



SAVING GRACE

A newsletter of the Union Gospel Mission • FALL 2025

**YOU are
a blessing!**

INSIDE: Christian shares
how God used your
support to transform
his life.

DON'T MISS...

2 Take action
against hunger!

2 You're helping us
lead them to Christ!

3 "I understood the
Gospel... for the first time."

For more information: (916) 447-3268 ugmsac.com info@ugmsac.com

“I FELT LIKE I UNDERSTOOD THE GOSPEL... FOR THE FIRST TIME.”

Christian was born in Nigeria, where he witnessed extreme violence at a very young age. **“I didn’t know how to navigate or deal with the trauma,”** he recalls. When he was only 8 years old, his mother died, and Christian moved to America with his father and sister.

At 18, Christian lost his father, too. “I dropped out of college the same day and became my sister’s legal guardian.” He married and had four children, but the deep pain of his losses and the unresolved trauma of his childhood weighed heavily on him. Desperate to escape the pain, he turned to drugs.

Addiction took hold, and Christian found himself in a cycle of incarceration and homelessness. “My addictions led me to not only lose my family, but into darker areas... I started getting in trouble and eventually was in and out of prison.”

After his final release from prison, Christian was desperate for direction and a chance to start over, and a UGM staff member approached him on the street and invited him to the Union Gospel Mission. “He looked at

me, waved me over and said, ‘You don’t belong out here on these streets.’ That was a pivotal moment for me.”

At the Mission, Christian found shelter, care, and the life-changing gift of God’s love. **“For the very first time, I felt like I understood the Gospel.”** Through Bible classes, counseling, and the support of the staff here, the Lord revealed himself to Christian and gave him saving faith in Him.

In November 2024, Christian was hired as the Mission’s Executive Chef and he is excelling in his position. He is also a baptized member of his church.

“I’m thankful for the Mission because it exposed me to the Gospel... they wrapped their arms around me, showing me love regardless of my background.”

The Gospel is bearing fruit at the Mission in the lives of people like Christian. Now, his heart is full of hope thanks to God’s kindness. Thank you for supporting the work we do so that men can be rescued and redeemed! “Before coming to the Mission, I was blind and trapped in my sins and addiction. **Now, I’m set free. I have faith and hope, knowing that I am in Christ.**”

“I’ll never forget the feeling of being loved and welcomed as soon as I walked through the door here.”



Hearts and lives are full... thanks to **YOU!**



A Message from PASTOR ROBERT BRIGGS

As the seasons change, I'm reminded of Jesus' faithful words to His disciples: ***"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few."*** As one of our partners, your support and care for our poor and homeless neighbors is a source of encouragement for the people who come to us for help, for our staff... and for me personally!

This month, you have a special opportunity to make a difference for our struggling neighbors. September is Hunger Action Month – and we're inviting you to provide 30 meals over 30 days for our guests. It's a meaningful way you can support a Gospel-centered change here in the greater Sacramento area.

In September alone, we're preparing to serve 8,500

meals – and more in the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving. Your support helps provide meals and touch lives with Christ-centered hope.

Please read how your generous gifts are bearing fruit in Christian's life, whose story is on Page 3. He is looking forward to a more hope-filled future – because of the dedication of supporters like you!

Thank you for investing in the lives of more people like Christian during Hunger Action Month and throughout the fall season!

Pastor Robert Briggs
Executive Director

YOU'RE HELPING US LEAD THEM TO CHRIST!

Thanks to partners like you, men, women, and children can find hope at the Mission. Your prayers and support help residents in our program find freedom from brokenness.



"UGM is a place that I will be forever grateful for because I believe that it saved my life. Since being in the Mission, I have a newfound faith."

– Dave

"The Mission helped me see that I am able to overcome addiction and they helped me change my life for the better. Now I know Jesus Christ and He's part of my life." – Oscar



Thank you for making it possible for people to hear and be transformed by the Gospel message of Jesus Christ!

To find out more about how you're helping change lives, visit **ugmsac.com**.

SEPTEMBER SPOTLIGHT: HUNGER ACTION MONTH

8,500

Meals Needed by Sept. 30!

September is Hunger Action Month! Join our community in this month-long movement to TAKE ACTION and fight not just physical hunger, but spiritual hunger as well! Every neighbor we welcome this fall may be hungry physically, but they need more than just food. They need the gift of new life in Christ.

For just \$2.39, YOU can provide a nourishing meal to end someone's physical hunger. But even more importantly, every meal you help serve is accompanied with the Gospel message, reminding our guests that God's gift of redemption and eternal life is available to all who believe! Help us share the Message of the Gospel with neighbors this fall.

Send your gift today OR online at **ugmsac.com**.



Scan to take action now!



OUR CURRENT NEEDS

Donate essential items this fall!

Throughout the busy fall season, we'll welcome even more guests than usual here at the Union Gospel Mission! And with more people to care for, our needs also increase.

Our 3 most needed items:

- ☐ Blankets & tarps
- ☐ Sleeping bags
- ☐ Men's & women's underwear

This fall season, you can show care and compassion by providing for these and other immediate needs of our neighbors.



Visit ugmsac.com/NeedsList to see our current needs list.

Be a Partner in sharing the Gospel on the **Monthly Redeem Team**

The most important work we will ever do at the Mission is sharing the hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with every lost soul that comes through our doors.

We would like to invite you to be a part of tomorrow's Gospel work in the greater Sacramento area by joining the Redeem Team – our monthly givers! To learn more about helping our hurting neighbors rebuild their lives – both now and in the months to come – call us at **(916) 447-3268** or **email info@ugmsac.com**. To join now, visit **ugmsac.com/redeem-team**.

If you are already a Redeem Team member, thank you for being a part of the future of our Mission!

INVEST IN SAVING LIVES!

Make a lasting impact for our neighbors in need... while experiencing benefits for you and your family! Don't forget about these special giving opportunities before the year ends.

IRA Charitable Rollover

Are you 73 or older? If so, you can save on taxes while meeting your IRA's Required Minimum Distribution! A gift from your IRA is considered a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), so it's not taxable income.

Donor-Advised Funds (DAF)

A DAF acts as a charity savings account that you can use to send money to the Mission. If you put money in today, you'll get a tax deduction for 2025. The money sits in the fund and can grow tax-free!

For more information, please contact Eileen Trussell, Development Director, at **etrussell@ugmsac.com** or **(916) 447-3268, ext. 37**.

** This material is not intended as legal, tax, or financial advice. Please consult your own attorney, CPA, or advisor for personalized guidance.

