

# HOPE FOR TODAY

HOPE RESCUE MISSION – READING, PA

EASTER 2020 EDITION

## “Hope Rescue has touched every part of my life.”

**S**am grew up in New Jersey and describes his mother as a supportive, protective, caregiver, and his father as an abusive, drug-addicted, member of the Hells Angels biker gang.

Sam was exposed to many unhealthy influences whenever his father was in town. He began experimenting with drugs at age 11.

As much as she tried, Sam’s mother could not shield him. After being thrown out of high school in the 9th grade, he found work in a mechanic shop. His growing knowledge and love of cars is something that Sam would always fall back on for employment.

Over the past 20 years, Sam has struggled with drugs and criminal activities and has spent half of those years incarcerated. While in jail, Sam made some positive decisions such as obtaining his GED and entering a specialized drug recovery program. After being released, Sam opened his own mechanic shop and got married.

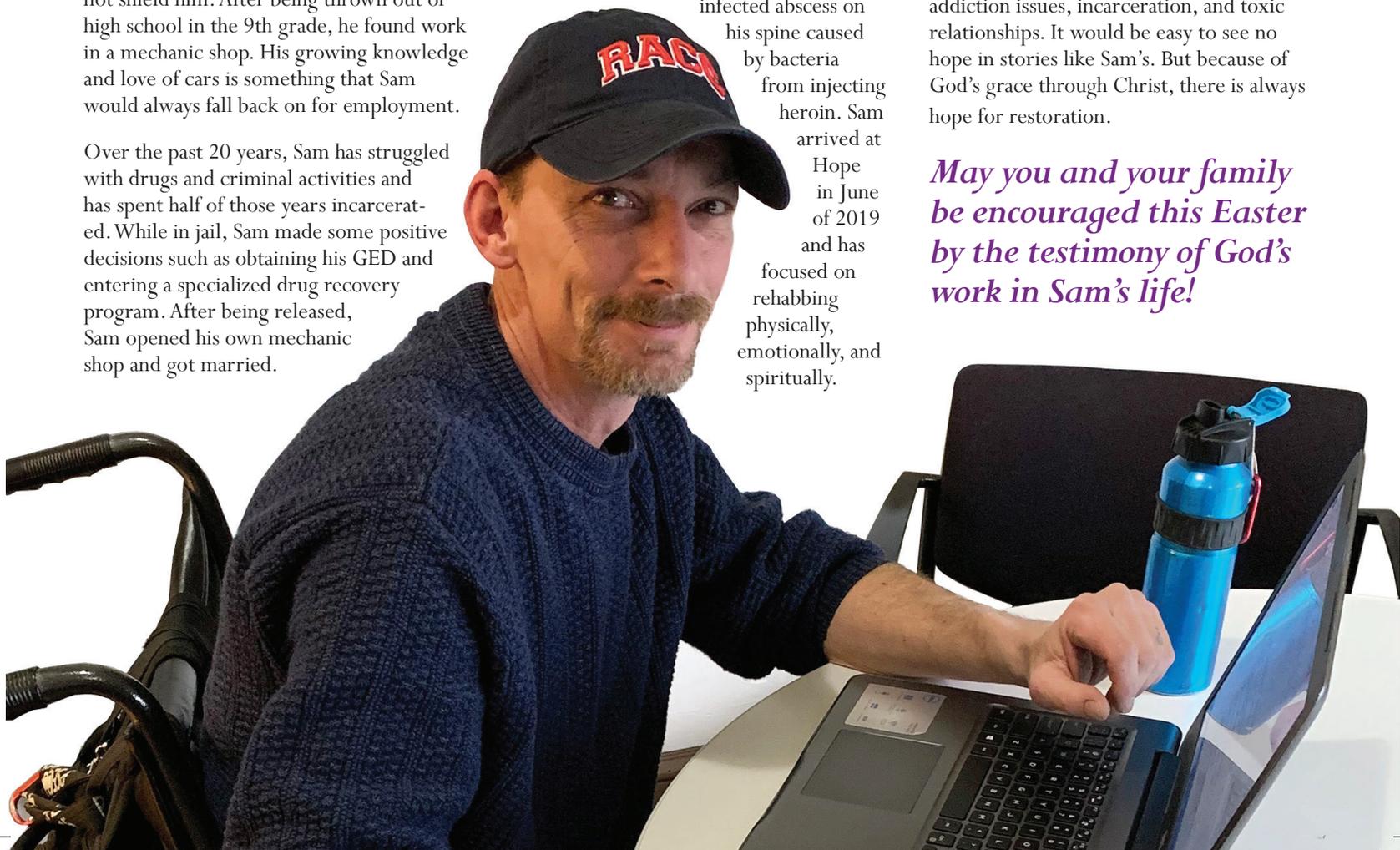
At the age of 37, Sam was in a very serious car accident that caused him to need major surgery and be put on a morphine pump. Once he was released from rehab, Sam struggled to maintain sobriety and turned back to opioid abuse. He spent the next few years battling addiction and legal troubles.

On New Year’s Day, 2018, Sam woke up paralyzed from the waist down due to an infected abscess on his spine caused by bacteria from injecting heroin. Sam arrived at Hope in June of 2019 and has focused on rehabbing physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

During his stay at Hope, he enrolled at RACC to become an addictions counselor. Sam attends chapels and other Bible studies to grow spiritually, as well as physical therapy with the hope of one day walking again on his own. Sam recently moved out and opened his own mechanic shop again!

So many men at Hope have stories like Sam’s. Unhealthy childhoods, addiction issues, incarceration, and toxic relationships. It would be easy to see no hope in stories like Sam’s. But because of God’s grace through Christ, there is always hope for restoration.

*May you and your family be encouraged this Easter by the testimony of God’s work in Sam’s life!*



# Campaign Update!

To date, we have raised over \$1,040,000 toward our \$3,000,000 goal to beginning construction on our new Women & Children's Shelter.



We are using TV commercials, social media, mailings, and word of mouth to reach those interested in helping us fill this need in our county. It has been exciting to see how the community is responding to help us meet our goal! If you are interested in donating toward our capital campaign, please visit our website. If you are interested in learning more about the future of LightHouse please email Gwen Didden at: [gdidden@hopeforreading.org](mailto:gdidden@hopeforreading.org)

## 7th Annual Daylight Savings Dash 5k

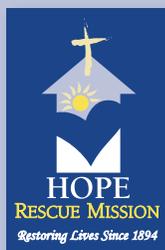


On the cold, windy morning of Saturday, March 7th, 240 runners and many more volunteers gathered at Penn State Berks to participate in our Daylight Savings Dash 5k! We raised just over \$30,000 for the work we do at Hope Rescue Mission. A very special thank you to Adams & Associates, LCBC-Berks, East Penn Manufacturing, Unique Pretzels, and Essig Plumbing and Heating for being our race sponsors this year!



## Thank You to Volunteers!

During the coldest months of the year, we have averaged 250 men sleeping at Hope Rescue every night. We would like to thank everyone who has donated food, clothing, toiletries, and volunteer hours to make this possible!  
**THANK YOU!**



For more information and caring ways for you to support the Hope Rescue Mission, plus a list of most-needed items, visit our Web site:

[www.HopeForReading.org](http://www.HopeForReading.org)

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