



## Walking in Love

By Joy Sylvester-Johnson

Jane Herring, a Vanderbilt divinity student, tells the story of a Pueblo ceremony that happens in times of hardship. The whole tribe climbs a mountain together. The men lead on horseback carrying all the supplies and the women follow, led by the grandmothers.

As they slowly climb, the grandmothers begin to sing and then to wail. No one speaks as they climb the mountain. "They are alone--together."

It is the cries of the grandmothers that accompany their three day journey. It is the cries of the grandmothers who change them. When they return, they are stronger.

Grieving is a part of loving-- a relief valve for the human spirit. When sorrow and suffering come, I have learned how important it is to open my heart to it. Those who try to avoid grief may think they are doing themselves a favor, but a heart numbed to grief, a mind in denial about loss will eventually harden. And as a result love will die.

Years ago Archie Bunker of 60's sitcom fame advised his daughter to get a goldfish when she really wanted a dog. You don't have to walk them or play with them and long before you get tired of them -- they die.

Millions of viewers laughed, including me. But the reality is that when you truly love someone, be it pet or person, eventually that love will involve loss, disappointment or sorrow. No one is exempt from suffering. And the irony is that the more the investment of love, the greater the potential for grief.

Herring makes a distinction between loving "deeply" in the face of suffering versus loving "anxiously." Loving deeply sometimes means standing in silent presence with the one who suffers. (This goes against my nature.) I want to do something to fix what is broken.

We humans at our worse, often seek to assign blame. And sometimes, rather than standing with those who suffer, we distance ourselves. How many times have I heard people say "I could not come to the Mission because seeing those children would break my heart?". I want to tell them that it is in the breaking of our hearts that our capacity to love is multiplied.

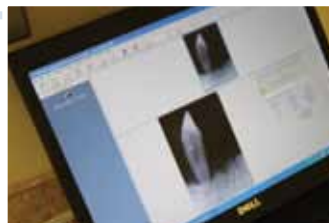
What we have learned here at the Mission is that when we stand with people in their time of sorrow, crisis and suffering--we are both comforted and uplifted. God stands with us. And as a result our love which is a result of

*Continued on back page*

## The Last Tooth

Jerry Ellis took it quite calmly. "It's in the way" he said as he prepared to have the tooth pulled - the last tooth of the last patient of a very busy day. Two volunteer dentists, three dental assistants, one intern and the Rescue Mission staff saw 21 patients and did 45 extractions in the Virginia Health Care Foundation dental wing at the Rescue Mission on January 22.

Laura Padgett the dental clinic coordinator is hopeful that soon the mission will be able to provide a dental clinic every Friday. "If every dentist volunteers just one day a year, we can get a lot of people out of pain". The Mission readies the initial exam and x-rays of our clients so that when a dentist becomes available, we have a list of those who are ready to be served. To volunteer in our Dental Clinic contact Laura Padgett at 777-7671 or [Laura.Padgett@rescuemission.net](mailto:Laura.Padgett@rescuemission.net)



**February 3**  
Thursday 5:30 p.m.  
MENistry - New Men's Group

**February 5**  
2nd Helpings  
Sat. 2-4 p.m. Artist Reception  
Barry Wolfe, Larry Mitchell

**February 13**  
Sunday, 2 p.m.  
Volunteer Appreciation

**February 24**  
2nd Helpings  
Thurs. 5-7 p.m. Designers  
Event with Larry Bly,  
Carol Fralin and others

**March 5**  
2nd Helpings  
Sat. 2 - 4 p.m. Artist Reception  
Olivia Kershaw Smith  
Betty Hancock Bright  
Donna Hancock

**March 10**  
5:30 p.m. EVE Network

**March 16 -**  
Wednesday, Noon  
Auxiliary Luncheon

**March 17**  
5:30 p.m. Bless My Sole

**March 28 -**  
Monday, Noon  
Pastors Lunch & Learn  
Diana Butler Bass

**April 2**  
2nd Helpings  
Sat. 2 - 4 p.m. Artist Reception

**April 2**  
Thursday 5:30 p.m.  
MENistry

**For More Information**  
Call (540) 343-7227  
[rescuemission.net](http://rescuemission.net)

2nd Helpings  
(540)491-9405 Shop/Gallery  
(540) 491- 9409 Cafe  
[2ndhelpings.org](http://2ndhelpings.org)

to receive this newsletter  
online visit  
[rescuemission.net](http://rescuemission.net)

Find us on Facebook 

# To Remember and Honor

For all who made contributions to the Rescue Mission in 2010 we thank God for you and remember you in our prayers . You are invited to visit our web site at [www.rescuemission.net](http://www.rescuemission.net) for the January listing of the Remembrance and Honor list.

## Volunteer!

- ▶ Children's Chapel Leaders  
Thursday and Fridays, 6:15-7:15 p.m.
- ▶ Chaperones to children as they visit the Science Museum Thursdays, 3:30-5 p.m.
- ▶ After School Helpers – Tuesdays 3-5 p.m.
- ▶ Breakfast Helpers – Tues. and Wed. 5:30 - 8 a.m.
- ▶ Bless My Sole Greeters, Runners, Foot Washers, Trimmers, and Musicians. 3rd Thursdays from 5 -7:30 p.m.
- ▶ Men's Shelter Helpers  
Friday, Saturday or Sunday 4:30- 10:30 p.m
- ▶ Dentists, Dental Assistants, Dental Clinic Helpers
- ▶ Men's Shelter Helpers

For more information contact Leslie Littlefield at 540-777-7651 or [leslie@rescuemission.net](mailto:leslie@rescuemission.net)

## Thank You for Making Mission Possible!

- ▶ Students from William Byrd High School scrubbed the Family Shelter walls and baseboards, put up a tree, and rolled change for the finance office
- ▶ 105 volunteers joyfully prepared and served our Christmas feast
- ▶ Many volunteer groups, including Blue Ridge Fellowship Youth, helped wrap, sort, and distribute Christmas presents
- ▶ Omega Zeta Chapter, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. donated personal grooming items, socks and gloves
- ▶ Members of the Spirit of Liberty Worship Center wrapped hundreds of gifts for our mission guests
- ▶ Heart-To-Heart Women's Ministry brought childrens books, bibles, and other gifts to the women and childrens' center
- ▶ Perfecting Unity Church donated handmade hats
- ▶ Dr. Dan Thompson and Dr. Wharton Ramsey want to invite other dentists to join them as they serve in the Mission's G. Wayne Fralin Dental Clinic providing dental care and ease suffering
- ▶ Brenda Hale, President of the local Chapter of the NAACP, gave an excellent talk to our auxiliary about Dr. Martin Luther King
- ▶ Wells Fargo Financial Advisors served lunch in the hospitality dining room for our guests



Including the Rescue Mission Ministries in your estate planning will create opportunities to reduce your tax liability and provide basic needs for families in crisis. Contact Lee Clark at 777-7687

*McAllister Family and friends made joyful music for our Christmas feast.*



# This Year Meet, Greet and Do Good.



## E.V.E. Network

Professional women gather every other month for an hour to learn about opportunities to take back to the workplace. This is also the group that sponsors the drumstick dash!

Next meeting: **Thurs. Feb. 10, 5:30.** Contact Uneita Mathews at 777-7657

## MENistry!

With a vision for mission this men's fellowship group takes on special projects that will make a difference for the mission for many years to come. Meeting every other month for an hour, they are the mission's connection to men in their churches, workplace, and civic groups.

Next meeting: **Thurs. February 3, 5:30.** Contact Lee Clark at 777-7687

## Ladies Auxiliary

A delightful luncheon with testimonies, a special speaker and the opportunity to learn and report back to your home church the needs of the mission. Meets 3rd Wednesday every other month.

Next meeting: **Wed. March 16, Noon.** Contact Leslie Littlefield at 777-7651

*Members of Ebenezer Baptist Church enthusiastically donated their time, talents and money to the Rescue Mission!*



*Students from area high schools joined members of Delta Sigma Theta to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in a day of service*



*Members of the Youth Philanthropy Project made blankets for the mission's welcome home baskets which are given to every family that is moving into a new home.*



*A Wells Fargo Financial employee serves chicken salad*



*Members of the Junior League served dinner and read bedtime stories. They also brought table favors, diapers, and wipes!*

# Hip Hip Hooray!

YOU ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE  
THOSE WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED  
in Making Mission Possible in 2010

**VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS  
THE RESCUE MISSION HOSPITALITY DINING  
ROOM**

**FEBRUARY 13, 2011  
2 P.M.**

## Another Year *continued from front page 1*

God's love grows bigger than our fear.

On December 27th my husband and I were planning an anniversary dinner (35 years) when he fell on the ice and suffered a traumatic brain injury. As I write this article for the February newsletter, I am sitting in an ICU at The Shepherd Center in Atlanta. I find myself living what Herring wrote about.

What kind of love does it take to sit by his bedside as he suffers?

John is receiving the best medical attention there is available. For now, I and all who love him, must wait as God uses time to heal his brain. What I have learned is that there is a special grace available to us in times like this. It enables us to see and hear and feel God in deeper ways and it brings peace to the chaos of life around us.

I have also experienced the Body of Christ in new ways as people from around the world have reached out to us, prayed for us and stood with us--day by day.

Powerlessness is not the same as hopelessness.

As the need to control gives way to a sincere dependence on God to

## Thrift Store

**RESCUE MISSION**  
ministries



- NEW Hollywood Shoes**
- Dog Accessories**
- NEW Children's Furniture**
- Clothes**
- Bric a Brac Galore!**
- Affordable Household Goods**
- Electronics**

**Spring Cleaning? Schedule a pick-up 540 343-7227**  
Located at 421 Fourth Street, SE Just off of 581 - take the Elm Ave Exit.

sustain us we learn to breathe the love of God in and out--extending the grace we have been given to others.

The good news is that God does not wait for us to figure it all out and be perfect before this miracle happens. Likewise, we cannot wait to begin loving in this deep way. Suffering is a portal. It is not a doorway I ever wanted to enter, but once taken--it leads to an amazing place.

So as Hallmark makes millions, as the boxes of chocolate disappear from the shelves and as every florist smiles, I want you to consider celebrating the day for lovers by opening yourselves up a bit more to the suffering of this world.

Your heart will be broken, but we know the Mender of broken hearts and we know that in loving deeply there are gifts to be had beyond our imaginations.

God is love.

John and Joy are posting daily on the Mission's face book page and the Mission's web page. They covet your prayers and thank you all for standing with them in this time.

## Wish List

New Duffle Bags

Diapers (size 5,6)

Feminine Supplies - Tampons

Pain Relievers  
(Tylenol, Naproxen, Ibuprofen) & cough drops

Ground Beef, Pork Loin, Pork Chops, Venison

## Meals and More

These numbers represent lives changed through God's blessings and your generosity in 2010!

	<b>2010</b>
Meals served	320,917
Shelter nights	112,267
Clothing & household items	25,790
Professions of faith	808
Volunteer hours	82,969
Class hours of instruction	26,162
Clinic patient visits	14,004
Value of health care provided	\$2,306,190
Case management visits	4,989
Legal clinic visits	30