



# RAM Ministries



Changing lives through the power of prayer.

Newsletter

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## Where are they NOW??

We would like to feature some of the amazing outcomes we have had through our Women of Courage program with our "Where are they NOW?" column. We are beginning with our very first graduate of the Women of Courage program back in 2018. Missy was the reason we started the program.



**THEN:** Missy was homeless when we met her with nothing but a backpack with a few items of clothing in it. I met her at the Catholic worker house where we take our meals for the poor. We had begun a Tuesday-Thursday Lunch program to help the people find purpose for their lives. After feeding everyone lunch, I was staying around for several hours with the people, playing music, talking, and teaching them how to make blankets for the homeless. Missy started hanging around with us to help make the blankets. She was in a bad relationship, had no job, had been forced to give up custody of her kids, had no transportation, had a felony on her record, and had little hope for a better future. We got her an ID and birth certificate and took her to a job fair where she got a job at Trilogy Plastics. We got her a bike so she could get back and forth to work, got her clothes, proper work shoes, helped her find an apartment and helped her with the first month's rent. She also started the Women of Courage Program as our very first client.

**NOW:** Missy has worked hard, has always been on time and has continued working at Trilogy for all these years. She moved her way up from an entry level position to the supervisor of the 2<sup>nd</sup> shift. She ended her bad relationship, started saving money, got herself a credit card to start building her credit, and is now working on buying the home she now lives in. She has also been released to get her driver's license back and is working towards that as well. Missy also has two of her children living with her now, which she thought would never happen. **Last month, Missy donated \$500 towards the rent of another homeless woman when she saw our post on Facebook looking for help to keep the new mother and her two-year-old off the street, stating; "I know what it's like to fall on hard times and end up homeless, it's not a good feeling."** **CONGRATULATIONS TO MISSY FOR A JOB WELL DONE!**

## Now offering

Need help finding  
purpose for your life?

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330-206-0272

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anxiety?

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money?

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## Believe

**With the holidays and cold weather approaching very quickly, I would like to encourage everyone to say some special prayers for the women in our program.** First, I want to say if you grew up in a home that had even one parent that was a stable caregiver, be thankful. If God was in your home, you are super blessed! Most of the people I deal with did not have either. Many of the drug users were started on drugs by their parents. One of my women was her dad's pot-smoking buddy at 8 years old. He started her on crack a couple years later, and then meth and heroine. This was her only relationship with her father, the only way she had a connection with him. She has been off drugs now for years, hopefully for good, but even though she hated him for ruining her life, her need for his love made her want him back in it. We try to fill that need with Jesus.

Many of our women are stuck in homes where drug use is a normal daily thing. Their low paying jobs are not enough for them to afford a place on their own, so they are stuck in these terrible situations. They were born into it; they had no choice of who their parents were. Their only hope for change is if someone cares enough to reach out and try to help them without judging them for the things they have done. Most of them want more than anything to be free from it. They have never had any guidance at all and often anyone that even cared about them.

The poverty is almost overwhelming. Right here in our own town. I can't even tell you how many people don't even have a bed to sleep in. One of the girls in our program slept on kitchen chairs when the house was too cold to sleep on the floor. We couldn't even get a bed for her because there was nowhere to put it. Another had only the things that RAM Ministries provided her; a small table, a lamp, a toaster oven to bake in, a small dorm sized refrigerator, an electric skillet, and a mattress. That's all she had in the world. **AND SHE WAS WORKING**, every day in the cold! Her pay was so low that it kept her in this poverty without the skills or the education to do much else. This woman has been on her own since she was very young. Many of them have father's that were absent and mothers that chose men and drugs over their children. Most of them can't drive, so they walk everywhere, which limits them tremendously. Usually without the proper coats and boots needed for walking in the cold. One of the women in our program had been walking 4 hours home from work after the midnight shift because her vehicle broke down and she hadn't been able to get it fixed. She has had to keep her job with 2 children at home, and there were no buses that go that direction, so she had no choice. The holidays are very tough for them. Many have no family in their lives at all. One of the women that had been free from drugs for almost a year admitted her terrible struggle over the holiday's when no one called or texted her. They dread the holidays more than anything. This is why Jesus told us not to judge. We have no idea the circumstances others have come from. As we sit in our cozy homes surrounded by family this year, please remember these people in your prayers. When these women actually make something of themselves and become productive members of society, like Missy from the story above, it's nothing short of a miracle.

**"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" *Matthew 25:40 NIV***