

Rescue Mission News

San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission

CHANGING LIVES FOR GOOD IS OUR ONLY BUSINESS

Death to Disobedience



When James, Coleen, and their daughters, Sarah (pictured) and Meagan came to us, their options had become very limited. James' foot injury limited his work options, and their family is many states distant. "It is hard to admit that you need others to help you, but that's where we were!" For the families we serve, this confession is primary to change. This is a kind of dying to our own strength. Sometimes God brings people to our mission to learn how to "die." James had to die to his own desires. "When we first came, I didn't want to obey God. He was using the mission staff to encourage me, but I was not listening to Him. I'm ashamed to say I missed a big opportunity because of that. Later, thank God, I had another chance to obey, and I did. The result was someone else was very blessed and God used us in the process. Now I want to listen to God and be more obedient." James and Coleen have since reestablished their lives and have moved on while many broken aspects of their lives are being healed. During this whole time, Sarah and Megan were such bright eyed encouragements to everyone around them! We are grateful to have been a part of their lives.

Sarah has such a beautiful smile.

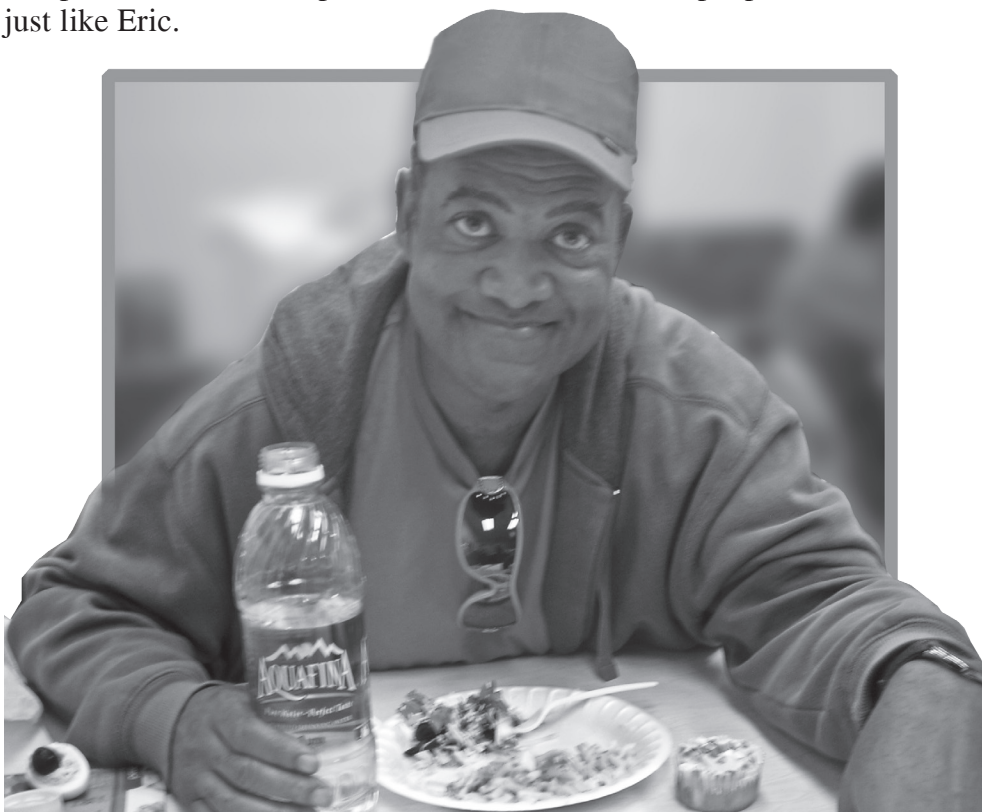
A New Mission Facility

For many years, we have prayed for and sought out the right building for the permanent home of the mission. Our prayers have been answered! At the time of writing this newsletter, we have closed escrow on a new property to expand the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission and its programs. The new facility is seven times larger than our current facility! Our plans for growth include a potential 100-bed family shelter, full service kitchen and dining area for residents and meal preparation for our SOS program, daytime counseling services, job preparation services, community resources center, and administration for the mission here in the valley. There needs to be some extensive remodeling of the building in order to occupy it to our full potential. But we are on our way.



More Than Just Homeless

The San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission first launched our new outreach location in Reseda mid-summer of last year. Each week, we provide about 15 showers, 25 hot lunches, and a devotional from the Word of God at Zoe Christian Fellowship. It is on location throughout the Valley where we come to know many of the local homeless residents of our community. In Reseda, we met Eric, who came to us about two years ago through our shower and hot lunch program. He has a distinguished past, serving in the Air Force in the Vietnam War and retiring from his work with missiles, oxygen masks, infrared, and parachutes in the aerospace industry. This well-spoken man is known for kindness and his deep knowledge of politics and the world. He is no stranger to our weekly spots and knows how to use public transportation to find us when he needs a shower, a meal, and the hope that only God can provide. Eric praises God and never leaves our program without a warm thank you to our staff and volunteers. This is what we do – we go out to the community with compassion and care to provide for the needs of real people on the streets, just like Eric.



Eric enjoying lunch at the mission.

Seeds of a New Life

We love the spring time! New life is springing up everywhere. This is one of God's annual reminders of His great plan for His people — new life follows death. The Apostle Paul encourages the believers at Corinth that one day they will have a new body in heaven. He compares it to a seed. "That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies." (I Cor. 15:36) This truth gives us hope on many levels, primarily eternal hope of everlasting life. But, this dying process is true in many other ways. We are encouraged to consider our mortal bodies dead to immorality and impurity (read Colossians 3:1-11). Death to self is the path to a life of serving others. So, we love Easter season and the opportunity to help those we serve to die to their old ways and live a new life.



By D. Mack

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