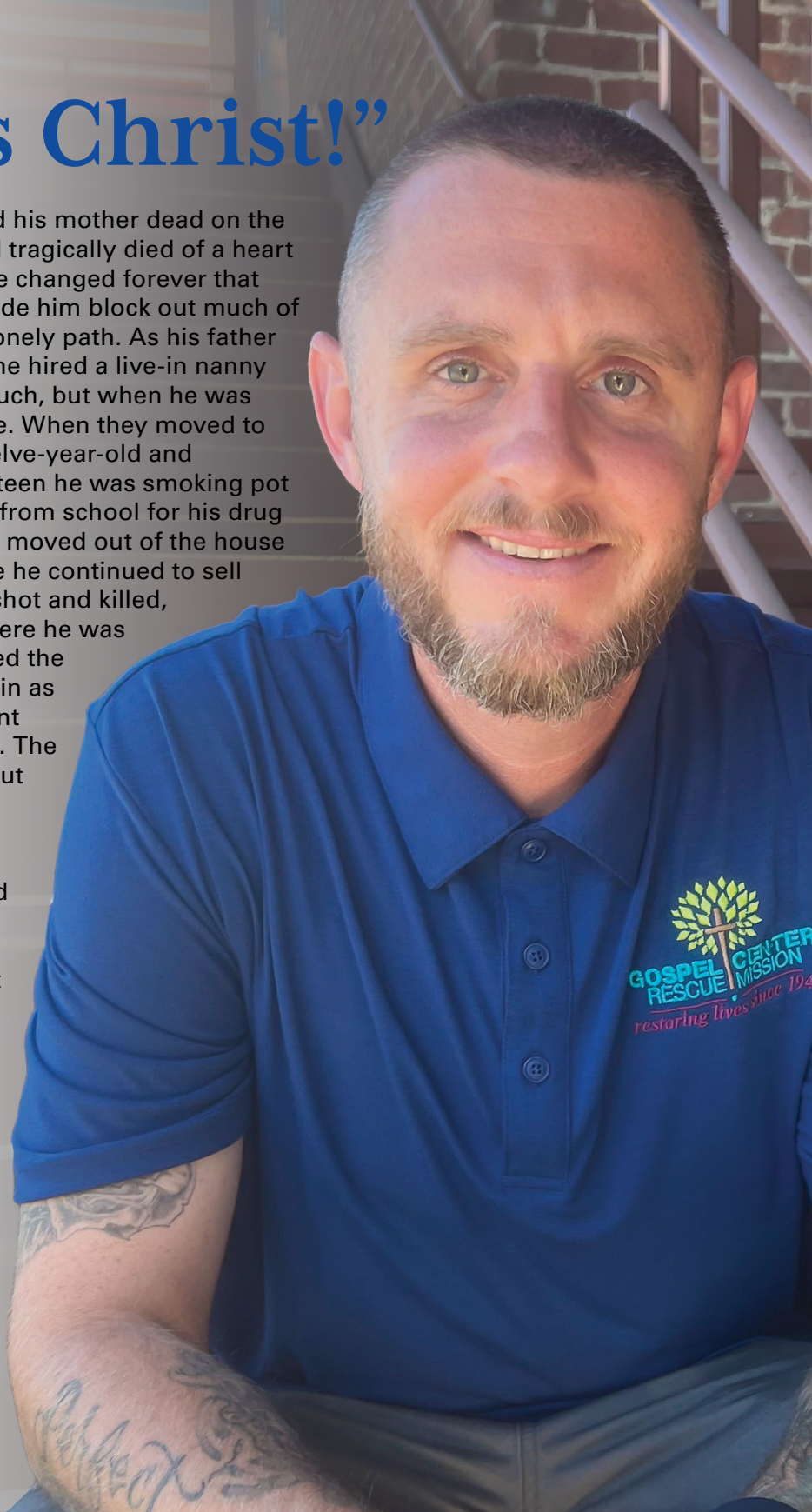


“YES to Jesus Christ!”

When Kyle Porter was eight years old he found his mother dead on the bathroom floor. She was only 37 years old and tragically died of a heart attack due to a potassium deficiency. Kyle’s life changed forever that day. It would be the day he took a turn that made him block out much of his childhood and start down a very sad and lonely path. As his father worked hard to support Kyle and his siblings, he hired a live-in nanny to take care of them. His dad wasn’t around much, but when he was there, he was verbally and emotionally abusive. When they moved to another state, Kyle was an impressionable twelve-year-old and immediately fell into the wrong crowd. By thirteen he was smoking pot and drinking... by seventeen, he was expelled from school for his drug use, selling drugs on campus, and fighting. He moved out of the house and was on his own, living on the streets while he continued to sell and use drugs, witnessing his best friend get shot and killed, and he too, was shot. It was in the hospital where he was given the pain medication that not only numbed the physical pain but the emotional and mental pain as well. Upon discharge from the hospital, he went straight to the streets, and began using heroin. The downward spiral began – a transient life that put him on the streets, in and out of jail, and drug rehab programs.

Kyle met Kirbie at a drug program in Texas, and they had a son together in 2014. They named him Kannon. “It was the best thing that ever happened to me, and my proudest moment. At this point, I was one year clean,” shared Kyle. She was from Stockton, so they decided to move back to California and begin a new life. Their life was going well – Kyle was 2 years clean – and then he lost his job. He knew he could make money selling drugs, and thought he would never use again... so he began to sell, and within two weeks was using methamphetamines. His home life imploded, he was back on the streets and once again, was in and out of prison. Heroin had taken over his life - and nothing – not even the love for his child – could stop the self-destruction.

Continued on page 3





Happy ThanksLiving to You and Yours!!!

Instead of Thanksgiving, I like to call this season ThanksLiving. Being thankful should not happen just on Thanksgiving, but all year long. A thankful, grateful person is great to be around, unlike an unthankful and ungrateful person. When Jesus Christ healed the ten people with leprosy, although all ten were healed, only one went out of the way to thank Jesus. He made a big deal about it too! We have so much to be thankful for all that Christ Jesus has done, is doing, and will do for us.

“But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved,” (Ephesians 2:4-5, NIV).

As we head into the end of the year and into Thanksgiving, let's make it a ThanksLiving holiday season. I am thankful for so many things; I am thankful for each and every person involved at The Mission, from our students to our staff and especially for you, our donors. Without your gracious giving, we would not be able to impact and restore so many lives. I am also thankful for the grant money that has enabled us to do so many upgrades here at the mission. Below I have highlighted a few of them.

First, I hope you were able to follow along with the videos of the demolition of the two Victorian buildings that we posted to our Facebook page on August 4th (just in case you missed it!) The demolition - which were able to house 19 individuals - are making way for a new 3-story New Life Program Multi-Purpose building. It will be able to house 130 people at one time. In addition to all the bedrooms, we will also have classrooms and counseling offices. Thank you to all who have supported us - including Health Plan of San Joaquin, San Joaquin County, RB Environmental, and various other individuals and businesses.

Second, we recently completed the ADA upgrades to the restrooms in our Chapel/Dining

Room area. Thank you to Simile Construction and San Joaquin County for making this much needed upgrade possible.

Third, we are coming to a close on our solar panels project. A canopy was installed in the middle of our campus, making a shade structure for our parking lot. Additionally, solar panels were installed on the roofs of three of our buildings. We are excited for this to be completed soon, as it is not only more energy efficient for us but helps us become better stewards of our planet. Thank you to Solar Gain and Solaris Energy!

Fourth, we have upgraded our entire campus with a point-to-point IT upgrade. Thank you to Verve IT for helping us with this upgrade as well as Health Net for making this possible.

We have so much to be thankful for! There are many more exciting things happening on our campus, and we cannot thank you enough for your support. These updates truly would not have been possible without your generosity and backing of The Mission. God has truly blessed us through you, our friends and family of The Mission.

These projects have designated funds that are separate from the funds that we can use for operational costs or other Mission purposes. If you would like to give an unrestricted gift that could be used for any Mission purpose, we would appreciate it immensely. Please fill out the enclosed white envelope if you feel so inclined. We would be blessed by a gift of any size.

May God bless you and yours abundantly this holiday season!!!

Happy ThanksLiving!!!

David Midura

David Midura, CEO
GCRM

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV)

continued from cover

On August 27, 2022 – 29 years to the day his mom died, Kyle was arrested and went to jail. He spent another birthday in jail, but this year was different. Not only was he arrested on the day his mom passed (when she died, she was 37 and Kyle was 8), ironically, at this moment he too was 37 and Kannon was 8. Kyle said, “I couldn’t imagine my son growing up without me, because I know how hard it was to grow up without a mother and a father figure. It made me want to change my life.” And he began to change. When released from jail, he called a friend to pick him up and she asked, “How do you feel about going into a program?” She drove Kyle to The Mission.

Kyle shared, “God moved in my life that day, telling my heart to go to The Mission. This time I had the willingness. Not only did I want a better life, but my son also deserved a better life. It’s been an overwhelming spiritual blessing to be here.” When he came to The Mission he did not believe in God. Yet soon realized that his way had not been working. Talking to staff at The Mission, they helped bring him to a wonderful, beautiful relationship with God. Through the counseling and New Life Program he has a new start on life. He is now a full-time employee as a case manager and houseman at The Mission. Kyle continued, “As a staff member, I get to see our

students on the first day they arrive, and then get to watch them grow in Christ!”

“Because of the work of Jesus through the Gospel Center Rescue Mission I found Jesus Christ, and I have been baptized. I am genuinely happy. I thank The Mission for giving me the opportunity to become a better man so that I can also be a better father. Today I have my son in my life, and because of the training through the New Life Program, I am present for my son, not just physically, but mentally, spiritually, and emotionally. All throughout my life I never believed in God because I was angry with him. Looking back, I see all the times I should’ve been dead or in a prison – and now I see that Jesus has always been there knocking at the door waiting patiently for me, waiting for me to answer, and let him in.”

Kyle continued, “This place changes lives, restores relationships, and brings people to God. Without the people who support The Mission, none of it would be possible. In addition to the support we receive for student programs, the support for the upgrading of the campus – especially the New Life Program Multi-Purpose Center - is wonderful. The more that The Mission can grow, more lives can be saved.”

IN THE COMMUNITY



Best of the West

Howdy! Mission Staff attended and enjoyed the Best of the West event hosted by United Way of San Joaquin. They enjoyed a lovely evening under the stars at the Historical Museum at Micke Grove complete with a delicious BBQ, cornbread and all the fixin’s, followed by a Johnny Cash tribute concert.



Sharing Our Programs

Staff represented The Mission at St. Joseph’s Fall Festival held in early October. This event gave us the opportunity to share with the community the services that are offered at The Mission.

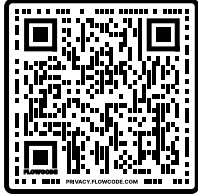


Golf Tournament

We enjoyed a day assisting at the Stockton Host Lions Club Golf Tournament, that benefitted the Community Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired.



445 S. San Joaquin Street
Stockton, CA 95203



“Do not be misled: ‘Bad company corrupts good character,’”
(1 Corinthians 15:33, NIV).

OUR PROJECTS



Kid’s Sprinkler Park

It’s coming along nicely! What a fun addition to the Mission Kid’s Playground! We are so excited to complete this wonderful project, and anticipate a ribbon-cutting celebration in the very near future.

Thanksgiving Turkey Donations

We have a lot of ovens to roast turkeys! Please consider donating a frozen turkey, or the funds to purchase one or two! Call (209) 320-2316 for details.

Christmas Toy Drive

NOV. 27
— TO —
DEC. 16

Donate NEW and unwrapped toys for the Mission Kids!

Drop toys off at
SASS! Public Relations
628 Lincoln Center
Stockton, CA 95207
Mon-Fri: 8:30am – 4:30pm

Delivery to GCRM
by Journey Transport

COAT AND SOCK DRIVE

SPREAD THE WARMTH THIS SEASON

Nov. 1 – Donate gently used coats and new socks.
Dec 31 Visit LincolnCenterShops.com for drop-off locations.

