



# SAVING GRACE

A newsletter of the Union Gospel Mission • Holiday 2025



THANK YOU FOR SHARING  
*Christmas blessings*  
WITH CLIFFORD!



**DON'T MISS...**

**2** Give a meal. Share  
Gospel hope!

**3** "Now I have hope."

**4** Invest In Saving Lives!

# **“NOW I KNOW IN MY HEART THAT JESUS CHRIST IS MY LORD AND SAVIOR.”**

**C**liff grew up in a home marked by poverty, violence, drugs, and an abusive father. When police removed his sister, his mother fled with him, but by age 12, he was a ward of the state. He bounced between placements until he was released at 18... with no family, no direction, and deep wounds of rejection.

What followed were years of addiction, broken relationships, and despair. Though he had a season of sobriety – even building a successful business – his recovery was built on sand. Tragedy struck when both his mother and the woman he loved died. Unable to cope with his grief, he relapsed, lost

everything, and spent the next decade homeless on the Sacramento River. “I was angry, alone, tired – and I started to see death as a bittersweet relief.”

His addictions eventually led to prison. There, God began to draw him. “I acknowledged to Him all my wrongdoings. I knew that only God could save me. I got down on my knees and said, ‘Lord, please help me. Change my desires, change my ways.’” Cliff remembered seeing men in the New Life Program while eating at the Union Gospel Mission. “If God could change them,” he thought, “maybe He could change me too.”



**“Now I have hope.”**

Upon release, he entered the program. Through Scripture and Gospel teaching, the Holy Spirit revealed his true condition: “I finally realized what the problem is. It’s me. It’s my own heart.” God opened Cliff’s eyes and gave him saving faith in Christ, and he now walks in newness of life!

Today, Cliff works as UGM’s Maintenance

Technician and lives in the Mission’s Redemption House as he rebuilds his life. He is pursuing baptism and church membership, grateful for God’s mercy. “Now I know that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior. I pray that the Mission’s ‘Jesus Saves’ sign will always shine, so others lost in the dark can find their way here.”

*Help us share the  
message of God's  
grace this Christmas*

As Christmas approaches here at UGM, we are busy preparing. I am inviting you to partner with us in reaching the needy of our city.

For the the poor and homeless of our city, there is often little peace at any time of year. They endure constant stress... uncertain of where they can sleep safely... how they'll stay warm... and when they'll get their next meal.

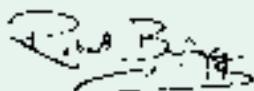
But their greatest danger – whether they see it or not – is the state of their soul before a Holy God.

Your love and compassion toward them through your support can be used by God to change all of that.

**You can help us share the hope to be found in Christ with our suffering neighbors – this holiday season and beyond.** When you give a meal for just \$2.39, you don't just feed hungry bodies – you give us an opportunity to share the Good News with lost souls. People like Clifford (whose story is on page 3) can hear the Gospel and find new life in Christ.

Please help us share the message of Christ and extend mercy to the least, the last, and the lost of our city.

Thank you for having compassion for the needy in our city this season.



Pastor Robert Briggs  
Executive Director



# Give a meal. Share *Gospel hope!*

For our neighbors experiencing homelessness or hunger, Christmas can feel more lonely than joyful... **but** **YOU can show compassion for their needs and share the HOPE of the Gospel.** Just \$2.39 provides a nourishing Christmas meal - and offers hope for redemption and joy this holiday season.



# Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!

# A Christmas they can look forward to, thanks to YOU!



**Christmas Morning:** Thanks to local toy & donation drives and the generosity of people like you, our Mission guests can experience the joy of waking up to Christmas gifts.



**Holiday Feast:** Your gifts help provide a delicious Christmas meal for our residents – for some, the first holiday feast they've enjoyed in years.

**Saving Grace Preached to All:** Your generosity allows our guests to gather under the teaching of the Word and the preaching of the Gospel, the only hope and greatest joy of all who believe – the true message of Christmas!

Thanks to you, our neighbors don't have to spend this Christmas alone and on the streets. Your support provides gifts, hot meals, a place to gather, and a reminder of the true reason for the season!

# INVEST IN SAVING LIVES!

You can make a lasting impact for our neighbors in need using **Donor-Advised Funds (DAF)**. And the end of the year is the perfect time to consider this unique option for giving.

## Here's how DAF works:

- Your 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.
- While the money sits in the fund, it accumulates interest tax-free!

For more information, please contact Eileen Trussell, Development Director, at [ETrussell@ugmsac.com](mailto: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.



# YOUR YEAR OF IMPACT

Thanks to your kindness and generosity, in 2025, you gave more than just meals and shelter... you gave hope to our neighbors in need.

See what you made possible!



**123,960**

meals served



**32,120**

nights of shelter for men provided



**115,824**

attended chapel services



**1,735**

women and children served through our Women's Ministry



**70**

participants in our Men's New Life Program

Thank you for supporting our Christ-centered, life-changing programs to help more people get back on their feet and hear about God's grace and love.