



YOUR GIFT—THE CROSS

This gift is nothing fancy
Yet made with special hands.
Made by a man named Rusty,
Who once was a homeless man.
“Lost Sheep” gave him love
And there he met his friend.

Jesus took the pieces
And started him on the mend.
Giving him a new life
Along side his beautiful wife.
So when you see this cross
And need a special friend
Just reach out to Jesus
For he will take you in.

Luke 15:6

And when he comes home
He calls together his friends
And his neighbors saying....
“Rejoice with me
For I have found my sheep
Which was lost”.

Rusty & Janis Stone

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*“This young man has found his connection with his Creator.
He is in the grip of Grace !!”*

WBIR STORY COPY

Each day Rusty Stone turns his garage into a sanctuary, where he makes beautiful crosses. Every time he looks at one, it takes him back. It all started at age 14.

"I mainly was on cocaine and alcohol," he says. "I ended up homeless and on the streets."

There were years of loneliness until one day Lost Sheep Ministries found him. They sent him to a Christian drug rehab program in Texas, and that's where he learned to build crosses.

"I take everything and stain it, and sand it, and just come up with different colors."

Stained glass, porcelain, and pieces of broken mirror add color to the crosses.

"The broken mirror is actually my favorite because it was the way my life was," Rusty says. "I was broken in pieces and useless as the little pieces of broken mirror, but when I came to ask Jesus into my life to be my savior, he pieced me back together and made a beautiful thing out of me."

Rusty has been clean from drugs and alcohol for four years, and has since gotten married to the love of his life.

"That is also, besides Jesus, one of the greatest blessings for me," he says. "I don't have to worry about the lonely times."

Rusty has introduced a lot of people to Jesus through his crosses. The crosses help support Lost Sheep Ministries, but he says it's about more than just selling a cross. He recalls meeting a man at a flea market three years ago, who picked up one of his crosses at a booth.

"He actually started getting teary eyed and he looked at me and he said, 'I have to go.'"

Three years passed, and Rusty never saw the man again, until this past March.

"This man came up and gave me a big old hug and he said, 'I actually gave my life to the lord at your table.'"

After years of loneliness, Rusty has gained more friends than he could have ever imagined. It's all because of a cross and a friend whose love is greater than his past.