



Lighthouse News

June 2018

Issue 6, Volume 69

Thank You!

YOUR INVESTMENT *fostered:*

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, pg 4

FREE INDEED:

Efren's Start to a New Life, pg 5

IN THE GARDEN, pg 6

Because of *Your Support*
families are celebrating!

Michael and family attended the Academy's Mother's Day Brunch (pictures of the event on page 3) With Michael, are his mother, Rosanna, and his baby sisters, Jasleen and Amaya.



DON ESKEs
Chief Executive Officer

Exiting what is Familiar

Change is always challenging. It puts us under stress we would not otherwise have. Even when change is for the good, it can be nerve-wracking. We prefer to live in the former days where life was comfortable and known, yet God does not allow that because he loves us too much. I have found that my time of spiritual growth has always come during times of difficulty and change. It is always when I am going through a challenge that I look to God for wisdom.

Entering the New with YOU

We just completed our move, packing and transporting the Mission's Food Services, Chapel, Academy program, Accounting Office, and Administration offices into our new, temporary facilities. The old Mission building (constructed on the east side of G Street and dedicated for use in 1965), has been used to minister to thousands of men and women over the past 54 years thanks to the ongoing support of our generous community. This last month we gave up possession of the structure and the land to the State of California to make way for High-Speed Rail. It was a bittersweet time. Yes, we were excited to move into all-new facilities with updated technology and equipment, but at the same time, we felt sad because it was hard to leave a location that held so many fond memories. Even so, we are reminded that the Lord will use these moments to do great things:

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

Isaiah 43:18-19 (NIV)

So, as we move through the unknown together, my hope is that we can all embrace this journey with anticipation, looking forward to how God is going to use these new facilities to further His Kingdom and cause. As always, thank YOU for your love and support of the ministries of the Fresno Rescue Mission.

Exploring Opportunities with YOU

I would like to invite you to come and tour our campus, see the life change taking place in our disciples, and experience firsthand the new thing God is doing. We appreciate, so much, your ongoing prayers and support to help us share the life-changing news of our Lord with those in need. Prayerfully consider how God would like to challenge YOU as we build on these opportunities together.

Your Friend in Christ,

Discover how YOUR unique gifts and talents are the perfect match - the missing piece - to the *next* best & NEWEST thing happening in the world of RESCUE!

Sign up TODAY!

Go to www.FresnoRM.org/GET INVOLVED!

Your love creates smiles

YOUR EXAMPLE *Fosters Life-Change...*



Nathan with his mom, Pamela.



Armando with his mom, Dolores.



Jacob with his mom, Amy, and son, Nikko.



Dylan with his mom, Diane.



Biniyam with his mom, Lina.

FRM ACADEMY MEN'S BRUNCH...

Honors Mothers and Family Unity...



Gabriel with his mom, Adela.

On May 12th the Academy celebrated mothers with a special brunch in their honor. It was a way that the men of the Academy could express love, appreciation, and gratitude to their mothers. The celebration was open to whomever the men called "mom." This included not only birth mothers, but stepmothers, 'surrogate' mothers and other family members that helped raise them; e.g. (quotes): Ben was raised by his aunt living in the United States after his mother was killed in Kenya. Kevin invited both his foster mother and birth mother to the event.

"You showed me the difference between religion and genuine faith; and I will always be grateful for that." ~ Kevin, to his foster mother

"After my mother passed away, God handpicked you to take care of me. Thank you for not giving up on me." ~ Ben, to his aunt

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
COMES TO THE RESCUE THE CHILDREN COMMUNITY AND...

Builds Character and Joy...

Just like YOU, the members of North Central California District (NCCD) *Messengers of Peace Youth Group* (from Parlier Apostolic Tabernacle) love to share their time and energy building life-changing elements into our community. On this special day, the team grilled tasty treats, played games and brought educational elements, shared crafts and specific talents, and helped everyone enjoy a beautiful day of smiles and laughter.

"Me and my kids learned new things from the stories that were shared from the Bible. We had a great day." ~ Amy

"Vacation Bible School was very enjoyable. I loved the Super Heroes theme and the lessons that were taught. My kids learned a lot through the games and activities that day. Altogether, it was encouraging – a true blessing." ~ Brandy



Event volunteer, Javier Garza



YOUR COMPASSION AND CARE HELPED EFREN

I AM FREE INDEED

"Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."

John 8:36 (NKJV)



Efren cried out to God over a decade ago. At the time he was sitting in jail facing serious charges for a crime he didn't commit. *"I ended up serving time in prison. I kept reading my Bible, praying for help, and sharing the things I was learning with other inmates. The experience was real, but there was still so much I didn't understand."*

Efren spent most of his teen years drinking, using drugs, running with gang members, and moving from school to school. He had committed plenty of criminal acts, both in his youth and as a young man, but this time the charges seemed to define him in a way that really hurt him deeply. He was no longer able to control the pain and anger that was building inside of him. He shared, *"By the time I met the Lord, I wanted help, but I didn't know what help really looked like."* After prison, he slowly slipped away into old habits. He continued to make poor choices. Though he was also in a relationship and raising children, he was emotionally vacant. His oldest son was fully

engaged in the gang lifestyle; drinking, acting out, in-and-out of trouble, and unable to communicate his feelings. His daughter was in a relationship with a gang member. Efren's two younger children, both barely in grade school, would likely have followed the same path had things not changed. In the summer of 2017, Efren entered the FRM Academy program.

"I came to the Mission intending to hide out. My relationship was ending and my youngest kids were not with me. They were living with their mom. My older kids were heading for trouble, and I was just tired. To be honest, I had no idea that the Mission was Christ-centered when I showed up. Looking back, I know God directed me here."

While in the program, I learned my teen-aged son was locked up in a juvenile facility facing serious charges for a crime he didn't commit. I felt responsible. I hadn't been a good father and everyone I loved was paying for the choices I had made. I knew he was where I once was. Like me, my son hates the drinking and the violence, the intimidation and aggression, and especially the constant survival mentality you live under when you're in a gang. So this time, feeling that the Lord was once more at work in my life, I started praying for my family (especially my son and daughter), talking to God in ways I never had before. Ten months later, I am now seeing the results of those first steps of faith; my son is getting the help he needs to turn his life around. The courts placed him in a special program. I'm finding that I enjoy the things the Bible is teaching me. Today I can forgive the people who once hurt me. I'm also learning things about myself I never knew before, like why I was so angry. But the most amazing part is that I finally understand what freedom really is. I found it in Jesus. He's changing my heart."

"My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." Galatians 2:20 (NLT)

"The Mission is great. The staff and all the volunteers really make a difference. I'm impressed by all the people who actually love Jesus and (because of Him) care for people like me who are lost or less fortunate. Here, I learned to seek God's will for my life. Now, I turn to Him a lot. I may never fully know the outcome of all my prayers, but I know that it's only through Christ that real change is possible. Today, when I share His love with people around me, I'm not just spouting words. I'm fully engaged – even playing with my young children and grandchild. When I visit them, they're happy to see me. Through Christ, I'm mending broken relationships, even with my older kids. I'm creating new friendships and taking steps to prepare for a new kind of life with the Lord when I graduate the program. I haven't felt this happy since I was just a little boy. It's a good start to a new life."

YOU SHARE IN THEIR TRIUMPH IN THE GARDEN

"We harvested spinach, cilantro, beets, potatoes, and cabbage this morning!"

This was the message received from the ladies in our RTC Community about their recent harvest, May 16th.



"The gardening class has been a peaceful place to meditate and pray, talk to God and be with myself. I enjoy it." ~ Tiffany C.

"The garden is really fun. It gives me a lot of motivation. One day I'd love to have my own garden." ~ Cecilia W.

"When I garden it's relaxing. At the same time it's exciting to see the product, from what we planted and took care of, to the harvest. I work in the kitchen, so I incorporate it into our meals." ~ Cynthia

"My experience was muddy and entertaining. I was 'one with nature,' but I didn't have very good luck with my plants. Mine are no longer living. But, I am thankful for Jesus because I'm still growing!" ~ Paige M.

All of this... Because of

Your Support!

THANK YOU!



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Please remember the
Fresno Rescue Mission
in your will or trust

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

NEW LOCATION: 263 G Street

Don Eskes, Chief Executive Officer

Pastor Rob Cravy, Chief Operating Officer

Randy Bresee, Chief Financial Officer

Deborah Torres, Chief Development Officer

COMMUNITY CARE – Pastor Jay Carroll, Director

315 G Street

24-Hour Emergency Services (559) 444-0451

NEW CHAPEL: 239 G Street

FOOD SERVICES – Phillip Roberts, Director

NEW DINING AREA/KITCHEN: 285 G Street

THE ACADEMY – Rev. Bud Searcy, Director

NEW LOCATION: 95 G Street

RESCUE THE CHILDREN – Priscilla Robbins, Director

2320 W. Weldon

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – Lisa Nishimoto, Director Mission at the Mission

335 G Street

MMission@fresnorm.org

Tours/Volunteer Opportunities

<http://fresnorm.org/get-involved/>

FRM Speakers Bureau

<http://fresnorm.org/programs/>

FRM THRIFT STORE AND CARS – Sandra Patel, Director

181 E. Sierra, Fresno CA 93710

(559) 440-0870

ADDRESS CHANGES – Linda Culver

(559) 268-0839; lculver@fresnorm.org

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