



# Lighthouse News

**WE BELIEVE ...**  
Building on Faith, Hope and Excellence! Since 1949

June 2016  
Issue 6, Volume 67

**“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”**  
James 4:10 (NKJV)



Mother’s Day at  
Rescue the Children  
(Page 4)

*“I finally reached a point that scared me. I was tired of not having anything. I kept thinking, is this all there is? There has to be more to life than feeling like nothing matters – like I don’t matter.”*

**Meet Buryl:**

An interesting blend of “before and after.” He has prison tattoos of a skull and a confederate flag, all intermixed with Dante’s *Seven Deadly Sins* inked throughout, encircling his arm. He was protected by a white supremacy gang while serving time, yet his best friends in the Academy are of varying race and culture. He was hurt and abandoned in his youth (a reason to cling to self-pity), yet he desires life-change in himself for his 3-year old daughter, Bailey. *“I learned I was going to be a dad while I was in prison. So now, I have to keep my focus and never give up. I don’t want her to grow up without her father like I did.”*

Before coming to the Academy, Buryl had no more than 5th grade-level literacy skills, yet in his 4th quarter of the residential portion of the program, he is preparing to pass his third and final exam for his GED. Buryl never read the Bible before. He never knew about Jesus. Yet, when he was sharing his favorite Scripture, he read it with absolute conviction from his heart; *“Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.” Romans 5:3-5 ESV*





# Letters Received in 2016

Dear Mission Staff,

My daughters and I want to thank you for the great kindness shown to us when we stayed in your Mission. God truly ministered to us in that place thru you all. The smiles of compassion, the polite and courteous attention and grace given to us in our need, was overwhelmingly priceless.

Though we've known abuse and could have felt threatened and worried being surrounded by only men, we felt very safe and felt the peace of God over us. God's presence is in that place.

We also loved how many workers sang along with the Christian music being played at breakfast time – was a sweet treat for our hearts.

You have a treasure there at the Rescue Mission. And though we slept on the floor, we felt more cared for and welcome there than any other place in Fresno (we bounced around a lot).

May God bless and prosper you all. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

In Christ's love,

Carol and daughters

Ps. We are back in the Midwest, but if we lived there we'd love to help out in some way. We pray we have a place to serve where we are. God is good and we praise Him and thank Him for you!



Steve Ocheltree, FRM Board Chairman,

*"Today, Salvador L. was in my Court after having completed the residential portion of the FRM – he was currently participating in Aftercare. He was very proud of his accomplishments and he had a very different demeanor and attitude from past appearances in my Court. When I inquired about his accomplishments he had a glowing smile on his face as he described the amazing transition he had made. It was a pleasure to hear him describe the changes he had made and for him to thank the Court and FRM for allowing him the opportunity to make the significant changes that he had made in all areas of his life. He told me his sobriety date and advised that it was fantastic to be clean and sober after his history of over 20 years of being addicted to alcohol and drugs. This is one of many success stories that I hear on a regular basis about the FRM. Thanks for all the hard work and continued success of your program."*

~ Judge David A. Gottlieb—Fresno Superior Court



Summer of Hope  
90-Day Challenge

Be part of LIFE CHANGE!

"...because desperate need  
doesn't take a vacation."

SAY,  I'M IN!

go to [www.FresnoRM.org](http://www.FresnoRM.org)

*"My people, you are My witnesses and My chosen servant. I want you to know Me, to trust Me, and understand that I alone am God. I have always been God; there can be no others."*

Isaiah 43:10 (CEV)

**THANK YOU** for writing to us and sharing your experiences. Watching God work through the people we serve is pure joy. It inspires us to do even more for His glory. This is why the Mission Staff and the Board of Directors are committed to life-change. We believe in God's power to restore and to direct the lives of His people to have meaning and purpose. We know you believe in this, too.

### Summers are Challenging - but There's Hope, Thanks to You

As we navigate the harsh summer months, we want to encourage you that God has a plan. Please join us in the Summer of Hope 90-Day Challenge. This is an opportunity for all who believe in God's Great Commission to say, "Absolutely! I'M IN! I want to help those who are lost to find the peace and rest that can only be found through Christ Jesus." Help us do what God has blessed us to do with your support. Then, watch and be amazed.

Our hope is to grow as God calls us, expanding what we do to meet the ever-changing needs in our community. This is why I am so grateful for your generosity, your trust, and your spirit of "partnership" in all we do. Thank you for your continued support of the Fresno Rescue Mission. ~ Steve Ocheltree, FRM Board Chairman





Don Eskes, Chief Executive Officer

## God Blesses the Mission with Stellar Leadership

Our Board of Directors has voted to appoint Don Eskes the new Chief Executive Officer of the Fresno Rescue Mission.

Don is a former corporate executive and business owner who has lived in Fresno since 1965. As a graduate of CSU Fresno, he has served on many community boards and ministries after coming to Christ in his late 20's.

Since retiring from business in 2004, Don focused his efforts on Kingdom ministry, using his leadership skills, his business savvy and his heart-felt love for people to not only support his church as a member of their staff, but to likewise work for One by One Leadership Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, Chapel of Grace at Valley State Prison, and as a hands-on team member in a number of mission trips to Africa and Asia. Don has served as Board Chairman of the annual Fresno Clovis Prayer Breakfast for many years. In 2010 Don started working as a volunteer for the Fresno Rescue Mission. In 2011 he came on staff at the Mission, working in Development and Donor Relations.

Don and his wife, Betty, of 47 years, are active members of the Bridge Evangelical Free Church of Fresno. They have three grown, married children and seven grandchildren.

Please join us as we celebrate with Don in his new appointment as our ministry's leader. We know that God has chosen Don for His purpose and His plan, "... for such a time as this." *Esther 4:14*

~ Steve Ocheltree, FRM Board Chairman

## Baptized in Christ

On the 14th of May, 26 men openly celebrated their commitment to Christ through water baptism.





## Rescue the Children



## Mother's Day at the Mission

On Saturday, May 7th, Life Bridge Church hosted a Mother's Day event for the women and children at Rescue the Children. While the women were at a special service with live worship and a special guest speaker, the children made gifts for their moms and played games. At the end of service, each woman received a bracelet with a word describing a godly characteristic- such as love, faith, hope or peace. Many of the women still wear their bracelet every day to remind them that they are enough in Christ.



Mission goals include restoring family relationships. Mother's Day presents an awesome opportunity for families to reconnect and express their love for each other. During the Academy event, the men and their moms shared what they appreciate most:

*"Mom you never gave up on me. You never stopped believing in me, even when I didn't believe in myself."*

Mom's response: *"Thank you for saving my son's life. I thought I was going to lose him. He is a good man and I am so proud him."*





# Volunteer Spotlight



**Esther Ramos**

If you asked what sparked my desire to become a volunteer for Rescue the Children (RTC), I would have to say that it was a series of events. Initially, it stemmed from a deeply rooted love and admiration for Jesus, instilled in me by my parents at a young age. I strongly believe His Word:

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” says The Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” Jeremiah 29:11*

Growing up, I always wanted to be a missionary, but life led me down a detoured path. I found employment with the State and then I married a man who loved God with all of his heart. He went into the prisons to minister the message of hope and salvation to the men and women who were incarcerated. We were married 23 years before he died suddenly, in March 2009, from a brain aneurysm. From that moment on, my whole world changed.

One year after his passing, I felt an urgency to redirect my life into full-time ministry. I retired from the State, and then attended a two-year course of study in ministry through Celebration Church. During my second year, our class volunteered to help out at RTC, just prior to their grand opening in 2012. After graduation, the Lord put the desire in my heart to volunteer for RTC again. Initially I helped with security, but later began facilitating Bible studies, teaching a 12-week course in Action Bible. In 2014, I felt the Lord prompting me to apply for the job opening as a House Manager. I love that I am now on staff.

Nothing that we do for Christ is ever in vain. I believe that the steps of the righteous are ordered by the Lord. My job of 27 years with the State could never have compared to the great rewards of seeing lives changed through the awesome power of God. He is bringing these ladies out of darkness and into His glorious light! ~ Esther Ramos

## Men’s Prayer Ministry

In July 2015, a men’s prayer ministry was started at the Mission by K. C. Dickie, of the Men’s Equipping Network. Every Wednesday evening, from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM, men join together to praise God, confess their sins, and thank God for who He is, for the blessings He bestows, and for the men to pray for one another. The ministry is offered as an elective course for the men in the Academy program. Attendance varies from 7 to 18 men, depending upon their availability that evening.

God leads this ministry, but Jim West, an evening volunteer facilitator of this ministry, works as God’s hands and feet. Jim states, *“It’s such a blessing to see the men grow from week to week -- to see men pray out loud for the first time. When men pray together they develop a transparent intimacy as they open up to God. Anyone who wants to see, first-hand, what God is doing through this ministry is invited to join us.”*





## Amazing Grace - Continued from the COVER

"The staff are all really kind," Buryl shared. "I've never known people like this. And the volunteers are amazing! They come here week after week, spending time with us when they could be doing something else. They help us for no pay at all. And they're all nice, too!"

I have to admit, I wanted to leave this place when I first got here. It was just weird. Everyone hugged and talked non-stop about Jesus. My background was nothing like this. My mom was an alcoholic, and my stepfather was violent. I was addicted to Meth in my teens and stealing from everyone I knew to support my habit. I can't even count the number of times I've been to jail. I've been to prison 3 times, facing another round with an 8-year sentence for theft. I had options, though. Since the crimes were all related to my addiction, my P.O. recommended the Mission. I said yes, but, for sure, coming here was a culture shock.

Toward the end of my 3rd month, things were improving. I remember being in TLC [Transformative Living Class] when I heard something that hit home. 'Real change doesn't happen by trying harder. It happens when we face the reality of our inner lives. You must feel to heal.' I think that was the moment I understood. From that time on, I let Jesus help me feel the pain of my past and work on my attitude. Today, I'm grateful. I'm humbled by the way God loves me. I can feel Him in me. It's just like the song describes; Amazing Grace."



### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

Don Eskes, Chief Executive Officer  
Phone: (559) 268-0839, Ext. 104 - [deskes@fresnorm.org](mailto:deskes@fresnorm.org)

Pastor Rob Cravy, Chief Operating Officer  
Phone: (559) 268-0839, Ext. 113 - [rcravy@fresnorm.org](mailto:rcravy@fresnorm.org)

310 G Street, Fresno CA 93706  
P. O. Box 1422, Fresno CA 93716-1422  
Phone: (559) 268-0839 - Fax: (559) 268-1317

**COMMUNITY CARE** - Pastor Jay Carroll, Director  
315 G Street, Fresno CA 93706  
Phone: (559) 268-0839, Ext. 205 - [jcarroll@fresnorm.org](mailto:jcarroll@fresnorm.org)

**THE ACADEMY** - Rev. Bud Searcy, Director  
310 G Street, Fresno CA 93706  
Phone: (559) 268-0839, Ext. 115 - [bsearcy@fresnorm.org](mailto:bsearcy@fresnorm.org)

**RESCUE THE CHILDREN** - Priscilla Robbins, Director  
2141 North Parkway Drive, Fresno CA 93705  
Phone: (559) 227-2190, Ext. 104 - [probbins@fresnorm.org](mailto:probbins@fresnorm.org)

**MISSION AT THE MISSION** -  
335 G Street, Fresno CA 93706  
Phone: (559) 268-0839 - [MissionatMission@fresnorm.org](mailto:MissionatMission@fresnorm.org)

**FRESNO RESCUE MISSION THRIFT STORE AND CARS**  
Sandra Patel, Director  
181 E. Sierra, Fresno CA 93710  
Phone (559) 440-0870 - [spatel@fresnorm.org](mailto:spatel@fresnorm.org)

**TOURS/VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**  
Tina Searcy - Volunteer and Events Coordinator  
(559) 268-0839, Ext. 202 - [tsearcy@fresnorm.org](mailto:tsearcy@fresnorm.org)

**ADDRESS CHANGES** - Angie Gonzales  
(559) 268-0839, Ext. 209 - [agonzales@fresnorm.org](mailto:agonzales@fresnorm.org)

### PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF:

Al Kawasaki - YourRacePhotos.net  
[al@yourracephotos.net](mailto:al@yourracephotos.net)

Ted Morgan - FRM Volunteer

Ken Scheid - [ScheidImages.smugmug.com](mailto:ScheidImages.smugmug.com)  
[scheidimages@att.net](mailto:scheidimages@att.net)

Scott Strebler - [ScottStreblerPhotography.com](mailto:ScottStreblerPhotography.com)  
[scott@scottstrebler.com](mailto:scott@scottstrebler.com)

Mariano Friginal - [MARIANOFRIGINAL.com](http://MARIANOFRIGINAL.com)

### FRESNO RESCUE MISSION

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steve Ocheltree, Chairman  
Jim Mosqueda, Vice-Chairman  
Don MacAlpine, Treasurer  
Robert Abrams, Secretary  
Leonel Alvarado

**AUDIT COMMITTEE**  
Vicki Crow, CPA  
Ben Krikorian, CPA

Vito Brugetti  
Matthew Dildine  
Ken Jorgensen  
Daral Kennedy  
Steve Pearson  
Lonnie Petty  
Emil "Butch" Rusconi  
James Sullivan

  
**PROFESSIONAL PRINT & MAIL, INC.**  
Your Professional Partner in Marketing

## SAVE THE DATES!

Executive Title Sponsor

  
**PREMIER VALLEY BANK**

Executive Course Sponsor  
  
**RITCHIE TRUCKING SERVICE**

Media Sponsors

  
**940 AM**  
**ESPN RADIO**

  
**SPIRIT 88.9**  
**FOX26 CW59**

**Monday, September 19, 2016**  
**Sunnyside Country Club**

**Proceeds Benefit:**

"He heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds"  
Psalm 147:3



Tickets and Sponsorships / Silent auction Sponsorships  
Contact: Angie Gonzales 559-268-0839, Ext 209; [agonzales@fresnorm.org](mailto:agonzales@fresnorm.org)

Title Sponsor  
  
**PRODUCERS DAIRY**

Media Sponsors

  
**FOX26 CW59**

  
**JEWEL 99.3**

  
**SPIRIT 88.9**

"...He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers..."  
Malachi 4:6b (NASB)



\$45.00 per person  
\$400 per table of 10

Silent Auction begins at 5:00 PM  
Dinner and Graduation Ceremony begins at 6:30 PM

Please remember the Fresno Rescue Mission in your will or trust