

MISSION INSIDER

CREATING COMMUNITY. TRANSFORMING LIVES.

A newsletter of the Fresno Mission

THANK YOU
FOR LOVING
YOUR
NEIGHBOR,
Nathan,
AND GIVING HIM HOPE &
NEW LIFE!



SUMMER 2023

DON'T MISS...

2 Your love will transform lives this summer!

3 "I've found my identity in Christ."

4 Coming soon... City Center!

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

“I’VE FOUND MY IDENTITY IN JESUS CHRIST.”



For years, Nathan struggled to feel like he belonged. At school, with his friends and even with his family, he felt like an outsider.

“I was adopted from Colombia by a white family,” he says, “and grew up in a predominantly white community. I dealt with a lot of racism and struggled with my identity.”

At home, physical abuse and alcoholism among his family made Nathan’s low self-worth even worse. “As I grew up, I just kept finding ways to stay out and not come home... It wasn’t an environment I wanted to be in.”

Sadly, along this road, Nathan discovered alcohol... and then drugs. “It helped me numb the pain I was going through,” he says. “It just continued to escalate.”

Nathan thought he’d never be able to stop using substances – until he watched an overdose take

his girlfriend’s life. **“I was at my wit’s end... homeless and with nowhere to go.** I got on my knees and prayed for God to save me.”



“The Mission has given me a fresh vision for my future.”

Soon after, Nathan came to the Fresno Mission, where his life began to change.

Through biblical classes and Christian mentorship in our program, Nathan experienced what he calls a “spiritual awakening.”

“The Mission taught me who God really is and who I am through Him... I’ve found my identity in Jesus Christ,” he says.

The other men in our program have become like brothers to Nathan, encouraging him on his journey to rebuild his life. Today, he is taking steps to become a solar energy contractor, saving money and he hopes one day to own his own business!

Nathan is thankful for the kindness and compassion of loving neighbors like you – and how you’ve given him hope for the future. “I’m thankful to the Mission for giving me a fresh start and a new life.”

**Read more
stories like
Nathan’s here!**



“Serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” - Galatians 5:13b-14

A meal for \$2.89 is an easy way to LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR!



#ONMISSION WITH MATT



SUMMER MISSION: Love your neighbors *as yourself*

Why do people turn to the Fresno Mission for help? Sadly, the truth is often that they have no one else in the world to call when they reach rock bottom.

We all need a helping hand from time to time. No one makes it through life without God's compassion and the care of our neighbors along the way.

That's why, as the summer months approach, I invite you to join us #OnMission in Fresno to help local people in need during our 3-month Love Your Neighbor campaign.

Throughout Scripture, God teaches us to not only "love your neighbor" but to "love your neighbor **as yourself.**" We are to reach out with empathy from the beginning, making others' needs a priority like our own.

I'm so grateful for friends like you who give in this way to help men, women and children in Fresno County who are hurting and homeless. And I ask for your continued support through the summer, when the weather can be dangerous for people who live in their vehicles or on the streets outside.

Thank you for offering a helping hand to your vulnerable neighbors – and for continuing to love them **as yourself.**

Matthew Dildine
Chief Executive Officer

SHOW YOUR LOVE & transform lives **THIS SUMMER!**

Your gift today provides:



88,400 meals



29,000 nights
of sleep



hundreds of
hygiene items



countless hours of
biblical counseling
& education



life-transforming
decisions for
Christ

**DON'T FORGET OUR NEIGHBORS
THIS SUMMER... SHOW YOU CARE
WITH YOUR GIFT TODAY!**

LOVE  YOUR
NEIGHBOR

98-DAY SUMMER CAMPAIGN

Give now! fresnomission.org

**Support our Summer Campaign to
restore hope & rebuild lives!**

Volunteer Orientation – NOW ONLINE! Sign up below

The Fresno Mission has recently launched a new online volunteer orientation program, allowing volunteers to complete the orientation from the comfort of their own homes. The orientation covers essential information about volunteering at the Mission, including their mission statement, and the various programs offered. Volunteering at the Fresno Mission is an excellent way to give back to the community and make a real difference in people's lives. Whether you're interested in helping out in the kitchen, working with children, or assisting with outreach programs, there are plenty of

opportunities to get involved. If you're interested in volunteering, visit **fresnomission.org/getinvolved** to sign up for the orientation and join the team!

Online Volunteer Orientation

The steps to complete an online orientation are:

1. Log in (or create an account, if new), go to **fresnorm.volunteerhub.com**.
2. Go to Online Orientation.
3. Click Launch Video, following the video click X, it will bring you back to the Fresno Mission Site.

A Pathway out of Crisis

On any given night, over 4,000 people are homeless in Fresno County. Many of them are turning to substances to numb their emotional pain.

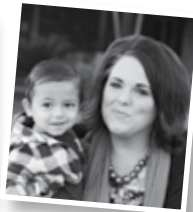
To come alongside our struggling neighbors, we're building our fifth and newest campus of the Fresno Mission: **City Center.**

This 10-acre, 180,000-square foot location is designed to reflect Christ's love to people in their time of need. By bringing together 20+ local organizations under one roof, it will provide a holistic solution to our community's challenges.



CITYCENTER will feature:

- A 10,000-square-foot dining area for hungry guests
- New emergency housing for up to 77 families
- Childcare facility & charter school
- Mental & family health services
- Food bank and more!



You can help bring hope to the city of Fresno!

Learn more about City Center and how you can support our work.

Visit citycenterfresno.org

Help your neighbors **BEAT THE HEAT** this summer!



You know temperatures rise into the 90s and even 100s in Fresno County in summertime...

Our homeless neighbors are at risk of heat stroke, sunburn, dehydration or even death – especially those who are most vulnerable, like seniors or families with children.

But this summer, **YOU can help!** You can show our hurting neighbors they haven't been forgotten by providing them with essentials such as:



**Cool water to drink
& nourishing meals**



**Refreshing showers
& safe shelter**



**Clean clothes & socks –
our most requested item!**



**Sunscreen &
hygiene items**

In addition to these basics, you'll welcome them to the Mission where they can recover and rebuild their lives. You provide medical care to treat any health challenges. Christian counseling to heal from past trauma. Classes and job training to promote independence. Everything they need for healthier, more stable lives!

To see how you can help meet our neighbors' most urgent summer needs, visit fresnomission.org/needslist!