

HEZEKIAH WILCOXSON



CLARA WHITE MISSION, JACKSONVILLE, FL

Hezekiah Wilcoxson, a native of Havana, Florida. He joined the army on October 8, 1980 and was discharged October 8, 1983. He was stationed at Fort Jackson and enjoyed the life of a family man and serving his country. He mentioned that being married and being in the military made him grounded.

Unfortunately, after he was discharged, his perfect family life was shattered by the death of his wife, whom he loved dearly. He found that coping and living without her was very challenging, which led to a spiraling life of drugs. To soothe his pain, he began using “crack” cocaine.

He moved to Tallahassee to run away. He immediately began a new job and almost everyday, he used drugs. He eventually, lost his job and started stealing to support his habit. He was arrested for the possession of drugs and served three months in jail. He was also, placed in a rehabilitation program to combat his addiction. After he completed his sentence/rehab program, he moved to Jacksonville, Florida for a fresh start and enrolled in the Clara White Mission Culinary Arts Training /Transitional Housing Program, which is supported by the Veterans Administration. He adjusted well and excelled in the program.

Three days after graduation he was employed by Morning Star Foods, three months later he saved his money and moved into his own apartment. Three years clean, Mr. Wilcoxson has met his personal and career goals. He has found himself and got his life back.