

Lead Them to the *Cross*

As our New Life students, staff and community members knelt on the ground and placed their names on the inside frame of the Cross, it was difficult to not get teary eyed. It was as if they were writing their name in the “Book of Life”. The Cross is significant in our walk with Christ. How often do we visualize the approach to the foot of the Cross as we bring our cares and burdens to the Lord? How often do we approach the Cross asking Jesus for forgiveness, healing, grace and peace? For those signing their names on the interior beams, it will forever be a reminder to them that the significance of the Cross represents the sacrifice of Christ for all and our pathway to salvation.

When people make the decision to attend The Mission, they are dealing with emotional problems – guilt, anxiety, depression, anger, and addiction. Here, they can find healing in the Cross of Christ. As people deal with tragedy or suffering, comfort is found as they contemplate the sufferings of our Savior on the Cross. Jesus is the one who forgives each of us from our sinful lives. Meditating on the Cross produces a heart of overflowing gratitude to the One who bore so much on our behalf. It is no wonder that tears were flowing during the signing (photos on page 3) and installation of The Mission Cross. There IS power in the Cross, power that can only be found in a relationship with the resurrected Christ.

Yet, The Mission isn't keeping this Cross for themselves! Installed on the street side of the William R. “Bill” Brown Building, the two-story Cross is a beacon for all to see in our neighborhood that is the victim of crime and drugs. The many names written inside that Cross - our New Life students, staff and community members – are the



The History of the New Gospel Center Cross

With the excitement of the installation of the new Gospel Center Cross, I thought it would be of interest to share a short historical look at the process we went through to erect this beautiful symbol of God’s grace on the Sonora Street side of the William R. “Bill” Brown Building.

In February of 2017, R.B. Environmental launched the renovation of the future 118-bed dormitory, providing the amazing gift of the demolition, and hazardous material removal of the exterior and interior of this building. The demolition also included the removal of the fire escape, which was on Sonora Street, as you can see from the first photo below. Because of unsafe street conditions, a new fire escape was built on the interior of the campus.

As I looked at this Sonora Street exterior, I asked the Lord, “How can we make this Sonora Street side of the building more attractive?” After all, there are these two fire escape doors leading to nowhere! No matter how you fill them with old brick and stucco you will always see them! I then saw the image of a cross that went vertically from the top of the 3rd floor fire escape door - to the bottom of the 2nd floor fire escape door. With the horizontal section of the cross extending between the 2nd and 3rd floors - it became clear in my mind. The cross, covering those unsightly doors, could also be seen from both Sonora Street and San Joaquin Street. It might also be one of the largest crosses in Stockton. The Lord had clearly answered my question.

By 2019 the Brown Building was in full renovation. N.J. McCutchen, global metal fabricators, and located just three blocks away, made an amazing pledge to supply all structural steel required to seismically reinforce the building - which had no steel superstructure. As they did this, I mentioned our dream of an exterior metal cross to Edgar Bossana, N.J. McCutchen’s Vice President. Without hesitation Edgar pledged to cover the cost to fabricate the cross! Shortly after, WMB Architects, who designed the renovation and several other campus projects pro-bono, pledged to partner with N.J. McCutchen on the design and permitting! Finally, Simile Construction Services, who renovated the building, donated their cost to install the cross. And the rest, as they say, is history!

My prayer is that this cross will bring the peace and love of our Savior to those we minister to in this violent neighborhood. Ephesians 2:15-16 states:

...His (Jesus’) purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

Thank you for your gifts which made this project!

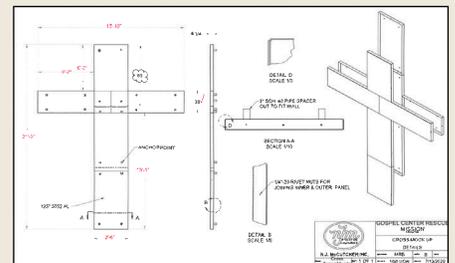
Wayne G. Richardson



2017



2019 rendering from the corner of San Joaquin and Sonora Streets



Cross Design Specifications

Thank You!





continued from cover

people who are faithfully praying for those lives on the street below. They understand the power and the strength they have because of the resurrection of Jesus.

Satan does not have power over the Cross! Please continually pray for The Mission and our neighborhood. Pray that Jesus will continue his work inside The Mission gates, as well as outside on the streets. Pray for the homeless and addicted that they will be drawn to The Mission, where they can find

forgiveness, healing and peace in the Cross of Christ. Consider joining us beneath the cross on Sonora Street for our Easter Sunrise Service (more details to come). As the words from a hymn may our prayer be: "Lead them to the Cross Lord, where your love pours out. Bring them to their knees, Lord, they belong to You. Lead them to the Cross." And when they come, we will open the gates of The Mission and let them in.



IN THE COMMUNITY

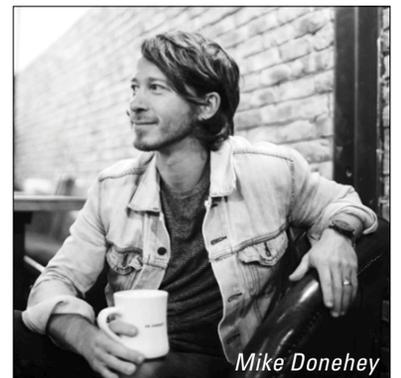
Join Us for Faith Night

**Dec. 3, 2021
7:00pm**

\$10 of your ticket will go to the Gospel Center Rescue Mission

Watch Stockton Heat take on San Diego Gulls and enjoy a post game concert by Mike Donehey presented by Chick-fil-A

Order your tickets today at: <http://stocktonheat.spinzo.com/GCRM>



Mike Donehey

GOSPEL CENTER RESCUE MISSION

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445 S. San Joaquin Street
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gcrms.org

“Give thanks to the Lord for He is good!” Psalm 106:1

GRADUATION



Standing Left to Right: Ashley Embrey, Dennis Barrett (2021 Distinguished Graduate & Keynote Speaker), David Turner. Seated Left to Right: Pam Morris, Victoria Gordan and daughter Isabella, Mohini Sharma, Roseanna Chum.



Our Graduation and Homecoming Ceremony was a huge success. Many GCRM New Life Program Alumni were in attendance! Graduation, tours, shared meals and much conversation and relationship building was enjoyed by all! Our annual homecoming, always held in September, is becoming quite the ‘must attend’ event at the Mission. God continues to richly bless our students, programs and campus staff.

**Join us for the November Graduation
SUNDAY, NOV. 14 – 2PM**

Keynote Speaker
Miguel Villapudua
SJC Supervisor

Lincoln Presbyterian Church, Stockton

Donations Needed

Hygiene Products Needed!

Our students are in need of

Shampoo • Conditioner • Toothbrushes
Toothpaste • Hand Soap • Body Wash
Disposable Razors

We thank you for any donations.

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

Thanksgiving Turkey Donations

We have a lot of ovens to roast turkeys! Please consider donating a frozen turkey, or the funds to purchase one or two! Call Andrea Mountjoy at (209) 320-2310 for details.

