

Walking Through the Jesus Saves Gate

Every person that walks through the Jesus Saves gate of the Gospel Center Rescue Mission has a story to tell. For many, they not only have a story of where they've been, they can talk about the many added chapters of their life since they made the decision to come to The Mission. They can tell their story of a changed life – a life of peace, joy, and forgiveness that only Jesus can provide. And sometimes their story includes a chapter or two of slipping back, struggling to make the change. Yet, they know there is a lifeline at The Mission and they are always welcome. The Mission is a place where healing takes place, people are real and transparent, and Jesus is ever-so present.

Changed lives at The Mission are to be celebrated. And celebrate we will! Sunday, September 17th is our annual Homecoming Graduation Celebration. In addition to the New Life Program graduation ceremony, we will be honoring our 2023 New Life Program Distinguished Graduates – Carrie Williams and Gabriel Silva. This day is an opportunity for all our alumni and guests, as well as our current New Life Program students, to reflect on the grace and forgiveness given to each one of us through life-changing relationships with Jesus Christ. We are thankful to share with you the stories of Gabriel and Carrie.

“Once at The Mission, I knew God had his hand on me. He delivered me and gave me a hunger for Him,” Gabriel Silva.



Gabriel Silva

“All glory to God! Great is His faithfulness.” These are the first words that Gabriel said as he began sharing his story. Like so many who have entered the gates of The Mission, he was addicted, homeless, and broken. For more than 20 years he led a life in constant turmoil and

spent a lot of time in jail. All the while, he knew his mother was praying for him. His life changed when he was doing drugs with a friend in the back of a pick-up truck and shared that he wanted a better life for himself and his two boys. His friend suggested he give the Gospel Center Rescue Mission a try and arranged for him to get a ride.

“Once at The Mission, I knew God had his hand on me. He delivered me and gave me a hunger for Him,” Gabriel began. “The New Life Program taught me to take the opportunity to live with boundaries and

structure, to be a man of God, study, find quiet time, and consider attending school.” He received an internship at UOP for a substance abuse certification, and although it was very difficult to study and be diligent, he pressed on and received his certification. He had been at The Mission for two years when God opened the door for a paid internship at Healthy Connections. His next goal was praying for an opportunity to have his boys live with him. He has been blessed as a Site Manager at Hope Family Shelter in Manteca that allows him free housing where he and his boys, Jeremiah and Josiah, now live with him. Gabriel works with the Kaiser Community Based Program and has more career opportunities on the horizon. He is also thankful for his renewed relationship with his oldest son Gabriel, Jr., and his grandchildren. Gabriel is open to God’s will in His life. “I pray to have my own non-profit someday – working with youth. They don’t have godly role models in their lives. God will open the doors He wants opened.” In closing Gabriel shared, “Prayer works. My mom never stopped praying. My life is all God’s story.”



Happy Autumn!

As summer comes to a close, we look forward to the changing of seasons. With autumn comes leaves changing colors, cooler weather, apple picking, and pumpkin patches. At The Mission, we are experiencing growth, change, and expansion as well.

The two, 50-year-old Victorian-style buildings have officially been demolished, making way for the New Life Program Multi-Purpose Center. The two Victorian style buildings housed 19 people and the New Life Program Multi-Purpose Center will house 130 people at one time. The new facility will be three stories at 12,400 square feet and includes sleeping rooms with one to four beds each on all three floors. Additionally, there will be classrooms, common area, shower rooms, commercial and resident laundry facilities. There will also be a computer center, counseling offices, and classroom/recreation rooms on each floor. Additional overflow of up to 100 men could be accommodated in the classrooms, whenever additional bed capacity is necessary due to a natural disaster, pandemic, or expanded recuperative care. An elevator will provide ADA access throughout the building. You can read more about the New Life Program

Multi-Purpose Center in our July 2023 edition of *The Vision* magazine on our website.

Would you like to learn more about our growing campus? We would love for you to visit our campus. To schedule a tour, please call Kendra Kaiserman at (209) 320-2306 or send an email to kkaiserman@gcrms.org.

Thank you so much for your faithful giving to The Mission. Your support helped us serve more than 13,000 meals last month, helped with the healing journey of nearly 30 men and women in our Recuperative Care program, and supported 14 New Life Program graduates in walking across the stage last month. Your generosity is changing lives and we cannot thank you enough.

May God bless you and yours abundantly this fall!

God Bless

David Midura

David Midura, CEO
GCRM

GRADUATION



Back row (l to r): Frank Rayfield, Terry Hanson. Middle row (l to r): Britton Kimball, GCRM COO, Lindsey Pierzina, GCRM Men's Program Director, Tyson Fite, GCRM Assistant Men's Program Director, Anna Villagomez, GCRM Women's Program Case Manager, William Bates, Quentin Verdun, Dajuan Jones, Richard Hayes, Kyle Porter, Dennis Barrett, GCRM Men's Counselor, Jessica Machado, GCRM Women's Program Case Manager, David Midura, GCRM CEO. Front row (l to r): Felipa Martinez, Crystal Joy, Elizabeth Brown, Keynote Speaker Judge Barbara Kronlund, Kaylah Jenkins, Treva Santelio.

“At The Mission, we are well looked after by God! I don’t have words to describe how wonderful it is to watch the women succeed and grow through the New Life Program,” Carrie Williams.

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Carrie Williams

Her view of The Mission wasn’t always a favored option for her.

A drug addict and an alcoholic, Carrie had completed a rehab program at another facility, and because she was homeless, had moved into a shelter.

While living at the shelter she traveled to her rehab classes by bus that drove past the Jesus Saves gates of the Gospel Center Rescue Mission, she remembers saying ‘oh I don’t ever want to go there’. Ironically, as she began to physically heal, she received encouragement from her case workers to get into the program at The Mission.

It was eleven years ago that Carrie walked through the Jesus Saves gates of The Mission, and it changed Carrie’s life. Once she began the New Life Program, she knew she had made the right decision as she was encouraged to dig deep, make life changes and begin walking with Christ.

As her life became more consistent and her faith began to grow, she was asked to become a case manager. Eventually she became the Director of the Women’s Program, a position that oversees the women and children in the New Hope Family Shelter and the Bill Brown Building.

“It is such a privilege to be part of the management team, to be involved in the many changes that occur on campus, and most importantly the changes in the lives of the women and their children,” shared Carrie. She has the responsibility to deal with a lot of personalities and situations and truly believes, by faith, that all things work out. “Leading by example shows our students a different way – and by staying calm, and with God’s help, we always seem to find a solution.” Carrie continued, “At The Mission, we are well looked after by God! I don’t have words to describe how wonderful it is to watch the women succeed and grow through the New Life Program. I am all too familiar with their journey and I know God has each of them in His hand. As a ten-year alumna of the program, I live my life clean, sober, and walking with Jesus Christ. I thank all those who support The Mission. My life here has allowed me to experience self-worth, to lead by example, and gain skills to grow as a women and mother.”

Join Us

When you walk through the Jesus Saves gate, you walk into the midst of a place where Jesus Christ is distinctly present. He is where God displays His mighty work. Some are ready to hear His voice, and some are not. Either way, the seed of faith is planted and forgiveness and grace are abundant. Please join us as we celebrate Gabriel and Carrie, and our September New Life Program Graduates on Sunday, September 17th at The Mission.

Victorians Cleared to Make Way for New Life Program Multi-Purpose Center



The demolition of the old Victorians began in late July, making room for the construction of the New Life Program Multi-Purpose Center. The three-story, 130 bed building will be 12,400 square feet! We are so excited to see this much need facility completed so that we can continue to bless the lives of those who come to The Mission.



445 S. San Joaquin Street
Stockton, CA 95203



“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God,” (Micah 6:8).



The Summer Fun Continues!

On a hot summer day, our women in the New Life Program and their children enjoyed a BBQ and pool party! Hosted by Ron and Bonnie Barber, the day was such fun. Thank you for your generosity and opening up your lovely backyard! We are so blessed.

Save the Date
**Homecoming
Graduation Celebration**

September 17, 2023
BBQ at Noon
Graduation at 2:00 pm

Keynote Speakers
Carrie Williams & Gabriel Silva
2023 Distinguished Graduates

Gospel Center Rescue Mission
445 S. San Joaquin St. • Stockton

RSVP to Kendra Kaiserman (209) 320-2306

DONATIONS NEEDED

Kids Socks
& Underwear
Kids Backpacks for
Back To School
Hygiene Products
Men's Clothing



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