



## Maurice & Viola Dinkins

When people come to The Mission, unconditional love, compassion and forgiveness is poured into each life by The Mission staff, volunteers and sponsors. The Mission staff is committed to walk daily with them as they go through their journey to restore their lives. There are good times and disappointing times. There are those committed to changing, and those who cannot overcome their addiction. But in God's timing, and with a staff that is totally committed to walking beside them, many lives have been changed.

As a person who supports and prays for The Mission, do you ever wonder about the impact you have on these lives? Do you ever wonder if your support is truly making a difference? The story of Viola and Maurice "Mo" Dinkins confirms the fact that Jesus

Christ is in the business of changing lives at The Mission. And our staff, volunteers and supporters play a huge part in those changed lives.

Viola and Mo did not know one another when they came to The Mission. Both of them were practicing alcoholics and addicts. Viola, the mother of four girls, had experienced domestic violence, trafficking and prostitution. Mo was a functioning alcoholic and addict who was still able to work, but moved from sofa to sofa, with no goals or ambition to change his life – basically fearing to live on his own. Their lives were at a dead-end.

By the grace of God each – independently – found their way to The Mission. And that is where they befriended



# Two Exciting Events Coming Up!

There are so many good things happening at The Mission. Praise God!

Our Homecoming Graduation is a special day where the alumni from our New Life Program visit and celebrate with us at The Mission. This year, this event will take place on Sunday, September 15th with a BBQ at noon, followed by our graduation at 2:00 pm. All are welcome to attend, we would love to see you there!

For this special graduation, one male and one female Distinguished Graduate has been selected to share their story and how God is working in their lives! Viola and Maurice "Mo" Dinkins, featured on the cover, are the 2024 Distinguished Graduates. They have each done and continue to do incredible work in our community. Can you imagine the countless lives they have changed for the positive? We are proud of them and invite you to come celebrate with us.

We are equally excited about the groundbreaking ceremony for our new Multi-Purpose Center that

will take place on Thursday, September 19th at 2:00 pm. We would be thrilled if you would attend! When construction is complete and we open our doors, we will be able to house 130 homeless individuals at one time.

Thank you to our generous donors, and our friends and family of The Mission who have been praying for us every step of the way. We truly could not have made it this far without your faithful support through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We are so excited and thankful for all the good things God is doing here at The Mission and we are grateful you are a part of it. Thank you for your support.

We love and appreciate you!!!

God Bless,

*David Midura*

David Midura, CEO  
GCRM

In May of 2023 we celebrated the demolition of the old Victorians, paving the way for the New Life Program Multi-Purpose Center.

*As we begin construction on this exciting project, please join us for the groundbreaking of the*

**New Life Program  
Multi-Purpose Center**  
**Thursday, September 19, 2024**  
**2:00 pm**

Gospel Center Rescue Mission  
445 S. San Joaquin Street  
Stockton, CA 95203

Please RSVP to Kendra Kaiserman (209) 320-2306

*Please Join Us  
at the*

**2024 Homecoming  
Graduation Celebration**

**Sunday, September 15, 2024**  
**BBQ at Noon**  
**Graduation at 2:00 pm**

**Keynote Speakers**  
**Viola and Maurice "Mo" Dinkins**  
*2024 Distinguished Graduates*

Gospel Center Rescue Mission  
445 S. San Joaquin Street  
Stockton, CA 95203

Please RSVP to Kendra Kaiserman (209) 320-2306

one another. Following her graduation from the Women's New Life Program, Viola was hired to work in Recuperative Care, and once Mo graduated, he began work as a houseman and security. Each of them had the goal of getting their children back into their lives.

Viola shared, "The Mission helped me find my way back to God. The staff taught me how to be a mom and how to be a productive member of society – when they offered me a job I felt like a person, something I hadn't felt in a very long time."

"The Mission saved my life," Mo said. "They cared about me, even more than I cared about saving my own life. Daily I heard, 'You can do it,' and I did it! The Mission is like family. They didn't treat me differently. They gave me a chance. My biggest goal was to change my life so my relationship with my son would be restored."

Following graduation, Viola and Mo began dating. The staff at The Mission walked them through relationship counseling and they were married in 2017. Now newlyweds, the staff cleaned out an area of one of the old Victorians to allow them to live on campus – a six month agreement while they looked for housing. They used this time to put their new life skills into action. They moved into their first apartment, along with Viola's youngest daughter and she continued working at The Mission while Mo began a job as a Dietary Aide at a local nursing and rehab facility. Mo shared, "My job is a joy! I love it. My patients look for me every day. I love talking with them, sharing God's love." Both Mo and Viola got their High School Diplomas and last month Mo began classes at Delta College to get his degree in Substance Abuse Counseling.

In 2022 Viola began a job working for Community Medical Centers as a Survivor Advocate Community Health Worker, a job with full benefits. She partners with the Family Justice Center in the DA's office working with victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual assault, child abuse, stalking, and elder abuse. "My greatest joy is to help and guide these victims through the process. I have been there and understand their fears and lack of hope. My favorite quote to share with these victims is, 'You made it through the storm – now it's time to shine.'"

Recently Mo and Viola were told they are The Gospel Center Rescue Mission's 2024 Distinguished Graduates.

Mo shared, "This recognition really means a lot to us. We were shocked, honored and humbled that

they have recognized the work we have done, and the goals we have met. It is going to be a bit emotional at the Graduation and Alumni event on September 15th!"

"Together, we are so thankful to the sponsors for opening their arms to the people at The Mission," stated Mo. "God has His hand on this place – it's a rough neighborhood. To get through the New Life Program is not easy, but because of the Christ-led staff, we are restored. And because of our sponsors and volunteers, The Mission continues to grow and expand. The Mission changes lives."

Yes, those who support The Mission with their time, treasures and talents DO make a significant difference in the lives of the homeless and addicted. The story of Viola and Mo is one of many - where lives have been changed. They are productive citizens and impacting the lives of so many people who now cross their paths. All because of the redeeming work that Jesus has done through those who support The Mission.

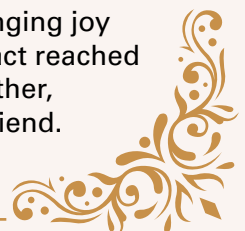
This past April, on the birthday of Viola's youngest daughter, Viola received a call from her three older daughters, asking to come together for reconciliation. Mo and Viola are now reunited with their children - Mo's son, and Viola's four daughters. Viola recently found out she's going to be a grandma. A beautiful, blended family looking forward to celebrating the best Christmas ever.



MEMORIAL  
FOR  
*Lucas*

Lucas Zepeda  
December 13, 1992 –  
July 24, 2024

On Sunday, August 4th, our hearts were heavy as we said goodbye to our beloved friend and student, Lucas Zepeda. Lucas was a cherished presence at The Mission, bringing joy to everyone he met. His impact reached far and wide, as a devoted father, husband, son, brother, and friend. He will be deeply missed.





445 S. San Joaquin Street  
Stockton, CA 95203  
gcrms.org

*“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!”* Psalm 133:1

# Thank you!

*We are so thankful to have received back to school donations.*



Feed the Children donated 576 backpacks and school supplies to The Mission. Niagara Water held an event at their warehouse, where volunteers from the company, along with Mission staff and students packed the backpacks full of school supplies. The Mission Kids, and kids throughout the community received them, ensuring that they will have plenty of supplies to start school!



Cortney Reese and Hannah Goldsmith, with the support of Genesis Fitness and Wellness, organized a back-to-school supplies drive. Lots of notebooks, crayons, colored pencils and oh-so-much more!

## DONATIONS NEEDED

Men and Women’s Plus Size Clothing (2X and above).



*We thank you for any donations.*  
For donation drop-off, call (209) 466-2138.

# DONATE TODAY!



### BY PHONE

Scan the QR code to contribute effortlessly from your phone

OR

### ONLINE

Donate online [gcrms.org/give](http://gcrms.org/give)

OR

### BY MAIL

Write a check to PO Box 816 Stockton, CA 95201-0816