



Restoring Lives in Jesus' Name

Alone in the freezing cold

Ray's cries for help were answered by God and YOU!

For five straight days, Ray yelled for help.

He was living in a tent in the woods next to the interstate. It was the middle of winter, and between the snow and rain, everything in his camp was damp and wet.

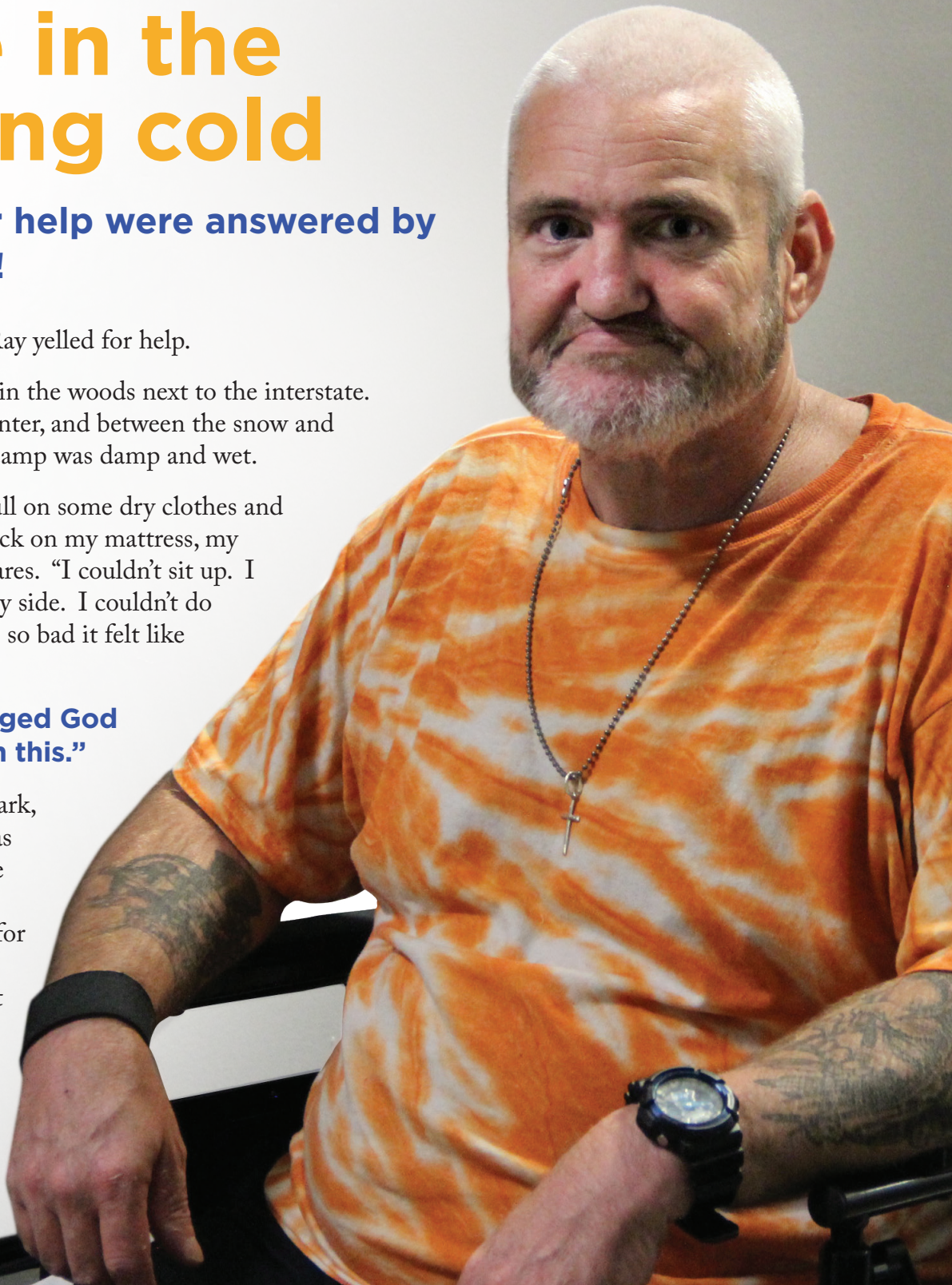
Ray had sat down to pull on some dry clothes and shoes. "When I laid back on my mattress, my back went out," Ray shares. "I couldn't sit up. I couldn't turn over on my side. I couldn't do anything. The pain was so bad it felt like my spine was broken."

"I prayed and begged God to pull me through this."

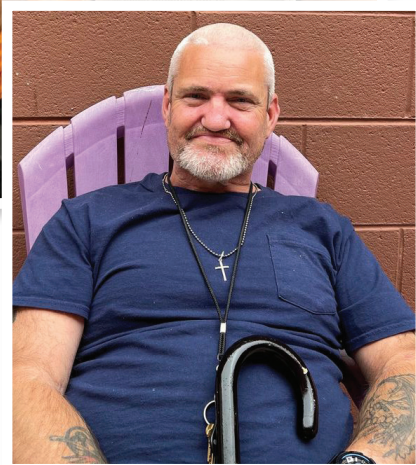
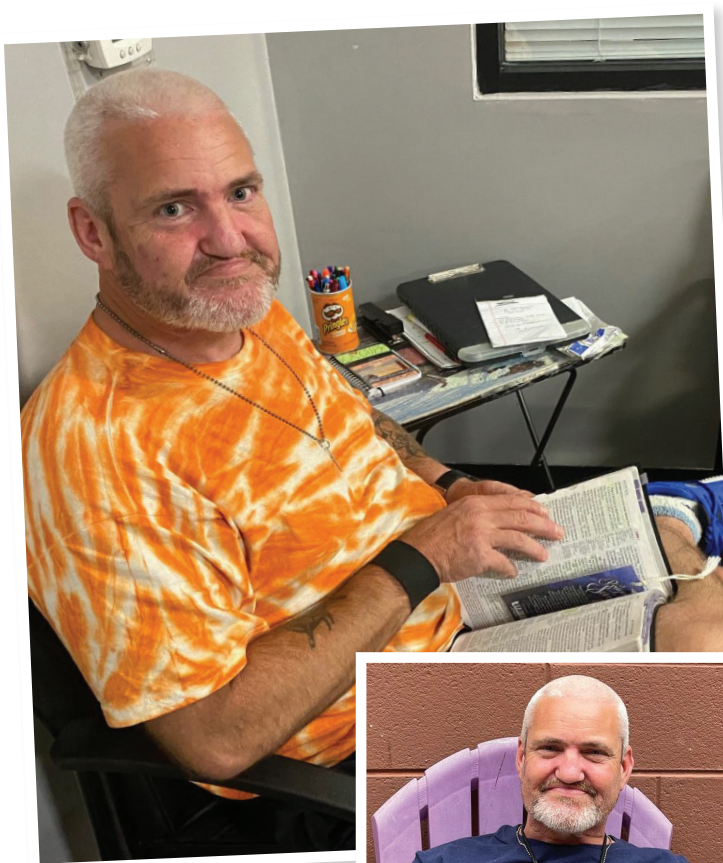
It had started getting dark, and the temperature was dropping. Ray knew he was in trouble. That's when he began calling for someone—anyone—to come to his rescue. But no one heard him.

"Day three came around," Ray recalls. "Shortly after

continued inside ▶



What a life-changing experience... (continued from front)



daybreak, I heard moving around in the tent.” He was hopeful his rescuer had come, but the man rummaging around proceeded to take all of Ray’s valuables. “Everything had been turned over, gone through and anything worth anything had been taken,” Ray says.

That night was sleepless. Memories from Ray’s past came flooding back to him. He hadn’t had an easy life. Treatment for cancer in his mouth had left him with a speech impediment. With three failed marriages, he’d struggled for years with drug and alcohol addiction. He’d wandered away from God, tried to do life on his own and failed miserably. Right then, he felt more alone than ever—and needed the Lord’s help!

By morning, Ray’s pain was even worse. He was cold, soaking wet and still not able to move. “I figured it would be a waste of time yelling for help, but I did it anyway,” he says. “I prayed and begged God to pull me through this.”

“All I had was a sleeping bag.”

Ray spent one more night helpless in his cold tent. The next day, Ray heard a car stop and a voice asking if he needed help. “Yes!” Ray yelled back. “I need medical help. I’m hurt and

can’t move.” An ambulance was called and Ray was rushed to the hospital. After two weeks of medical treatment, Ray was released to a place where he was bullied by a group of younger guys. Unable to defend himself, Ray decided it was best to leave. In the middle of the night he rolled his wheelchair four miles away and slept outside.

“It had gotten down into the teens that night, the wind was strong and all I had was a sleeping bag, no tent, no nothing. I didn’t sleep at all because if I slept I would’ve frozen to death. So I stayed awake and would move around from time to time to warm up some,” Ray remembers.

After spending all night in the freezing cold with no shoes, the following morning, Ray’s feet were full of infection. He was readmitted to the hospital for several more weeks of care.

With no home to be released to, the medical social worker recommended Ray go to the Respite Center at KARM, a center for men recovering from hospital treatment. (KARM’s Respite Center is made possible through a partnership with Covenant Health and a grant from Trinity

Health Foundation of East Tennessee.)

Ray arrived at Respite with no personal belongings—only the worn, dirty clothes on his back.

“What a life-changing experience . . . not only healing me on the outside, but on the inside as well.”

After several months of recovery, he feels like a new person. “What a life-changing experience this has been, not only healing me on the outside, but healing me on the inside as well,” he says. “They have taken really good care of me and have given me the best chance for starting over.”

Today, Ray says, “When I leave here I will be both sad and joyful, but blessed to be starting my new chapter in life.”

Thanks to your support, Ray experienced the power of healing care and restoration at KARM—not just physically—but spiritually and emotionally.

This winter, every \$1.87 you give brings a homeless neighbor like Ray in from the cold to a warm meal, compassionate care and a second chance at life! Please give today!

GOD NEVER LEFT HIM ALONE



BURT ROSEN
CEO

Even in the midst of Ray yelling for help for five days straight—when he felt absolutely alone—God never left him. Even though Ray

wandered away, God never abandoned him.

The Lord so deeply loves each person sleeping on the streets this winter. As the biting wind whips their face and the freezing snow chills their hands and feet, God is right there with them in the middle of their pain and suffering. He would give anything for them to open their hearts to him. In fact, he did give everything! He gave his only Son, Jesus, as a sacrifice for each of our sins in order to reconcile us to his heart.

As the temperatures drop, the need for our compassion increases. Through your giving to KARM, we can invite them in from the cold to the warmth of God’s love, his forgiveness and his desire to bring restoration to every part of their lives.

Thank you for your heart to see men and women restored and redeemed through the healing power of Jesus.



Winters are dangerous for our homeless neighbors

Living on the streets of the Knox area can be deadly in wintertime. Help bring our homeless neighbors in from the cold by giving to KARM today.



6"

Avg. inches of snow each winter



29°F

January’s average low temperature



25 MINUTES

to develop frostbite in 30-degree weather

Help keep our neighbors SAFE and WARM

Your gift offers shelter from the COLD!

When temperatures turn cold, your donations help provide warmth, comfort and protection from the harsh elements. Below are items we need most to care for our homeless neighbors this winter:



GLOVES



TOWELS



WARM SOCKS



Freezing temperatures make winter a miserable season for neighbors living on our streets. For those in the Knoxville area who are hungry and living outdoors, your support gives them a safe place to escape inside, away from the elements.

Every \$1.87 you give provides a warm meal and compassionate care at KARM—along with an opportunity to find lasting freedom! With each meal served comes an invitation for men and women to get off the streets for good and find healing in Christ through programs designed to address the root causes of homelessness and addiction.

Help feed someone who has lost all hope for just \$1.87 per meal.

But please don't wait. With bitter winter weather expected, our neighbors need your help!

Give now to feed and care for the homeless in our community this winter.

CRITICALLY NEEDED



TWIN FLAT SHEETS



SHAMPOO



UNDERWEAR



TOOTH-BRUSHES

The simple comforts of everyday items can make a big difference. Thank you!

3 WAYS TO GIVE



Knox Area Rescue Ministries
P.O. Box 3310
Knoxville, TN 37927-3310



Visit us online at karm.org and give right away.



To give by phone, please call **865-673-6540**.

STAY CONNECTED



New look. Same ministry!

Over the years, KARM has grown and evolved to address the increasing causes and problems of homelessness. Our new logo reflects that we are, in essence, one mission with many ministries. It also continues to honor the source of KARM's ministry—the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.



Restoring Lives in Jesus' Name



BEREA



SERENITY MINISTRIES



KARM WORKS



ABUNDANT LIFE CATERING



LAUNCHPOINT



VOLUNTEER



KARM CARE



OUTREACH



THE THRIFT STORE WITH A MISSION

If you can donate any of these items, please bring them to KARM at 418 N. Broadway, Knoxville, TN 37917. For more information, call 865.673.6540.