GOSPEL CENTER
RESCUE MISSION
restoring lives since 1940

THE VISION

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

JULY 2021

Homeless Stranger to SERGEANT RANGER

"I was so scared, just running, and running and running, trying to find my way home. Alone and lost in a big city with nowhere to turn, I was suffering greatly from starvation and violence with no relief in sight. Then one day, one very special day, everything changed…

Hi, I'm Sargent Ranger! I am a strong and healthy dog, and for the past several years I have been the guard dog, the protector if you will, of The Mission. Here is the journey that brought me to this wonderful place.

I was running down a very, busy freeway (I think you humans call it, Interstate 5), and there were cars and very large semi-trucks racing past me. I was so scared – trying to dodge cars and find a way to get off that freeway. Suddenly, a car stopped, and a lady called out to me. I couldn't believe it! Someone was actually rescuing me. I hopped into her car, and off we went. Whew! Safe at last with my new friend.

It was so nice to be loved and welcomed into such a comfortable home! I wasn't sure if I had ever experienced anything like this, but I quickly settled in. This kind lady also gave me a new name, Stranger! One day we were at home, and I heard my new friend speaking with her landlord. Apparently, large animals are not allowed to stay in this building, and since I am a large Pit-Bull/Dalmatian mix weighing in at 70-80 pounds, I would have to go. It looked as if my chance of living in a happy home was ending as quickly as it started.

The following day, while taking a walk through our neighborhood, we met a neighbor out walking her tiny Chihuahua. I barked with excitement, but I think it scared both of them. I kinda felt bad, so I made sure to let them know I was friendly. The Chihuahua and I became fast friends. And the nice lady with the Chihuahua was a staff member at a place called Gospel Center Rescue Mission.

Not long after that meeting, I got to go on a road trip where I was introduced to The Mission

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

A Campus Under Renovation

God is certainly at work at the Mission. Through His guidance, our goal is to increase capacity to change more homeless lives in every way possible. To do this, we must not only increase beds, meal production and supporting services but also maintain and improve our existing facilities. In this issue we want to highlight how the Lord continues to bless Gospel Center by updating you on a few fully funded renovation projects that are expected to be completed within the next 3 months.

There is not enough room in this issue to cover all the projects, so we have selected several to highlight. However, the visible fact remains that God is at work at the Mission.

Wayne G. Richardson

East Church Street *(Kitchen, Dining Room, Chapel, Classrooms & two Dorms)*

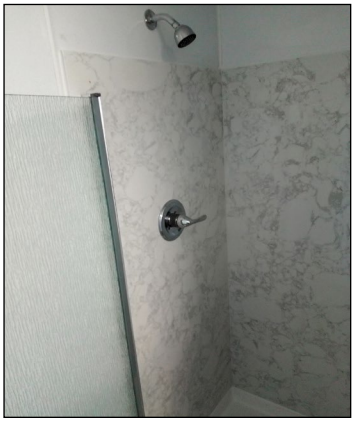
The Gospel Center Kitchen renovation began this past month with demolition taking place to most of the first floor of the building. The kitchen is expected to be completed mid-July and will increase our hot meals per day capacity from 500 to over 1,500.

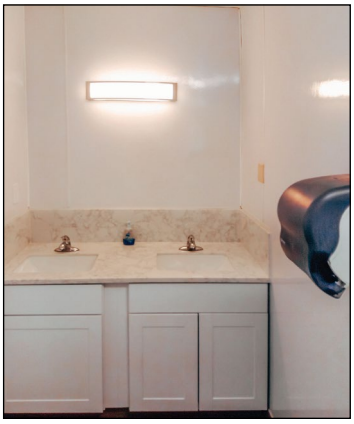
Thank You

PROVERI PHARMACY SERVICES

Thank you to our new Corporate Cause Related Marketing Partner PROVERI for helping in our fight against homelessness.

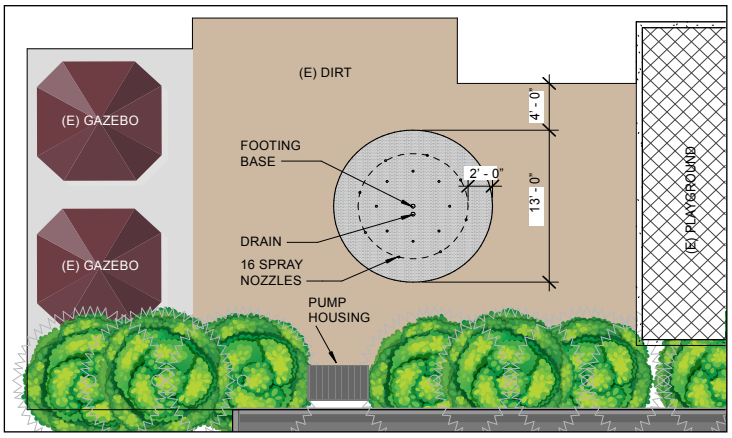
Men's Bathroom Renovation





The Men's New Life Phase 1 Bathroom renovation is completely finished! Located upstairs, this bathroom underwent a full remodel that consisted of flooring, wall coverings, fixtures, countertops, and paint.

The Kid's Sprinkler Park



The Kid's Sprinkler park is set to break ground this summer in the dirt space next to the Stockton Rotary sponsored Kid's Playground and William R. "Bill" Brown Building. The park will contain 16 spray nozzles and will provide endless fun for our Mission Kids. This project is expected to be complete by this Fall.

Thank You!

Thank you to several anonomyous "Angels" who repaired, for free, the brick and windowsills to help waterproof the exterior of the William R. "Bill" Brown Building.

Thank you WMB Architects & NJ McCutchen for constructing the cross on the William R. "Bill" Brown Building, which is expected to be completed this summer.

You're Invited

Graduation Celebration

SUNDAY
JULY 11 AT 2PM
Quail Lakes Baptist Church
1904 Quail Lakes Drive

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Phyllis Grupe
Community Activist

Please RSVP to Andrea Mountjoy (209) 320-2310.

MAY GRADUATION

Top left: Alice Smith, Kimberly Grant, Chris Hooks, Rudy Garrido. Front Left: Carrie Sass, Keynote Speaker & CEO of SASS! Public Relations, Elita Gerou, Monica Schumacher.

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Happy Fourth of July!

Continued from cover

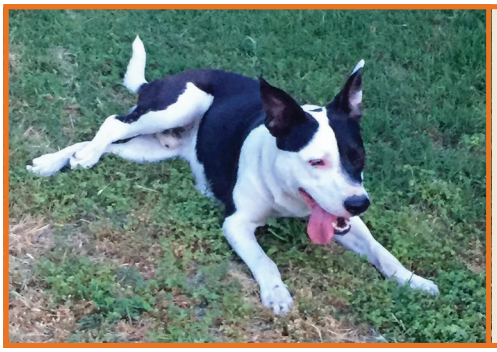
Chief Operating Officer, Britton Kimball. He quickly welcomed me and asked that I live at The Mission. Their resident guard dog Jake, a beautiful German Shepard, quickly stepped in to teach me the ropes. I was eager to train with Jake, and he taught me everything there is to know about protecting The Mission. I learned to patrol the fences with the housemen at night, guard the entrance and perimeter, and generally help all the campus residents and staff feel safe. Just so you know, I am doing a really good job, if I do say so myself.

After living at The Mission for a while, I was no longer a stranger to anybody, so I needed a new name. That's when I became Ranger! I came to Gospel Center like so many others, lost, homeless, unloved, broken, and unknowing of what the future had for me. At The Mission, I have found purpose, a home, and love. Most importantly, while I keep everyone safe, I too am in a safe place.

The second-best day of my life (the first best day was when that nice friend picked me up on that ridiculously busy freeway) was May 21, 2021, when I was honored for my service, and promoted to Sergeant! The promotion took place during the New Life Program Graduation Ceremony. I am now "Sergeant Ranger", protector of Gospel Center Rescue Mission. During the presentation I received Army Sergeant Strips, an Army Ranger decal, and the Army Military Police insignia, that all Mission housemen/women wear. I wear these proudly on my vest as official recognition for my role as campus security responsible for patrolling the inside perimeter fence.

I am so happy now that I have found The Mission! It has changed my life living here, and I promise to protect and serve all who enter the "Jesus Saves" gates on Church Street. If you ever visit Gospel Center Rescue Mission, I will welcome you with open paws! Be sure to say "Hi!" with a friendly wave or head scratch!"

Woof, Woof
Sergeant Ranger



Dog Foster Program

Foster a New Life Program Student's Dog for Phase 1 or 6 Months = $1,000

- Includes initial spay/neuter & comprehensive initial services
- Note up to 5/year

Foster a dog today, by calling (209) 320-2310