



## A NEW LIFE IN A NEW PLACE

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“There is something powerful in this place if you are open to it!”

Gabriel now knows that “**something**” is the love of God. He’s found deliverance after 25 years of addiction to crystal meth.

He loves the opportunity to be in regular Bible study at Bridge Street Mission. “It’s a peaceful and safe haven where I can set my own atmosphere and focus on the positive,” Gabriel says. He says recent program enhancements at the Mission help him grow both spiritually and in his life skills.

Gabriel came from Arizona to Wausau two years ago, already sober for one year. He knew our Chaplain Ben Paris, who was helping Gabriel in recovery while in Arizona. “There was too much







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## WHERE JOURNEYS OF COMPASSION MEET

As a community rescue mission, Bridge Street Mission serves both people who are in need, as well as those who want to help.

With the love of Christ, we serve hundreds of people who come to us for nutritious meals, a safe place to rest, shelter and sober living support. We help with their physical needs and encourage them spiritually through our Christ-centered programming.

It is not enough to just meet their immediate needs. Our goal is life transformation. We help them move to where they can sustain a stable life and become a healthy contributor to society. We want them to be the person God designed them to be.

This is possible, even for the most desperate situation, through the transforming power of the Gospel. We follow the example of Jesus, who “saw the multitude,” “felt compassion for them,” met their physical need and “began to teach them many things.” One example is the miraculous feeding of 5,000 men and their families in Mark 6, starting with just five loaves of bread and two fish.

Just as important, however, is our service to those who want to help others. You don’t have to look far to see the needs around us. With the eyes and heart of Christ, most of us are moved to compassion. But what should we do to help in the best way? What does the most good, and is what I can offer going to make a difference?

That is when our journey of compassion merges with your journey of compassion. At Bridge Street Mission, we are a community of compassionate givers – some with time and talents, some with gifts and resources – who collectively provide services that meet the immediate need of Wausau’s hurting people, and begin to move people toward transformation.

By merging our missions, we are able to live out the most effective compassion.

Craig Vincent  
Executive Director

## JOIN US FOR ‘MISSION MERGE’

Mission Merge happens on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month. Join us from 6-8 PM at our Outreach Center (115 W. Bridge St.) Each evening includes a hot, hearty meal, music, a testimony of a transformed life, and presentation on a relevant topic (see topics below).

- Aug 20     Hunger
- Sept 17    Addiction
- Oct 15     Homelessness
- Nov 19     Community Partnerships
- Dec 17     Christmas Banquet



Bridge Street Mission  
115 W. Bridge St.  
Wausau WI 55401

## A Sample of our Studies... from Todd Van Ryn

### WHINING OR WINNING

We have been “tripping” through the Psalms, looking at how people deal with reality in a very personal way. Many of the psalms were composed by David, “a man after God’s own heart.” These psalms often are raw with transparency and have a variety of themes.

We approached it like having access to the writer’s journal. From one day to another...

- they complain about life
- they praise God for all the evidence they had seen of Him that day
- they air their dirty laundry about an enemy or acquaintance
- they speak of God’s divine qualities.

In Psalm 78, for example, we traced the nation Israel’s ups and downs in their relationship with God. We drew quite a few parallels between their struggles and what caused them, and our struggles and their causes. One example...

- *They did not keep God’s covenant and refused to walk according to His law. They forgot His works and the wonders that He had shown them.* (vv. 10-11)

For us, if we choose not to live according to God’s instructions and then forget how amazingly He has blessed us, we end up in a mess! Then we cry out to Him, asking for help—sometimes with an arrogant attitude of entitlement, which gets us nowhere -- and God in His mercy and grace steps in and gets us out of the mess.

But usually these victories are short-lived, not because of Him, but because of us! It’s like we can’t stand success His way! In spite of all His help, we soon find ourselves like them:

- *They sinned still more against Him, rebelling against God... They tested God in their heart by demanding the food they craved, They spoke against God... taunting Him!* (vv. 17-19)

The more we fight God, the more angry we get... with Him, as if it’s on Him. We rebel all the more, we test God, we make demands of Him, we speak against God and taunt Him. We never give God what He deserves: our commitment and surrender to Him.

- *Their heart was not steadfast toward Him; they were not faithful to His covenant. Yet He, being compassionate, atoned for their iniquity and did not destroy them.* (vv. 37-38)

When we truly examine our life with a right mind, God’s compassion and forgiveness should always rise to the forefront. We often need discipline and self control to keep these positive thoughts instead of Satan’s lies and our negative memories. They are key to experiencing life as God intended. Life is best and most enjoyed when it’s all about Him!



### What We Need Most...

#### Big Ticket Items:

- VoIP Phone System (\$800)
- Basketball Hoop (\$500)
- Vending Machine (\$4,000)

#### And Everyday Needs:

- Meat and fresh fruit/vegetables
- Canned and frozen foods
- Paper products (plates, bowls, napkins and paper towels)
- Plastic forks, spoons, and knives
- Shampoo, soap and toiletries (deodorant, dental hygiene)
- Twin-size bed linens, pillows and blankets
- Towels and washcloths

#### Volunteers:

- Facilitators for core program curriculum
- Food service volunteers
- Event Planner
- Friday receptionist and office help
- Shuttle Drivers for Sober Living Center
- Prepared meals for Celebrate Recovery



## A NEW LIFE IN A NEW PLACE (cont. from cover)

temptation in my familiar surroundings,” Gabriel says.

At first, Gabriel tried to live on his own in Wausau, but the only places he could afford were negative environments for someone recovering from addiction. Ben introduced Gabriel to our Sober Living Center, where he has thrived.

In his new drug- and alcohol-free life, Gabriel regularly attends a local church’s Celebrate Recovery group

and is pursuing membership in the local electrical union. He is working hard to save money to clean up some debts from his troubled past.

For Gabriel, it’s a fresh start. A new life in a new place... with his temporary home at our Sober Living Center to help make it all possible.

With God, our ministry and the support of friends like you, men like Gabriel find hope after years of turmoil and trouble in their lives.  
**THANK YOU.**



Ben (in background) joined our staff, and Gabriel soon came along to a new home, and new life.

## 2021 UPDATE REGARDING GIFTS FROM YOUR IRA

This year, anyone over 70 ½ years old can give any amount up to \$100,000 per year from your IRA directly to qualifying charities, including Bridge Street Mission, without having to pay income taxes on the money.

This popular gift option is known as a qualified charitable distribution (QCD), or commonly called the IRA charitable rollover. After being waived for 2020 by the CARES Act, required minimum distributions (RMD) from retirement accounts resumed in 2021. If you are 72 or older, your qualified charitable distribution can satisfy all or part of your RMD.

Always consult with a financial advisor for questions regarding gifts from your IRA or any charitable gifts.



**GET YOUR FOURSOME TOGETHER!**

**7TH ANNUAL**

**BRIDGE STREET MISSION**  
Christ-Centered Help for Those in Need

**GOLF OUTING**

**Register Online at [bridgestreetmission.org/golf-outing](https://bridgestreetmission.org/golf-outing)**

**Crane Meadows Golf Course**  
8103 Weston Avenue, Weston

**Wednesday, August 25th, 2021**  
10:30am - 3:30pm

**\$240 Per Foursome**  
Includes: 9-Hole Scramble, Silent Auction, Lunch & Hole Events

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