



## “MY LIFE IS RENEWED”

~ Laurie Smith

If her father had lived and had the chance to raise her, Laurie Smith believes her life may have taken a different path. However, as a toddler, fatherless and with a substance abusive mother her life became one of dysfunction, addiction and time spent in jail.

This past July, Laurie was one of twenty graduates within the New Life Program at the Gospel Center Rescue Mission. Having neither graduated from a middle school or a high school program, this achievement was an incredible accomplishment for Laurie. A self-proclaimed wild child, her last chance at education was being placed in a continuation school where her motivation to attend was selling marijuana to her classmates after stealing it from her mother's house. With no mentors, parental guidance or direction, she dropped out of school and her life continued on a devastating out of control spiral.

Laurie lived a life of addiction for more than thirty-eight years. It was when she faced the prospect of reentering the correctional system or beginning a rehab program that she realized a life





# September Is Alumni Homecoming!

**T**o our Alumni and faithful supporters, I am excited to announce the Gospel Center Rescue Mission is holding their Second Annual Homecoming that will be celebrated during the month of September! This is a chance to attend Graduation, meet past Alumni, hear Alumnus Britton Kimball share his story, and personally congratulate the graduates. Guests will see and meet God's miracles through His regeneration reflected in the lives of our Alumnus. The Bible, in 2nd Corinthians chapter 9 reminds us all "That my grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." So no matter what our past, through the Lord's grace we can all be used for God's Kingdom building glory! And so our celebrations begin by featuring July graduate, Laurie Smith in the September Vision Magazine. She shares her inspiring walk with God after more than 50 years of addiction. Please join us as we celebrate on Homecoming Graduation day!

## — HOMECOMING GRADUATION DAY —

Friday, September 20, 2019

### ALUMNI BBQ

11:30am to 1:00pm

RSVP to Andrea Mountjoy  
209-320-2310

### GRADUATION CEREMONY

1:30pm to 3:00pm

Keynote Speaker  
Alumnus Britton Kimball,  
COO, Gospel Center Rescue Mission  
Acknowledgement of Distinguished Alumnus

### CAMPUS AND PROGRAM TOUR

Immediately following Graduation  
Open to graduates and graduation guests  
Tours are always available by appointment  
Monday through Friday

To all our amazing supporters, we thank you for answering God's call to support His work at the Gospel Center Rescue Mission. Please use the enclosed envelope to respond as the Lord leads you.

Wayne G. Richardson

## GRADUATION



Mayor Michael Tubbs provides words of hope and inspiration at the July 2019 graduation - the largest graduation class in Mission history. Graduation guest Kristen Birtwhistle, CEO of United Way of San Joaquin, stated in a Facebook post, "I am not sure whose lives are transformed more - the students or the people sitting in the graduation. Truly inspiring! A remarkable experience." Consider joining us at the September Homecoming Graduation and Celebration!

## SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

# L Lincoln Center

For more than two years, Lincoln Center has been a dedicated and engaged sponsor of the Mission, a blessed relationship that continues to grow. In addition to the Mission being the beneficiary of Lincoln Center activities such as The Coat Drive at Christmas, and The Back to School Stuff the Bus Campaign with the Stockton Kings, we have been blessed with their personal involvement such as participation at Mission graduations and events. More importantly, Phil Johnson, CEO and his staff have embraced the lives of their New Life Program scholars – supporting them as they continue to on their path to recovery and living a Christ filled life. We thank Phil, the Lincoln Center staff and the merchants for generously sharing your hearts and lives with the Gospel Center Rescue Mission.



## IN THE COMMUNITY



Mission children decorated “back to school” donation boxes placed at stores throughout Lincoln Center. At the end of the week, all items were gathered and stuffed into the bus and delivered to children at the Mission! Thank you to the Stockton Kings for organizing this campaign and providing these much need supplies to give our kids a ‘smart start to school.’

## CELEBRATION



*Graduate Alyssa Hart inspired graduates and guests with her beautiful voice.*



*Keynote speaker Mayor Michael Tubbs.*



*Majolie, daughter of graduate Lacyne Lucero, led the Pledge of Allegiance, seen with Britton Kimball.*



# GOSPEL CENTER RESCUE MISSION

*restoring lives since 1940*

445 S. San Joaquin Street  
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(209) 320-2310  
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## *Join us at the Alumni Homecoming September 20th*

*Continued from cover*

changing decision needed to be made. Laurie had come to a major crossroad in her life. At the suggestion of a friend, who had successfully completed the New Life Program at Gospel Center Rescue Mission, Laurie felt this was her best option to avoid prison. Little did she know this decision would provide a life changing experience in ways not imagined in Laurie's previous life. Not only did participation in the program keep her out of jail, it provided a venue to free Laurie from drug addiction. While the Mission continued to work on Laurie's outward problems, a greater and unexpected benefit was taking place within her spiritual self. Laurie was being introduced to the forgiving grace of Jesus Christ.

In her younger years belief in God was a foreign and abstract concept – because Laurie's thinking was a loving God would never let a father die and be taken from a child. A great bitterness kept her from seeking any type of spiritual relationship. This was about to change.

As her time at the Mission commenced, she experienced the programs, counseling, relationships



*Carrie Sass with her scholar and friend Laurie*

with staff and fellow students and those Sunday bus trips to church. Soon, the Holy Spirit began working in Laurie by changing her heart and opening her life to unexpected joy. A relationship with her Savior brought new meaning to Laurie's life that had been so shattered and devoid of meaningful purpose. Jesus opened not only her heart but also personal doors which were bolted for many years.

"My life is renewed. I am back in relationship with my children and grandchildren, enjoying the simple things in life that once were overshadowed by my addiction. The Gospel Center is a wonderful place with a wonderful program. The work they do is life-changing." Laurie is currently employed at the Mission serving as House Manager in the Women's and Family Shelter, with goals of living independently outside the Mission.

Laurie's success is one of outward and inner change. It encompasses a desire to mend and seek out the truth to life. Even though her journey has been filled with many challenges, Laurie's advice is succinct, "If I can complete this program, anyone can."

## *Volunteers Needed*

Are you available for an hour or more weekly for a 6 month or more commitment? We need your help! Please consider help with maintenance,

counseling or tutoring. The long term aspect allows for any training and familiarization with our campus. Also, establishes a Student-Volunteer relationship which with counseling and tutoring is an essential trust component.

To volunteer please contact Andrea 209-320-2310.