



# THE CLARION

UNION GOSPEL MISSION SACRAMENTO

A CALLING TO HELP THE HOMELESS AND THE POOR

WINTER 2019

## GOD STOPPED MICHAEL FROM ENDING HIS LIFE — AND GAVE HIM A NEW ONE



Because of you, he will truly be able to celebrate Christmas

*When you give at Christmastime, you don't just feed the hungry in our community — you help change the lives of people like Michael!*

Five years ago, Michael thought he had the life he wanted. Married to a wife he adored, they were raising their kids together, they had successful jobs and were ready to buy their first home.

But when Michael's wife left him, his life was in despair and he began to realize how he was living for his wife and without her, life appeared to be empty and meaningless. "I wanted to end my life."

*"I hated myself and what I'd become."*

Overwhelmed by this, Michael increased his use of drugs and alcohol to try to cope with the pain of losing his wife and children.

Michael was in deep agony and called out to Jesus to save him from his misery.

"I wanted to die. I hated myself and hated what I'd become," he says. One night in his garage, Michael

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# Your special Christmas gift can offer someone hope and the chance for new life!

## God stopped Michael from ending his life...

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tried to end his life, but God intervened.

“He put my daughter’s voice in my head: ‘Daddy, don’t leave me.’ When that rang through my head, I knew I couldn’t do it,” he says. Michael began to realize his prayer was heard!

God directed Michael to the Union Gospel Mission in January of 2019. There, the pieces of Michael’s broken life began to come together.

*“I was in despair. But God restored my hope using my daughter’s voice.”*

“I had to cast all my cares on Jesus Christ and His Word, but it was hard, a constant tug-of-war.”

There were times it was hard and Michael wanted to leave, but Michael realized he was beginning to hope and trust in the Lord! This kept Michael from leaving. Michael was benefitting from the constant encouragement and guidance of God through the Mission and its resources. Looking back on the experience Michael joyfully says:

“God used the Union Gospel Mission to save my life.”

Michael is grateful for God’s care for him through the Mission. Michael wants to give back and share with others what God has done for him.

“I want to be in ministry. I’m being pulled towards discipling men going through tough times — giving them the hope that I got!”

With tears in his eyes, Michael says, “This is joy! I have hope and confidence for the first time. I had no hope, no faith. I was in despair. But God

restored my hope using my daughter’s voice.”

Hearing her voice started Michael on a new path.

“My daughter said to me recently, ‘I’m not scared anymore because I know you’re getting better.’ ”

**God stopped Michael from taking his own life and led him here to the Mission, where he came to know Christ as his Lord and Savior. He is grateful for everything. He says, “I want the donors to feel the gravity and the good of their donations — what this place really is and really does. My faith is something I can never repay. I can’t say thank you enough.”**

**Thank you, and God bless you, for partnering with us in this lifesaving work.**



Your Christmas gift will meet critical needs and share the hope of Jesus with our hurting neighbors.

## HERE’S HOW YOU CHANGE LIVES AT

# Christmas

You’ll make it possible for us to welcome each homeless man, woman and child at Christmastime and year-round — to provide hot meals, safe shelter off the streets and the chance for new life.



For families living on the edge, receiving a holiday food box at Christmas reminds them their community cares and will give them a reason to celebrate.



Women and children will receive clothing, shoes and other necessities when they visit our Clothes Closet. They can also take part in a Bible study and enjoy a snack.



You, our compassionate friends, are such a blessing to the Mission. You are the reason so many will find needed help and hope in Christ this holiday season.



## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR TIM LANE

### The answer for all of us was born in a manger

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, let’s remember that our Savior came into this world in a manger — he was born in a barn. In a sense, homeless.



PASTOR TIM LANE  
DIRECTOR

People are homeless for many different reasons. But we believe there is one solution: *the hope of true and lasting transformation.*

That hope is not in what might be or in the dream that someday things could be better...it is found in the sure hope of the Gospel and in the person of Jesus Christ!

### Michael found the sure hope of Christ!

In our recovery program we receive men that otherwise have no hope, they have tried to regain their lives and failed. Men like Michael — featured in this issue’s cover story.

While here at the Mission, Michael found the sure hope of Christ! His life has been transformed from near death to pursuing the Lord’s plan for his life.

That’s an amazing blessing that you helped make happen through your support. Thank you! And best wishes for a joy-filled Christmas.

# YOU CAN GIVE THE BEST CHRISTMAS GIFT:

## A HOT MEAL, SAFE SHELTER AND THE CHANCE FOR NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

Your partnership means hungry and homeless people across Sacramento are receiving much-needed help and hope this holiday season. Thank you for making a difference!

Please give once more before the end of 2019 to provide meals, housing, counseling, job training and more. You'll also give hurting men and women the opportunity to experience the transforming power of a personal relationship with Christ.

If you itemize your tax deductions, please make sure your gift is postmarked by midnight, December 31. Thank you and God bless.

**Thank you for giving to help change lives at this critical time of year.**



### Three WAYS TO GIVE



Union Gospel Mission Sacramento  
P.O. Box 1108  
Sacramento, CA 95812



Visit us online at  
[ugmsac.com](http://ugmsac.com)  
and give right away.



To give by phone,  
please call  
916.447.3268.



### STAY CONNECTED

## My gift to provide the hope of Christ

**YES, PASTOR TIM!** I want to offer meals and care to my homeless neighbors so they can experience the life-changing hope of our Savior this holiday season. I'm sending:

- \$19.20 to feed and care for 10 people.
- \$34.56 to feed and care for 18 people.
- \$57.60 to feed and care for 30 people.
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ to provide meals and care for as many people as possible.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email address \_\_\_\_\_

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