



# SAN FERNANDO VALLEY Rescue Mission

An Outreach ministry of



November 2011

Changing Lives for Good

## A Thanksgiving Prayer

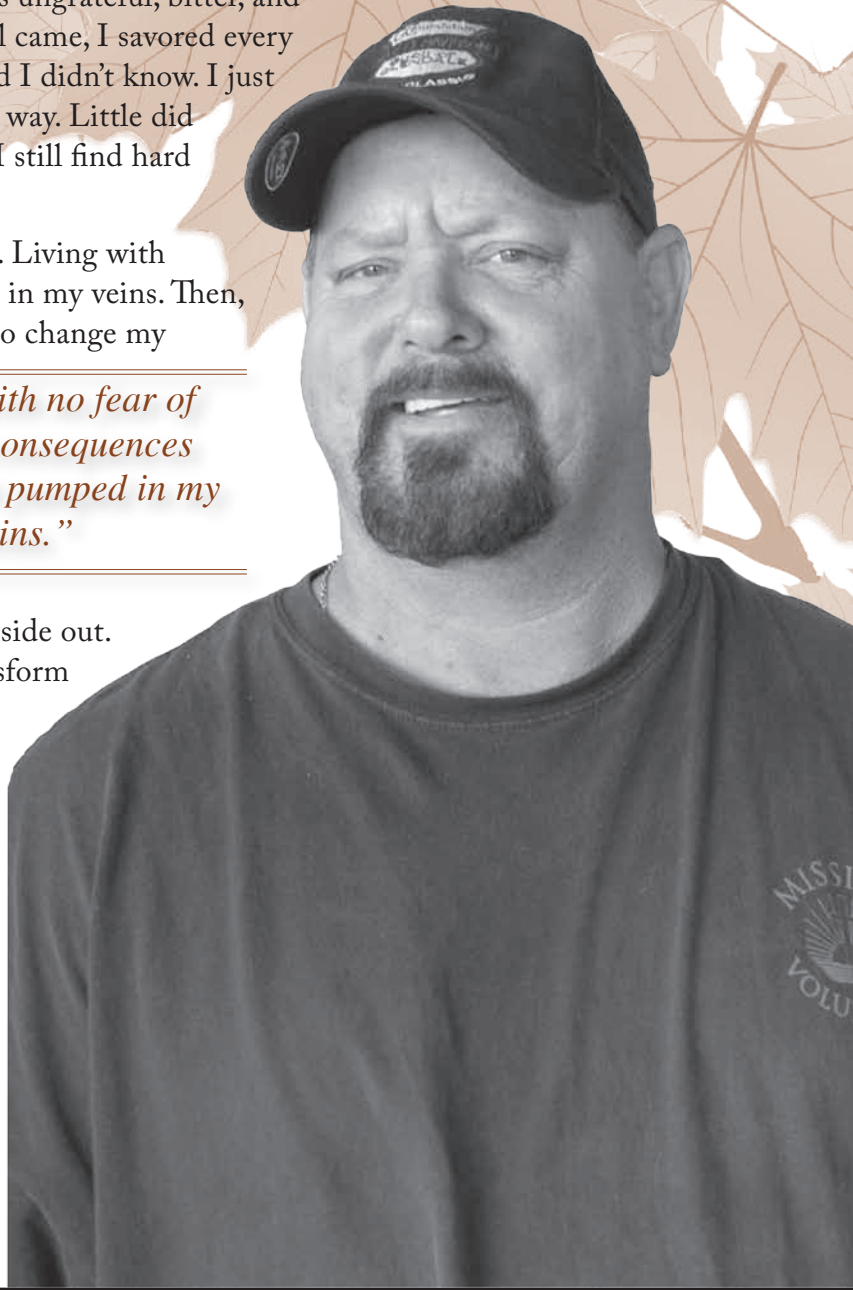
At this time last year, I was sitting in county jail. I was ungrateful, bitter, and angry. But when the county-issued Thanksgiving meal came, I savored every bite. It was that day I prayed for the first time to a God I didn't know. I just spoke from my heart asking God to show me a better way. Little did I know then my life was about to head in a direction I still find hard to believe today.

Being an outlaw biker is the only thing I have known. Living with no fear of death or consequences was all that pumped in my veins. Then, at my last court hearing, the judge gave me a chance to change my life instead of going to prison by sending me to the rescue mission's men's program. I thought, "Wow, this doesn't ever happen to men like me." Talk about God's grace and an answer to prayer.

*"Living with no fear of death or consequences was all that pumped in my veins."*

Now, almost a year later, I'm being rebuilt from the inside out. I was given everything I needed to allow God to transform my life. It doesn't get any better than this my friends. Stop by if you have doubts. I'll tell you straight up and show you God's miracles in my life.

This thanksgiving, I will be serving the Lord a free man, a new man with a clean heart. My favorite passage is what Paul wrote to Timothy in Philippians 1:9-11. "And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God."



# Sheltered in Care

Last Thanksgiving could have been horrible for Evet Thompson and her two small children. She had just escaped a life-threatening relationship and was on her own; her husband had been arrested. Despite her broken heart, her family's disapproval for reporting the abuse, and feeling all alone, she ate Thanksgiving dinner in tears, grateful for her very life.

Her freedom from her husband's abuse cost her home, and her flight for safety brought her cross-country to the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission. Evet shared "I am thankful for this shelter, to be here in spite of all of my fear. Fear would have led me back several times, but the simple encouragements, the smiles, and the true care of people here has given me hope that I can make it another day."

This Thanksgiving she will be surrounded by people who care and want to protect her. Evet offered, "I am thankful for people who share my faith, for without my faith in Jesus, I would not be here." The rescue mission offers the kind of shelter that brings about hope and thankfulness in the midst of unimaginable suffering.

*"How precious is your unfailing love, O God! All humanity finds shelter in the shadow of your wings." Psalm 36:7*



# Thanksgiving on the Streets



Billy was born in Jacksonville, Florida. After going thru 9 different foster homes, at the age of 14, he decided to move to California. By the time he was 17, he was in a relationship with a woman with a baby. He found work and loved being a dad.

Twelve years later, the child died unexpectedly and his relationship came to an end. To top it off, he lost his job when the business he worked at shut down. Billy has been homeless ever since, going on 25 years. It has become his life. Last year, Billy spent Thanksgiving on the streets just trying to get by. Over this last year, Rescue SOS has provided a place for Billy to shower, have a meal, and get some encouragement.

This Thanksgiving will be different. Billy has been helping an old friend by regularly picking up and delivering groceries and has been invited to their house for a home-cooked Thanksgiving meal. Our hope is to help Billy engage more in his future and have a place he can call home, other than the streets.

## Volunteer Openings

Ways to support us...



- Community Feeding
- Thanksgiving Banquet
- Christmas Celebration
- Clothing Round-up
- Food Drives
- "Thank You" Calls
- Program Meals
- Participate on the Prayer Team

Be a Volunteer Call Today! **(818) 474-1284**

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13422 Saticoy Street, North Hollywood, CA 91605 • (818) 785-4476