



Lighthouse News

April 2018

Issue 4, Volume 69

*You have been
a refuge for the poor,
a refuge for the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the storm
and a shade from the heat.*

Isaiah 25:4 (NIV)

Read Joseph's Story on page 3

Your Efforts Matter

One of my great joys is sitting down to lunch with the disciples. I try to join them at least once a week. I like to hear their stories; how they arrived at the Mission, what they have learned here, and what their challenges have been since coming into the Academy program. During that time I enjoy great food, great conversation, and receive a lot of *spiritual food* as I hear the stories of how God is working and transforming their hearts. God is fully present in their experiences. He is working through all of the bits and pieces of training and structure we offer, reshaping perspectives and bringing purpose and meaning to their lives. For many, it's an unvarnished faith. It's still raw and filled with new learnings. We might call these their first baby steps; exciting and inspiring.

I recently asked Sam (a pseudonym) what brought him to the Mission. He's in his 30's, is a college graduate, had been successful in a few things, but continued to struggle as alcohol and drug addiction destroyed his life. He came to the Mission 4 weeks ago when he realized he needed help. At the heart of his story are all the relationships he now values. His life is being changed because people care. He now has a mentor, a counselor, favorite teachers, and new friends. Most are volunteers! Extraordinary, loving people, like you, who give of themselves because they know Sam's life has value. He is still working on this new way of life. And because YOU CARE and because others just like you are taking time to be part of his life, Sam is discovering the joy of a faith-filled sober life.

Perhaps you have always been a generous person, knowing that by sharing your gifts and resources you are making a difference. Have you ever wanted to meet the person your gifts touched? We encourage our supporters and volunteers to get to know our disciples as they help meet the needs of those needing help. We want to encourage anyone who serves with us to take the time to get to know those being served. Ask to hear their stories and find out what they are experiencing. You'll be surprised how blessed you'll feel seeing God's miraculous power at work through your love.

Your Friend in Christ,



*O taste and see that the Lord is good;
How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!*

Psalm 34:8



DON ESKES
Chief Executive Officer



MEET SOMEONE YOU'VE HELPED

Would you like to share a cup of coffee or a hearty meal with a new friend? We invite you to invest your compassion as a volunteer. You say, "But I don't have much time to offer." We can help you maximize the time you *can* offer. If you can spare one hour a week, we would be happy to introduce you to someone enrolled in our recovery programs. Become a mentor. They would love to meet you! Perhaps you already serve meals as a volunteer. Consider picking up a tray and joining our disciples for their meal. We'll train you in advance so you understand what we do and why we do it.

By sharing your smile and extending your love one-on-one, you might be surprised how God chooses to bless your efforts. Learn more by going to our website: [FRESNORM.ORG/GET INVOLVED](https://www.fresnorm.org/get-involved).

From a Tasty Treat to Transparency; Your Gifts of Food Changed Joseph's Life!

Joseph is just like you and me. He has skills and talents that drive him. He has goals and dreams. In his youth he wanted to be an NFL star. His size, natural athletic ability, and his 3.4 GPA made him the ideal candidate. He played Tight End and Defensive End. He was passionate, gifted, and hungry. But one mistake changed everything. He was expelled from High School for selling drugs. His dreams of NFL stardom ended that day, and his struggles to fit in began.

"I moved from school-to-school, place-to-place. I've been arrested twice in the last ten years; once for DUI and once for domestic violence. This is my second time coming to the Mission for help."



Joseph wants to be clean and sober. He's tired of living on the streets and relying on family members to survive. At age 38, he wants to be a good parent and he wants to live a life that has value and purpose. **And because of support from people like you, the Fresno Rescue Mission services and programs remain here for him.**

"It's really hard to push past the fear and shame of addiction. I can admit that I was lying to myself before. Even though I graduated from the Academy in 2012, I knew I was in trouble. The same night I graduated, I smoked marijuana to celebrate. Five years later I was sitting in a jail cell, in pain. The last thing I wanted was to ask for help. It was hard to believe that God could still love me after I messed up like that."

Joseph came back to the Mission and has worked hard. When he re-entered the Academy program March 2017, he was determined to learn what he missed the first time. Yet, he still struggled.

Hartland Christian Camp, 2018



A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

Hartland Christian Camp sponsored thirty-six (36) men from our Academy discipleship program for a weekend of "Man's Camp."

For some of the men this was their first time enjoying the great outdoors. For even more, this was the first time they had enjoyed fun and fellowship while clean and sober. They played games, hiked, ate amazing food, and worshipped the Lord under the stars. God touched their hearts. Several men testified that they came down from the mountain forever changed by the experience.

Thank you, Hartland!



Relationships, great food from YOU, and a few internal conflicts created the perfect moment for change to occur in Joseph's life.

"My feelings get me in trouble. When I get frustrated I don't know how to work through the anger. I had only been back in the program a month and I was looking for excuses to leave. My mentor and staff kept me strong.

It was Easter weekend, 2017. I was assigned to work on B-Team. We were setting up lunch for high school teens that had been part of a week-long urban plunge event. I was hungry and snacking on tortillas that were donated to the Mission. I just remember that they tasted great. I hadn't eaten anything that good for a while.

All of a sudden, my team leader told me to put down the food. He told me I was being impolite because the teens we were about to feed wouldn't have what I was eating. He told me to go to the warehouse and grab bread for them. I was angry and stormed out of the room. I did what he asked, but I wasn't happy about it.

Later, he asked me why I got so upset. I know he was just trying to help. I didn't understand why it made me so mad, but it did. Maybe it was the memory of high school. Maybe it was just wanting to eat something and having to serve someone else first. Maybe I was just having a bad day. I didn't know. I started getting upset all over again. I walked outside, pacing, and then I started to cry. I couldn't stand the fact that I was crying, so I started asking God for help. That's when it happened. In that moment I actually felt a huge weight being lifted from my shoulders. My tears stopped and I felt God's peace for the first time ever. Today it sounds odd, but I met Jesus because of a tortilla. I've been on fire for Him ever since."

At the Mission we often say that "hope begins with a meal," but this must be the first time we've ever shared a testimony involving tortillas. One donation - tasty tortillas - led to a morsel of truth, and an opportunity for life-change.

YOUR GIFTS really do make a lasting impact. We're grateful!



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

BRENDA MARKHAN

"When I retired I decided I needed to get involved with the community in some way. A woman I knew through Bible study suggested I look into the Mission.

When I originally started volunteering, I was a fitness teacher for the women at Rescue the Children. Next, I looked into tutoring disciples enrolled in GED classes. I now volunteer as a tutor for both the Academy and RTC.

I've enjoyed both the people and the work. I'm able to educate and encourage. Though I set out to give back to the community, I find I'm the one who benefits. First, I keep up my math skills! More than that, volunteering warms my heart. The men and women really want to make changes in their lives. It's a joy to help them any way I can."

To learn more, go to FresnoRM.org/Get Involved



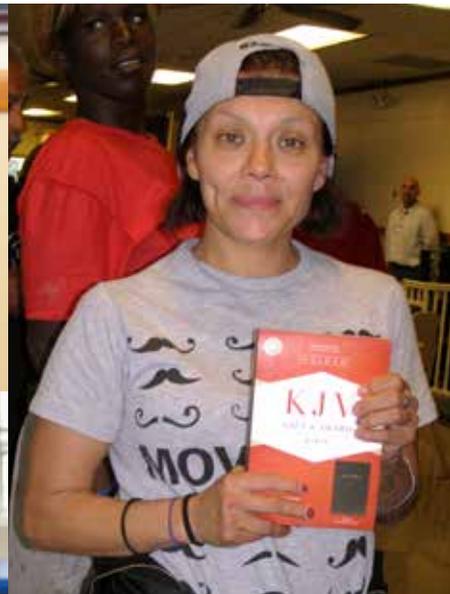


Thank you, to an amazing group of volunteers!

Your Act of Kindness Created Visible Results!

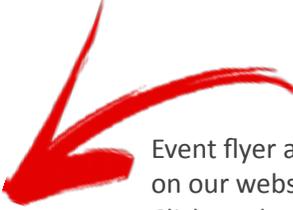
Easter 
Good Friday Luncheon at the Mission

Thank you for your gifts of time, incredible food, love notes that accompanied your donations toward this Easter Luncheon, special Bibles for our guests, and for your continual prayers. Your love creates these beautiful smiles.



Looking for a **MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE** for **JUNIOR HIGH** or **HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH** ?



 Event flyer and pricing available on our website: FresnoRM.org/
Click on the ad on the Homepage

We've Moved!

Streets downtown are under construction, so check our website for easiest access!

FRESNO RESCUE MISSION, INC.

Send Mail to:

263 G Street Fresno CA 93706

P. O. Box 1422, Fresno CA 93716-1422

Phone: (559) 268-0839 – Fax: (559) 268-1317

FRESNO RESCUE MISSION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Emil "Butch" Rusconi
Janet Steinhauer
Weaverton Terrell

Please remember the
Fresno Rescue Mission
in your will or trust

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

NEW LOCATION: 263 G Street, 93706

Don Eskes, Chief Executive Officer
Pastor Rob Cravy, Chief Operating Officer
Randy Bresee, Chief Financial Officer
Deborah Torres, Chief Development Officer

COMMUNITY CARE – Pastor Jay Carroll, Director
315 G Street, Fresno CA 93706

24-Hour Emergency Services (559) 444-0451

NEW CHAPEL: 239 G Street, 93706

FOOD SERVICES – Phillip Roberts, Director

NEW DINING AREA/KITCHEN: 285 G Street, 93706

THE ACADEMY – Rev. Bud Searcy, Director

NEW LOCATION: 95 G Street, 93706

RESCUE THE CHILDREN – Priscilla Robbins, Director
2320 W. Weldon, Fresno CA 93705

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Mission at the Mission

335 G Street, Fresno CA 93706
MMission@fresnorm.org

Tours/Volunteer Opportunities

<http://fresnorm.org/get-involved/>

FRM Speakers Bureau

<http://fresnorm.org/programs/>

FRM THRIFT STORE AND CARS – Sandra Patel, Director
181 E. Sierra, Fresno CA 93710
(559) 440-0870

ADDRESS CHANGES – Linda Culver
(559) 268-0839; lculver@fresnorm.org

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF:

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scott@scottstreble.com

Mariano Friginal – MARIANOFRIGINAL.com

- September 17** *Healing Hearts Relief Golf Tournament*
Sunnyside Country Club - Details TBD
- October 16** *Fall Celebration Banquet*
Fresno Convention Center - Valdez Hall, 5 PM
- November 20** *Thanksgiving Luncheon*
Fresno Rescue Mission - 11 AM
- December 21** *Christmas Luncheon*
Fresno Rescue Mission - 11 AM

Office Needs

As we move to our new temporary buildings we have a few needs for the space that are not included in the High Speed Rail reimbursement:

- Conference Room Furniture
- Reception Area Furniture
- Counseling Room Furniture (armchairs, sofas, etc.)
- End Tables, Floor Lamps
- Book Shelves
- Smart TV's - 50"

Thank you for everything you do!

