

## “I will not be fearful.” — Jordan

At eight years old, most children are enjoying school, little league and spending time with friends. For Jordan Kurtz, she was mourning the loss of her mother – the victim of domestic violence. Sent to live with her father and stepmother in Amador County, she attended junior high and high school, dropping out her senior year. As a result of her traumatic upbringing, Jordan doesn't remember a lot of details from her childhood.

She worked jobs here and there and became involved in a nine-year, toxic relationship. Her boyfriend introduced Jordan to meth, and as her drug use continued, she became estranged from her family. Eventually, she left her boyfriend, but not her addiction to drugs, became pregnant and gave birth to a baby girl. Unable to care for a child, Jordan's sister stepped in to adopt her daughter.

Pregnant with her second child, Jordan was scared. When her second baby was born and taken by CPS, she realized that she was beginning to tire of living a dysfunctional life. Then she received news that her brother Cory had died. Although she had not seen him in a very long time, they had always been close. Unfortunately, both of their lives were wrapped around drugs. When the sad news came that her brother had died of an overdose, she began to question the path she was on.

Living in a motel, the mom of a friend introduced Jordan to Laurie, a staff member at Gospel Center Rescue Mission. She was scared to be at The Mission, and scared to change, yet she knew she needed to go with Laurie to change and get a fresh start on life. She was tired of living a life of toxic, drug filled relationships.

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## Talks With God The Joy of Journaling

**A**s I pondered this month's message, I was made aware of a journal by one of our New Life Program students. Journaling is one key tool used in most addiction treatment programs. It's a way for program students to capture their daily thoughts and later reflect on their challenges and progress. In some cases like New Life Program student Shelly, as you will read below, it can be a daily communication/prayer walk with God. We can all learn the value of journaling from Shelly. I am also reminded that because of Jesus dying on the Cross for our sins, we all can approach God and journal/pray. Note that this entry is just one of Shelly's almost daily journal entries, and it was written the day after a recent New Life Program Graduation.

1/17/22

Dear God,

Hi, it's me Shelly, so how's Heaven, it's probably cold up there, so I hope you have a warm thick jacket, that's if it's cold I really don't know, if it's cold or hot. I just wanted you

to be comfortable, because of all the good things you do around the world, and because you're so busy. So, I just want you to know I'm so grateful to have you in my life. So grateful of saving my life by coming to this program. So, as I sit in graduation watching everybody graduate tears run down my face with love and grace thinking about my life was before I came to this program, and think about how my life is now, and how my life is going to be, with my soulmate and my kids, so thank you for taking the desire of doing drugs away from my mind and body. I know in my mind I will never ever go back to drugs and never ever go back to being the way I was, so I can't express the way I feel by saying I Love you God because you mean so to me. I will be walking down to get my graduation certificate, with so much gratitude toward you God, because I owe you everything to you for being here, and I've worked so hard to be understanding how life is.

Thank you for listening and thank you for this program.

Love, Shelly

## GRADUATION



New Life Program Graduation was held on Sunday, March 13 at Immanuel Christian Reformed Church in Ripon. Pictured in front row: Britton Kimball, COO, GCRM; Sheriff Patrick Withrow, San Joaquin County; and Wayne Richardson, CEO, GCRM. Standing back row: David Turner; Ashley Embrey; Jordan Kurtz; Crystal Joy; Roseanna Chum; and Mohini Sharma.





## Recuperative Care Ribbon Cutting

A ribbon cutting was held on March 11th to celebrate the re-opening of the GCRM Recuperative Care Center. Dedicated to housing homeless coming out of hospitals while needing further time to heal, this Center also served as GCRM's "Covid Campus" for homeless recuperating from COVID. We are thankful for the City of Stockton's funding for this important project.



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## Happy Mother's Day!

*continued from cover*

"The classes I have taken at The Mission have given me the tools to stay clean and sober. Counseling, relapse prevention classes, and the New Life Program have helped me grow. I am surprised that I have made it this far – I have come a long way. I still need to work on some things, but I am making progress," stated Jordan.

Before she got to The Mission, Jordan had no belief in Jesus. The overall atmosphere at The Mission, going to church every Sunday, the daily Bible Studies and Parenting classes have been so helpful. During this time at the Mission, her father passed away.

As she is mourning his loss, she continues to look forward and reflect on her life, and the life of her son. Jordan shared, "My relationship with Jesus has given me strength to get through all of this. It has helped me make changes. I pray that as a mom, I will not be fearful. I want to be a good mother and need His strength to help me! I now get to spend time with my son every weekend, and we are bonding."

Jordan continued, "I was never a people person, I preferred staying within myself. The Mission has helped me get outside my bubble, to open-up and build healthy relationships. Now I like working with people and look forward to finding a job, hopefully here at The Mission."

As we celebrate Mother's Day, Jordan could not be more excited. She has reached several goals and has been able to trust God as she begins her new life with her son. She recently completed Phase 1 of the New Life Program and graduated on March 13th. Because of this milestone, she now has her son full-time, and they can celebrate together, not just Mother's Day, but every day.

## Donations Needed

*In need of Hygiene items for both  
men and women in the program*

Regular sizes of Body wash  
Shampoo • Conditioner • lip balm  
disposable shavers • deodorant  
emery boards (not metal) • hair ties,  
underwear for women (small & medium)  
feminine hygiene products • socks  
children's books • journals  
and 'one size fits most' bras.

*We thank you for any donations.*  
For donation drop-off, call (209) 320-2310.

## Thank You

First Baptist Church of Stockton  
for your donation of 30 hams  
for our Easter Dinner.