

# MISSION INSIDER

CREATING COMMUNITY. TRANSFORMING LIVES.

A newsletter of the Fresno Mission

*“The Lord Called Me.”*

**THIS EASTER, LUIS CELEBRATES THE HOPE OF NEW LIFE, THANKS TO YOU!**



fresnomission

EASTER 2022

**DON'T MISS...**

**2** Celebrate Easter

**2** Help meet our Easter Needs

**3** "I am redeemed."

For more information: (559) 268-0839 • [fresnomission.org](http://fresnomission.org)

# “I am redeemed.”

Luis's childhood home was a dangerous place to be. His parents worked long hours and were rarely home. “There were people who'd come over to watch us... and I was sexually molested as a child,” he says.

He feared what would happen if his parents knew the truth. **“My father was always drinking, and sometimes he beat me... It was a scary environment.”**

Luis kept the traumatic experience a secret, and following his father's example, started drinking to cope with his pain. “But when I got older, I turned to harder substances to not feel the hurt and anger anymore.”

At his lowest point, Luis became homeless as a result of his addiction. “I was living in my car, driving around Fresno,” he says, “but it was hard to find a place to shower or eat.”

When Luis came to the Fresno Mission, everything changed.

For Luis, coming to the Mission and completing our Men's Academy program have been key to healing

from his past and building a stronger relationship with the Lord. “As I began to read God's Word, it started to soften my heart,” he says. “The Mission has given me tools and shown me the love of Christ to give me a different outlook on life.”

Today, Luis is on staff at the Mission in our food services department, helping to provide meals and share the love of Christ with others seeking help at our doors.

**“AS SOON AS I WALKED INTO THE MISSION, I JUST FELT THE LORD'S LOVE AND PRESENCE.”**

Thanks to the support of generous friends like you, Luis's life is filled with joy, purpose and the blessings of hope this Easter. **“I'm proud to say that because of Christ, I am redeemed, set apart and loved... I am a man of God.”**



## Let's connect!

See how your partnership transforms lives! **Follow us on social media** and **sign up for our emails** to stay up-to-date on our urgent needs, special events and more.

**fresnomission.org**



Learn more about  
City Center!

Visit

**citycenterfresno.org**



*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” – 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV*



## #ONMISSION WITH MATT

# Hope at the center of **FRESNO**

Right now, in the center of Fresno, a miracle of new life is taking place.

The Lord has graciously provided an old hospital building where our renovations are underway, bringing new life to what will be a life-changing facility: the City Center.

Located at the geographical center of our city, this facility is also at the heart of our community's greatest needs. Currently, the center of Fresno is ground zero for people facing life insecurity, human trafficking and one of the toughest neighborhoods in all of our city.

**City Center will bring hope to the city of Fresno and be a reflection of the gospel to people in their time of need.**

This 9-acre, 170-thousand square-foot facility will bring together over 20 local organizations and ministries to provide a pathway out of crisis through a single front door. City Center will be a one-stop-shop, offering a food bank, a charter school for youth facing life insecurity, mental and family health services, a barbershop and more! United in our mission yet diverse in our expertise, we will grow and advance God's kingdom together.

**Through a relationship-driven model, City Center aims to restore the dignity of our neighbors facing life insecurity.**

In our state-of-the-art dining hall, they won't just find a meal – they'll be welcomed to our table and

reminded that they are a person of value. When someone is facing their darkest moment, they will walk into a space that reflects Jesus and surrounds them with God's love.

This Easter, the need for our services is greater than ever before... but with your support, City Center will offer a holistic solution to the complex issues our community faces. Please join us in our mission to bring new life to Fresno through City Center! To learn more, please read the enclosed insert and visit [citycenterfresno.org](http://citycenterfresno.org) today.

Matthew Dildine  
Chief Executive Officer

## EASTER NEEDS: You can help!

**Friday, April 15: Our Easter Dinner  
from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.!**

You have a BIG heart for those in need – and between now and Easter Sunday, you can help us prepare to serve **thousands of hot meals** to hungry neighbors. These meals often open the door to **shelter, Christ-centered care and other services** that help men, women and families overcome their challenges and rebuild their lives.

Our hurting neighbors in Fresno are turning here, longing for a second

chance... and we're counting on YOU to help them.

Please give today to help provide the meals and care that can make their new beginning possible!

*Drop off donations at the Mission at 263 G Street.*

No time to shop? Donate now!

☎ **(559) 268-0839**  
✦ **fresnomission.org**

### URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS!

Drop off any of these items  
**by Friday, April 15:**

SPIRAL SLICED HAMS

INSTANT MASHED POTATOES

BUTTER

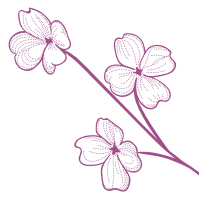
CANNED VEGETABLES

POWDERED MILK

DESSERTS (store-bought)

COFFEE

CREAMER



# Easter<sup>2022</sup>

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN



## YOUR PRAYERS IMPACT FRESNO!

Your prayers move God's heart. That's why we invite your thoughtful prayers and faithful support of our work in Fresno County. **Here are some of the ways you can pray for our ministry!**

- Pray that God will bring men, women and families in need to the Mission.
- Pray that our guests experience Christ-centered transformation in our care.
- Pray that God will provide partners and resources to support the City Center.
- Pray that our community will be healed, strengthened & united in Christ's love.

Thank you for lifting up our guests, staff, volunteers and Fresno County.



**42,000** meals. A meal is only \$2.25!



**10,100** nights of shelter



**130** men & women in our recovery programs (on average)



**4,848** annual hours of life-skills courses, work therapy and career development each year

*Your gifts share hope & transform lives!*

