



Oliver Gospel

HOLIDAY 2022

# NEWSLETTER

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## Shelter from the Storm

**A**nthony wrapped his worn coat tighter as he glanced anxiously up at the storm clouds rolling in above him. It was going to be a long, cold, rainy night. His back was already aching from his “bed,” a park bench in the middle of downtown. As he drifted off to sleep, he prayed, *Lord, please protect me from this storm...*

[Read more..... P.2](#)



## Shelter from the Storm, cont.

When he woke up, his fingers and toes were so stiff from the cold that he could barely feel them. Through bleary eyes, he saw large tree limbs and debris scattered around him.

**Not a single branch touched him.** He couldn't believe it—God had answered his prayer. In the most unexpected way, God had provided shelter.

Several months later, Anthony found himself waking up in a hospital bed with nurses hovering over him, coaxing him to breathe. *How did he get here?* Yet again, God had rescued and preserved his life. *But why?*

Anthony battled drug addiction. It was why he spent

winter on the park bench, struggled to sustain a job, and ended up in the hospital. He felt hopeless. As he lay in the hospital room, reality sank in. God had protected him for a purpose – a purpose he had been ignoring for years. Right there, Anthony resolved to **change his life.**

He learned about Oliver Gospel while he was in the hospital. As soon as he was well, he began our recovery program, designed to educate, equip, and support men, leading to recovery from addiction.

**Today, Anthony is sober.** He is learning how to study his Bible, hungry for the truth it holds. Where he once felt overtaken by

the storms of life, he now has peace. Through coaching and classes, Anthony is equipped to make wise decisions.

He leans on the positive community at Oliver Gospel for accountability and support. **“Oliver Gospel gave me a fighting chance for a new life.** If it wasn't for Oliver Gospel, I would have been dead.” Anthony is looking to his future with hope and faith; hope to become a positive light for his family, friends, and coworkers, and faith that God never fails in sheltering us from the storm.

“Oliver Gospel gave me a fighting chance for a new life”

## TIS THE SEASON FOR GIVING!

If you, your family, or your church donate items from the list below, TOGETHER we can make this the best holiday season yet!

- TURKEYS
- HAMS
- PUMPKIN PIE
- WATER BOTTLES
- DINNER ROLLS
- BOXED STUFFING
- #10 CANS OF VEGETABLES

Call our kitchen manager to set up your drop-off time! (803) 254-6470 ext. 1030





# OLLIE'S CORNER

- Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8
- What does God tell us to do in these verses? How are we supposed to do it?
- What can you give to someone in need this winter?

## DID YOU KNOW?

We serve more people during the holidays than any other time of year! By donating as little as \$2.17, you can provide a meal and hope this holiday season. Send your gift today!



## The Greatest Gift

The presents under the Christmas tree glittered before Talaya's eyes. She was dazzled. She arrived at Oliver Gospel's center for women and children, Toby's Place, with nothing but the clothes on her back and her 4-month-old daughter, having spent her entire pregnancy homeless. **She was exhausted.** She craved consistency for her daughter and herself.

As a child, Talaya was abused and neglected by her parents. By 15, she was placed in foster care. **Consistency was a luxury she never had.** As an adult, Talaya turned to substance abuse to numb the pain and cope with her past. When her daughter was born, she knew she had to do whatever it took to care for her.

Maybe I will find consistency here, Talaya thought as she walked up the stairs to her new room. A few weeks later, at the Toby's Place Christmas party, Talaya was handed one of the presents that had caught her eye on her first day. Tears welled up in her eyes instantly.

*"I never expected to get anything for Christmas ... Everyone here welcomed me and my child ... I have never been given so much in my life."*

Talaya looked around the room full of smiling faces and laughter and knew she had found a home that gave her the consistency she was seeking.



“ Everyone here welcomed me and my child ”

## WARM FOR WINTER

Those experiencing homelessness need to prepare for the cold, just like you and me. Many cannot afford winter coats, blankets, or even gloves and hats. **Bring warmth to someone's life by donating winter supplies:**



Contact our Community Engagement Coordinator to schedule your drop-off!  
 (803) 254-6470 ext. 1200  
 christian.albertsen@olivergospel.org



## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

“When I think about the popular Christmas tune “Home for the Holidays,” I am reminded of the important work happening at Oliver Gospel Mission – where men, women, and children experience the feeling of **home** because Christ’s love is demonstrated and received. Every present given, every decoration hung, and every song sung brings love and warmth to our guests who otherwise would be out in the cold with no place to call home. I am overjoyed to see them have a home for the holidays and a new

anticipation for their future.

The holiday season is the perfect time to celebrate the men and women working hard toward permanent housing! This year, we are celebrating **over 30 residents** who have moved into their very own homes! They truly understand that there is “no place like home for the holidays.”

**I am so grateful for your role in supporting Oliver Gospel Mission so that every man, woman, and child in need has a place to call home. ”**

God bless,

TRAVIS MCNEAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## TO PRAY FOR:

- Pray that God would continue to provide food and supplies needed to care for those in need through the winter.
- Pray for those who don't have families to spend the holidays with. Pray they will feel the love of Christ in some way.
- Pray for our community in Columbia as we all prepare to meet the increased need for shelter during the winter.



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