

# SAVING GRACE

A newsletter of Union Gospel Mission • Fall 2023



### **Anticipating This New Season with Thanksgiving**



#### A Message from PASTOR TIM LANE

It's hard to believe we're here again: over halfway through another year. Here at the Union Gospel Mission, preparations for our busy fall season are already underway.

Outside, the weather is starting to

cool. But inside our doors, it's still warm and inviting as **we get ready for the many men, women, and children who will come to us during the months leading up to Thanksgiving.** It's one of my favorite times of the year, and it's possible thanks to the generosity of friends like you.

As I think about this time of the year, I'm reminded of the words of Ecclesiastes 3:1: "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."

Each time someone comes to the Mission for help, their season changes. They leave a time of pain and struggle that they may not have anticipated and certainly didn't desire – and

they **choose** a season of support and biblical counseling. I truly believe this is Christ's hand at work through your partnership in this Gospel-centered ministry.

Now, as we prepare to serve an estimated 22,150 meals in the coming months, I ask you to pray for every struggling man and woman who finds a seat at our tables. Pray that if the time is right for a new season in their life, God will make it known and see it through.

Thank you. I'm thankful for you now, and always.

Pastor Tim Lane Executive Director

## YOU'RE MAKING GOALS AND DREAMS POSSIBLE...



"I never really trusted anyone or felt loved or understood. God used the Mission to show me I'm truly loved."

"Before I came to the Mission, I was frustrated and discouraged in life. Now that I've found Jesus, I'm content."



At the Mission, hopes and dreams are born – because thanks to the support of friends like you, men in our discipleship program can believe that a brighter future is possible.

To find out more about how you're helping transform lives and fulfill dreams, visit

#### ugmsac.com.

Thank you for believing that everyone deserves the opportunity to build a better, more fulfilling life!



**For just \$1.92, YOU can provide a meal** to nourish their bodies and lift their spirits. Your gift surrounds hurting men and women with loving care that leads to a better life through:









Safe, welcoming shelter

Warm clothing, coats & shoes

Christ-centered Classes & job training

The lifechanging message of the Gospel

Please help our neighbors in need this holiday season! Send your 2023 Thanksgiving Campaign gift today using the enclosed reply card and envelope OR online at ugmsac.com.





The day I came to the Union Gospel Mission of Sacramento, a staff member asked me, "What are you looking for at the Mission?"

I told him, "I could tell you I want to be clean and sober, but I know if I say that, I'll walk out the same guy who just walked in here. The truth is, I'm here because I don't know who I am. I've

lost myself and almost everyone who cares about me. When I look in a mirror I don't know who I'm looking at."

I'd been drinking since high school and it got worse and worse, and I couldn't stop. My drinking grew out of control. So did the lies, the cheating, and the abuse. It was so bad, my wife divorced me in 2012, taking our two sons with her. I just drank even more.

I started pushing people away. My life was crumbling around me. Finally, in the winter of 2022 it got to be too much. I knew I couldn't do it anymore. It all had to stop.

When I learned the true meaning of love, of serving, of being faithful, I found myself.

When I came to the Mission, I started praying that God would show me who I am. God answered, "OK, now let's get to work."

What I needed was a relationship with God. It wasn't

easy at first. I had to own up to my own failures. While I knew God could forgive all the terrible things I'd done, I couldn't forgive myself. But when I finally started to let it all go, everything took off. Spiritually, I felt like I had a rocket strapped to my back. I devoured the

> Word, I hungered for God. Everything changed. When I learned the true meaning of love, of serving, of being faithful, I found myself.

Today, I've reconciled with my ex-wife and we plan to get married again.

I'm so grateful for people like you who support this Mission. You helped me meet Jesus, my Lord and Savior, who transformed my life.

### Chapel Saves Lives

"For it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes..." - Romans 1:16

Attending chapel at the Mission can be a major turning point in the life of someone who has lost all hope. After struggling with homelessness, addiction, abuse, or other heartbreak, many find it difficult to trust God. **Chapel helps build faith through sharing the Gospel!** 

Through regular prayer, worship, the teaching of the Word, and fellowship, chapel opens the door for the Holy Spirit to change the lives of lost and hurting souls eternally.

For many of our guests, this means experiencing God's love and the hope of the Gospel for the first time. And it is this miracle that leads our guests to receive His gift of salvation and find new life in Him.

Please consider donating bibles for our guests. For more info, contact us at **(916) 447-3268** or **info@ugmsac.com.** 



## JOIN OUR REDEEM TEAM!

Most men and women walk into the Union Gospel Mission with just the clothes on their backs. Many have been abandoned by friends and

family, and they have no place to live and nowhere else to turn.

There's a very special group of people who care deeply for these men and women, and who are committed to making a life-transforming difference on their behalf every month. It's a commitment that says, "I'll be there for you... I want to make sure you get the help you need!"

These monthly giving partners provide the regular support needed to feed and care for men and women who are lost and destitute. And help change lives with our Men's 10-month New Life Program and a growing ministry for women with our Clothes Closet and New Life Class to one day have a program for women off campus!



You're invited to become a member of our Redeem Team monthly giving partners.

To learn more about becoming a member of this extraordinary group, contact our Development Director, Eileen Trussell, at

**(916) 447-3268, ext. 37** or email **info@ugmsac.com.**