

Jesus Saved My Life

Frank Rayfield recalls that his rebellion and anger began around age 11. He split his time between his mom and stepdad who lived in Napa, and his father in Stockton. Although it was a stable home life, Frank was angry – feeling that his stepdad had taken his mom from him. “I wanted her attention so badly that I was constantly causing trouble, thinking and hoping that it would make him want to leave. Praise God, he stayed,” shared Frank.

Life in Stockton was much different for Frank. Around the age of 12, when his father asked him to mow the lawn, Frank complained that he was too tired. It was at this time that his father gave him his first line of cocaine – a burst of energy - and his addiction began. His father lived a very rough lifestyle as he was in his addiction. A lifestyle that Frank chose to follow. Soon Frank was regularly using drugs, burglarizing homes, stealing to support his drug use, and selling at school. Known as somebody with an attitude, he was aggressive, taking out his anger by causing fights. He eventually was sent to a Boys Ranch and after sixteen months returned and dropped out of school. Unfortunately, his life continued to take him down the wrong roads.

Preferring to be in prison and not on the streets, by the age of 44 he had been in prison a total of twenty years. The last time he was released, and on parole, he stayed with relatives. Once he received his discharge card, he celebrated by getting high, took off and disappeared for thirty days. He ended up in a hotel room with a sack full of drugs, and a pistol in his hand. “Nobody loves me,” he told himself. Yet he knew people were always praying for him. “I believe those prayers were with me that day. I usually follow through with whatever I attempt, but I knew they were praying. I kept battling with my mind ‘bro- if you do this and it’s going to kill my mom and my sister.” He picked up the phone and

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Love Never Fails

In life, we are faced with many different warranties; car warranties, home warranties, manufacturer's warranties, etc.

Merriam-Webster defines a warranty as, "a usually written guarantee of the integrity of a product and of the maker's responsibility for the repair or replacement of defective parts."

There are even extended warranties, which covers all or some of the cost of certain repairs after the standard factory warranty expires.

You've most likely come across these kinds of warranties at some point in your life. But did you know that the ultimate warranty is in the Bible? 1 Corinthians 13:8 (NIV) states, "Love never fails." Because God loved us so much, He sent his one and

only Son to die on the cross for our sins. And not only did He die for us, He rose again, bursting forth in glory! Because He lives, all fear is gone; for His perfect love drives out fear. Praise God!

I hope you know how much God loves you, and how much all of us here at The Mission love you too.

This Easter, let us take the time to remember what Jesus Christ did for us on the cross, and be grateful that He did this out of a love that never fails.

God Bless,

David Midura

David Midura, CEO
GCRM

Easter Sunrise Service

(open to the public)

Easter Sunday

March 31, 2024 at 6:00am

Gospel Center Campus
Under the Sunshine Patio



Easter Ham Donations

GOSPEL CENTER RESCUE MISSION
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We are in need of hams for Easter. Would you consider donating one or more to GCRM?

For donation drop-off or pick-up, please call (209) 320-2306



Encouraging Students

Carrie Williams and Kyle Porter represented The Mission at the Mable Baron Career Day. It is important that we share the work we do at The Mission with the people in our Community.



Lending a Hand

Students from Ripon Christian High School spent a day volunteering to clean up around The Mission. They were a busy crew! Thank you so much.

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made a call to his sister. "I am in a motel room, and I am 'checking out'." Then he gave God and his sister a time frame. Thankfully God stayed with him in that motel room, and his sister took him seriously and showed up to take him to The Mission.

It was that day that he left his drugs, his gun, and his attitude at the motel. When he came to the "Jesus Saves" gate at The Mission, Billy Freeman let him in and gave him a bed. After three straight days of sleeping, Frank woke up and walked the grounds of The Mission. He was amazed by the smiles. "These cats don't even know me, and they keep smiling and saying hi," he said chuckling. "This is rehab! What are they smiling about?" Then he met Britton and the staff and at first was a bit leery. He didn't know if this is what he wanted. He didn't like love, didn't want to be loved - thinking it is easier to hate. "I failed all the people in my life. I didn't know how to love - and the people who loved me? Well, I hurt them," shared Frank. The guys at the Mission wouldn't let Frank quit. After thirty days he had a total meltdown and wanted to leave. So, he called his cousin, then another. They wouldn't come to get him. Neither would his sister or his wife. They all told Frank no.

It was then that Frank went down to his bunk in the basement, got on his knees and prayed for God to take the taste of the drugs out of his mouth. After a good night sleep, he woke up and no longer had that taste, that yearning for cocaine, in his mouth. God answered his prayer.

God replaced his love for drugs, with a love for people. "The love, the forgiveness, the zest for life is what I want to share. My greatest joy is talking with the newcomers who walk through those gates. I tell

them if they ever want to leave this place, first come talk to me. It was the talks with staff, and those hugs, and of course God, that kept me here." Frank shared that when he was baptized and came up out of the baptism water "I saw Jesus behind that pew - with a smile on His face, because I finally answered that knock! He knocked for a long time."

Now a graduate of the New Life Program at The Mission, Frank has been the maintenance engineer at Inertia Engineering for the past three years. He is so thankful they gave him the opportunity. He owns a car, has insurance, and can pay all his bills. He has shared his story with his co-workers and feels very blessed by the comradery.

"The Mission introduced me to God. They taught me to believe in myself and gave me the lessons on how to live a new life in Christ, to love myself. I know that Jesus is the reason I am where I am today. My family is so thankful. After 27 years of being separated from my wife, we now spend time together, going out on dates. My life and my family have been restored, and it is only because of Jesus."

Frank continued, "I am double blessed. I have a biological family - and I have my amazing extended family at The Mission. We all had to walk through the Jesus Saves gate at The Mission and know that when you hit bottom, inside that gate you can find Jesus and be healed."

Frank asked to tell the Friends of The Mission to never stop praying - and never stop loving.

Learn more about the Gospel Center Rescue Mission and the New Life Program Scholarships at gcrms.org.



Annual Scholarship Gala

For sponsorship and ticket information: 209.957.7277 or carrie_sass@sasspr.com

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THURSDAY
APRIL 25, 2024
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Stockton, CA 95203



“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 7:12).



Sergeant Ranger Promoted to Staff Sergeant

The January GCRM Graduation was a very special day for Sergeant Ranger, as we celebrated his promotion to Staff Sergeant! Ranger is the unrelenting protector of the campus. He welcomes our Mission guests with his friendly demeanor, and also the ferocious side-kick to our housemen as they complete their nightly walks around the perimeter of the campus. And most of all, Ranger is a beloved friend who provides care, love and compassion to the students, staff and guests. Thank you, Staff Sergeant Ranger. Well done, good and faithful servant!



Thank-a-Thon

Staff and Students spent a day having conversations with Mission friends, thanking them for the many prayers, volunteerism, and generosity. We are very thankful for each and every one!



Thank You

Thank you so much David Calder, owner of David's Pizza on Hammer Lane, for bringing by some delicious pizzas for our staff and students to enjoy!