

THE VISION



SUMMERTIME, & The Livin' Is Hopeful!



This summer, the livin' isn't necessarily easy, but it is hopeful. Especially for our Mission Kids. What a joy they are – and so very much loved by our staff! As we begin the final stages of the New Life Women's Home (this will add additional space for Women with children) we are thankful that we are led by Jesus Christ who offers our students and their families hope in a safe and secure

environment. We especially embrace the sweet lives of our Mission Kids. That familiar children's song... (Jesus Loves the Little Children) resonates as we welcome each child. Many of us sang that song every Sunday in Sunday School – and it still rings true. Jesus DOES love the little children, and that includes our Mission Kids. We love them too!

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Freedom Fighters

Every now and then, a former message is worth updating. Such is the case with July's *Freedom Fighters* message – published a year ago. However, this year, our Staff and Students are not only involved in homelessness and addiction battles, but COVID-19 as well.

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 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!

"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."

Roman 8:18

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 and stay COVID-10 virus

free. The second group is the amazing Staff - each commissioned in one of Lord's frontline combat units called the Gospel Center Rescue Mission. They are providing frontline humanitarian work regarding the three distinct battles. Considered their work at the Mission a '*calling by God*', many work for minimum wage, while others work for less than they would earn if employed elsewhere. All have no medical, dental or retirement benefits. 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 Students and Staff – the Rescue Mission's Freedom Fighters - in your prayers.

Wayne G. Richardson
Major, US Army Reserve (Retired)



Thank you!

Two donors recently sent two huge containers filled with craft supplies. The Mission Kids will really enjoy being artsy and creative!

Donations Needed

We need supplies to accommodate the new building as well as supply the Mission. We desperately need Body Soap, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Shampoo, and Deodorant.

OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Positive COVID-19 Recuperation/Isolation House Update

When Covid-19 hit, GCRM quickly shifted to assist local hospitals and County agencies who were seeking property to serve as a temporary Covid-positive quarantine facility.

On June 3, GCRM opened the first temporary non-hospital, non-profit quarantine facility in San Joaquin County for Covid-19 positive patients. The facility, located at 218 E. Sonora Street, Stockton, was recently acquired and remodeled to provide additional housing on the GCRM Campus. We are thankful that we were able to quickly repurpose this house into a "Project Room Key", partnership with San Joaquin County.

Our partnership with Project Room Key (PRK) is going very well! Both men and women have been admitted, recuperated and discharged (no longer contagious) and we continue to receive more clients. Pictures are some key people that are making this possible. Seated left to right: Sandra Deaver, GCRM Director of Recuperative Care; Viola Dinkins, GCRM Assistant Director of Recuperative Care who handle client intake and discharge; Stephen Borrelli and Tim Elia, both of whom are GCRM New Life Program Graduates and

PRK Site Monitors. Standing left-right: GCRM COO Britton Kimball, SJC Supervisor Miguel Villapudua representing PRK; Raul Chavez, owner of RC Plumbing that did extensive interior plumbing; and GCRM CEO Wayne Richardson. Not pictured: RB Environmental, who did extensive carpentry work, Franky's Flooring, SJC-PRK Tony Roca, SJC General Hospital's Joan Singsong who has been a key PRK medical interface, Dignity Health/St. Joseph's Medical Center, SASS! Public Relations, and Community Medical Centers. We are pleased that local media covered the opening of the Covid-19 positive homeless shelter. To view these articles, visit our website at www.gcrms.org/media.



pilot project, the building's interior is habitable for twelve beds, but two additional beds can be added with the renovation of one room. A second kitchen needs to be finished, and there are electrical and other desired interior upgrades. The exterior has a new roof pledged, but a new Sonora Street sidewalk and fencing are needed. Finally a loan was used to purchase the property. An estimated \$200,000 would finish the renovations and purchase loan.

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT



As CEO of Visionary Home Builders, Carol Ornelas not only understands the challenges of people who have limited income, but she strives to build beautiful, affordable communities where they can live and thrive. Through her involvement with GCRM she has provided housing assistance for New Life Program Students

Visionary
Home
Builders
of CALIFORNIA

who seek off-campus housing and is a strong advocate for the work the GCRM does on behalf of the homeless. Carol has been an advisor on Tax Credit Fundraising and Acquisition for the 178 Bed New Life Program home. At our September 2019 Graduation, Carol, through her closing prayer, provided our students and guests with encouragement and hope. We are excited that she is slated to be the keynote speaker at our January 2021 Graduation. The mission is blessed to have a strong working relationship with Carol and her team at Visionary Home Builders.

GOSPEL CENTER RESCUE MISSION

restoring lives since 1940

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

Happy and Safe 4th of July!



Sirreen

"I was young and knew things were not right. Sometimes I was sad. I remember being cold and hungry. Now Mom has finished program and has a job helping others who were just like her. I feel safer now. I have my family back together now. I have a good life now." ~Sirreen



Destiny

"My Mom would have us take care of the kids while she was out. We knew she was involved in gang and criminal activity, so to keep our family safe I did it. I felt like I had to grow up too fast. Now that my Mom has 15 months sober our family life is more structured. My Mom is a happier person to be around. There is no more chaos. ~Destiny



Alexia

"My life was a mess before my Mom came to the Gospel. To take care of us kids my Mom thought she had to be violent and steal. Now my Mom is more patient. I don't worry about if she will get arrested or if she will come home tonight. My life is so much better. She tries her hardest to take care of us kids. There's still a lot of work to be done. I believe she can do it." ~Alexia



Kenny

"Kenny and I drove to the Mission with my father. I was afraid Britton, GCRM COO, might not let us in – but he did. Britton took one look at us and immediately unlocked the gate for us. I see true happiness in Kenny's face when we are here. I use the skills I learn here and apply them to raising Kenny. Kenny sees that – and he's learning skills too! I don't deny my mistakes or struggles but I know today I am living for the Lord and Kenny." ~Kenny's Mom

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We hope when they leave the Mission they have fond memories of their time here, remembering those who shared kindness and compassion, and that their hearts are filled with the Joy of Jesus.

As we plan to find ways to re-enter the socially distanced world, our Mission Kids are here sheltered in place. We have big plans to keep them busy and engaged throughout the summer. We are organizing a lot of fun activities. Paint Parties; Snow Cone and Ice Cream Parties; Sidewalk Chalk Art, lots of bubbles and happy art projects.

What were your childhood summers like? I am sure you kept busy. We need to keep our Mission Kids busy as well! Support our Mission Kids Summer Fun program financially or through donations of art supplies. Mark "Mission Kids" on the enclosed envelope for financial support; and donations of arts & crafts supplies can be dropped off at SASS! Public Relations at 628 Lincoln Center (Behind Silveria's) in Stockton, Monday through Friday, 9:00 to 4:30.