

December 2018 Update

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We're bringing people together in Rockwood to ensure that no one is invisible and that everyone has access to food, freedom, and forgiveness.

This is part of the PREVENTION side of our anti-trafficking efforts, dovetailing nicely with our Integrated Community Transformation mission.

We envision Rockwood becoming a community where children are less vulnerable to being trafficked and adults do not want to traffick kids.

Brian* did not grow up in the most stellar of families. When he was 5 years old, his father started giving him beer at parties in their home because he thought it was funny (and entertaining for the guests) to watch his little son get drunk. Brian is a grown man now with grown children. He has been (understandably) struggling, and frequently losing, the battle of alcoholism all his life.

He has been attending a couple of very Gospel-centered churches for the last several years, but in spite of being in Bible studies, classes, and marriage groups with his wife, only very recently did Brian "have the light go on" concerning his need to personally place his trust in Jesus. For years he had been hearing about "giving it all over" to Jesus but did not understand. After I asked Brian to share his "story" with me over a cup of coffee, I was struck by the absence of any indication he had truly been born again.

After asking some clarifying questions, I shared the "bridge illustration" with him on a napkin from the coffee shop. He was amazed (and so was I) that he had never before seen nor understood this illustration and its meaning. He had always felt like more of an "outsider looking in" to the family of God than an insider struggling from within. For the first time he realized that this whole thing about relationship with God was more about him TRUSTING what Jesus had already DONE and less about him trying harder.

Brian is not the kind of guy who feels comfortable praying out loud but after praying together in my car to ask Jesus to be his Lord, and God to be his father, he turned to me with tears in his eyes and said, "I never experienced that before. I feel like I really have a father for the first time in my life."

Thank you for praying for Brian's growth, deliverance, and deepening intimacy with the Lord.

* = Pseudonym



We had an excellent visit with Kendra's family for one month!!

we had an excellent visit with Renita's family for one month!! Steve stayed for 2 weeks and the girls were able to stay for 4 before they returned to Scotland.

Scott's "Sorta Sabbatical" was neither a complete success nor a complete failure, and he was able to get some direction about a discipleship focus for the new year (more on that in the next update).

We want to thank YOU again for your partnership in this ministry. Because of YOU, people like Brian are coming to know Christ, grow in him, and hopefully join us in seeing God's Kingdom come to Rockwood. We want to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and God's best in the New Year!

ONE COLLECTIVE

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** Family/Ministry Website (www.imccracken.net/)--CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE

** Team Ministry (<https://onecollective.org/community/rockwood-usa>)

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