



REDEEMED

Gabriel Silva was one of the most respected gang members in San Jose during his early life. He is now a respected alumnus of the Gospel Center Rescue Mission. He has earned the respect not only of GCRM employees and students, but also of those who live on the streets right outside the Mission.

As a teenager growing up on the west side of San Jose, Gabriel and his friends started what is now the biggest gang in the city. He acquired a drug and alcohol addiction at a very young age and was often in juvenile hall and the California Youth Authority.

Gabriel saw a lot of terrible things during this time and was often scared for his life. He would constantly recite Psalm 91 in scary situations – the scripture his mother taught and instilled in him as a child. “I believe it’s what kept me alive,” said Gabriel.

Gabriel moved to Manteca about 12 years ago, where he sunk further into his addiction. During this time he had two children, but lost all contact with the rest of his family.

Though Gabriel knew the Lord was with him, he admitted he was running from Him his whole life. But Gabriel heard a sermon two years ago that changed his life. The pastor preached about generational curses. Gabriel felt that he was a

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Assessing the Faith-Based Response to Homelessness in America

This month, I wanted to pass on some amazing but little-known revelations that came from Baylor University's Institute of Religion's case study, *Assessing the Faith-Based Response to Homelessness in America*. The study was conducted to find out the impact of faith-based organizations (FBO) on the issue of homelessness. There were 11 big cities surveyed, each of which contains an organization that is a member of the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions. This 2016 research was funded by Maclellan Family Foundations (Chattanooga, TN) and M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust (Vancouver, WA) and can be viewed in its entirety at baylorisr.org/publications/case-studies/. Some of the key findings are as follows:

- Almost **60%** of the Emergency Shelter beds, what many consider the "safety net of all safety nets" for the homeless, are provided through FBOs.
- Government agencies and public policy makers see lack of housing as the cause of homelessness, but many FBOs see it as a symptom of a deeper problem. As one FBO service provider told us, "People don't become homeless when they run out of money, at least not right away. They become homeless when they run out of relationships."
- FBO homeless ministries are at the forefront of program innovation and organizational

transformation for improving positive outcomes for the homeless individuals and families served.

- Housing First policies do not always effectively engage with FBOs, especially congregation-based efforts that do not seek federal funding.
- There are other FBOs serving homeless men and women, especially those struggling with addictions, that are operating under the radar. These are not included in HUD's point-in-time homeless count.
- The program outcomes for successful participants from FBO Residential Recovery and Job Readiness programs in these eleven cities generate an estimated \$119 million in taxpayer savings during the three years following program exit.

I hope this serves as a just one means of stewardship towards your support of the Gospel Center Rescue Mission, as well as a "Thank You!" for all the amazing faith-based organizations working to serve the homeless throughout America.

Wayne G. Richardson

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

Dignity Health St. Joseph's Medical Center has been a huge blessing to us over the past year. They gave us a grant to help fund our Recuperative Care building, which houses homeless individuals coming out of the hospital. Coming from a medical organization, this has made an incredible impact and has allowed us to successfully run the only program of its kind in San Joaquin County. Dignity Health St. Joseph's Medical Center was also a sponsor at our annual gala. We want to show our deepest appreciation for their continued support of our mission.



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St. Joseph's Medical Center



Gabriel often spends time with homeless individuals in the Mission's courtyard mentoring and encouraging them.

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product of one – no one in his family that came before him was able to stop addiction; therefore, it continued down the line to him.

He realized he didn't want his kids to go through what he went through and decided to stop the cycle of addiction in his family. "No one in my family has been strong enough to stop and break those curses, but I know that I am through Christ," said Gabriel.

After hearing this sermon Gabriel came to the Gospel Center Rescue Mission on April 13, 2016. "I thought, 'God, there's got to be more life than this,' and I saw God picking me up out of this situation and setting my feet on solid ground," he said.

Gabriel successfully completed the first six months of the New Life Program and graduated from the first phase in October 2016. He acquired a job in the Men's Emergency Lodge, which he had for a year and a half.

During that time Gabriel lived at the Mission and earned a scholarship to University of the Pacific to do the Substance Abuse Counselor Certification Program. He completed the coursework in January 2018 with a 3.5 GPA.

Gabriel had a lot of alone time at the Mission, which allowed him to focus on building a relationship with God. "It was just me and Him," Gabriel said.

"I believe what has kept me clean is that I continue to put Him first."

When Gabriel came to the Mission, he had many health problems including high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, and damaged kidneys. He focused on getting healthy, which consisted of good nutrition, exercise, prayer, and fasting. Now he is completely healed of all those issues. "It scared me. The doctor gave me medication, but I told him that the Lord would heal me," he said.

Gabriel currently works as a Case Load Manager and Substance Abuse Counselor at Aegis Treatment Center, where he can earn both internship hours for school and a consistent paycheck. He gets to see his kids often and has learned how to be a man of integrity for them.

He also spends his time at the Mission with the homeless who stay in the courtyard. He believes his job is to instill value and worth in them, just as the people of the Mission did for him.

The Gospel Center Rescue Mission was the vessel in which Gabriel could restore his life. "Jesus put it on my heart to change, but if it wasn't for the Mission I'd still be lost in my addiction," he said. From the moment he walked through the gates of the Mission, Gabriel lost all desire for drugs and alcohol. "The Lord delivered me. I know that I'm living proof that God can do the impossible."

GOSPEL CENTER RESCUE MISSION

over 75 years of restoring lives

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

GCRM has the largest homeless and rehabilitation program in San Joaquin County.

GCRM HAPPENINGS

The youth group from Valley Christian Fellowship of Redding came to the Gospel Center Rescue Mission during Memorial Day weekend to volunteer their time and talents. They led Vacation Bible School for the kids at the Mission and helped with general maintenance and painting projects. Thank you, Valley Christian Fellowship, for your service!

If your youth group, church, or organization would like to volunteer on our campus, please contact Sal Azevedo at (209) 320-2310.



THANK YOU

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

DONATIONS NEEDED

The Gospel Center Rescue Mission houses over 100 men, women, and children each night who come in from off the streets. We are in need of blankets and pillows to give our Emergency Lodge guests a comfortable stay at the Mission. Please bring donations to our campus, located at 445 S. San Joaquin St.