



— THE —
MISSION
— IS A —
FAMILY

JESÚS GUERRERO

Throughout his twenty-year relationship with alcohol, drugs and living on the streets, God gave Jesús Guerrero many chances to reach out to Him. Jesús knew God when he was 'a little guy', but as he grew older he preferred seeking out the fun life. His new friend and god became the drugs crack, alcohol and methamphetamine. As the years wore on, Jesús was in and out of rehab, one of which was a facility in the same neighborhood as the Gospel Center Rescue Mission.

Jesús would walk to and from the rehabilitation center to the Gleason House Clinic. He would pass by the Mission wondering what was different behind those gates. He was working Monday through Saturday at a neighborhood rehab facility for no pay, had little money, and continued to watch as his life spiraled out of control. He became even more angry as his frustration grew. Eventually, he relocated to another facility in Oakland and fell back into using drugs. The cycle continued as did Jesús' outlook on life.

After returning to Stockton, another chance was waiting for him. While walking the streets one night he passed by a man walking his dog. The man seemed familiar and Jesús thought he must be from the Gospel Center. Jesús reached out to him and said, "I need help." The man was Britton Kimball, COO of the Mission and welcomed Jesús into the Emergency Lodging Guest program. Those three words were the beginning of not only a different life but also opened the door for a deeper understanding of Jesus Christ.

What Jesús found at the Mission were caring people, a lot of structure, and a sense of belonging. He knew he needed counseling in order to change and began following the steps of the program. He was responding well and soon began working around the Mission. His strong work ethic and meticulous detail gained the attention of Mission staff who kept him busy, his time structured and also paid him for his work.

continued on back page



A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Freedom Fighters

As we celebrate the 4th of July we are reminded of America's independence. When I think of America's struggle during this time, I am fascinated to read what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence, and the price they paid. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the revolutionary war. Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts. He died in rags. Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Ellery, Clymer, Hall, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton. At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas

"Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses."

1 Timothy 6:12

Nelson Jr. noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. The owner quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed. Nelson died bankrupt. Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months. John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead, his 13 children gone, and his fields and gristmill wasted. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart. Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates. These are some of the "Freedom Fighters" that founded our Nation!



Our Freedom Fighters

At the Rescue Mission we also have "Freedom Fighters." They are fighting two distinct battles. Our "Students" in our six, twelve and eighteen-month New Life Programs are fighting to conquer their addiction and/or battle their way out of homelessness. The second group is our dedicated Staff. Pictured above, each is commissioned in one of the Lord's frontline combat units. They consider their work at the Mission as a 'calling by God.' Many work for minimum wage, while others work for less than they would if employed elsewhere. Every day is a battle to do

God's will in the face of many challenges – not the least of which is funding. Matthew 25:31 - 46 talks about this. Verse 40 summarizes it: *The King (Lord) will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'* Please keep our Rescue Mission's Freedom Fighters in your prayers.

Wayne G. Richardson

GRADUATION



Demi Eisner, Ashley Wilson, Kimberly Grant, Michelle Olson, Tamira Benton, Supervisor Kathy Miller, Layla Voisinnet, Deanna Carpenter, Raquel Rodriguez, Tim Elia, Richard "Casey" Ferrill, (not pictured) Lorenzo Fonseca.



Kathy Miller, San Joaquin County Supervisor and Graduation Keynote Speaker, leads the procession for May 2019 Graduates.

IN THE COMMUNITY



Strong, diligent, and tireless helpers from the Mission help with the 4-day set-up for Festa Italiana!, a community event celebrating all things Italian! The event was set up quickly and efficiently with the help of this awesome crew!



*New Life Program Student Joel Perez
Baptism, Sunday, May 19 • First Baptist Church, Stockton*

Please join us for the
**GOSPEL CENTER
RESCUE MISSION**
restoring lives since 1940
**GRADUATION
CEREMONY**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Michael Tubbs
Mayor of Stockton

**Joined by Ron Barber
and Sister Abby Newton**

FRIDAY, JULY 19
1:30PM

**445 South San Joaquin Street
Stockton CA 95203**

*Please RSVP to Andrea
209-320-2310*

DONATIONS NEEDED

8 oz styrofoam cups • heavy duty styrofoam plates
heavy duty plasticware • napkins • paper towels
feminine hygiene products • wipes • soap
toothbrushes • tooth paste • shampoo/conditioner
lotion • deodorant • razors • laundry soap
toilet paper • sheets & pillow cases
We gladly accept travel/sample sizes.

*We thank you for any donations you can make for the
Emergency Lodging Guests.*

For donation drop-off or pick-up, call (209) 320-2310.

GOSPEL CENTER RESCUE MISSION

restoring lives since 1940

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

God Bless America!

Continued from cover

When asked about his initial reaction to being at the mission, Jesús said, "I know they care about me and make me accountable for my actions. I say this from my heart ... I see the Mission as a family. When I stumble and fall, they say 'get up, try again, you can do this!' These people have given me a chance."

Well into Phase II of the Mission Program Jesús was diagnosed with Thyroid Cancer. Depression enveloped him to the point where he wished he could just die. Jesús fought through the surgery, the depression and the recovery. While Jesús felt fearful, he knew he was never alone and that the people at the Mission cared about him.

For twenty years Jesús blamed God for his addiction and lifestyle. He kept going back to being financially destitute with a great amount of shame because Jesús knew he hurt people who loved him. While at the Mission, Jesús realized that his love for God was something which needed to be strengthened. Jesús wanted to know Him, and spend time with Him. Now he sees what the Lord has been doing in his life and that God is a God of many chances.

"I should be dead by now," Jesús said. "Meth creates suicidal thoughts. Being around drugs

creates an atmosphere where you are targeted by people. Life is still a daily struggle and I am not perfect, but my new relationship with God has created structure in my life. Every morning I listen to a message and read my Bible - I love the book of Proverbs. After my meditation, I pray, shower and go to work. I am thankful for the Mission and my new life."

Recently, the Mission has given Jesús the opportunity to be the GCRM Campus Maintenance Supervisor. "My work ethic is motivated by my gratefulness. I used to do things for accolades, but now I do things because it is my responsibility. Things need to get done," said Jesús. And indeed, they are getting done in the life of Jesús and those around him.



Britton Kimball, COO and Jesús Guerrero

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

"I can only express joy, gratitude and thankfulness when I think about the relationship we have with the staff and the many individuals that pass through the "Jesus Saves" gates at the Gospel Center Rescue Mission. These relationships give us first hand experience to share with the community the great work the GCRM is doing and the lives that are being changed in the name of Jesus. With homelessness



permeating our community, I find that the vision, tenacity and dedication of the leadership at the Mission will play a strong part in the solution. God is richly blessing their efforts and SASS! Public Relations is blessed to be walking hand-in-hand with them. If not already, I encourage you to take a tour, attend a graduation and support the work that they are doing."

~ Carrie Sass, CEO, SASS! Public Relations, Inc.