

Rescue Mission News

Ventura County Rescue Mission

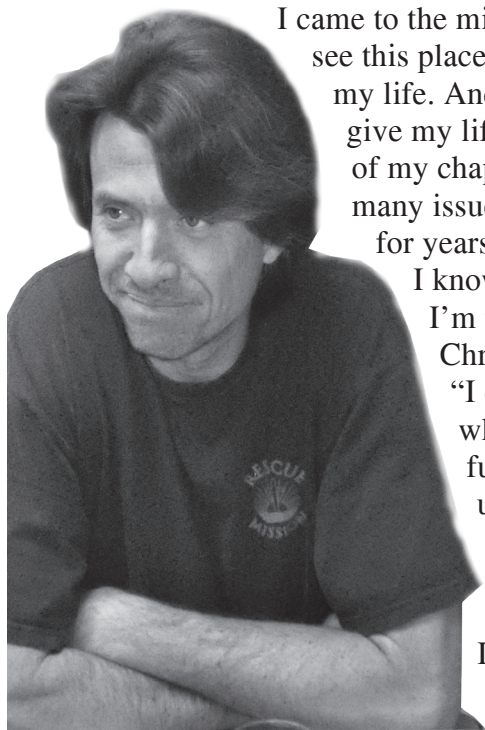
CHANGING LIVES FOR GOOD IS OUR ONLY BUSINESS

It's NOT How You START BUT How YOU FINISH THAT COUNTS!

My life before I came to the mission was complete turmoil. As a child, I lived a normal life, had great parents, brothers and sisters, just an overall great childhood. I came to know Jesus Christ at a young age because my father and mother raised me in church.

When I started high school, I was a good kid. At the age of 15, I started drinking and smoking pot to fit in. It was easy to drink, use, and still maintain a normal life. But, at that young age, I didn't see the consequences of my actions. I now look back and realize this was where my addiction started. Throughout high school, I continued to drink and experiment with many kinds of drugs. At the age of 23, I had my first child. This was eye-opening to me. I knew I had to work and be a father and good parent, so I tried hard to maintain a clean lifestyle, except I fell back to cocaine and drinking. But then something wonderful happened. When the world failed me, God didn't. God loved me when I didn't even love myself.

I came to the mission last February. I was able to see this place was where I needed to be to change my life. And most importantly, where I could give my life back to Jesus Christ. With the help of my chaplain, I have been able to overcome many issues and emotions that kept me using for years. I know that I am not perfect, but I know my life's changed dramatically. I'm thankful and blessed to have Jesus Christ in my life and understand that "I can do all things through Jesus Christ who strengthens me." I now have a future free of addiction and plan to use it wisely. I plan to get into a church and continue to strengthen my relationship with God. I recognize God as the source of my happiness. I know that as I give, so too shall I receive. Thank you ~ Bryan Bury



You are the Breath of Spring to Broken Hearts

Easter and springtime make us think of new life, fresh beginnings, and hope. The men who come to the mission recovery program are often seeing only death, dead ends, and despair when they look at their lives. They have been given up on by society, their families, and even themselves. The mission is here to show them that a new start is possible. Your generosity provides a place where they can find acceptance. Where new health, new attitudes, new relationships move them on toward productive lives full of hope for the future. Thank you for being that breath of spring to the broken hearts that need your support.



I'M STILL HERE!

My life before coming into the Rescue Mission was a constant battle with heroin addiction. I was in and out of the hospital because of an abscess and I almost lost my arm several times. One time, I went in for stomach pain and I was rushed to the operating room for surgery, where I lost nine feet of my intestines and almost lost my life. These problems were because I was doing speed balls. The doctors told me that my body was not going to tolerate the drugs like it had before. Unfortunately, I didn't listen. At that time, I really didn't care.

The only thing that slowed down my drug use was going back to jail. Over the last fifteen years, I've been in and out of jail many times. I had two prison terms and multiple violations. I always ran right back to the very thing that put me there. Finally, the county and state commissioners said that I either do Prop. 36 or six

years minimum in prison. With five felonies and two prison terms already, I think that I made the right choice by coming to the mission.

Ever since I can remember, I've known that there was a Creator and that is due to my mom. However, coming here to the

mission, I've rededicated my life. I now say that I accept Jesus Christ in my life and I know that He "is" my Lord and Savior.

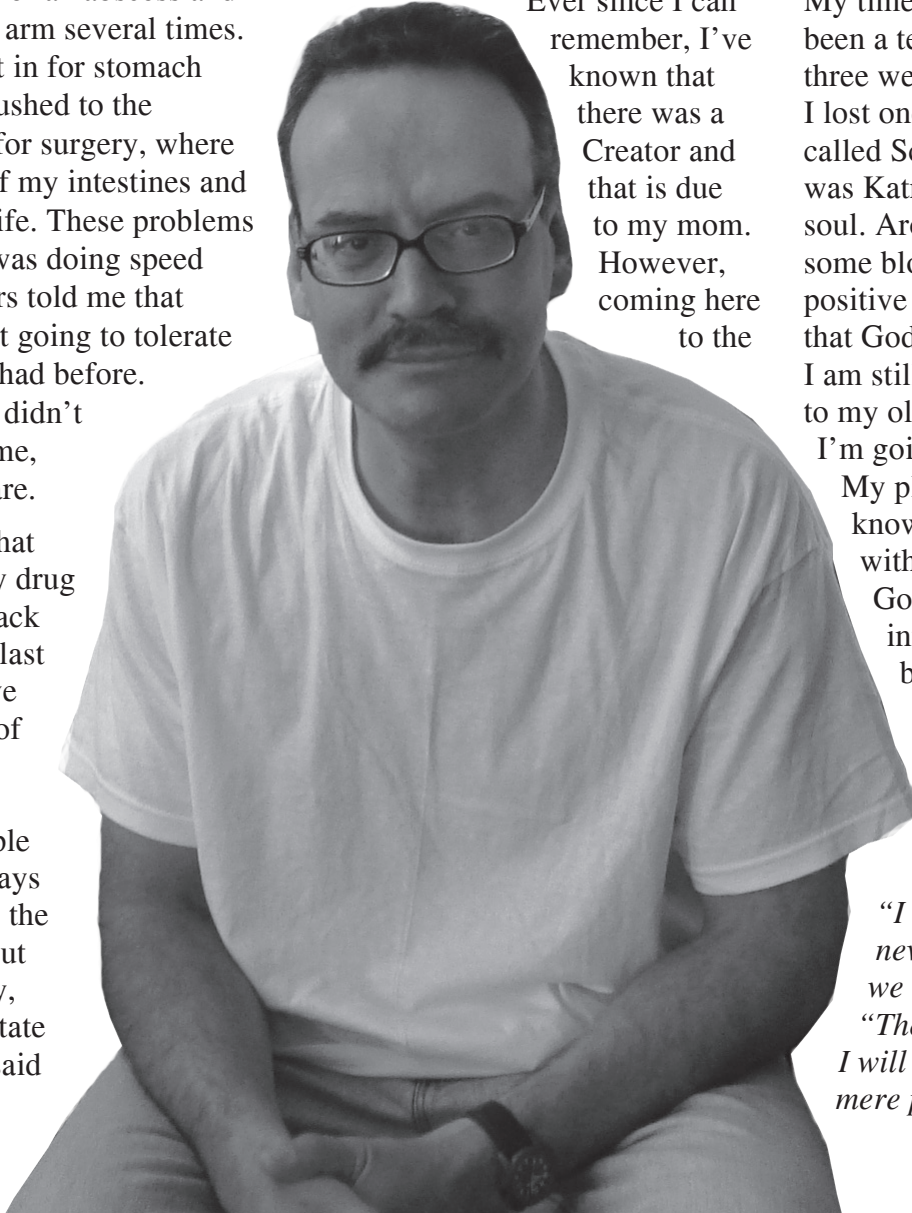
My time here at the mission has been a test, to say the least. About three weeks ago, I found out that I lost one of my sisters to a disease called Scudra Derma. Her name was Katrina Ann, God rest her soul. Around the same time, I had some blood work done and I tested positive for Lupus. How do I know that God is doing a work in my life? I am still here. I didn't resort back to my old way. I didn't cut and run. I'm going to face it and not run.

My plans are up in the air. I'll know more when I'm finished with the Santa Barbara courts, God willing. I would like to intern at the mission and go back to school.

~ Joseph Swangler

Hebrews 13:5-6 —

Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you." So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?"



GIVE AND YOU SHALL RECEIVE



A Charitable Gift Annuity is a gift that provides you with financial rewards for a lifetime. You will receive:

- Immediate tax deduction
- Fixed and secure payments throughout your lifetime
- Satisfaction of helping us deliver vital services to the hungry and homeless in our community

For more information, please call: (800)876-7958 ext. 2112, Jay Haddix.

for more news log on to www.venturacountyrescuemission.org

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LIGHTHOUSE

FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN



I Was Given the Freedom to Surrender

My name is Delores and I am a 41-year-old mother of five beautiful children. Not only am I a single mother, I am a single mother who has been struggling with a drug addiction since the age of 13. During this time, I have fallen three times and I am just starting to get up from the third time. I have heard that, with God's help, I will know when I am done and ready to get clean.

On Dec. 5, 2010, I was arrested for DUI and remained in jail for two days. When I went to court and it was a missing complaint, I knew that God was moving in my life again and giving me the freedom (literally) to make a choice to go back to the streets or to finally surrender to Him. I arrived at the Lighthouse on Dec. 8, 2010 wearing the same clothing, coming down off drugs, and scared of the unknown. After a couple of days, I started to feel strong enough to participate and remained at the shelter.

Now that I have come to the Lighthouse, I can honestly say that I feel like I am ready to finally live the life God has always wanted for me and died for me to have. The Lighthouse shelter program has helped me to rebuild everything I allowed my addiction to take. Being here at the Lighthouse has given me a safe place to live. Every day has been an accomplishment and a blessing. I have been able to attend appointments or court hearings that I am required to attend. I am able to have my visits with my kids and attend my classes. I am very thankful and grateful to be here.

~ Delores



Moving Forward to a Happy Destiny

I have over a year of continuous sobriety and I continue moving forward with the help of the Lighthouse. As I walk the road to a happy destiny for me and my children, I know it's thanks to my being here at the Lighthouse, where I saw how God could change my life.

I have been working continuously on a 12-step program and have a lot of support in this area. Being here in the Lighthouse Transitional Living Program, I am able to spend more quality time with my two boys. I am able to save money and accomplish a goal of getting a driver's license. I am also able to save to get a car and a place of our own after being here for 2 years. I will be able to save quite a lot to be comfortable enough to move on my own with my boys. Thank you ~Daylene.



My Life Has Changed!

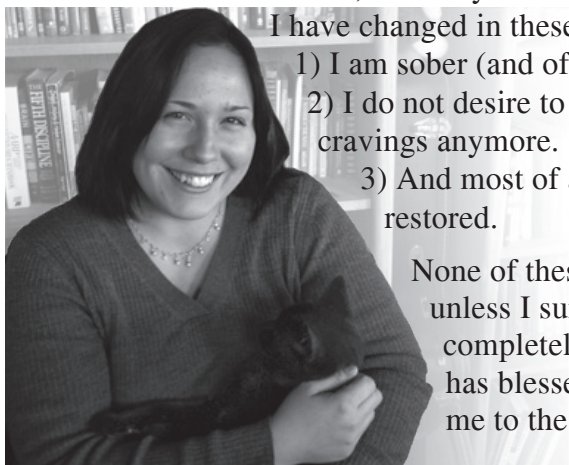
My name is Veronika. I am 24 years old. I am a client in the Lighthouse for Women and Children's Life Recovery Program. I've been in the program for ten months now. I have had my ups and downs, but have come a long way. I give all the credit to Jesus for His amazing grace and mercy in my life, especially during this long recovery process.

All in all, I can say

I have changed in these three areas

- 1) I am sober (and off cigarettes too!).
- 2) I do not desire to use ever again, nor do I have cravings anymore.
- 3) And most of all, my health has been restored.

None of these changes could have occurred unless I surrendered my will and life completely to God. And so I did and He has blessed me immensely by leading me to the Lighthouse and my new Life.



NEEDS LIST

Some of our most urgent needs are listed here. If you can help, please drop off your donation Monday–Friday, 8am to 5pm, at the Lighthouse. Thank you!

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|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Cheese | • Paper Bowls | • Toilet Paper |
| • Canned Meats | • Plastic Silverware | • Toothpaste |
| • Lunch Meat | • Paper Towels | • Shampoo |
| • Paper Plates | • Paper Cups | • Feminine Hygiene Products |

Victory in Jesus

I love this old hymn! In its three verses, it tells the whole story of salvation and all the glorious promises of being God's child. The Christmas story is told in the first verse of this song, "How a Savior came from glory." Easter finishes this verse, "...how He gave His life on Calvary to save a wretch like me."

But every day we see the second verse acted out here at the Lighthouse! "I heard about His healing, Of His cleansing power revealing. How He made the lame to walk again and caused the blind to see; and then I cried, "Dear Jesus, come and heal my broken spirit," And somehow Jesus came and brought to me the victory."

Because of folks like you, there are stories to read of how God is changing lives. I can't wait to put verse three into action, "And some sweet day I'll sing up there the song of victory."

Won't we have a wonderful time of fellowship!



Cassie Sorenson

for more Lighthouse news log on to www.erescuemission.org

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