

Leaving Her Old Life Behind

For most of her life, Melanie Yoes has been living in dysfunction and addiction. In a home where both parents were drug addicts, her early teenage pregnancy, and a drug and alcohol filled life, she spent most of her life surrounded by the world of addiction.

Melanie was born and raised in Stockton. She attended local elementary schools, and attended Franklin High School, until she became pregnant at the age of 14.

Dropping out of school, Melanie stayed with her father who had taken ill, caring for both him and her new baby Ricky. Everyone in her life were addicts, and she too, at the age of 17, tried meth. She moved into the home of her baby's father, and as her drug use progressed, he asked her to leave. She ended up back at her dad's home. In a new relationship, at age 19 she became pregnant with her second son and continued using. When Andrew was born, and positive for drugs in his system, CPS quickly took him and placed him in foster care. With baby Andrew's father in prison, her aunt was willing to take the baby out of foster care, while her firstborn was with his father.

Melanie's aunt helped her get into a rehabilitation program where she stayed for 16 months. She was cleaning up her life, got an apartment, and a steady job

continued on back page





San Joaquin County's Homeless Point in Time Count



Pictured are Gospel Center New Life Program Students and GCRM Staff who participated in the "Homeless Point In Time" (PIT) count in Manteca, Lodi and Stockton from January 25-31.

Gospel Center Rescue Mission participated in the 2022 Homeless Point In Time (PIT) count, a homeless census that occurs every other year in California, and is organized by San Joaquin County's Continuum of Care (COC).

Gospel Center puts the PIT as a #1 priority, as it supports **our mission to serve all of San Joaquin County**. We recruited more than 40 people, including New Life Program students and volunteers to assist in this effort. During the week of January 25, our 'PIT crew' was actively taking census data in Manteca, Lodi and Stockton. The three-day project is a great off campus program activity for our students. We also supplied transportation and meal support.

The results of the PIT will be published by the COC later this year. These results will include areas such as: gender, race, age groups, length of time unsheltered, income, children, veterans, seniors, substance abuse, and mental health issues. A key

outcome is that our county receives HUD funding, proportionally based on other counties in California Point In Time census results.

I hope this provides insight into one aspect of the complex work associated with our homeless population. In the meantime, please pray for our homeless—that they find their way to our 'Jesus Saves' gate and enter the New Life Program for regeneration and the abundant life that God has waiting for them.

*The blind receive sight, the lame walk,
those who have leprosy are cleansed,
the deaf hear, the dead are raised,
and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.*

~ Matthew 11:5

Wayne G. Richardson

Our Mission

The Gospel Center Rescue Mission is a ministry to the people of San Joaquin County where the homeless and addicted in our community are presented the opportunity for spiritual, physical and emotional restoration through the love of Jesus Christ.

In loving memory of David Say



David Say affectionately known as Day-Day, our Clothing Plus Manager, passed away in mid-January. Recently named the Gospel Center Rescue Mission's 2022 Distinguished Graduate, Day-Day was a beloved member of our Mission family, and most often was at the gate to greet our guests. A memorial service was held at The Mission on Friday, January 21. Gospel Center was his family, and he will be missed.

GRADUATION

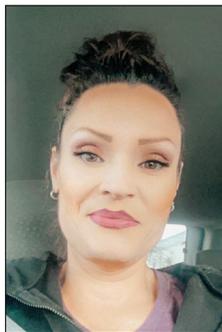
The New Life Program Graduation Celebration was held on Sunday, January 16, at First Baptist Church of Stockton. Introduced by City of Stockton Vice-Mayor Christina Fugazi, Stockton Mayor Kevin Lincoln, the keynote speaker, shared encouragement to our graduates. Thank you to Senior Pastor Brad Stahl, First Baptist Church of Stockton for hosting this very special event for our graduates, their families and friends.



Back Row Left to Right: Wayne Richardson, CEO, GCRM; Damien Williams; Angel Fernandez; Brad Stahl, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church of Stockton; Kevin Lincoln, Mayor, City of Stockton; Frank Rayfield; George Ramirez; and Britton Kimball, COO, Executive Director, GCRM. Front Row Left to Right: Tracy Tovar; Melanie Yoes; Crystal Joy; Tara Deveney; and Yvonne Rodriguez.

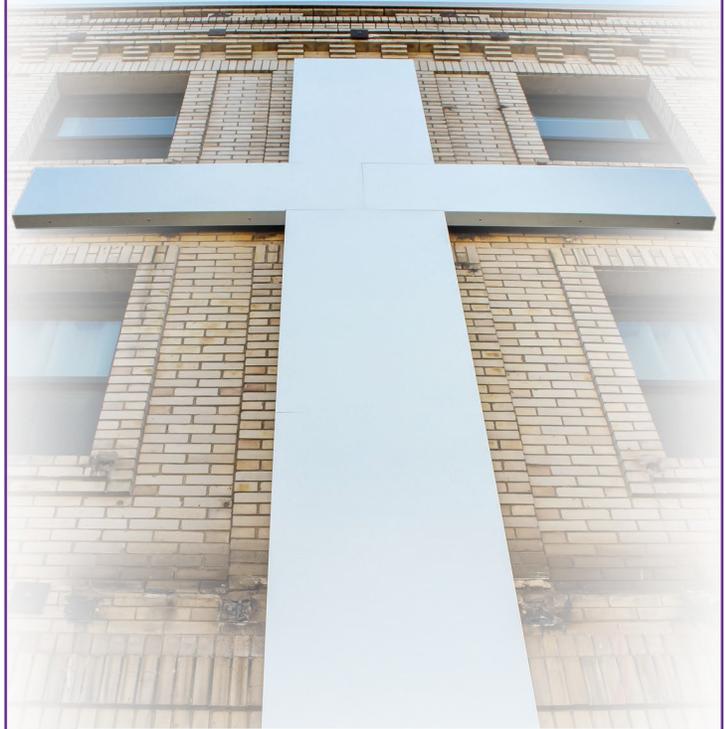
Triumph over Adversity

Viola Grady Dinkins, graduate of the New Life Program and employed as the Assistant Director, Recuperative Care at GCRM, was recently featured in *Outlook*, a publication of the SJC Office of Education. We are proud of her accomplishments. We are the stable recovery and regeneration environment that prepared her emotionally, physically, mentally and spiritually to participate in the GED program. To read about the many supportive programs our students participate in, and view the Triumph over Adversity video featuring Viola, visit: gcrms.org.



Easter Sunrise Service

(open to the public)



Easter Sunday
April 16, 2022 at 6:00am
Brown Building Courtyard

Message

Mark Maffucci, Senior Pastor
Quail Lakes Baptist Church

Worship Music

Lincoln Presbyterian Church

Prayer

Under the Cross on Sonora Street

Hosted Breakfast
GCRM Dining Room

Subject to COVID guidelines on Easter Day

GOSPEL CENTER RESCUE MISSION

restoring lives since 1940

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

...and the good news is proclaimed to the poor ~ Matthew 11:5

continued from cover

at Sears. She, Rickey and baby Andrew moved back in with Ricky's father, and together, the four of them were living a good life. They were both employed, she was able to pay off all her bills, and for more than six years they enjoyed family activities like camping and riding bikes. And then Andrew's biological father got out of prison and came back into Melanie's life. Within eight months, she started using again, and lost everything.

The downward cycle continued, and she kept using until she became pregnant with her third child. At that time, she quit using, moved out of the county to get clean, and stay with a family friend. Back and forth, her life was in chaos, and she had no stability.

After years of abuse, three DUI's, along with time in jail, she finally hit bottom. Melanie realized she needed help - a lot of help. Then she found the Gospel Center Rescue Mission. On June 15, 2021, with young Ayden in tow, Melanie entered through the 'Jesus Saves' gates at The Mission, and into the New Life Program.

Melanie really didn't want help yet realized that she couldn't keep doing this to her kids. Changing her mindset, she became determined to engage in the program with an open mind, work on herself, and willing to see where it was going to take her. It was the right time to leave the 'old' Melanie behind.

She is doing well in the New Life Program. She has gotten a lot of strength. She is working on herself, figuring out the patterns – and triggers in her life. The solitude at The Mission allows her to sit and reflect on all the things in her past, look, take it all in, and know that it's not too late to be the person, and mother she wants to be. The ladies and staff at The Mission provide a lot of support.

She has built a relationship with God and enjoys church each Sunday. It's been good for her spirit and her soul. When asked about the impact of The Mission on her life, Melanie said "Since I have been here, I have been able to focus on myself and work towards building my life and developing my relationships with my kids. I am so thankful for the Gospel Center Rescue Mission. And I'm pleased to say my kids are very proud of me."

Mission Happenings Stay Informed!

To read past issues of The Vision newsletter, as well as keep up to date on the activities, projects and programs at The Mission, visit our website: gcrms.org. Please like and follow us on Facebook, too!

MARCH GRADUATION

Keynote Speaker
Patrick Withrow, Sheriff
San Joaquin County

Sunday, March 13 • 2:00pm
Immanuel Christian Reformed Church
Ripon, California