

## Old Made New

*“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – his good, pleasing, and perfect will.”*  
*Romans 12:2 (NIV)*

When Cody Don Walker, age 31, told his story, he shared that this was his favorite Bible verse as it is a constant reminder of God’s transforming power. It is truly a miracle that this young man began a life serving Jesus Christ, after a life of dysfunction, drug abuse, and ongoing incarceration.

He grew up in Modesto but moved a lot due to his mother’s drug addiction. Eventually he landed at a Catholic Boarding School and graduated at 18. His mom had become clean and sober and moved to Idaho. After graduation he joined her, began a new job at Sears, and fell in love. When his girlfriend cheated on him with a good friend, his world turned upside down. To cope, he started smoking weed and drinking. Returning to Modesto, Cody began using hard drugs and was in and out of prison for burglary. He broke into the safe at the store where he was working. The security cameras recognized his shoes and stature and off he went to prison.

*“From 22 to 30 I was running the streets – in and out of prison. Just before my 30th birthday is when it got really bad. I was homeless, living on the streets, stealing to get high, and stealing food to eat. I was arrested again - adding to my long rap sheet,”* stated Cody. *“I was on the run for about seven or eight months, homeless, addicted and didn’t care.”*

Cody’s mom had been clean for five years and was encouraging Cody to turn himself in to authorities. He did, and

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## New Life is All Around Us

**H**ope, life and a bright future are in the air here at The Mission! Lives are being restored and transformed every day by the grace of our God. He is so good!

We see this magnificent wonder in nature every spring. It is such an amazing thing to watch as the almond blossoms and pear trees are in bloom and the grapevines are starting to get green leaves on them. It reminds me of our life with Christ—we are still growing and blooming too, into a deeper relationship with Jesus so long as we remain in the vine (John 15:1-17, NIV).

His blessings and mercies are new every day. Lamentations 3:22-23 (NIV) says, “His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

And we are all new creations in Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) says, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

We all have an opportunity for a second chance at a new life with Christ. Isn't that amazing!!! Just take some time to think about God's creation. Romans 1:20 (NIV) says, “For since the creation

of the world God's invisible qualities-his eternal power and divine nature-have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.”

We are truly blessed here at The Mission, and it is only possible with your love and support for The Mission and all those involved. Thank you for your gifts, specifically for your gifts to support our Planting Day this month and student scholarships. We are still in need of plants/soil and scholarships, so please see the flier on the next page if you would like to be a part. We would greatly appreciate a gift of any size.

Thank you so much again for your love and support. We are excited to see what God has in store this spring and this year.

May God bless you and yours abundantly.

God Bless,

*David Midura*

David Midura, CEO  
GCRM

## GRADUATION



Back row (from left to right): David Midura, GCRM CEO, Dennis Barrett, Sytra Fleming, Francisco Meza, Douglas Laform, Larry King, Anthony Dearaujo, Lindsey Pierzina, Tyson Fite, Britton Kimball, GCRM COO. Front row (from left to right): Tammy Nova, Tabatha Sherwood, Sherri Leavitt, Denise Valdez, Keynote Speaker Sister Abby Newton, Melissa Briggs, Yvonne Rodriguez, Treva Santelio.

# Help Us Spruce Up the Landscaping!

With much of our construction projects coming to completion, and new ones on the horizon, we are excited to hold a "Going Green Day" on Friday, March 24, to spruce up our campus landscaping. Imagine daylilies up against buildings, creeping fig and bougainvilleas climbing the dull grey block walls, and planter boxes filled with perennials! A beautiful shade tree here and there, and our campus will be inviting and beautiful.

In addition to your regular support of The Mission, if you would like to help with this project, below you will find what we need.

Items Needed	How Many	Price per unit	Cost
Creeping Fig	153	\$10 each	\$1,530
Bougainvillea	18	\$30 each	\$540
Daylilies & other Perennials	100	\$11 each	\$1,100
St. Mary's Magnolia	2	\$100 each	\$200
Planter Boxes	5	\$80	\$240
Planter Mix	2 yards delivered	\$115	\$230
10 x 10 Gazebo for Women's Recuperative Care Patio			\$750

Feel free to buy one plant, or a dozen – a tree or some dirt ... or a flat donation! Write "PLANTING DAY" on the enclosed donation envelope along with the amount you would like to contribute towards this project! We will do the shopping and our "Campus Crew" will be doing the planting! Volunteers are welcome as well.



## New Life Program Student Scholarships

Did you know that you can sponsor one or multiple New Life Program students by providing them with a scholarship?

Providing a scholarship to an NLP student lets them know that somebody from the outside world cares about them and wants to see them succeed. It motivates our students who are trying to put their lives back together again.

A \$5,000 scholarship provides the student with an overall better experience during their 6 months in program.

If you would like to sponsor one or more students, please contact our new Director of Scholarships, Melissa Hicks at (209) 320-2307 or mhicks@gcrms.org.

*We, along with our students, would greatly appreciate a gift of any size.*

## Easter Sunrise Service

(open to the public)

**Easter Sunday**

**April 9, 2023 at 6:00am**

Brown Building Courtyard

## 2023 GRADUATION DATES

Save these dates. As our speakers and venues are confirmed, we will keep you informed.

**Sunday, March 19**

Keynote Speaker: Supervisor Robert Rickman  
Host: Zion United Reformed Church

**Sunday, May 21**

Keynote Speaker: Fritz Grupe  
Host: Quail Lakes Baptist Church

**Sunday, July 16**

Keynote Speaker: TBD  
Host: First Baptist Church



445 S. San Joaquin Street  
Stockton, CA 95203



*“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.” (Hebrews 4:12-13, NIV)*

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by the grace of God he received no extra charges and was jailed for a few hours. Returning to his downward spiral, his mom, now his greatest advocate, encouraged him to go to church with her. Cody went, only to make his mom happy, but got high right before church. The singing was so inspiring – the Holy Spirit spoke directly to Cody through the words of the pastor. Cody shared, “I went forward that night – releasing my life to Christ. The entire congregation laid hands on me. I apologized to God, felt His power, and released all my hurt to Him. God made me feel loved and I was going to have Him on my side. Yet, after a few days I slipped back into my dysfunctional world. This time I asked myself, ‘What am I doing? Why am I throwing away all these blessings?’”

Knowing he needed help, Cody began to drive from Modesto to a shelter in Woodland. His car was on empty when he stopped at Highway 12. Knowing he couldn’t go further, he turned around and stopped in downtown Stockton and googled Stockton faith-based shelters. Gospel Center Rescue Mission popped up and was right around the corner! He drove to The Mission and his car died right in front of the Jesus Saves Gate. Cody told staff he needed a faith-based rehab center. By the grace of God, and an empty gas tank, he entered the New Life Program and has now been at The Mission for a year.

Cody started attending a Bible study led by Dave Midura. Encouraged to memorize Bible verses, Cody began applying each one to his life. He continues to seek God, knowing that He is working on him, and doing special things in his life. God has been speaking to him since he began his program at The Mission.

“This is the house of God, for sure,” began Cody. “The Mission allowed me to come in with no money and they treated me like everyone else. They showed me love, respect, and a way back to Jesus. They gave me the tools to understand why I kept hurting the people I love and helped me find my relationship with God. Now I serve God every day of my life. They have mentored me to become a leader and role model for other people. I want to work here the rest of my life. If I am going to be a servant of Jesus Christ, there is no better place in the world for me than to be here serving at The Mission. I am so thankful for the staff – for their leadership, guidance and spiritual mentorship.

My mom now lives in Sonora. She has been clean for five years. Her prayers, her unconditional love for me, and her trust in Jesus are what brought me out of this life. She is the most amazing and strongest person in my life. I am blessed.”