

# REAL CHANGE

THE NEWSLETTER OF REDWOOD GOSPEL MISSIONS

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EASTER 2025



**"Before I came to the Mission, my life was just a really deep, deep, dark hole." – Grant**

## Because of Jesus, We Never Give Up

**At graduation from the New Life Program in 2023, there was one moment that Grant will never forget.**

*"At the beginning, they ask anyone who has helped at the Mission in any way – volunteers, mentors, donors, staff – to stand," he explains. "You don't realize how many people were really in your corner until you see a whole room full of people standing."*

Before coming to the Mission, Grant felt like he gave up on life, and looking back on it now, he is loving his life.

### **Grant's Addiction Started at 13**

*"I dropped out of high school. I didn't go to college. I used drugs in my addiction, life was not going the way I planned, and God was not my priority," he says. "I had no relationships with any of my family. I felt like they didn't want anything to do with me. I didn't want anything to do with them. So, the only thing I cared about was getting high and drinking."*

Alone, homeless and addicted, Grant says his life became a dark hole. The Mission was his only refuge for almost eight years. The gifts from friends like you made it possible for us to never give up on Grant.

*Continues inside.*



**You can help someone step up  
into new life today!**



## Grant's Story

# Because of Jesus, We Never Give Up

*(Continued from cover)*

### Eight Years of Meals

Because of the consistent meals, shelter and care Grant got here, when he was finally ready to change his life – eight years after that first meal – he knew where to come. He applied to our New Life Program and was accepted.

*"I didn't really understand the whole God thing until I joined the program and started doing the classes and going to church. And that's kind of when I was like, wow, this is an awesome program. It's unlike any other program," he says. "I started to put God first and then everything else started to fall in line. I started to get back everything that I lost and more."*

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***"I started to put God first and then  
everything else started to fall in line."***

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But that didn't mean there were no more challenges. In fact, Grant left the program a few months before he graduated. He stayed sober but realized for the best chance at making a new life, he had to finish, so he came back. This time he stuck with it and graduated.

### A Whole New Life

*"Graduation was my biggest accomplishment," Grant says. "It felt like a whole new start of a new life, a new life program."*

Today, Grant is 4 years sober. He works full time as a driver for our Thrift Store, has restored



*Grant kept coming back to the Mission because we never gave up on him. Gifts from friends like you made that possible!*

relationships with his family and now shares the good news of Jesus Christ with everyone he can, including people he used to be on the streets with.

*"I'll see certain people and I'll say hi, and they'll say, 'Wow, what happened to you?' And I'll say, 'I gave my life to the Lord, and he's helped me stay sober for four years now.'"*

**► Each \$2.02 you can help change another life by  
giving someone else the courage to not give up!**





**Jeff Gilman**  
Executive Director

# An Invitation to **Step Up**

**Every graduation, right before the ceremony, I get some time with the graduates, and I tell them that graduation doesn't mean they are finished.**

Instead, I remind them that life is like a staircase, reaching ever up as we get closer and closer to God and becoming the people He created us to be.

Graduation is a chance to step up on that staircase and take the next step in their lives.

In the same way, I believe that every day we all have a chance to step up. We have a chance to serve, to pray, to learn, to love and to give.

We all have different seasons, and I don't know exactly what season you are in right now, but I believe that somehow, in some way, God is inviting you, like our graduates, to step up.

The end, when Jesus comes back and receives us into His kingdom, will come. Only God knows exactly when that day will be. Until then, we get to keep stepping up and inviting others – like our graduates – to step up with us.



**You're Invited to:**

## **The 2025 New Life Graduation Ceremony**

**Saturday, May 3, 11 AM- 1PM**

**Santa Rosa Bible Church**

**4575 Badger Rd., Santa Rosa, CA 95409**

Please RSVP to 707-578-1830. Please sign and return the enclosed card by May 1st.



*Don't forget to sign your encouragement card and include it with your gift this month!*



**"Remember those in prison, as if you were there yourself. Remember also those being mistreated, as if you felt their pain in your own bodies."  
— Hebrews 13:3**

 **CONNECT**  **SERVE**  **LEARN**



*Jesika, the Mission's Jail Ministry Coordinator, leads ministry teams that facilitate chapel services, Bible studies and one-on-one biblical support in local men's and women's jails.*

## Program Spotlight: Jail Ministry

**When Jesika goes to pray with incarcerated men and women, sometimes they scoff and say she has no idea what they are going through.**

They're wrong.

Jesika's been homeless, she's battled addiction and she's been in jail, all of which make her uniquely suited in her role as the Mission's Jail Ministry Coordinator. She's been there and done that and knows the type of prayers and encouragement men and women incarcerated need the most.

*"Being that I've been to jail myself, I know the importance of not feeling forgotten and getting words of encouragement and words of hope while you're there," she says.*

But instead of keeping that knowledge and the pain of her experiences to herself, Jesika shares them with the team of volunteers, equipping them to minister in ways that will have lasting impact. If you're interested in joining the team, we can't wait to connect with you.

*"We want to encourage others and share the good news that Jesus can set them free from anything and everything," Jesika says.*

### **THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:**

- 1. BECOME A VOLUNTEER.** Go to [rgm.org/volunteers](http://rgm.org/volunteers) to fill out an application.
- 2. PRAY.** *"We can always be in prayer for our brothers and sisters who are incarcerated that they would find hope," Jesika says.*



# Women and Family Campus **UPDATE**



**Doubling our capacity and footprint nearly overnight has been an amazing blessing – and quite a challenge.**

But with God's faithfulness and the support of friends like you, we've been able to welcome the very first women and children into our new 60,000 square foot campus at 2447 Summerfield Road.

With this new campus, we are realizing many of the dreams God put on our hearts over the last few years.

- We can help 2X the women and children
- Our women's ministries operate in one location
- We have a commercial kitchen for our Blackcoat Catering Program

With your support and prayers, we will steward this new campus just like our other facilities – treating it with love, care and attention – because it's a gift from God!



*We got the keys to the new campus on Dec. 23!*

## Three **Easter Feasts!**

**Easter – and the recognition and celebration of what Jesus Christ did for us – is the most important holiday we celebrate at the Mission.**

And this year, it'll be different – and maybe bigger than ever! We'll be hosting feasts at all three of our locations:

- Ukiah on Good Friday
- Men's Ministries at 101 6th Street
- Our new Women and Family campus

We can't wait to see how God uses the \$2.02 meals you provide this year!

We're looking for people who can help serve meals, greet guests, seat individuals, offer a friendly smile and pray with men and women who ask for it.

If you're interested in helping, mark your reply form or contact Tina Karns: 707.578.1830 x314 or [volunteer@rgm.org](mailto:volunteer@rgm.org).



*This year we'll be hosting Easter Feasts at all three of our locations!*



# Give \$2.02 Meals!

## No one comes to the Mission on a winning streak.

They come here because they have lost everything – including all their relationships. For many of them, like Grant, your gift of a hot meal not only nourishes their bodies, but it also feeds their starving souls.

*"Food is a huge part of people's lives," Grant says.*

And because it is such a big part of life, it can have enormous power.

*"You can have someone coming off the street just horribly upset and depressed, and if you look your brother or sister in the eye and say, 'Hey. Are you hungry? Can I get you something to eat?' - it totally changes the whole situation."*

It changes the situation because it shows that we believe they are worth feeding. They are worth being cared for. They are worth fighting for. And it shows them that even if everyone else has given up on them – we haven't.

*"It gives people a hope for a better future," Grant says. "One of the most powerful things you can do for someone who is hungry is give them food."*

**It's only because of generous friends like you that we can continue to feed our poor and needy neighbors!**

**Each \$2.02 meal you give shows someone like Grant that not everyone has given up on them!**



### GIVE LIFE-CHANGING MEALS!

Yes, I'd like to help provide life-changing meals for my poor and needy neighbors this Easter season!

I'm sending a key partner gift of:

- ☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help as much as possible  
☐ My signed graduation card is also enclosed  
☐ I'm interested in volunteering for the Easter Feast.

Please contact me:

(Name)  
(Address1)  
(Address2)  
(City, State ZIP)

A gift of \$2.02 provides 100 meals and care!



Going to work? Call 707.578.1830 for more info. Or visit our website at [rgm.org](http://rgm.org)

Thank you for your generosity! You can also give securely at: [rgm.org/newlife](http://rgm.org/newlife)

## Give a Legacy Gift



Have you thought of remembering Redwood Gospel Missions in your will or estate plan?

Your legacy gift will help ensure we can continue offering hope and new life to people who come to the Mission, and it can show your family how much sharing God's love with the poor and needy matters to you!



**For more information on legacy giving, contact Jeff Gilman at 707.578.1830.**



### REAL CHANGE

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