

MISSION INSIDER

CREATING COMMUNITY. TRANSFORMING LIVES.

A newsletter of the Fresno Mission – Special Graduation Edition

Fall Graduate Spotlight: Zachary's story

You've filled
his heart
with hope
this Thanksgiving!



FALL 2022

DON'T MISS...

2 Join our Thanksgiving Campaign!

3 "I'm a child of God"

4 Graduation Spotlight

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“I’m a child of God.”



Growing up without his father in his life, Zachary struggled to feel loved and wanted... and those painful feelings followed him into adulthood.

“Emotionally, I didn’t realize how depressed I was,” he says. “I wasn’t a good parent... a good son. I didn’t realize all the people I was hurting around me.”

Over the years, Zachary attempted to numb his emotional pain by turning to substances, but they only hurt him more.

“I went in and out of addiction... in and out of homelessness,” he says. Despite many attempts to stay sober, he could never maintain it on his own. “It was just this vicious cycle repeating itself.”

After seeing several people he knew graduate from the Fresno Mission’s life-changing programs, Zachary wondered if this could possibly be the solution he needed to make a lasting change.

He is grateful for the Christ-centered classes and counseling here that have helped him heal from some of the emotional pain of his past and prepare for his future. “The Mission helped take all my worries away... and gave me time to just sit with Christ. **I’m learning how much my life does matter, and that I’m a child of God.**”

“ I didn’t have any peace or purpose in my life. ”

This fall, Zachary will graduate from our men’s Academy program, and he’s pursuing God’s purpose for his life! Today, he’s on staff at the Mission and taking classes to become a drug and alcohol counselor.

“I get to relate to guys in my situation and show them there’s a light at the end of the tunnel. Seeing them succeed the way I’ve succeeded is so powerful.”

This Thanksgiving, Zachary is full of gratitude for the support of caring friends like you. “Without the Mission’s donors, I honestly wouldn’t be where I am... This place has given me a fresh start.”

Connect with us!

Be the first to know what’s happening at the Mission...

Follow us on social media! Every post shows you how your partnership is transforming lives and healing our community.

Sign up for our emails! You’ll be the first to hear about urgent needs, special events and more.

And when you tell your friends about us, they can join the celebration this Thanksgiving, too!

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fresnomission.org



SCAN THE CODE TO WATCH ZACHARY SHARE MORE OF HIS INSPIRING STORY!





THANKSGIVING CAMPAIGN

You can help our hurting neighbors this fall!

70,000

MEALS NEEDED THIS THANKSGIVING SEASON

Thanksgiving can be another difficult day for our neighbors struggling to overcome homelessness... poverty... addiction. But you can change that!

Just \$2.25 provides a hot, nourishing meal.

Your gift welcomes someone to our table and leads to a better life through:



Safe, welcoming shelter



Warm clothing, coats & shoes



Biblical classes & job training



God's life-changing love



We need your help to serve thousands of meals this holiday season!

Please rush your 2022 Thanksgiving Campaign gift today using the enclosed reply card and envelope OR online at fresnomission.org.

A MESSAGE FROM MATTHEW DILDINE

A Reason to Give Thanks: Fall Graduation



These are exciting times at the Fresno Mission. Thanksgiving is just around the corner... and next month, we will celebrate as **42** men and women graduate from our long-term recovery programs.

Graduation is a special time at the Mission because it's a testimony to the life-changing work the Lord is doing in our community. What may feel like a finish line – the completion of 18 months' worth of Christ-centered counseling, classes and life-skills training – is truly a gateway to a new beginning.

What's more, for many of our graduates, graduation may be the first time their families and friends get to witness the incredible change that has taken place in their lives.

This gift of new life is made possible thanks to caring friends like YOU. Through your prayers and support of our ministry, God is bringing to completion the good work He begins anytime a hurting man or woman walks through our doors.

Even as a new group of graduates returns to our community this fall, we'll welcome countless new guests to our tables this Thanksgiving who need our help. **I pray you'll join us in meeting the needs of our neighbors now and in the months ahead.**

This Thanksgiving, may your heart fill with gratitude when you remember the lives your kindness and compassion are touching here in Fresno County.

Matthew Dildine
Chief Executive Officer

Read Zachary's story – a life touched by your support!

Ready to serve?

Do you have a heart to serve men, women and children here at the Mission? **We would love for you to join us as a volunteer!**

Contact us today to see how you can help...
Call: Desmond Camacho at **(559) 240-6072**
Email: **volunteers@fresnomission.org**
Or visit **fresnomission.org** to find out more or sign up now!



Want a career that **makes a difference?**

Check out our job openings



Or visit
fresnomission.org/careers.

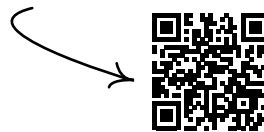
Graduation Spotlight

On October 1, 42 men and women will graduate from our 18-month recovery programs. Please join us in praying for them as they begin new jobs... move into new homes... and take steps to become productive members of our Fresno community!



Thank you for your faithful support that is helping to transform lives like our graduates' here in Fresno.

JOIN US AND HELP SUPPORT THE GRADUATES AND THEIR FAMILIES BELOW!



COMING SOON!

One Table Fresno
November 11, 2022

Help provide hot meals, winter coats and boxes of food for our struggling neighbors during **One Table Fresno**. For more information, visit onetablefresno.com.