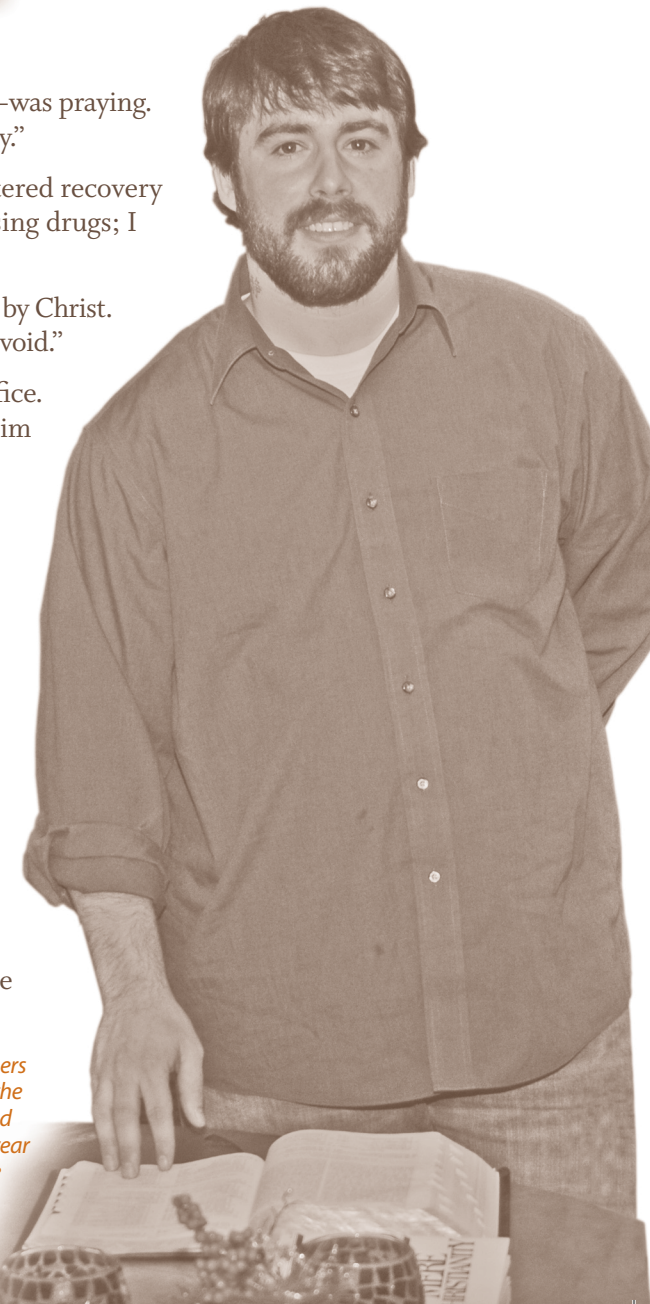
I’m Believing
HIM for My Restoration

with his family. “I feel the presence of God in my life; He’s wiped all the things I’ve done away. This gives me confidence that I’m not going back. I am more than I set out to be.”

In November, Jacky and several other members of The Foundry’s Recovery Program formed the Bearded Brotherhood, to raise awareness and funds for newcomers to The Foundry. “We wear beards as a constant reminder that there are many more suffering addicts crying for our help through Christ,” says Jacky.



The Bearded Brotherhood





Pastor Bill serves The Foundry's residents abundant plates of food on Thanksgiving Day.

from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Each year, the Lord and I discuss what He wants to do with The Foundry Rescue Mission and Recovery Center. In 2008, the Lord gave me the theme "The Year of Increase," and we saw tremendous growth in numbers, program improvements and resources.

As I pondered 2009, I felt God calling us to simply believe Him for our needs and believe His promises are true for each and every one of us.

So 2009 is "The Year to Just Believe!"

Ironically, that may be one of the hardest concepts for our staff and residents in recovery to understand. When recovery seems too hard to bear or when disappointments come, believing God will come through can be very difficult.

Our faith does not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power (1 Cor. 2:5). What does that mean to The Foundry and those we serve? It means we anticipate 2009 with excitement, knowing our God will provide in every way, as long as we are obedient to His will. It means it is the year to just believe! Won't you join us?

With a grateful heart,

Bill Heintz
Rev. Bill Heintz

You Helped Provide

January–December 2008

With your generous assistance, The Foundry provided these services and programs to the homeless and addicted in 2008. Thank you for your partnership in this ministry.

Nights of lodging	84,600
Meals served	297,000
Recovery program graduates	87
Re-Entry graduates	34
People receiving free clothing	617
Food boxes distributed	486
Residents receiving medical, dental, optical, prescription assistance	1,964

The Year of Increase

In 2008, God blessed The Foundry with increases beyond our greatest expectations! Here are just a few of the milestones we experienced.

	2007	2008	% increase
Recovery Program graduates	55	87	58.2%
Re-Entry Program graduates	16	34	112.5%
Men and women in programs	523	725	39%
Volunteers serving	no record	422	
Volunteer hours served	no record	4,103	
Community impact value*	\$32.9 million	\$36.4 million	11%

With the addition of **Volunteer Coordinator, Micah Andrews**, we've experienced an incredible increase in involvement from individuals, churches and other groups.

The Foundry purchased 80 acres of farmland in Cullman, Alabama, in July 2008. Once we complete renovations, the **Foundry Farm's** 80 acres will be a new home to 40 or more men in addiction recovery. Learn more on page 4.

With the help of Sis Dixon (see page 3), The Foundry opened the **Education Center** in 2008. Today, 45 residents are enrolled in GED classes, life-skills courses, and computer and literacy training.

God used your gifts of finances, volunteer energy, in-kind donations and prayer to make 2008 a very successful year. **Thanks for your partnership!** We know we can count on you in 2009.

*According to a statistic from the California Drug and Alcohol Treatment Assessment, which states for every dollar invested in recovery the local economy receives a \$7 impact.



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Rev. Bill Heintz

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Leslie Freeman

Our Vision
To be the leader in Christ-centered recovery, permanently transforming lives.

Our Mission
To restore hope and rebuild the lives of the homeless and addicted through Christ-centered recovery.



Solving Adult Challenges with Adult Education

Sis Dixon, director of education and training, greets Thomas*, an elderly resident in our Recovery Program, at the door of The Foundry's new Education Center. As they exchange small talk, Thomas mentions he's "having a little trouble with his spelling." After several months as head of the Education Center, Sis decodes his sentence this way: "I can't read."

A few lessons later, Thomas tells Sis gratefully, "I spend time with my sister each weekend and now we can read our Bibles together." This is just one of many heartwarming reasons Sis loves her job!

"One man said he wanted to be able to read his grandchildren's birthday cards," she recalls. "When another man learned that the words at the top of the pages in his Bible were guide words for each book and chapter, he said, 'You don't know what this means to me.'"

On any given day, a dozen students are seated in the Education Center studying for their GEDs, learning computer skills or learning to read. Sis and her staff work closely with The Foundry's counselors and program directors to integrate what students are studying in the Recovery Program with their Education Center coursework.

"We also have partnerships with Lawson State Community College, M-Power Ministries and other local resources," she says.



Volunteer Jan VanArsdale shows Robert the wonders of Google in our Education Center.

*not his real name



Sis Dixon helps Trey prepare for his GED test. "We give them the keys to unlock what they want to know," Sis says.

"My Parents Are Proud of Me"

Trey Roberts is a young man of few words. Only 21 years old and a single dad, Trey came to The Foundry to get away from a lifestyle that was holding him back. "I couldn't find a good job, because I quit school in 12th grade. Even if I could have found a job, I couldn't have passed the drug test. And, my family was starting to disown me."

At The Foundry, Trey found not only the spiritual strength he needed to overcome his drug habit, he has been able to prepare for his GED in our Education Center. "It'll help me get into the military," he says. "And I want to be a good daddy to my little girl. My parents are proud of me, too."

"I'm Looking Forward to Life"

Robert, 42, had been alcohol-free for two years when he relapsed. His pastor recommended The Foundry, where he could stay away from alcohol and get closer to the Lord. "I was already working on my GED when I came here," Robert says. "I'm slow at writing and spelling and I want to learn more about the computer. When I took the pretest I was reading between a third and fourth grade level. Now I'm at a seventh grade level."

Right now, Robert is reading "Battlefield of the Mind" by Joyce Meyers. His own battle includes avoiding a relapse and depression by remaining positive and learning more about the Lord. "I'm looking forward to living life clean and getting my kids back in my life," he says. "I won't leave here until I get my GED."

Take Note! Sis is looking for volunteer tutors and administrative support in the Education Center. Training is free! To learn more, contact Volunteer Coordinator Micah Andrews at (205) 425-7737 or mandrews@thefoundryonline.org.