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# RESCUE MISSION OF EL PASO

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## January 2017

Dear Friends,

The new year is a time to make resolutions of how we are going to change our lives and habits to make us better. JoJo came into the Rescue Mission last month. He has already made his new year's resolution, and he is taking steps now to ensure that 2017 will be a great year for him.

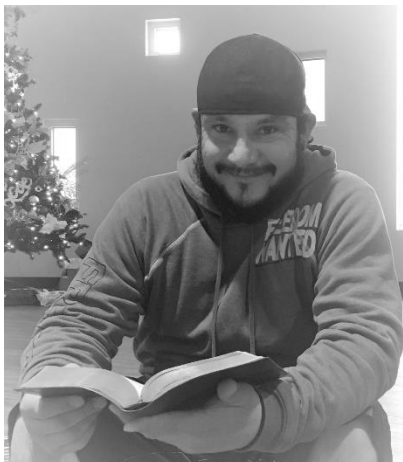
You see, JoJo has been on the run for over ten years. He was running from the bottle which kept destroying his ability to work and maintain stable housing. Sometimes he would move to a different city in hopes of starting over, but the bottle would catch up to him and destroy the little progress he had made. He knew about the Rescue Mission but he didn't want to come because he thought, "the Rescue Mission is for homeless people." He had an image in his brain of who people were who were homeless, and his pride kept telling him that he was better than those people.



"I finally came to the realization that it was all my fault. I was the one who kept reaching for the bottle. No one was forcing it on me, & whatever I had thought 'homelessness' meant, I was there. I was homeless myself."

JoJo will start the next class of the Rescue Mission's Relapse Prevention Program in January. "There will be other people just like me in the class. All of us are struggling with our addictions together, and, with God's help, we will find freedom from addictions together."

The Relapse Prevention Program is a 13-week long course that includes Bible studies and teaches people to spot the warning signs that they are falling back into their addictions. About 45 people a year enter the program. Amazingly, over 75% of those people are able to remain clean and sober throughout the 13-week course. The Program is followed by six months of aftercare when the participants will continue regular meetings with their counselors.



"Being accepted into the Program shows me God's grace. I have a plan now to overcome my addiction, but I have to take one step at a time. The Bible says to forsake foolishness and live. I am asking God to give me wisdom to understand myself more, including my emotions and my triggers. I'm done giving excuses. I have no excuses because it is my fault. I now have an opportunity to take new steps. God will *work* it out, but I have to *walk* it out. I see a new beginning and a new life walking with Christ."

Jojo