

Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:13-14



2022: A new year, a new beginning. A new year is a time to reflect on the past and a time to make goals and resolutions in the hopes to make changes for the betterment of ourselves. According to recent research, while 45% of Americans say they usually make New Year's resolutions, only 8% are successful in achieving their goals. Why is that?

In the beginning of Philippians 3, Paul's ambition is to achieve perfection and though he has yet to obtain it, *he also doesn't expect to be perfect before he dies*. Instead, he uses the analogy of a runner in a race to depict the motivation of his spiritual life.

Like a dedicated runner, Paul has a single goal. Just as a runner cannot be successful unless they focus on the finish line, neither can we be successful if we are focused on the past. In much the same way as fellow Christ followers, we can look back on this previous year and notice everything we did wrong, keeping our focus on what lies behind, or we can learn from our mistakes and look ahead, *keeping our focus on the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus*.

As we reflect on 2021 here at Panama City Rescue Mission, we choose to press on towards the goal of our Mission; to **RESCUE, RECOVER, and RESTORE Lives in Our Community**. To help move people from suffering to flourishing through the life transformation of knowing Jesus Christ, and by empowering clients with the education, training, and resources that will lead to successful of living a life of sobriety, with stable employment, and secure housing.

Knowing that the steps taken today guide the future, we go forward with the assurance that **Jesus Christ** has gone before us and paved the way. We are excited for this brand-new year and have set our sights higher than ever before. As God walks before us, come walk beside us.

Because of you, hundreds of women and children moved from suffering to flourishing in 2021. But there are hundreds of men left without a place to go this winter. **YOU CAN HELP!** Reopening the Men's shelter can be achieved together. The generous donations **YOU'VE GIVEN** are the reason we've come this far. With your continued support, together we will provide the help the suffering men in our community so desperately need.

Let's press on toward the goal of reopening the men's shelter so we can provide an environment where the compassion and love of Jesus Christ heals and equips people to be successful in overcoming life's adversities.

With deepest gratitude,



Stephen Fett
President & CEO