



Dear friends,

A hulking six foot four
Columbia native we'll call
Tom trudged up to one of our
members on Main Street
months ago asking for a
smoke. Brewer offered him a
hot cup of coffee and a seat
in the worship service
instead. Tom obliged that
day and every Sunday since.

Nobody knew it at the time,
but Tom was suicidal. A
decade of popping painkillers
left him penniless, estranged
from family, and utterly



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depressed. After a recent stroke rendered his right side slack, Tom checked into a homeless shelter, Transitions, a couple blocks from our church's meeting space. Crammed into a thirty-man room with the underbelly of Columbia, Tom nursed the idea of killing himself. He just wasn't sure how to do it.

That chance Sunday morning invitation broke a death wish. As Tom came week after week, he developed a friendship with another member, Stan. The two would grab lunch and talk about life, family, and faith. That ultimately led to Stan, Tom, and I leaning over Romans 5 together, sharing about what it means to have "peace with God."

Tom said, "I want peace with God today." And God gave it.

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in

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the highest and on earth
peace among those with
whom he is pleased!" (Luke
2:13-14)

David

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412 Cumberland Dr Columbia, SC 29203

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