

SAVING GRACE

A newsletter of Union Gospel Mission • Holiday 2021



DON'T MISS...

2 Celebrating rebirth this Christmas.

2 Year-End Matching Challenge

3 "Anything I have is because of God."

"Anything I have is because of GOD AND HIS GRACE."

atthew was exhausted and scared. He didn't want to go back to prison... and being homeless was taking a major toll on his health.

"I didn't trust the people out there, so I was using drugs to try to stay awake at night. Trying to fix my problems with my own strength," he says.

Matthew first turned to drugs as a teenager. At the time, he was a strong athlete who was celebrated for his talents.

"I couldn't believe that people were clapping and cheering for me. I felt that same euphoria when I tried drugs, so I kept using to experience that feeling."

But the good feelings became harder and harder to sustain. And Matthew lost everything – family, friends, work. After struggling to survive on the streets, Matthew decided to come to Union Gospel Mission.

"I had been here 16 years ago but only stayed three months, so I knew what it was going to take. **The only way I thought I could live was by coming to the Mission.**"

Matthew committed himself fully to his rehabilitation and reconnected with his Savior, Jesus Christ. He eagerly studies the Bible and discusses what he reads with our pastors and residents.

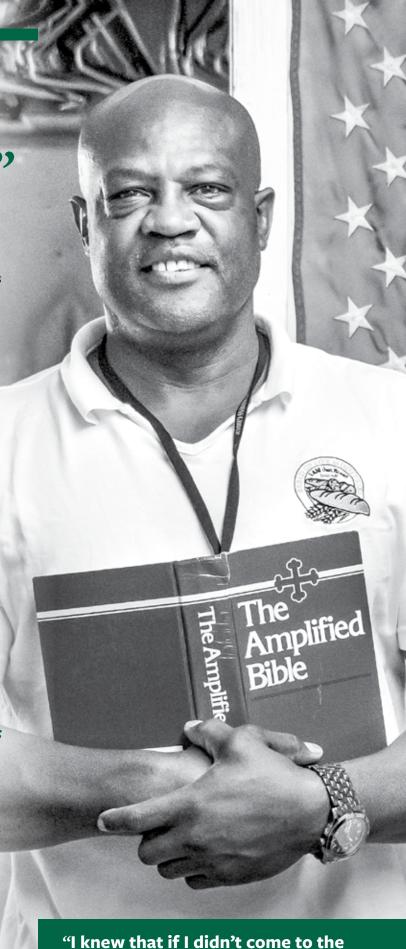
"The Mission is a sanctuary in the midst of the storm. I just had to surrender and, like the Bible says, God will renew us."

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." - 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

Today, Matthew serves at the Mission in our laundry, joyfully washing clothes and blankets so guests will be welcomed in comfort. He plans to go to Bible college so he can serve others.

"I just have to get myself out of the way and trust God. He's molding me to be whatever He wants me to be. To help people who are broken, like I was."

It's going to be a Christmas filled with joy for Matthew – and he is so grateful to you for this wonderful gift of a new life. "The Lord blessed me tremendously... giving me joy and a purpose. Now my life belongs to Christ."



"I knew that if I didn't come to the Mission, I was going to die out there. I HAD TO MAKE A DRASTIC CHANGE."

A Message from PASTOR TIM LANE

Celebrating Christmas with JOY for All People

In Luke 2:10, the angel says, "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

During the Christmas season, we hear a lot about joy. It has me thinking about how joy is something all people can have in their hearts. This time of year, our greatest joy is celebrating the birth of our Savior and the eternal life we have been freely given.

That joy is what fills our hearts Christmas morning... and, hopefully, every day of the year. It's the same joy I see on the faces of the men, women and children who have come to Union Gospel Mission and experienced God's life-changing love up close and personal. The joy YOU help them experience through your heartfelt prayers and support.

This Christmas, as you reflect on the "reason for the season," I hope you will remember our neighbors who are hurting. As Matthew's story shows, your generosity offers help, healing and a chance to be held in the arms of a loving God through His Son, Jesus Christ.

I am continually humbled by the faithfulness of friends like you who joyfully bless others. Thank you, and may God fill your heart with peace, love and joy!



God bless you and vour loved ones,

Pastor Tim Lane
Executive Director

A delicious Christmas meal for our homeless neighbors...

... STARTS WITH YOU!

As you prepare to celebrate the joy of Christmas, please remember our hurting neighbors. It's been another really tough year for so many in our community – and the very best gift you can give them is the help they need right now and the Good News of the Gospel!

<u>Just \$1.92 provides a meal and care for one person.</u>

That meal is often the first step toward a new life through the love of Jesus.







CAN GIVE SOMEONE

Healing Hope And a Second Chance!

\$1.92 for 1 hot meal

A night of safe shelter & our ministry in Christ!

Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!

SEE HOW YOU HELPED CHANGE MATTHEW'S LIFE!

Year-End Matching Challenge DOUBLE YOUR HELP!



Here's a huge blessing as we end this year: Thanks to a generous group of partners, any gift you make until December 31 will be matched through our \$100,000 challenge grant to support our UGM Renovation Project!

That's right... your gift today <u>doubles</u> to help renovate our facility that was built back in 1967, so we can provide Christ-centered care in a more comforting, welcoming facility. And that means twice the hope for many of our neighbors who are still struggling to get back on their feet.

DEADLINE TO GIVE: 12/31

- Add your special year-end gift to the reply card and send it today.
- Give online anytime at ugmsac.com.

THANK YOU
for doubling your
impact during
our matching
challenge!



It's a day for neighbors to help neighbors... and join together as a community on **Giving Tuesday!** On November 30, your gift to our ministry will provide lifechanging essentials like meals, essential care and rehabilitation services to help people here in the Greater Sacramento Area.

Many people are still struggling to overcome hardships and rebuild their lives on solid ground. Your help is needed now more than ever to share the lifechanging message of the Gospel that leads to new life in Christ. Give our neighbors hope on Giving Tuesday!

Why Wait? Celebrate GIVING TUESDAY Now!

- Add your special Giving Tuesday gift on the reply card and send it today.
- Give online at ugmsac.com.

3 Easy Ways YOU Can Help this Christmas!

VOLUNTEER AT THE MISSION



The holidays are just around the corner, and we're getting ready for this very busy season. We need your help to care for all the men, women and children who will turn to us for care this time of year. **You can even volunteer remotely!**

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

Call: Eileen Trussell at (916) 447-3268

Email: info@ugmsac.com

Or visit **ugmsac.com** to find out more or sign up now!



MEET BASIC NEEDS

Looking to cover the basics? These essential items keep Mission guests safe and comfortable during their time in our care. Please drop off donations at **400 Bannon St., Sacramento, CA 95811 - 7 days a week, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.**

Blankets * Sleeping Bags * Rain Gear * Backpacks * Men's Warm Clothing Coats * Socks * Shoes * Hygiene Items

HELP BRING AWARENESS



Follow us on social media and sign up for our emails! It's an easy way to stay up-to-date on ministry highlights, urgent needs, special events and more. You can also tell your friends, family and church about us and the

many services we offer that can help someone in your community.







THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS CHRISTMAS A TIME OF JOY!