

## **The Continuing Saga of Ricky Post and the Becoming of a Guiding Light Mission Brat**

If you recall from previous communications, Ricky developed a case of frost-bite when he fell asleep after consuming too much alcohol while under the Wealthy Street Bridge. Ricky was treated by the caring staff at St. Mary's and released to Guiding Light Mission.

Ricky's release was the impetus that created the dialogue between the St. Mary's Discharge Team and Guiding Light Mission. Ricky had been given two prescriptions, one was an antibiotic and the second was Vicodin. Guiding Light Mission is not equipped to handle an additive prescription such as Vicodin. After working with Brad Mathis and Susan Couzens they were able to prescribe a non-additive medication.

As I learned several weeks after Ricky arrival, he had made a comment to someone close to The Mission that he was not going to be subjected to "that Christian junk" at Guiding Light Mission.

Ricky has been with us for eight weeks;

- He has not had a drink in eight weeks and vows never to return to alcohol. This has been affirmed on several occasions by his GLM peer group.
- Today Ricky rarely misses a chapel service.
- Recently Ricky gave his testimony in chapel.
- Ricky has become a "giver" vs. "taker".
- He is enrolled in a five day per week GED class at Guiding Light Mission.
- He has reconciled with his family, a family with grandchildren he has not seen in two years. As he shared with a stranger and I on Friday, being with his family was a greater high than any cheap alcohol could ever provide.
- Ricky also proudly announced that he has been labeled a Guiding Light Mission Brat, a label other community men bestow upon individuals who are alcohol free and committed to the Lord. If Ricky can live with the label, so can I!

*Guiding Light Mission exists to create a healing experience that allows individuals to discover a new life in Christ. We expect re-engagement in community. We provide food and shelter to all and resources to men that support their social, physical, spiritual and intellectual needs.*

Ricky will be going into St. Mary's for surgery on Tuesday to fuse several of his toes together. Our prayers will be with Ricky.