

# Rescue Mission News

## San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission

CHANGING LIVES FOR GOOD IS OUR ONLY BUSINESS

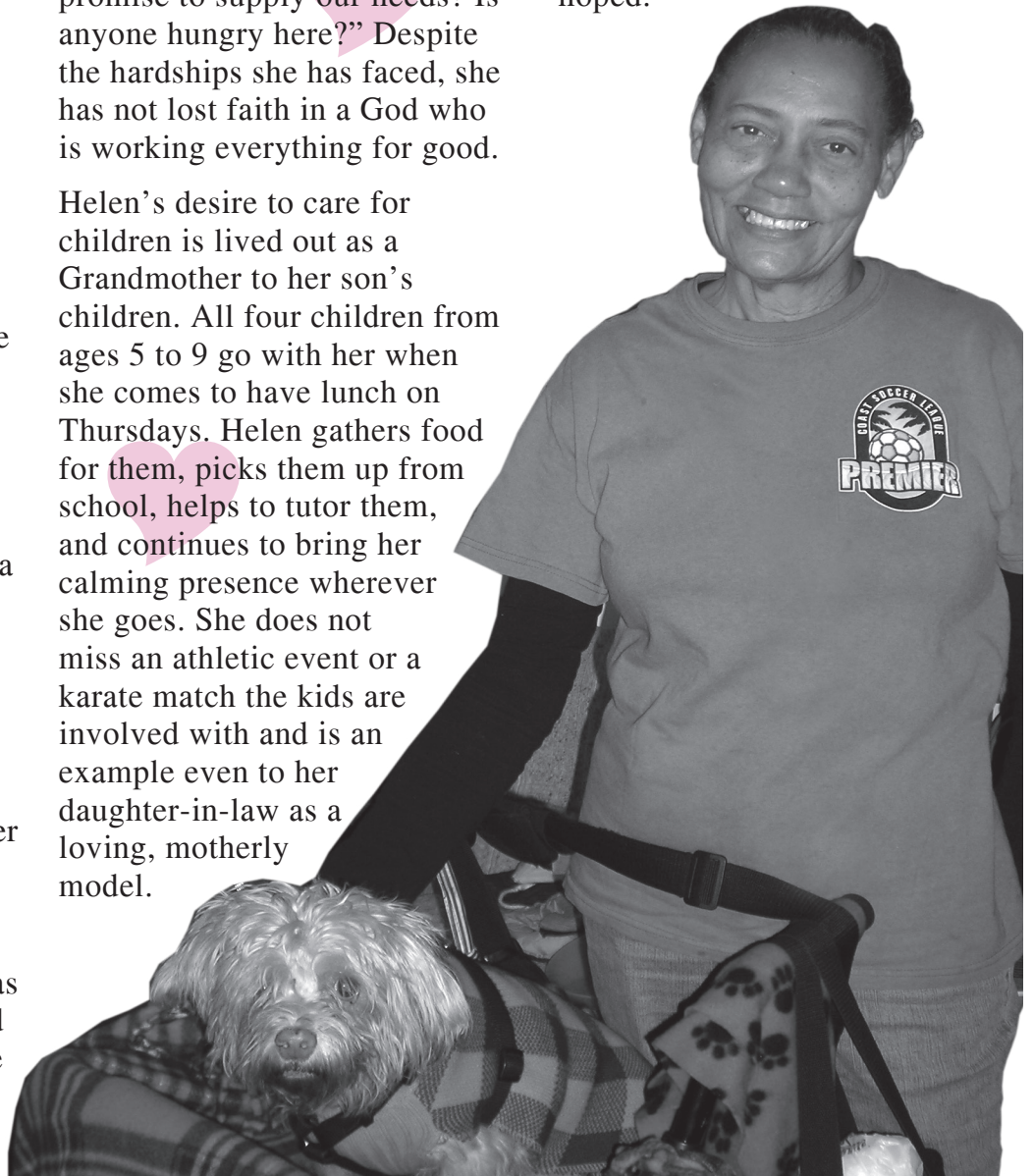
### ♥ Grandmotherly Love ♥

Helen Robinson has been coming to the First Baptist Church of North Hollywood for the past few years to take part in the hot lunch that is served each Thursday by our SOS (Survival Outreach Services). Fondly known as Grandma Robinson, Helen is well known among the homeless and poor community as the kind, motherly influence that always has an encouraging word or a hug of comfort to give. After living in Florida for 20 years as a schoolteacher, Helen moved to California to be closer to her son and daughter-in-law. She always wanted several children and sought to be a foster parent in California. She arrived in Van Nuys, California on May 1, 1999 and a few days later, she was in a bus accident that left her partially paralyzed from the waist down. The pain was agonizing and the doctor's bills added up. Years passed and there was no settlement for her, which left her penniless. She lost her house in Florida, her car, and all of her materials she had in storage in Florida because every dollar was going to pay doctor's bills. And through all of this hardship, she did not lose hope. Helen is a strong Christian who believes

“if God had not allowed this, I would not be here or be able to minister to these people. He sometimes detours our path to bless others and us. I always tell the people, doesn't God promise to supply our needs? Is anyone hungry here?” Despite the hardships she has faced, she has not lost faith in a God who is working everything for good.

Helen's desire to care for children is lived out as a Grandmother to her son's children. All four children from ages 5 to 9 go with her when she comes to have lunch on Thursdays. Helen gathers food for them, picks them up from school, helps to tutor them, and continues to bring her calming presence wherever she goes. She does not miss an athletic event or a karate match the kids are involved with and is an example even to her daughter-in-law as a loving, motherly model.

Helen is in pain most of the day but says she pushes herself, and continues to think about others with compassion and empathy. Helen has become a blessing to far more than she had always hoped.



## A Mother's Model of Hope

Laura is a beautiful and spirited mother who found herself homeless after a situation of domestic violence with her husband. For her, coming to the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission meant that she had hit "rock bottom." According to Laura, to be a single mother alone is overwhelming, but when you don't have a place that is safe to take your children, it can be very depressing. "Being here has made me look at what I had and what I took for granted. I used to spoil my kids and give them whatever they wanted, but now I see there are people without food and shelter and it has made me think again about what is important for my

kids," said Laura. Not only has Laura found a safe place for her family, but she has also found a hope in God that she did not have before. Like many of us, Laura said she wanted to live her way, without God, doing "her thing." However, God did not stop from seeking her out, especially in her despair. Laura recalls a blend of verses that was quoted to her by the shelter staff that brought her comfort... "A broken and a contrite heart He does not despise (paraphrase Ps. 51:17)...He hears their cries and rescues them in their distress (paraphrase Ps. 18:6)."

She realized that, not just for her, but for her two children, ages two and three, she needs

to follow God and live life His way. "I want my kids to know the way. I want to change for them." She has been encouraged by the shelter's staff with bible studies and counseling from the scripture and feels like this has been a good place for her to start over.



Laura Gasca with children Luis and Joanna.

## A Mother's Pride



Kids Help! (Max, Meone & Brook)

When Marly walked into our reception area, her first words were, "It was all their idea!" What was the idea? Her children, Max, Meone, and Brooke had the idea to bake cookies, walk the neighborhood, and sell them to raise funds for the mission. The \$67 dollars raised proved the success of this mother's wise leadership!

## A Truly Happy Mother

What makes a mother truly happy? Generally, being a good mother means providing a home and meeting all the needs. These are certainly a blessing and bring a level of happiness, but being a happy mother is more than that. As Jesus taught, obeying the Father in heaven is what can make us truly happy. When Jesus said in Matthew 12:48, "Who is my mother and who are my brothers?" His mother's happiness was not his primary concern. Jesus was calling his

audience to an obedient relationship to the heavenly Father, including his own mother. As difficult as life is here at the mission, our hope is the mothers here will find this true happiness of obedience to the Father. Mary's happiness was not found in her son's success, but in her own relationship to God. There



are many situations that mothers in our shelter face, but they can still know true happiness!

*By [Signature]*

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