

Lighthouse News

Fresno
RESCUE
Mission



WE BELIEVE ...

Building on Faith, Hope and Excellence! Since 1949

May 2016

Issue 5, Volume 67

Praise God for Lives Restored

"These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold - though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much PRAISE and GLORY and HONOR on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world."

1 Peter 1:7 NLT

"I was raised by my mother in a home of five. Mom worked three jobs and tried her best to raise us alone. I was loved, provided for, and had no excuses for choosing the path I chose as a teenager."

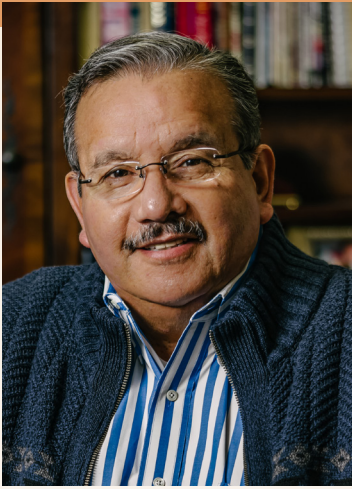
Salvador chased after the thrill of notoriety. Whether smoking, having his skin tattooed, misbehaving at school or escalating violent acts to stand out with his gang friends, Salvador felt embraced by the lifestyle. He even earned the nickname "K.O." after numerous wins by knockout in street fights.

"I was arrested at age sixteen, charged with seventeen felonies, including four charges of attempted murder; all gang related. I was facing a life sentence if charged as an adult. I thought my life was over."

Salvador is now 37 years old. While incarcerated, he had his first encounter with Jesus through the ministry, Youth for Christ. As he says, he met Him, but didn't truly know Him yet. His prayers were sincere and he felt the presence of the Holy Spirit, but he hadn't yet surrendered his will to the Lord. Salvador was spared the consequences of his poor choices after his year-long trial. The charges against him were dismissed, so he found new popularity and "street cred" from other criminals.

"What should have been God's glory, I accepted all to myself. I chalked it up to 'luck' instead..."

Salvador's story continues on page 3



My Dear Friends in Christ,

I am writing this letter to let you know that I have officially notified my board of directors that I am submitting my retirement from the Fresno Rescue Mission as the Chief Executive Officer. My retirement will be official at the end of April.

I want for you to know that I have been truly blessed to be your hands-on servant in helping the neediest folks of

God in our community of Fresno County. Since January of 1998 God has guided me to make the Rescue Mission organization a "beacon of light" that every citizen in Fresno County could be proud of. Through your prayerful support, and resources, the Rescue Mission has been able to help thousands of souls renew their hope and faith in God.

In retirement, I will take a much needed rest from a ministry that requires all of my time and strength, and spend time finishing "honey do's" with my wife Shirley. As an ordained minister, you never stop serving God but continue to be available as He leads you for His Glory and Honor. I am excited to see what my Savior and Lord Jesus Christ has next in store for me.

My beloved co-laborers in Christ, I cannot convey to you strongly enough to please continue your financial support for the Fresno Rescue Mission as the board of directors searches for a new CEO.

My daily prayer for you is that our Lord would continue to bless you with great favor and good health. And most especially, that your children be filled with joy as God's protective embrace guides them in everything they do to Honor Him.

Thank you Lord Jesus for your unmerited grace on my life.

Your humble servant,

Rev. Larry J. Arce

STORY (RIGHT): Mary Trejo oversees the educational departments provided thought the Mission's Life Recovery Programs. To read her nomination letter, go to <http://fresnorm.org/stories/>

Spice it up!

You can help us keep expenses down by filling our pantry with great flavor! Each month we supplement our food donations by purchasing herbs and spices: salt, pepper, cinnamon, chili powder, garlic, paprika, basil, sage, and more. Flavor elements are rarely donated, so we incur the cost to keep our meals tasty.

Do us a favor... HELP US ADD FLAVOR!

All packaged/sealed donations are welcomed!



Congratulations...



Mary Trejo!
2016 Adult Volunteer of the year!

HANDS ACROSS THE VALLEY AWARDS, 2016

The adult volunteer of the year demonstrates leadership, inspiration, and motivation with their regular volunteering. They are paragons of teamwork, collaboration and mutual respect. They support others in their volunteering and empower those around them with capacity building and training. They communicate compassionately and effectively. Their volunteering results in visible and measurable results for their community.

HAV-Award, Category Description - 2016

Continued from the COVER

...“I have hurt myself plenty - Meth addiction, broken relationship - I’ve even been shot twice. I’ve been involved in things I’m not proud of, but over time God’s voice finally got through to me. He brought me to the Mission. He brought me to my knees. On March 3, 2015 I buried the man I once knew as ‘K.O.’ I gave my life to Christ.”

Today, Salvador is a graduate of the Academy and gainfully employed with Tree of Life, Fresno, a new cafe in the heart of Downtown Fresno. His smile exudes the joy of the Lord.

“I read the book, *My Home, Christ’s Heart*, by R. B. Munger. He writes, ‘I can’t think of any better privilege than to allow Jesus Christ to settle in my heart.’ I strongly agree. My biggest inspiration is that He gave His life for me. To Jesus I say, ‘Thank you, Bro!’”

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Ephesians 2:8-10 NLT



Rescue the Children - Quarterly Luncheon

... Celebrating the triumphant steps and achievements of 20 RTC women as they journey toward their new life in Christ! Fourth quarter graduates performed a skit about their experience, growing in the Lord, and then everyone enrolled in the program received a “positive label” from the staff to describe their current success; e.g. LEADER, ENCOURAGER, JOYFUL, CONSIDERATE, ... as well as one gift to take into their next quarter assignments; e.g. backpack with supplies, Life Recovery Bible, journal, etc. Truly heart-warming.





Don Eskes, Community Partnerships

Responsible Stewardship

Many years ago I purchased a whole life insurance policy. Over the years, though I still retained the coverage, my family's need for the added financial protection changed. Their future was now protected by other means. Yet, the one thing I consistently heard from those in the insurance industry; "Do not drop the coverage."

If you are in a similar situation – you have life insurance policy your family no longer needs - one question remains; "Who should become the beneficiary when financial peace-of-mind is met?" The answer; "Consider making a gift." What is your passion? Would you consider making the Fresno Rescue Mission your beneficiary? Your unneeded policy could then carry on your legacy of Kingdom work.

If this is something you would like to consider, please discuss the option with your insurance broker. For more information, contact: Don Eskes, Community Partnerships: (599) 268-0839 Ext.134, deskes@fresnorm.org

Good Friday/Easter Luncheon



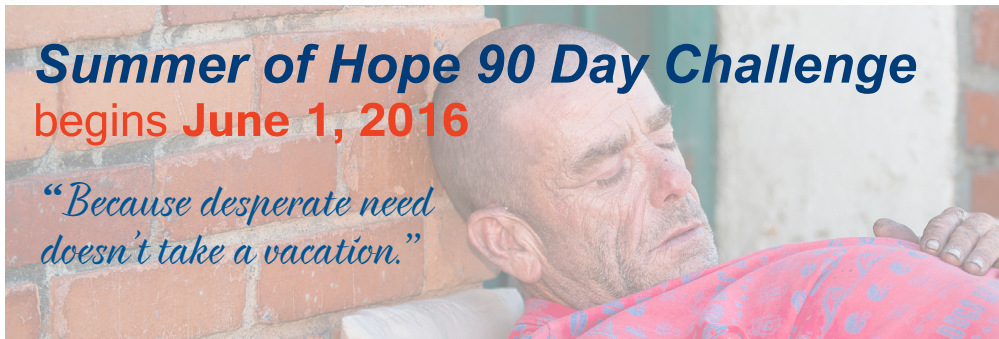
Thank you for your outpouring of support during our special Easter celebration. We served over 400 meals that day, not including staff and volunteers. We noticed a substantial increase in the number of families who attended. What a blessing, to bring the message of Salvation and hope to God's people, complete with wonderful food and radiant smiles.



You will notice a slightly revised look to Lighthouse News. Look for changes each month as we mix it up! You can also log on to FresnoRM.org for more stories of life-change.

Summer of Hope 90 Day Challenge begins June 1, 2016

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



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