

## A Life Restored

**D**ennis Barrett and his family moved when his father, an ordained minister, started a new church in Stockton. It was 1953 and Dennis and his twin brother Dale entered 3rd grade at El Dorado Elementary School. Even at this early age, the innocent comparisons of their lives began, and would have a significant impact throughout Dennis' life.

After graduating from Stagg High School, Dennis and Dale left to study ministry at a small Bible School in Iowa. In his senior year, Dennis married his college sweetheart, Mary Lynn, and together they returned to Stockton where he became the Youth Pastor at his father's church. Two years later he received his first call to be a full-time pastor in Castro Valley, where he and Lynn had a daughter and a son. They also served in Cudahy near Los Angeles, and Dallas, Texas. When his father passed away, Dennis was called to serve as the Senior Pastor at his father's church, where he served for the next twenty-two years.

Even as Senior Pastor, Dennis, and others, always compared him to his twin brother. He felt he never measured up, and as a result he had low self-esteem. Throughout his school years and now into his ministry, those words of comparison were damaging.

His insecurity led him to build a sense of self-worth in areas outside his life with Christ. At age 26, seeking attention and approval, Dennis became involved in chat rooms – talking to ladies that eventually brought on numerous affairs, and his addiction to sex. Dennis wasn't into pornography but fed his addiction through relationships outside his marriage.





## 4th Annual Homecoming Day Celebration!

Throughout the month of September, we celebrate the great work that God has done, and continues to do through our students and alumni. We begin by inviting all Alumni to visit – anytime in September – the Mission Campus for mingling with our current staff and students, taking Campus & Programs Tours and receiving updates on our New Life Programs.

The highlight of this annual, month-long celebration is honoring our Distinguished Graduate Award recipient. This year, at our 4th Annual Homecoming Day on Friday, September 17th, we will honor Dennis Barrett. He is the 2021 Distinguished Graduate Award recipient. The Mission's longtime 'chaplain', counselor, and teacher, Dennis will receive his award and give the keynote address at the Homecoming Day Graduation Ceremony.

Join us for all the GCRM Homecoming Day Festivities!

We extend a special invitation to our GCRM Alumni, faithful friends, and supporters of The Mission to attend and enjoy all the festivities on Graduation Day! Celebrate with the graduates at the Ceremony, stay to enjoy a tasty BBQ lunch, and take a Campus & Programs Tour. You will have a chance to meet current New Life Program Students, as well as mingle with alumni who have graduated from the New Life Program. As we celebrate Homecoming, you will see God's miracles in the lives of our current and past New

Life Program students. It is because of your faithful support that we continue to do God's work, which leads to healing, life changing decisions, and restoration of lives. Please join us on Graduation Day and experience your work in action!

Wayne G. Richardson

### Join Us for the 2021 HOMECOMING DAY

Friday, September 17, 2021  
Gospel Center Rescue Mission

**10:00am**

#### Graduation Ceremony

Keynote Speaker

**DENNIS BARRETT**

*2021 Distinguished Graduate*

**12:00**

#### Graduate Alumni BBQ Lunch

*Followed by*

Campus & Programs Tours

Please RSVP by September 10th

Andrea Mountjoy

209-320-2310

## Nominations are Now Open for the 2022 Distinguished Graduate Award

#### Criteria:

- Nominee has graduated from the New Life Program at least 5 years ago
- Nominee is an active member of a church

Please send a one-page write-up about the candidate and why you believe they should be the 2022 Distinguished Graduate.

#### Nomination Deadline:

December 1, 2021

#### Send by mail:

Andrea Mountjoy  
Gospel Center Rescue Mission  
445 S. San Joaquin Street.  
Stockton, CA 95203

#### Send by email:

amountjoy@gcrms.org

#### Distinguished Graduate Award

past recipients



Britton Kimball (2019)



Karen Douglas (2020)

Like most addicts, Dennis had difficulty admitting he had a problem. He would tell himself, "I can stop anytime. I am bigger than this. I am a good pastor, and I am kind." He even felt it didn't affect his ministry, but of course, it did. He made on-going promises to God and to his wife, but the cycle of addiction (like alcohol, drugs, and gambling), could not be stopped on his own. His life was hidden and filled with shame, yet the addiction provided a way for him to cope with feelings of not being good enough. Then his world came crashing down when one of his chat room ladies got upset and called the superintendent of Dennis' church.

Without hesitation, his wife separated from him, and his children wanted no part of his life. He also lost his church, congregation, and friends. With his life in shambles, he reached out to The Mission knowing they offered help for alcohol and drug addiction. Would they take someone that was a sex addict?

On June 21, 2008, his 40th Wedding Anniversary and Father's Day, Dennis left his home and family and came to The Mission. Feeling completely out of place, he entered the six-month program. "At The Mission, I discovered how comparing ourselves to others can be so destructive," said Dennis. "Through counseling I realized I was as good as my brother Dale, just different. It was a process of discovering and learning to like myself, and that was an enormous change. My time at The Mission helped me learn something about humanity that I didn't know – while discovering the worst in ourselves there is still something that God sees in us." The counseling was working. Renewed and utilizing his training as a minister, Dennis took a job at The Mission volunteering as a counselor, teacher, and helping write the aftercare program. Soon, he began working at The Mission full time



Dennis in his office

teaching classes and offering counseling in the Men's New Life Program. He was healing, and his life was getting back on track.

Humbled, and working towards restoring his marriage through trust and forgiveness, Dennis was finally free from the bondage of addiction. Three and a half years after stepping through the gates of The Mission, Dennis' wife invited him back home. With



Dennis and his wife, Lynn

honesty and restored faith, their marriage is better now than it has ever been, and Dennis and Lynn recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Dennis has reunited with his children, grandchildren, and his twin brother Dale. God still performs miracles.

Dennis shared, "My very public addiction was so embarrassing, yet God is using Lynn and me to share the grace and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. Because the Gospel Center Rescue Mission extended their unconditional love and counsel, God opened doors to change my life."

In addition to his work at The Mission, Dennis and Lynn also volunteer and lead a group called Pure Desire, a Christian program that deals with sexual addiction in the church. Lynn counsel's wives who have been betrayed while Dennis counsel's men experiencing sexual addiction. We, in the church, often think addiction is something that only occurs on the street or in dysfunctional families. Addiction is more connected to the comparison of oneself to other people, not realizing how hurtful those comparisons can be. It can happen to anyone – in families, churches, and social circles.

"I am humbled and honored to have been chosen by my peers to receive the 2021 Distinguished Graduate Award," said Dennis. "The unconditional love, counsel, support, and friendship I have received throughout the years from this amazing staff, has been such a blessing, and has helped me heal."

In closing, Dennis shared, "Reflecting on the words of a popular Christian song 'God Made Something Beautiful Out of My Life,' I now realize that our gracious God could still use me, and make me a better husband, better father and man. That discovery began when I stepped through the gates of The Mission."

# GOSPEL CENTER RESCUE MISSION

*restoring lives since 1940*

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

*“Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.” Luke 6:37*

## COVID CARE

The COVID House at GCRM has reopened to care for COVID positive homeless (Men, Women & Families) throughout San Joaquin County. We continue working closely with Joan Singson from San Joaquin General Hospital to accept referral patients. We have been the primary location for homeless COVID positive patients since the beginning of the pandemic.



## The Mission welcomes the new President of the Stockton Heat

Coming to Stockton from the home office in Calgary, Jamie Cochrane, the new President of the Stockton Heat took a tour of The Mission Campus on Tuesday, August 10. We were pleased to show him our campus, share an overview of our New Life Program, and familiarize him with the relationship we have enjoyed with the Stockton Heat throughout the years. Welcome to Stockton Jamie!

*Thank You*



*“Summertime Fun” at a Stockton Ports game with the Mission Kids, New Life Program Students, and Staff. Nothing like hearing the crack of the bat, while enjoying peanuts, popcorn, and hotdogs. Thank you, Stockton Ports, for a great evening!*

## NEW LIFE PROGRAM GRADUATIONS

SAVE  
— the —  
DATE

SUNDAY  
**NOVEMBER 14 – 2PM**  
Keynote Speaker  
**Miguel Villapudua, Supervisor**  
**San Joaquin County**  
Lincoln Presbyterian Church  
Stockton

SUNDAY  
**JANUARY 16 – 2PM**  
Keynote Speaker  
**Kevin Lincoln, Mayor**  
**City of Stockton**  
First Baptist Church  
Stockton

SUNDAY  
**MARCH 13 – 2PM**  
Keynote Speaker  
**Patrick Withrow, Sheriff**  
**San Joaquin County**  
Immanuel Church  
Ripon