



Lighthouse News

Issue 3, Volume 70
March 2019

THE STORIES YOU'RE CREATING  THE LIVES YOU'RE CHANGING



“ I WILL
PRAISE
YOU ”

Your gifts have
helped Jen find her
true identity



The Beauty of God's Creation

Your love is helping people recognize it

I live out in the country, just east of Clovis. From my property, this time of the year, I have an unobstructed view of the beautiful snowcapped Sierra Mountains. The other day, I was walking around our Mission's downtown campus and noticed one of our disciples staring at the same mountains, only his view was obstructed. He could only see the mountains beyond a chain linked fence, past the tattered remains of a factory being torn down by High-Speed Rail, over a multi-story industrial warehouse and through various cable and electrical lines scattered across the downtown skyline. But beyond all those things, he could still see a glimpse of the majestic mountains that God created.

"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

Genesis 1:27

In many ways, this is symbolic of what we do in our programs. God sees people as His majestic creations made in His image, designed to bear fruit and give life. Yet, because of addiction, negative life circumstances, or poor decisions, a person's self-image becomes obstructed. Instead of seeing the freedom and hope found in Christ, people see only the ruins caused by sin and brokenness.

For the men and women in our programs, part of our job is to get them to see themselves as God sees them. We try and get them to see beyond the tattered buildings and fences of their lives obstructing their view of who God designed them to be. When our men and women see themselves in that image, the change in them is as evident as the snow-capped Sierras on a clear day, and just as beautiful.

I leave you with this thought: While the view of the Sierras is clear from east Clovis, Harlan Ranch, Woodward Park and other areas of our community, the view of life-change happening in downtown Fresno might be obstructed. You need to be here to see it. So I challenge you to change your view. Come for a tour. Come, volunteer. Come for a meal. Just come...and enjoy the view.

Yours In Christ,

Matthew Dildine
Chief Executive Officer



Open House on Opening Day

Ditch work for a good cause!

Come by **Thursday, March 28th** at **1 PM**
for an afternoon of baseball, food and fellowship
at the Mission to watch the SF Giants first game of the
season displayed on the big screen!

Enjoy time with our disciples and staff.

Hot dogs, chips and other baseball fare will be provided.

RSVP: agonzales@fresnorm.org

I WILL PRAISE YOU

IN THE SPRING OF 2018, JEN WAS SITTING IN A JAIL CELL awaiting an answer from the courts about her future. Would she serve an extended period of time in prison (for a 5-year-old crime of Identity Theft that resurfaced against her) or would she be sent to a recovery program to address her uncontrollable addiction to Meth? Had anyone asked her to share the details of her past that led her to that particular moment, they might have discovered an odd paradox: it was doubtful Jen had ever truly embraced her own identity.

“ It was what everyone was doing and you didn’t dare go against ...

Jen lived most of her adult life focused on pleasing others or just trying to fit in. *“I was married in my early twenties to an older man and we lived ‘wealthy.’ A few years later I was divorced from him, determined to be self-reliant, but stealing from my employer because my aunt taught me how. In my thirties I was in love and pregnant, waiting to marry my fiancé. Months later, I was serving time in prison for embezzlement, even though I was no longer stealing and it was a joint-crime for which I was being charged, alone. I was clean while serving time in prison. After I was released, I was part of the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club because my boyfriend had joined their gang while I was behind bars. Soon, I became addicted to Meth. It was what everyone was doing and you didn’t dare go against the Club.”*

As Jen describes every chaotic detail of her journey, her speech speeds-up. She admits to feeling anxious, as though reliving everything as she gives her testimony. Yet, even with all the seemingly-unrelated and segmented chunks to her story, one trait in her character continues to be obvious; Jen has an incredible capacity to love the people around her: *“...My mom is a loving, kind, sweet woman of God ... My dad and I now have a great relationship - - he never judged me when I was high or in trouble with the law ... I credit my step-mom for saving my dad’s life - - she’s special to me ... my boyfriend truly loved me - - he always visited me when I was locked up... My brother always sees my potential. He*



even helped me get hired right before I was arrested for embezzlement.” The people Jen loves matter more to her than the troubles she faced. It isn’t difficult to imagine the identity God envisioned for Jen before her life spiraled out of control; likewise, how Jen might now honor God with the broken fragments that remain:

“I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well.”

Psalms 139:14 (NKJV)

Continued...

EIGHT MONTHS HAVE NOW PASSED SINCE JEN CAME TO THE MISSION - - AND SHE GIVES YOU CREDIT...

... for having helped her find the courage to repair the relationship she now shares with her 11-year old daughter, Sydnee:

"Without the support of the Mission staff, and all the people who donate their time and their gifts to make this place available, I would never have imagined I could be like this. When I first arrived, it took a few weeks to become accustomed to the program at Rescue the Children. In that time, I really missed my daughter. At the same time, I was scared to see her. All I could imagine was how much my actions had hurt her. Yet, on our first visit, I was sitting on the floor with her playing Headbands. It's like Charades, but instead of reading a clue from a folded paper, the clue is attached to your forehead facing the other person. I'm not naturally silly at heart, but I found myself enjoying the laughter and the connection that came from it."

Last month I was reading to Sydnee a chapter from Action Bible about the Tower of Babel. A week later my dad called me to tell me how excited she was to retell the details about that Bible story to him, including her own amazement and wonder at God's wisdom by what He did. I had no idea how much she was listening and taking in from that weekend. God is actually using my enthusiasm to teach her how to worship Him, too. That's pretty amazing!"

Today, Jen volunteers her time on the weekends to teach the children's devotions on Saturdays. God is using her enthusiasm and love for Him to inspire children beyond her own. She's turning out to be quite the favorite among our little ones. She has a genuine talent for sparking a joy for Jesus in even the most challenging tots.

Volunteer Spotlight

What's your interest? What are your special gifts you'd like to share?



Your Passion



Your Experience



Your Friendship



Your Joy!

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV)



DID YOU KNOW...?

April 7-13, 2019 is National Volunteer Week... Sign up now and make a difference in the lives of people who need you most! Go to our website and click on GET INVOLVED. There's something for everyone!

THANK YOU, in advance, for your heart to serve!



Hearts Alive in Christ

You are helping our men and women discover love

"For 12 years, the Academy has held Valentine's Day celebrations to help bring a spark of life into relationships damaged by the effects of addiction. We convert a space at the Mission into various themes... sometimes a fancy restaurant with a dance floor, and other times a place where the men wait on their mate to show their love; something for which they need practice in doing well. Wonderful entrees are prepared by our Food Services Department and décor is provided by various volunteers and groups.

God uses you and these special holiday occasions to reunite couples and restore families. Thank you!"

Rev. Bud Searcy, Academy Director



"This was the 4th Annual Valentine's Banquet held at Rescue the Children. The focus of this year's banquet was, "Jesus' Love Is the Real Thing." For many of the women in our program, love was something they longed for in all the wrong places. We point them to Christ.

This year's banquet was special because two of our RTC alumnae shared their stories; how Jesus showed them His love, both while they were in program and since their graduation. It was special to hear the testimonies and it was evident that God's love was in the room for those willing to open their hearts to Him that night.

We want to thank you, and all our volunteers, who make this evening so special for our women."

Priscilla Robbins, Rescue the Children Director

Save the Dates!



Let's hit the greens!

**2019 Healing Hearts Relief
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

September 16, 2019
Sunnyside Country Club

Title Sponsor: **DerManouel**
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70 YEARS
Celebrating of Transformation

Fall Celebration Banquet
October 22, 2019

FRESNO RESCUE MISSION, INC.

To mail a gift:

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Fax: (559) 268-1317

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES – 263 G Street, Fresno CA 93706

Matthew Dildine, 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

FOOD SERVICES – Phillip Roberts, Director

THE ACADEMY – Rev. Bud Searcy, Director
95 G Street

RESCUE THE CHILDREN – Priscilla Robbins, Director
2320 W. Weldon, Fresno CA 93705

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



Please remember the
Fresno Rescue Mission
in your will or trust.

Need Help?

COMMUNITY CARE – 315 G Street
24-Hour Emergency Services /Case Management
Pre-Program Assessments
(559) 444-0451

FOOD SERVICES
Dining Area/Kitchen – 285 G Street
Breakfast: 6 AM
Dinner: 5 PM

CHAPEL LOCATION – 239 G Street
Service Times: 7:30 PM Every Evening

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY:

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Thank You!



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B-A-M!
You're Invited!

Are you a group looking for a way to serve together?
BAM just may be the opportunity you're looking for!

Our Bring-A-Meal (BAM) program is a partnership opportunity with groups of all sizes to provide, organize, prepare, and serve a meal to Mission guests.

Team-building! Meaningful Interaction!
Life-changing Service Opportunity!

Groups can be:

- Corporations
- Restaurants
- Churches
- Small Groups
- Service Organizations

For information
about meal times, special events,
or specific ideas you'd like to share,
contact our *Community Engagement*
Department: (559) 268-0839



BRING-A-MEAL

Easy - Fun - Impactful!

Our trained kitchen staff is available
to help you plan and cook your meal.

Let's Get Cookin'!