

Walking Together

Randy & Carla Rogers

As kids, their lives were very different. Randy grew up in a dysfunctional home where drugs and alcohol were the norm. He was in and out of Juvenile Hall and CYA, a drug filled lifestyle that continued on into adulthood. Carla had a relatively normal childhood raised by her mom and dad. Although they were not close and didn't get along well, they did provide stability and educational opportunities beyond high school. After a traumatic break-up, she turned to drugs. When Randy and Carla found each other, they were both homeless and drugs were fueling their lives.

As their lives continued to be found on the streets of east side Stockton, Randy was once again released from jail, seeking to find and reconnect with Carla. He finally found her, fed her and said "This is enough. We need help." He called his childhood friend Tyson, who just happened to be Pastor Tyson, Men's New Life Program Assistant Director at The Mission. Although there wasn't room for Randy that day, there was room

for Carla, and he gathered her items and drove her to The Mission. Randy stayed with his family looking to get into another program, as Carla relentlessly called him to encourage him to enter the New Life Program at the Mission. He was unaware of the impact that this move would have on both of their lives.

And yes, it has had an impact. They were both ready and willing to dramatically change, and a Christ-centered, life-changing program was what they found. The counseling sessions made them dig deep into their past lives that drove them to make bad choices, and they were each finding the tools they needed to radically change their habits and depend on Christ to lead their daily lives.

"Christ has done a lot in my life," shared Randy. "The Mission doors opened, and I found friendly people and supportive staff who were ready to help me." Carla simply stated, "It works! The program at

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Our Mission

Gospel Center Rescue Mission, Inc. is a ministry to the people of San Joaquin County where the homeless and addicted in our community are presented the opportunity for spiritual, physical, emotional restoration and equitable inclusion through the love of Jesus Christ.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



He is Risen!

If you had a chance to read my message from last month's newsletter, I wrote about springtime, how we see the flowers bloom and grow, and how the New Life Program students here at The Mission are growing and blooming too. If you did not have a chance to read it, you can do so at gcrms.org.

During this spring season, we can find hope in Easter! Christ Jesus going to the cross for our salvation brings us the greatest hope of all—eternity with Him. He did the unthinkable. He went to the cross for us. He defeated the grave by rising from the dead three days later! "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ," (1 Corinthians 15:55-57, NIV). We need the Spirit of our Risen Savior to have His way in our lives as we deny ourselves and

pick up our cross and follow Jesus Christ.

May Jesus Christ resurrect people's lives this Easter, so that we see a harvest of folks being "born again". Fan The Flame.

He is Risen indeed!!!!

Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do to support The Mission. It is only through Christ Jesus, through you, that we are able to continue to help save so many homeless and addicted individuals and families.

Thank you.

Happy Easter!

God Bless,

David Midura

David Midura, CEO
GCRM

\$20
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MONTHS
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Partner with us to raise \$240,000 to celebrate 85 years of saving lives

Be one of 500 partners to commit \$20 or more each month for two years! If you are currently giving to The Mission, consider an additional \$20 per month for this two-year plan. Together, we can raise close to a quarter of a million dollars. The impact would be life-changing for so many people. Please use the enclosed envelope to indicate your level of giving or donate directly online at www.gcrms.org.



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95201-0816

AROUND CAMPUS & COMMUNITY



Congratulations to our Graduates

Back Row (L to R): Britton Kimball, COO; William Irons; Devarian Gordon; Pastor Brett Dood, Calvary Reformed Church, Ripon; Robert Rickman, SJC Supervisor; Sebastian Kemp; Sesar Roman; Nino Ocampo; David Midura, CEO. Front Row (L to R): Dorothy Montes; Esther Almendarez; Maria Ibarra; Sari Wylid; Morgan Porras-Burgos; Dominique Hidalgo.



“Be Awesome. Be A Book Nut!” ~Dr. Seuss

David Midura, our CEO and an active member of Rotary, organized the participation of the Mission Staff at the 2025 Rotary Read-In. They read to 2nd and 3rd graders at King Elementary School, enjoyed their time engaging with students, and left the book they read to be added to the King Elementary School Library.



B4. I28. N37. G58. O67 BINGO!!!

It was a day of serious bingo competition, complete with prizes, at the Mission. Thank you to Sharon Benninger and her friends for sharing their St. Patty's Day with us!



Thank you!

We were blessed to have women from Century Assembly Church volunteer to prepare and serve meals to our staff and students.



It's Great Coffee and People Are Talking About It!

This past month, Church Street Coffee has made a lot of BIG NEWS. Recently Stocktonia, a local news outlet, featured our new coffee business. Soon following, CBS News, Sacramento, stopped by to tour The Mission, and then to the Church Street Coffee roasting room at The Well. Both stories and photos can be found at gcrms.com.



“Lunch and a Tour!”

We were pleased to have a visit from Gene and Dianne Gini, and son Brian Gini, of Collins Electrical Company. We enjoyed a delicious lunch - Shepard's Pie - prepared by The Mission Kitchen Staff, followed by a tour of the progress of the New Life Program Center. If you are interested in joining us for “Lunch and a Tour”, please give us a call!

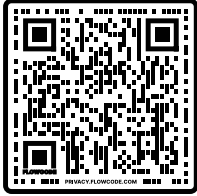




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CAMPUS MEMORY VERSE

“Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 15:14-20)

Continued from cover

the Gospel Center Rescue Mission works! I found myself here, and I am living a normal life again.”

As Randy progressed through the New Life Program, a childhood friend of Randy’s offered him a job – one that is not only full-time steady work, but complete with full benefits, including 401K and insurance. Carla is currently working in Recuperative Care at the Mission, handling their billing, data entry and admitting, with the goal of becoming a counselor. Together they are saving and planning, hoping to one day have their own home. On September 8, 2024, Randy and Carla were married at His Way Community Church, by their dear friend and counselor, Pastor Tyson.

Through it all, they have been extremely supportive of each other, and grateful for the many people who have embraced them. They are especially thankful for The Mission staff, donors and volunteers who pour their lives into the students at The Mission.

From the unexpected introduction on the streets of Stockton, to their journey to a new life in Christ found at The Mission, Randy and Carla have reunited with their families and children. They are on a new road, walking hand in hand with Christ, and each other.

Easter Sunrise Service

April 20, 2025

6:00am • GCRM Chapel

Opening Prayer

Dan Van Groningen
Board Member

Worship

Eddie Gonzales
First Baptist Church of Stockton

Message

Pastor Jon Hathorn
*Lincoln Presbyterian Church
President, Board of Directors*

Communion

Closing Prayer

Jack Fiori
Board Member

Breakfast

Dining Room