Haven of Rest serves men, women and children in a wide variety of ways. Not only do we supply food, shelter, and clothing, but we provide Social Enterprise classes, Career Development programs, and an Educational curriculum focused on the needs of each individual who takes part in the program. Part of the educational programming for Resident Men includes writing about a book of the Bible. This assignment helps men better understand God’s Word and how it applies to their lives and also hones their computer literacy, writing, and reading skills. This assignment generally falls at the end of their time on the Residential Program. These writings often capture the long road Resident Men walked to get to where they are today and highlights all they have learned during their time at the Mission.

Recently, one man completed this assignment on the book of Romans. His passion for the Word of God and his faith in Jesus was found on every page. He started with a bit of his background, “I came into the program on September 20th, 2016. I was lost…then God intervened in the springtime. He planted a seed in my heart and began the process of…shining His light on me to guide me exactly where I needed to be heading, straight for Christ, to be saved and reborn. I finally came to the end of myself and began to desire God’s love, His work, and His guiding hand.”

In one section he explains the difference between who our and our do and what that means for change in our lives. “The things we do are separate from who we are. [Paul] teaches that once we know who we are in Christ, our behavior (our do) will change, but trying to simply change behavior will never work…transformation comes to our do as we understand our who from God’s perspective.”

This section of the assignment does a fantastic job of summing up not only what it takes to change from this Resident’s perspective, but what Haven of Rest tries to teach each day, which is who we are in Christ. What we do does not make up who we are, as humans we make mistakes, but that does not define us. What defines us is our identity as children of God. As the writer of this project says, “We do not have to live under guilt and condemnation. Nothing can separate us from God’s love.” How great is our God!

It is so encouraging to see the immense changes that God can make in the lives of men, women and children at the Mission. Writings and testimonies like this one is why Haven of Rest has been serving those in need for 74 years. Please pray that hearts would soften and more men, women and children would grow in their faith at Haven of Rest in the years to come.
Dear Friends:

He called it a Trap House. Living at this place, which was a drug house filled with addicts with several addictions and other bad activities, you paid rent by selling drugs as well as using drugs. The windows in the house were heavily covered so no light could get in and the lighting in the house was always dim. There was hardly any food available in the house. It was hard to escape this environment because the Trap House was set up to feed the addictions of those struggling with drugs. One day he decided that he wanted to get out of this environment due to seeing so many overdoses in the house. Even though it was extremely difficult to leave, he left and ended up at Haven of Rest Ministries.

Being on the program for over a year, he has found freedom. He also has hope and, more importantly, he has Christ in his heart. His life is being transformed right before our very eyes. I think of that Trap House as being a tomb where life is being choked off by destructive drugs that steal the life and soul out of a person who is made in God’s image. As resurrection Sunday is not far off, I am thankful for what God has done for us through His Son Jesus Christ.

Galatians 5:1 says, “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then and do not let yourselves be burdened again by the yoke of slavery.”

This individual who is still on our program is seeing things through God’s eyes. Please continue to pray for him and all the other men, women and children that are staying at the Mission.

May the Lord bless you as spring is upon us and new life is bursting out all around us through His creation.

Blessings In Christ,

Rev. Jeff Kaiser
Executive Director

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Women’s Auxiliary Schedule

Please plan on attending our Women’s Auxiliary luncheon and program on Tuesday, April 4th at the Mission.

Doors open at 10 a.m. for bargain shopping, lunch is at noon, and Rev. Kaiser will be sharing a special program at 1 p.m. We hope to see you there!

From the Executive Director

Dear Friends:

Please join Haven of Rest in celebration of 74 faithful years of service to the Lord at the Anniversary Banquet. We will mark this blessed day with a special dinner and program. The program will include guest speaker Bishop Joey Johnson, Organizer and Senior Pastor of The House of the Lord in Akron, and guest soloist Carla Davis. Together their God-given talents will glorify the Lord and be an entertaining, educational night for you and your family. The program will be centered around our 2017 banquet theme, Together: Rebuilding Lives Through Christ.

The Anniversary Banquet will take place on April 28, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the main Mission building of Haven of Rest Ministries, 175 E Market St in downtown Akron. Tickets to the event cost $6.00 and reservations are required. To make reservations or if you have any questions please contact Lynne Taylor at Haven of Rest at 330-535-1563 or ltaylor@havenofrest.org. You may also register online at www.havenofrest.org.

Bishop Joey Johnson
Guest Speaker

Friday, April 28, 2017
6:30 p.m.