

# MISSION INSIDER

CREATING COMMUNITY. TRANSFORMING LIVES.

A newsletter of the Fresno Mission

## The love YOU share

*gives neighbors like  
Leticia hope for a  
better life...*



SUMMER 2024

**DON'T MISS...**

**2** Transforming Lives is Possible this Summer

**3** "I learned to love myself."

**4** Celebrating 75 Years!

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

# *A meal for \$3.03 is an easy way to* **LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR!**



## A Message from MATTHEW DILDINE

### Sharing God's Love for 75 Years

On November 10, 1949, a group of seven met officially to launch a new ministry in Fresno that would later be known as the Fresno Rescue Mission. The first notes from that meeting stated: "The meeting was called to order with a season of prayer."

This November, that "season of prayer" will have lasted 75 years and has contributed to saving both the spiritual and physical lives of countless men, women and children.

When I reflect on the many photos we have in our archives, it is humbling to observe all the faces and changes that have occurred over time. What began with serving a few dozen men in a small space in Chinatown has grown to four campuses across 30 acres, encompassing almost 300,000 square feet, serving thousands of people annually.

Despite the many changes that have occurred over the last 75 years, one thing remains constant – Jesus still saves. Regardless of our building appearances or the number of meals we serve, the message of the gospel still has the same incredible impact as it did 75 years ago.

Many of you have joined us over the last 75 years in that season of prayer. You have supported our ministry in various ways – praying with us, volunteering your time in the kitchen or mentoring young men, wrapping presents, preaching the gospel and generously contributing your resources. Through your support, the hands of Jesus have been felt in some of the darkest places in our community.

For this reason, we invite you to celebrate with us this year, commemorating all that God has done in the last 75 years and anticipating what He will do in the next 75 years.



Matthew Dildine  
Chief Executive Officer

## TRANSFORMING LIVES

is possible this summer... **thanks to YOU!**



88,400 meals



29,000 beds



Lives renewed  
through Christ



Countless hours of biblical  
counseling & education

*At every step of their journey...  
YOUR gift helps change their lives.*

**LOVE YOUR  
NEIGHBOR**  
SUMMER CAMPAIGN

**Give now!**  
[fresnomission.org](http://fresnomission.org)



*Support our Summer Campaign to restore hearts & rebuild families!*

## Join us **#ONMISSION** as a Volunteer!

Do you have a heart to serve men, women and children in our community? Volunteers are essential to our ministry, and we would love for you to join us in changing lives!



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

Call: Desmond Camacho at (559) 240-6072

Email: [volunteers@fresnomission.org](mailto:volunteers@fresnomission.org)

Or visit [fresnomission.org](http://fresnomission.org) to find out more or sign up now!



# "I learned to love myself and forgive myself."

Leticia doesn't recall much joy in her childhood. "We lived in poverty," she says. "My father left us, which was hard on my mom and on me."

When she was in high school, she turned to drugs and alcohol to numb the pain in her life. What started as an attempt to escape her sadness became a struggle that lasted over 40 years.

"I've hit rock bottom more than once. When my mom passed away it got so bad that I lost my home." Every time she relapsed she hit a new low.

"I had two cousins pass away from alcoholism and drug abuse. I realized that this lifestyle would kill me." She had tried so many times to save herself and kept failing. **"For the first time I said, 'God help me,' and He answered."**

God's healing began as soon as Leticia arrived at the Fresno Mission. "It was like coming home. I felt the presence of the Lord when I walked through the doors."

She found a sanctuary and a place to heal from the deep, emotional wounds that were the root cause of her addictions. "I learned to love myself and forgive myself, like God loves and forgives me."

Through our vocational training, she's also had the chance to learn job skills as she works at the front desk, in our kitchen and on the janitorial team. "I've had the opportunity to care for my community and prepare for working when I graduate."


**Leticia now has strength for her future because of your heart of compassion for her and other neighbors in need. Because you chose to share God's love, she has a path forward in life.** "I can say now that I love myself and I love others. I don't feel spiritually bankrupt anymore. God has given me joy in my heart. No matter how hard or heavy things get, He is the one that lifts me up."



READ  
MORE  
STORIES  
OF

Faith! 

Every day, the lives of men, women and children are transformed here at the Fresno Mission. These life-changing stories are possible thanks to the people like you - who give generously and pray for the work we do and the people we serve.

Explore the stories of our Fresno County neighbors whose lives have been changed thanks to your faithful support! 



“  
SPIRITUALLY I WAS BANKRUPT,  
I WAS NEAR DEATH.  
”

# Celebrating *75 Years* of Helping Our Neighbors



Join us in celebrating our anniversary! **For 75 years, the Fresno Mission has been offering biblically based programs and services to help transform lives.**

Inside our walls, men, women and children can find a place of refuge and restoration. Here, they receive meals, shelter and opportunities for life change through the love of Christ.

At the Fresno Mission, it's our desire to see homelessness end for each person who walks through our doors. With your support, we can offer them a hand up, not a handout, to address the root issues of homelessness and restore lives.

Our biblically based values ensure that our services don't enable unhealthy lifestyles. Instead, we empower participants to grow personally and professionally as they discover new life in Jesus. In our care, they can find the freedom and fulfillment of healthy, successful, independent living and restored family relationships.



Thank you for walking beside us, praying and supporting us as we live out the love of Christ and reach out to people who are experiencing homelessness in our Fresno community.

To learn more about the Fresno Mission's ministry, visit our website at [fresnomission.org](http://fresnomission.org). Thank you for making our milestone of 75 years possible!



## You're allowing kids to dream again

Did you know... 52% of our guests at the Fresno Mission are under the age of 18?

A healthy childhood is foundational for overall development – physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually. Yet children experiencing homelessness in our community don't have the stability of a safe home. Many lose hope for their future.

Your support of the Fresno Mission helps protect our youngest, most vulnerable guests by providing a safe, nurturing environment at Rescue the Children for kids to learn, grow and thrive.



And thanks to friends like you, our soon-to-be opened Family Center has tripled our capacity to serve as many as 73 families in need! Your support helps provide them with medical care, academic tutoring and social and spiritual encouragement – along with biblical counseling.

Thank you for caring for children in our Fresno community. Together, we're providing child-focused care that restores their innocence and reignites their dreams.



**One of the best ways we can help children is by helping their parents! Find out more about how we support families at [fresnomission.org](http://fresnomission.org).**

