

REAL CHANGE

THE NEWSLETTER OF REDWOOD GOSPEL MISSION

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MARCH 2021



Transformed by Jesus

"I was tired of waking up underneath the freeway, but I had no idea what God was about to do for my life." – Malikka

"Before I came here, I didn't want to live. I didn't have any dreams. I didn't have any goals. I just was existing," Malikka remembers.

Her despair started when her grandmother passed away. The grief practically swallowed her whole.

"I started using drugs, crack cocaine and meth, and I lost my house," she says. "I was living in a hotel for a little while, but my addiction just started getting stronger and stronger to where it basically overtook my life."

Two Months Without a Fridge or Stove

After sleeping in her car for more than two months, Malikka called a childhood friend who said she could stay with her for a little while.

It wasn't long before Malikka's time was up.

"I was coming off drugs and really have no other family out here. So I started living on the streets," she says. "I didn't know how to be homeless. I didn't even know where to go to get a meal. I would go some days with nothing."

(Continued inside)



Get involved at

srmission.org/newlife

You can share Easter's promise of new life today!



“God and the Mission partnered together to save me and to offer me a new life and I accepted it and now I’m gung-ho to give back, to serve God and to serve the Mission.”

– Malikka

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(Continued from cover)

Malikka isn't the only one who has gone days without food. Many of our guests come for the first time because they can't go any longer without a meal. Thanks to caring partners like you, they get a taste of God's grace, which gives them hope and leads to new life.

“I lived under the Third Street freeway and Julliard Park for almost two weeks. And then I woke up one morning and I just was like, I can't do this. And I walked to Redwood Gospel at eight o'clock in the morning,” she says.

Jesus' Love is at the Front Door

“I just felt like this peace, this overwhelming peace and so I knew I was where I was supposed to be. I never knew about these

resources until I was out there, and I just needed food.”

Once she learned about the resources available, Malikka jumped right in. Today she is sober, she's recently moved into a new place and she has a job here at the Mission working in our administrative department.

Her skills are a perfect match for what we needed!

“God placed me at Redwood Gospel's doors and He has given me a new life,” Malikka says. “I'm extremely grateful because without the Mission, I would not have options. I would not be where I am today. The donors' support has helped me get to where I am right now.”



He Lives!

Jeff Gilman
Executive Director



As I think about Easter, I think about the song “He Lives,” especially verse 1.

***I serve a risen Savior, He’s in the world today.
I know that He is living, whatever men may say.
I see His hand of mercy; I hear His voice of cheer;
And just the time I need Him, He’s always near.***

We live in a world where people don’t realize we have a risen Savior. They don’t know that He lives. But I know it. I know that Jesus is alive because I see His hand of mercy in the meals you provide, the fresh sheets homeless men and women will sleep in tonight and the freedom from addiction that God grants within these walls.

I know that He is living because in spite of all the bad news in the media, I hear His voice of

cheer every day as people welcome in poor and hungry guests for a hot meal, laugh with joy, sing praise songs as they do their work and pray with volunteers for the very first time.

And I know that God has conquered death because friends like you give generously to help those who need it most.

This Easter I encourage you to celebrate our risen Savior in a way that helps other people see that Jesus Christ is in the world today – and He’s not going anywhere.

Shopping Can Be Ministry



Some people think of thrift stores as places where they can donate their used items. Others love looking through racks searching for a great deal. Both of those things are true of the Redwood Gospel Mission Thrift Store, but they aren’t the reason the store exists.

We opened the Thrift Store because we wanted to reach more people with the Gospel. Top to bottom, everything is about ministry.

- Men and women currently in programs at the Mission learn important retail skills by helping at the store. Our staff all love Jesus and love telling customers how He has changed their lives.
- We only play Christian music, so our shoppers hear about Jesus as they look for a new treasure.
- Through a referral partnership with other organizations, we give away thousands of dollars worth of household goods to people in need. We work with families one-on-one to meet their needs and start a long-term relationship.

- Our donation drivers often have the opportunity to share the Gospel and their own life transformation experience as they pick up or drop off donations.
- We do coat giveaways, which are especially important during the colder months.
- Sales from our Thrift Store support the ongoing activities of the Mission. Items donated are also used to provide necessities to the individuals in our shelter and recovery programs.

All of this is just a fraction of how Jesus is at work at the Thrift Store. If you have gently used items to donate or want to shop with purpose, swing by or give us a call. You never know what you may find – or how God will show up!

Share the Hope of Jesus and New Life this Easter Give Meals



When you were at your worst, Jesus loved you. He loved you so much that He died for you. But more important than that, He rose again so that you could have new life.

And not just you, but everyone.

Right now, there are homeless men and women who need to know that.

There are people wrestling with addiction who think they are out of chances.

There are individuals so broken they think they can't be put back together.

But Easter is proof that they can! And you can share that truth with them by meeting their most basic needs – providing meals.

Each \$1.87 you give will help feed one person this Easter season.

Every meal is a taste of God's grace and an example of His mercy. Every meal is a way to demonstrate the love of Jesus to our hurting neighbors. Every meal can give someone a taste of His love. Every meal can open the door to a whole new life.

Please give generously. Together we can share God's love and the truth that He is alive with a lot of people this Easter season!

To help in time for Easter, please send your gift by March 31st.

**Photo taken prior to COVID and social-distancing restrictions*



Give Meals and Share Easter's Hope of New Life!

Yes, Jeff! I will help provide life-changing meals. I'm sending a key partner gift of:

☐ \$_____ to help as much as possible.

Each \$1.87 you give helps feed 100 people this Easter season.

Name _____
Address _____
City, State ZIP _____

1521 Pear Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
(707) 578-1830

REDWOOD GOSPEL MISSION

Thank you! Your check payable to Redwood Gospel Mission and return this response card in the enclosed envelope.

RESPOND BY MARCH 31ST!

Giving by credit card? Fill out the back of this form, or save postage and processing by donating securely online at srmission.org/newlife

Concerned about mail delays? Give your gift securely online at: srmission.org/newlife

REAL CHANGE

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Redwood Gospel Mission
PO Box 493, Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0493
T: 707.578.1830 | F: 707.578.4841
srmission.org

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Finding Purpose in the Coat Closet

As our Head Volunteer for coat giveaways, Sarah has spent a lot of this last year isolated or wearing a mask with just a few others nearby as she hangs, sorts and organizes the coats that we give away to people in need. And she loves every minute of it.

“Sometimes the best times I spent volunteering were when I was alone just sorting the coats and praying for the people who would receive them,” Sarah says.

She understands lifting heavy boxes and sorting things by size isn’t for everyone, but she’s certain that serving the community is.

“Anybody could serve, whether you’re 90 years old or five years old,” she says. “Jump in with something small to start. It could be serving a meal at the Mission. It could be volunteering for an hour at an outreach event. Anything.”

Even if you can’t make it to the Mission to serve in person, you can still make a big impact.

“A lot of people are serving from home in the most important way,” says Sarah. “And the most important way is praying for these missions. And even if we are at home, we’re still serving if we’re praying.”

Sarah served in a variety of ways until she found the perfect fit.



“Just jump in and I think God will find a way to lead you to your ministry where you belong.” – Sarah

For more information about volunteering contact: Eric Sangervasi at 707.578.1830 ext. 316 or esangervasi@srmission.org



Call for Easter Volunteers

We haven't been able to have many volunteers at our holiday meals this past year because of the pandemic.

But this Easter, we're getting ready to celebrate big with a traditional feast (socially distant, with masks and other precautions of course). And if you're able to help we'd love for you to join us! Sarah's story on the reverse shows what a blessing serving in any way can be.

For more information about volunteering contact: Eric Sangervasi at 707.578.1830 ext. 316 or esangervasi@srmission.org

If you're ready to sign up, just check that box on your reply form when you send your gift to provide Easter meals.



Thrift Store Address:
1821 Piner Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Thrift Store Hours:
Monday - Saturday
9am - 7pm

Donation Drop-Off Hours:
Monday - Saturday
8:00am - 5:00pm

Donation Pick Ups:
Contact Carol at
cward@srmission.org