

MISSION INSIDER

CREATING COMMUNITY. TRANSFORMING LIVES.

A newsletter of the Fresno Mission



Taj's heart is
filled with
gratitude
for YOU!

Inside: Read how your
compassion and support
changes lives.



fresnomission

FALL 2020

DON'T MISS...

2 See Your Impact

3 "Christ is my
foundation."

4 Our Thanksgiving
Needs

For more information: (559) 268-0839 • fresnomission.org

“NOW I HAVE CHRIST AS MY FOUNDATION.”

At just 17, Taj ran away from home and his family, determined to build his own life. “But life on my own was just insanity,” he says. “It was like building your house on sinking sand.”

Taj had often longed for stability. Growing up with a parent who drank a lot made life at home hard... To make life easier, Taj attempted to find belonging with his peers by drinking to fit in.

Over the years, he had a family of his own and managed to hold good jobs as a commercial driver – but he relied on substances to stay awake during the long hours he drove. “I had this false belief

that I was functioning,” he says.

When Taj’s lifestyle finally led to trouble with the law and time in prison, it was the wake-up call he needed to change his life. “It was part of God’s plan to say, ‘Son, slow down,’” he says.

But upon his release, Taj had nowhere to go and was unsure of his next step... until he found the Fresno Mission. **“I didn’t know it at the time, but Christ led me here.”**

Beyond receiving a safe place to sleep, Taj accepted Christ while attending chapel at the Mission! And through the faith-based classes and guidance in our Men’s Academy program, he experienced God transforming his life.

Today, Taj has healed

relationships with his family, he has a vehicle and place of his own, and he’s working as a coordinator at the Mission.

“God has cleared the way so I can do His ministry,” he says, “ministering to people on the street, talking to them and praying over them, and seeing them come here and better their life. That’s God moving right there.”

This Thanksgiving season – and all through the year – your kind generosity fills hearts with hope and gratitude... and transforms lives through God’s love! “Now I have Christ as my foundation... I see myself as a man of God.”

“
The Mission gave
me a
NEW OUTLOOK
through Christ.
”



You help meet needs of the heart.

The past few months have been challenging for all of us... but they've also reminded us of what's essential.

Every day at the Fresno Mission, essential needs – for food, shelter and life-restoring guidance – are what bring so many to our doors. And this year, as COVID-19 has impacted our world, we've felt this deep need like never before.

Yet, this health crisis was quickly eclipsed by a national crisis of the heart. Our hearts have broken, just as God's heart breaks, to witness the pain of so many facing injustice, and to hear the desperate cries for change echoing across our nation.

While the physical needs of those we serve are great, as this year has shown, the needs of the heart are greater. This Thanksgiving season, it's our hope that friends like you will continue to be "on mission" with us in Fresno to help meet these heart needs.

Regardless of the challenges around us, we fix our eyes on what's essential – the gospel that touches hearts and changes lives. This Thanksgiving, I hope each of us finds comfort and peace as we thank God for the love He has lavished on us, His provision to meet our every need.



Matthew Dildine
Chief Executive
Officer

70,000

MEALS NEEDED BY THANKSGIVING

Join our 2020 THANKSGIVING CAMPAIGN!

Please help us now to prepare for the thousands of meals we'll serve to our homeless and struggling neighbors throughout the Thanksgiving season. Your generosity will not only provide nourishing food for hungry people, but also opportunities for lives to be restored:

**Christ-centered counseling • life-skills classes
vocational training • and more!**

Your giving spirit can mean a new beginning for hurting individuals and families right here in our community. Share your heart of thanksgiving by giving your **2020 Thanksgiving Campaign gift today.**



Give now using the enclosed reply card and envelope.



Give online anytime at fresnomission.org.



Our hearts are filled with Thanksgiving for your faithful support!

SEE HOW YOUR GIFT WILL MAKE AN IMPACT!



\$2.05
for 1 hot meal



a night of restful sleep

CAN LEAD TO



Practical guidance and God's life-changing LOVE

READ TAJ'S STORY TO LEARN MORE!



We Need VOLUNTEERS

Your God-given time and talents will help us serve and care for the thousands of people who will turn to us this fall! **You can even volunteer remotely!**



Contact us today to see how you can help...

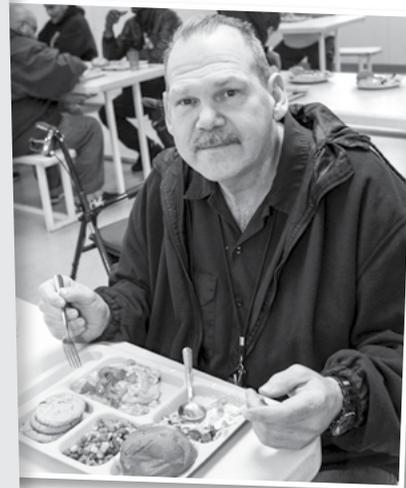
Call: **Paula Bohamed** at
(559) 293-4522

Email: **PBohamed@fresnorm.org**
Or visit **fresnomission.org** to find out more or sign up now!

Our Thanksgiving Needs List

Please consider shopping or hosting a food drive for these items we need to feed our hungry guests throughout the Thanksgiving season.

Turkeys
Hams
Instant potatoes & gravy
Canned yams & cranberry sauce
Boxed stuffing mix
Pre-baked pumpkin and apple pies
Whipped topping
Coffee/cocoa/tea
Any canned food items



Drop off your donations at **263 G Street.**

Thank you for helping!

Don't Miss a Single Mission Moment!

Follow us on social media and sign up for our emails to stay up-to-date on our Thanksgiving activities, urgent needs, special events and how your partnership is transforming lives. Be sure to tell your friends about us too, and encourage them to help this Thanksgiving!

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