

THE CROSSING

Sharing and Caring in Northern Nevada since 1963

**I walked into the Mission broken and empty . . .
*but today I can say Christ is making me whole***

My name is Terri. When I walked through the doors of the Mission I was as broken as they come. I had lived with nothing but turmoil in my life. I was the definition of emptiness and sadness. I played around with meth and then began to use bath salts. Those were the worst. I was also married to a man who was a non-believer. It was like living with Satan. He had convinced me there was no God. I now see what a lie that was. I say that because today a living Lord resides in my heart . . . and I have God, the Mission and you who are so generous to thank for where I am today. I also don't have enough words to express my appreciation for my Christian counselors who give so much of their time to reach out to me. This place is filled with joy and with smiles . . . and those are two things you do not see on the street.

to people in need, just like so many who have reached out to me. In the days ahead, I need to remember where I was, and never forget who I am in Christ. One thing for sure, I refuse to let my past dictate my future. I thank God He has made me a stronger woman. Thank you again for your part in my recovery. It's my prayer you and your family will enjoy a happy Easter.

Your friend, *Terri*

**God has made me a stronger woman . . .
and I am so grateful**

When I graduate from the Mission's program I will be getting a job, will be paying rent, and start being a regular citizen. But I also want to stay close to my friends here at the Mission. It's my goal to keep reaching out

**"I refuse to let my past
dictate my future."**



I thank you for your support from the deepest part of my heart

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**Reno-Sparks
Gospel Mission**

2115 Timber Way, Reno, NV 89513-5956 | 775-323-0386 | www.rsgm.org

“WALK A MILE IN MY SHOES!”

It's time to step out for our 10th annual **“Walk a Mile in My Shoes!”** event at 9 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 28. More than 500 people participated last year in this community event starting at Wingfield Park in downtown Reno and finishing at the Mission. All proceeds support the homeless and needy.



Entry fees: \$30 for individuals, \$25 per person for groups of 4 or more. This event is ideal for big families and groups. **Special award for largest group entry!**

Please contact Tammie at **323-0386 x16**. You can also register through PayPal at **www.rsgm.org**.

***The walk will take place rain, snow or sunshine.**



An Encouraging Word from Rick Redding

Dear Friend of Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission,

They are not physically dead, but for all practical purposes they are not among the living. A lifetime of drugs has snuffed out their lives. Alcohol, abuse, and riotous living have made them the walking dead. These are the men and women who come through the doors of Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission. You may remember the story of Lazarus, whom Jesus raised from the dead. In the King James Version of the Bible it says he *stinketh*, which is not surprising since Lazarus had been dead for four days. In many ways, those walking dead who come to us also “stink” . . . and most don't even know it. In fact, their whole life stinks. But when they embrace the love of Jesus, everything begins to change.

Full recovery does not happen overnight

It may take our friends a while to recover and adjust to a sober world, but when they do they begin to live. And that's the story of the resurrection. That's the story of Easter. And just as Lazarus' family was waiting around the tomb — waiting for a miracle — so do the families of our guests await the recovery and reentry of those who have now given their lives to Jesus. We may help roll away the stones from the tombs . . . but Jesus does the restoring. Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us introduce these men and women to Jesus who promises to transform their lives and give them a fragrance that is pleasing to all. God bless you for your ongoing support and for providing our guests with the spark they need to live again.

Your servant,

Rick Redding, Executive Director



“We may help roll away the stones from the tombs . . . but Jesus does the restoring.”

God bless you for being a friend to the homeless . . .

The old cliché has it that *behind every successful man there is a surprised mother-in-law*. While there's plenty of humor in that thought, it's true that life moves in a positive direction when the efforts of an individual and the encouragement of others come together. When it comes to Mission work, our guests learn two things: that a loving God is their *ultimate supporter*, and that the Mission staff is here to provide the ongoing encouragement needed as our friends learn to walk in the ways of the Lord. To our guests it's often surprising how quickly God turns their lives around. But after all, *this is what resurrection power is all about*.

Your gifts mean more to our guests than you might imagine

The good news is your prayers, influence and financial support are what



Twenty-eight men and women took a stand for Jesus during the recent Mission's Journey Church baptism. Along with these baptisms were two children's dedications to Jesus. Congratulations to everyone involved!

GRADUATION 2014



Congratulations to the 16 graduates who completed our free yearlong life-change program! Heartfelt testimonies, tears, cheers and laughter filled the Bridge Church during this wonderful celebration.

If you or someone you love needs help, call us 24/7 at 775-329-0485.

Thank you for joining us in making disciples for Jesus

My name is Chris. As I grew up, I promised myself I would never be like my alcoholic dad. However, as the years went on, I became just like my father. I used to work on a hotshot crew and when we were through with our work we would spend the rest of the day and night drinking and doing drugs. I just couldn't get enough of the stuff. When fighting fires, you carry a fire shelter with you to protect you. But I had no fire shelter in real life. My life was going nowhere fast. Not only would I be digging holes of despair for myself, but I would look for a jackhammer and dig them even deeper. That was the story of my life.

I started reading stories of others who'd hit rock bottom

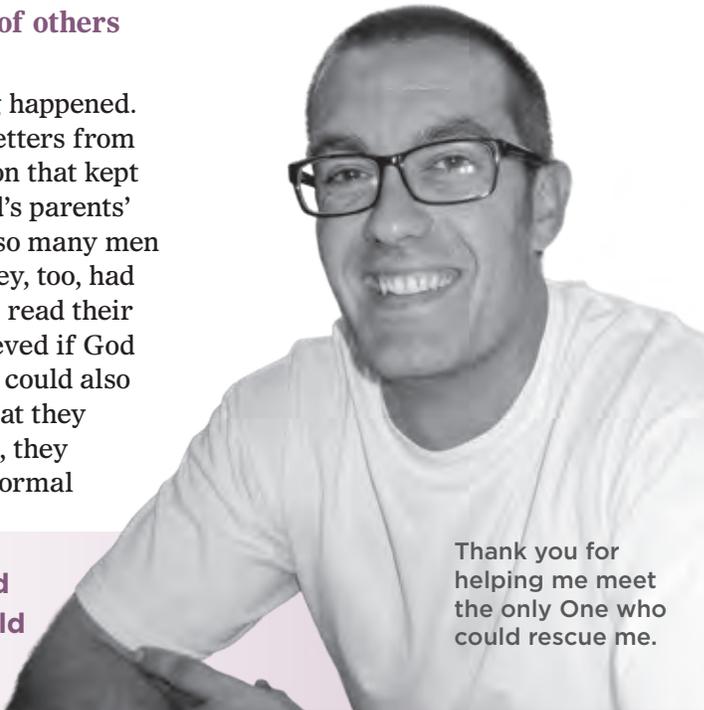
Then something interesting happened. I started reading the newsletters from Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission that kept showing up at my girlfriend's parents' house. I read the stories of so many men and women and saw how they, too, had hit rock bottom. The more I read their testimonies the more I believed if God could change their lives He could also change mine. No matter what they might have done in the past, they now looked and acted like normal

"... I believed if God could change their lives He could also change mine."

people. And that's what I wanted to be. Normal. So I called the Mission, got an interview and here I am today . . . a changed person because of a merciful, loving God . . . and a Mission that cares.

So when you give to Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission, you don't just provide food, shelter and clothing. And you are not just helping people get sober. What you are really doing is turning people toward Christ who alone can transform their lives. Thank you for joining us in this ministry of restoration. And a special blessing to you at this Easter season.

Sincerely, *Chris*



Thank you for helping me meet the only One who could rescue me.

and for celebrating Resurrection Day with our Mission guests

give us the opportunity to minister to the whole person — body, soul and spirit. Your involvement in this ministry is doing more good than you could ever imagine.

It's hardly headline news that it's always a challenge for the Mission to meet its financial obligations. But with God's help and your continued generosity, the Lord always provides for our needs. To send your Easter donation today, please use the enclosed remit slip. You may also give your special gift on our secure website, www.rsgm.org. Thank you for partnering with us in caring for the needy during the Easter season and throughout the year. Our entire Mission staff thanks you for your kindness to so many in need.

“Thank you for partnering with us in caring for the needy during the Easter season and throughout the year.”

Holiday Happenings



STREET TREATS

Mission staff, community groups and volunteers dressed up in costumes to give away treats to more than **500 homeless and less fortunate men, women and children** during the lively annual **"Street Treats"** event at Halloween. Recipients received hygiene products, food, gloves, socks and other goodies. In their own special "kids zone" area, children played games and received sweet goodies.



VETERANS DAY PARADE

About **150 Mission staff and friends** marched in the **Reno Veterans Day Parade** to honor homeless veterans. The Mission supports veterans in crisis and in need by providing shelter, resources and services.

THANKSGIVING

Through the generosity of our donors, volunteers and staff, we were able to provide warmth and comfort on Thanksgiving Day, **servicing 800 hot turkey meals** and **giving away more than 300 winter coats** to those in need. God bless you all!



CHRISTMAS

The Mission staff and volunteers made Christmas Day a special one for our hurting brothers and sisters (and their children) on the streets. Hot meals, toys for the children and gifts for the adults provided wonderful holiday cheer **for over 600 people** attending the Mission's Christmas dinner.

Knock! Knock!

Who's there?

The Mission!

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

Residents in low-income neighborhoods were surprised to be greeted with turkeys, bags of groceries, Christmas trees and baked goods from volunteers and Mission workers during our annual **"Random Acts of Kindness"** event. **Three teams traveled to two neighborhoods and a senior center** to bring the joy of Christmas to those in less fortunate circumstances that could use a boost of help and love at this time of year.



MY EASTER GIFT

YES, Rick . . . You can count on my continued support of the Mission this Easter season.

Here is my donation of:

- \$20.50** to provide **10** meals and other assistance
- \$30.75** to provide **15** meals and other assistance
- \$61.50** to provide **30** meals and other assistance
- \$_____** to provide as many meals and care as possible

Please bill my credit card: (please print) VISA MC

ACCOUNT NO. _____ EXP. DATE _____

NAME ON ACCOUNT _____ SIGNATURE _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission, Inc.
P.O. Box 5956
Reno, NV 89513-5956

Please mail this completed form and return it with your generous Easter donation. Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. You may also give online at www.rsgm.org. You will receive a receipt.

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