



Jolletta Bishop and her son, James

Jolletta Bishop faced major trauma after being shot by her ex-boyfriend at the age of 22. Then just two years ago, she felt incredible grief when she witnessed the death of another ex, who was shot and killed right before her eyes. This loss led to the worst pain, loneliness, and addiction Jolletta has ever experienced.

Raised by a single mother, Jolletta had a good childhood. But she fell into alcoholism as a teenager after making poor decisions and becoming pregnant. Jolletta has had seven children since then, all of whom she has cared for in the midst of her addiction.

Jolletta always had a home, but she began hoarding, making it an unsafe environment for her children. Though she was never homeless, she often chose

to live “under the bridge” to avoid the police, who would take her children if she stayed there.

Jolletta reached her breaking point when her sister died two years ago. “I lost my mind,” she said. With her life in a downward spiral, she went into a rehabilitation program.

She was able to start making positive changes in her life, but was still unfit to care for her youngest son, who was taken by Child Protective Services. She transferred to the New Life Program at the Gospel Center Rescue Mission last October and got her son back.

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2 Years Ago...

It's hard to believe that it's been two years since I first checked into the Gospel Center Rescue Mission's Emergency Lodge as an "Undercover CEO" before August 1, my first visible day on the job. Our Chief Operating Officer, Britton Kimball, was the only one who knew I was undercover.

So much has changed in these past two years:

- We have improved all of our program areas, including a plan to increase New Life Program students and beds from 89 to 300 within the next ten years. We are on track to have 185 men, women, and children with beds by the spring of 2020. At this point our women's New Life Program will be one of the largest long-term, Christian-based, resident regeneration programs in North America – containing 160 beds. Praise God!
- Our campus has undergone extensive renovation and has dedicated a new Recuperative Care Center. An arson fire in June 2017 even destroyed our free Clothing Plus Ministry and hindered our Representative Payee Service and administration operations. We were able to quickly repair the damage and get these services back to their full potential with the help of many supporters.
- The Mission has taken a leadership role in providing solutions to homelessness. Our 2-year New Life Program accepts men, women, women with children, and applicants with dogs. The program addresses basic literacy, GED preparation, and job training and placement, and provides a pathway to permanent housing and most of all, a relationship with the Lord.

Although much has changed for the better, some things have remained the same:

- We continue to have an amazing staff and New Life Program students who run the overnight emergency shelter and food service, which I experienced during my short time undercover – showing God's love to all they serve.

- The Mission still operates in one of the most dangerous areas in Stockton, where there is high gang activity and an increasing homeless population. Our Shots Fired Policy – the procedures implemented when bullets fly across campus – is still taught and emphasized.
- Churches and community members of San Joaquin County that welcomed me during my first days as CEO remain steadfast in their support.
- Most importantly, **the Lord watches over the Gospel Center Rescue Mission!**

I thank God for His favor over the past two years, for the "missionaries on U.S. soil" who work alongside me every day, and for amazing supporters like you!

Blessings,

Wayne G. Richardson

G C R M NEWS



It is with great sadness that we had to say goodbye to Jake – our amazing guard dog and loyal companion. He patrolled the Mission and did his job for over ten years, making us all feel safe and loved. We will all miss him!

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"This place has brought so much goodness in my life," said Joletta. "I thank God for this place."

Before coming to the Mission, Joletta was angry and careless. During her program, she learned how to be a better parent and a productive member of society. With the help of the Mission's staff, Joletta acquired a license and bought a car. She graduated from the New Life Program this past May.

Joletta now works as a full-time in-home caregiver for a family she has known for years. She lives in their home with her youngest son, James. She continues to go to church, see her children, and pursue her relationship with God.

"I didn't think I needed God until I came to the Mission. When I came here I finally understood why I needed Him," she said.

Joletta is content with her life, but has a great desire to work hard for an even better life. She plans to give back to the Mission in any way she can. "People helped me here, so I'm going to help others," she said.

With your donation, the Mission can continue to provide the necessary support to help people like Joletta make an impact.

THANK
YOU

Your donation to the Gospel Center Rescue Mission, via the attached envelope, can help students like Joletta find their identities, restore relationships, and transform their lives through the love of Jesus.



Faith FAMILY Fireworks

Celebrate a great night out at the Stockton Ports game at Faith and Family Night, featuring pre-game player testimonials, live Christian music, and a post-game fireworks extravaganza! Gospel Center Rescue Mission staff will be there collecting socks for students in the program and their children – stop by our booth and say hi!

WHAT: Stockton Ports Faith and Family Night

WHEN: Saturday, August 18, 7:10 pm

WHERE: Banner Island Ballpark, 404 W. Fremont Street

TICKETS: stocktonports.com

Back to School DONATIONS NEEDED

The children at the Gospel Center Rescue Mission are headed back to school! They are in need of various school supplies, such as notebooks, binders, pencils, markers, backpacks, and lunch bags. Please bring donations to our campus at 445 S. San Joaquin Street in Stockton.

GOSPEL CENTER RESCUE MISSION

over 75 years of restoring lives

445 S. San Joaquin Street
Stockton, CA 95203
(209) 320-2310
www.gcrms.org

ACE OVERCOMERS CONFERENCE

Seminars filled with valuable insight

ACE (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Overcomers is an organization dedicated to helping teens and adults overcome the effects of abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction.

In an effort to reach as many people as possible, ACE Overcomers educates professionals of all different backgrounds – employers, pastors, counselors, correctional officers, and more – on the effects of traumatic childhood experiences. The training helps people become trauma-informed and gives them insight on how to help their clients.

The ACE Overcomers program does this by combining solid science and sound Biblical principles to retrain the brain and reset the nervous system.

“Trauma-Informed and Beyond” on August 24 will teach the science of adverse childhood experiences. You’ll learn how to understand your clients through a trauma-informed lens, discover

how to apply the science in your delivery and service, and master essential communication skills.

“The Power of a Trauma-Informed Ministry” on August 24-25 will teach Biblical principles to overcome the emotional, physical, and spiritual effects of abuse and dysfunction. You’ll learn how to improve counseling and communication skills, understand and overcome trauma, and build healthy relationships.

Guest speakers Dave Lockridge, ACE Overcomers Executive Director, and Don Caballero, Program Director, will guide you through these principles and skills to help you apply them to your organization or clients.

“We have seen thousands of lives changed. People go from being anxious to calmly trusting God with every detail of their lives. We’ve seen leaders now understand why people behave the way they do, and they are able to minister with compassion and knowledge,” said Lockridge.

WHAT:	<i>ACE (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Overcomers presents:</i>
	“Trauma-Informed and Beyond” Seminar and Workshop for professional secular counselors
	“The Power of a Trauma-Informed Ministry” Seminar and Workshop for Biblical-based professionals, clergy, and laymen
WHEN:	Friday, August 24, 9am – 4pm
	Friday, August 24, 6 – 9pm Saturday, August 25, 9am – 4:30pm
WHERE:	Gospel Center Rescue Mission, 445 S. San Joaquin Street, Stockton
REGISTRATION:	\$200 (covers instructors, curriculum, and meals), call (209) 320-2310
INFO:	aceovercomers.org