

# MESSENGER *of* HOPE

News of hope from Modesto Gospel Mission

MARCH 2016

## Discovering a life of worth

**"The Lord guided me to this place. It's a blessing. I love every moment and take full advantage." —BRANDON**

*For nearly eight years, Brandon battled addictions to multiple drugs: methamphetamine, cocaine, marijuana and alcohol. After lying in a hospital bed and realizing his toddler son could lose his father to a path of self-destruction, Brandon sought answers from God.*

Read his story of hope and transformation on page 3!

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[modestogospelmission.org](http://modestogospelmission.org)

### From the heart of Kevin



## The message of hope and resurrection

This time of year is so meaningful for all of us at the Modesto Gospel Mission—a time when we get to focus on the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and how that blesses our lives.

While this time of year is a time of hope and renewal, we want to celebrate the message of the resurrection all year long. It gives us hope and shows us that through God, all things are possible. We want to spread that life-changing Good News to all the men, women and children who come to the Mission.

In this issue of *Messenger of Hope*, you'll see how Christ's resurrection gives us the chance at a new life. Brandon's story shows us the power of forgiveness—both for ourselves and others. While Brandon has been working through our 18-month New Life program, we have now launched a new, 120-day program for those who need short-term food and shelter. And a way to get back on their feet. See page 3 for more information on how this exciting program is helping people in our community better plan for their future.

As we think about Resurrection Sunday, we're thanking you for being the "light of the world" for so many in our community who have needed a lamp in the darkness. Your support transforms more lives than you will ever know.

God bless you,

*Kevin Carroll*

Kevin Carroll, Executive Director

### Feeding the body and soul...

## Celebrating Resurrection Sunday with a meal—and hope

So many people in our community walk through our doors looking for food, but they end up staying at the Mission for so much more. Providing meals to our homeless and hurting neighbors is a vital part of our ministry—and we pray that first meal opens their hearts to new lives in Jesus Christ.

What better time to start the cycle of hope and renewal than Resurrection Sunday? The Mission will once again offer a delicious meal and a special day of events for about 450 guests and volunteers. Our kitchen staff is hard at work preparing for this mouthwatering meal, which will include traditional favorites like baked ham, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole and a delicious dessert.

► For some, this special meal could be the start of a new life. Please join us in praying for those who attend our Resurrection Sunday event, that they will open their hearts to hearing the Good News of Jesus Christ. Thank you!



Hundreds of men, women and children shared a meal at our Resurrection Sunday event last year.



### Upcoming Events

March 12—**Tea and Fashion Show**—1 p.m.

April 9—**Volunteer Picnic**—11 a.m.-2 p.m.

April 25—**Golf for a Mission Tournament**—12:30 p.m.

Learn more and volunteer now! Contact Katie Smith, Volunteer Coordinator at 209-225-2952 or [katie@homelessmission.org](mailto:katie@homelessmission.org)



June 17—**Night at the Museum**—6 p.m.

July 30—**Back to School Block Party**—10 a.m.

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## The Mission has brought me new hope

Brandon had a solid job working for a tile and marble workers union, making as much as \$50 an hour. But he was drinking away all of his hard work, he says.

"Before I came to the Mission, I didn't go by any rules, which led me to using drugs and leaving my family behind," Brandon says. "I put my own selfish desires first."

Brandon faced other addictions too. He went from 185 pounds down to 108 due to his meth use, and he landed in the hospital. After his three-year-old son came to the hospital to see him, Brandon broke down in tears. He decided to give his life to the Lord, and that's when his path began to change.

### Learning from his past

Once Brandon came into the New Life program at the Mission, he knew he had to deal with the past. He had to face what led him to a life of addictions and broken relationships.

With those barriers behind him, Brandon knew he had two more important steps to take in his journey of transformation—forgiving those who had hurt him and forgiving himself.

"I've stopped running from my past," Brandon says. "The staff here, the people here, all the donations and everything, it helps



**"Even though I still have scars on me, my past, I still have worth. The Mission has helped me realize that."** —BRANDON

he plans to continue to pay it forward, long after he finishes his journey here.

"I feel like I could volunteer here and have that connection with people," Brandon says. "If I can just get one of them to come to Christ and allow Him to change their life, I can go in peace."

► Your support changes the lives of so many like Brandon. God bless you for providing hope and healing to those who are struggling in our community. Thank you!

me remember that I'm like a \$20 bill. It might have rips on it, it might be crumpled up or stained, but that \$20 bill still has worth. Even though I still have my scars on me, my past, I still have worth. The Mission has helped me realize that."

### Spreading the message of hope to others

While Brandon works to complete our program at the Mission and is looking to get back into tile work, he's busy showing those around him the life-changing hope we have in Christ.

His aunt, uncle and grandparents are starting to go to church. He's bringing his son with him to church every week too. Brandon also encourages those who are new to the program at the Mission. He had someone in the program mentor him, and

## 120 days of hope and healing

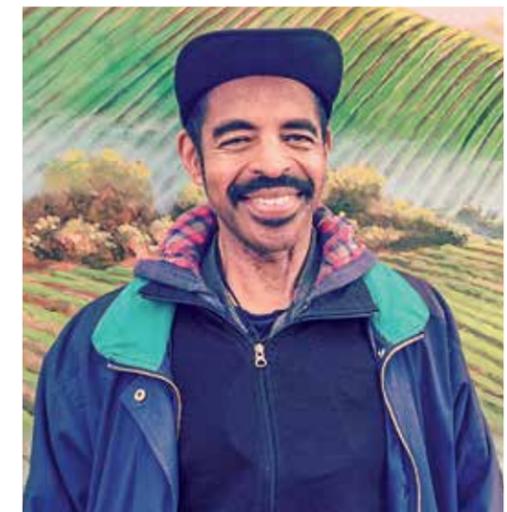
At Modesto Gospel Mission, we feel called to meet the needs of everyone who comes through our doors. Some need a longer path to recovery through our New Life program. Others might need emergency shelter and some short-term help getting back on their feet.

In July, the Mission launched a 120-day program for those in our emergency shelter who have housing needs, but do not need a full recovery program. Those who enter our 120-day program are assessed for their medical, legal, financial, housing and employment needs. After their

assessment, they are directed to the proper agencies that will provide help to address their specific situations.

"Having the opportunity to be in the 120-day program has been a huge help. It's given me time to make plans, find a place to stay and given me more options," says Oswald. "I also read the Bible now, which is something I never did before."

► Thank you for your support, which helps us continue to grow and evolve our services and programs to better meet the needs of our community. God bless you!



Oswald is making plans for his future!

## What is essential?

Getting our priorities out of order can sometimes deliver unfortunate consequences. That's why it's important to regularly determine which items on our plate are "essential" to creating a full life and the legacy we wish to leave behind.

In his New York Times bestseller *Essentialism: The Disciplined Pursuit of Less*, Greg McKeown states, "Essentialism isn't about getting more done in less time. It's about getting only the right things done." As Christians, some of the "right things" should include putting energy into our relationship with God, others and considering how those essentials impact the decisions we make. One "essential" that can have a big impact on our loved ones and the ministries we care about, like Modesto Gospel Mission, is creating or updating our will. An updated will is a perfect way to communicate what is most essential to you and to help you live out 1 Peter 3:11—to "seek peace and pursue it."

For the full version of this article, ask for a free copy of "Three Questions for an 'Essential' Life" by simply checking the box on the enclosed reply card or by contacting Anastasia Carroll at 209-225-2908.



### Your gifts at work

January—  
February 2016

**Meals Served:**  
More than 25,124

**Nights of Safe Shelter:**  
More than 11,185

**New Life Program Graduates:** 1

**Participants in High School Completion Program:** 15

**Hours of Youth and Child Care** (summer and after school):  
More than 287

## Become a volunteer today!

Volunteers bless Modesto Gospel Mission each and every day. We simply could not do what we do without those who give their time and resources so selflessly.

While we have so many in our community who volunteer with us, we can use more help in several areas at the Mission: our Children and Youth Center, serving meals, working in our medical clinic or in our chapels. Volunteer opportunities are also available for our big outreach events such as our Back to School Block Party, Thanksgiving Banquet and Bundle Up and our Happy Birthday Jesus Party.

Those interested in volunteering need to complete an Open House Tour of the Mission first. Please contact Katie Smith, Volunteer Coordinator, for more information at 209-225-2952. Thank you for all you do!

## You're invited!

See everything that goes on at Modesto Gospel Mission firsthand. Please join us for a Volunteer Open House—bring the whole family!

**When:** The second Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m. (upcoming Open House dates: **April 14, May 12, June 9 and July 14**).

**What:** A tour of our facilities, information on our programs and services and the opportunity to fill out a volunteer application.

**Why:** Because you'll be surprised how much you help us do!

## Our Board of Directors

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Get Connected 

## MY SPRING GIFT

Yes, Kevin! I'll help Modesto Gospel Mission provide nutritious meals and hope to those in need.

I'm enclosing:  \$15  \$30  \$50  \$150  \$\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to become a monthly giver. I will give a monthly gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_. My first gift is enclosed.

Please send me a FREE copy of "Three Questions for an 'Essential' Life"

Please make your check payable to: Modesto Gospel Mission

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## Thank You

Your gift is tax deductible to the full extent of the law. We will send a receipt for your records.