

# REAL CHANGE

THE NEWSLETTER OF REDWOOD GOSPEL MISSION

MARCH 2019

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CONNECT

## The Gospel in Action

**At first it was just food and shelter that kept Christian coming back to the Mission. Then God showed him it was much bigger than that.**

**“The Mission accepted me in, but my own family turned me away.” – Christian**

The Gospel isn't a one-time message. It shows continual love and grace over and over again. Christian knows that better than most. You see, a little over three years ago he was addicted to crystal meth and living on the streets.

***“When I was homeless, I lost contact with my friends, and my family didn't want to have anything to do with me,” he says.***

Even though he'd lost most of the meaningful relationships in his life, Christian had one friend who told him there was a place he could get help — the Redwood Gospel Mission.

**In May of 2015, Christian walked through our doors interested in one thing: food.**

## Six Months of Meals

For six months, Christian came to eat at the Mission and occasionally spent the night, but as soon as anyone invited him to join the New Life Program so that he could get over his addiction, he walked right out the doors.

*Continued inside . . .*



Redwood Gospel  
MISSION

Get involved at [srmission.org/newlife](http://srmission.org/newlife)

# Will you share Easter's promise of new life today?

## The Gospel in Action



*(Continued from cover)*

*"The guys at the front desk just kept showing me unconditional love," Christian says. "I would keep coming in, they'd keep asking me if I wanted to come to the program. I'd blow them off because all I wanted was some food or a place to stay."*

### Off the Streets and Into Bible College

But in those six months God worked to soften Christian's heart. One day, while passing a church, Christian decided to go in. In that moment, Christian knew he had to go back to the Mission and join the recovery program.

*"Shortly after I joined, the Gospel message that I had heard hundreds of times over those six months finally hit me. I knew the calling that I had felt was the Holy Spirit, you know, and I just decided to give my life over to the Lord."*

**Your \$1.79 Easter meal could be exactly what someone like Christian needs to have the hope to start a new life.**

### Three Times A Graduate

Christian not only graduated from the New Life Program, he was also the first to finish our Redwood Gospel Coffee Roasting Certification Program.

When he had finished his programs at the Mission, he knew he wanted to serve God with his life and work. So he went to Bible college, and graduated last April with an Associate's Degree in Applied Science in Biblical Study.

*"Making the choice to give my life to Christ and to put my old life behind me is the best decision I ever made," he says.*

About a month after Christian joined our program, his mom, who lives in another state, joined a similar program. Now she is a believer and his sister is too! He's still praying for his brother and his father to meet Jesus.

*Christian went through our very first Coffee Roasting class when we started the program in April 2016.*



# 25 Years of Watching

Jeff Gilman  
Executive Director

**I recently celebrated 25 years on staff here at the Redwood Gospel Mission. Even writing those numbers down puts a little lump in my throat.**

But the tears welling up are tears of gratitude. I can't believe that God has allowed me to be a part of this ministry for so long.

It has been one of the biggest honors of my life to sit back and watch God work through friends like you to transform the lives of people so many others have written off.

I truly feel like an observer in this astonishing place as I see caring friends like you rise up and love the poor and needy with the love of Christ.

And I know that's exactly what I'll get to see this Easter as hundreds of people are given nourishing food, clean clothes, new socks and other gifts that are just a small example of God's profound and everlasting love for us.

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this ministry. For me, it's not a job. It's a calling and an honor. I look forward to seeing how God uses you next as together we continue to offer food, shelter and the transforming love of our risen Lord to our poor and needy neighbors.



## Redwood Gospel Coffee Roastery Moves Onsite



**This past fall, we were able to partner with a local private company to move our coffee roaster on site here at the Mission.**

The new facility, while small, is a huge blessing for a number of reasons, including:

1. The new location eliminates the 3-4 hour commute time to the previous roastery in Berkeley.
2. We're saving \$400 a month in rental costs (plus even more in travel expenses)
3. It's more efficient.
4. We're able to serve more people.  
Best of all:
5. It's built for visitors.

Now friends like you can come in for a tour to see the roastery yourself and meet the people you are helping to get important job and career training.

**Contact Max Bretzke at 707-578-1830 or mbretzke@srmission.org to schedule a tour and come taste our coffee!**

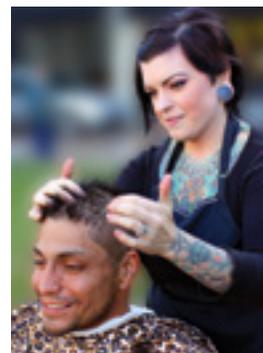




# Call for Easter Volunteers



Our community is so compassionate during the holiday season that we often have plenty of volunteers. But when Easter comes around, many of our friends are busy serving at church and celebrating with their friends and families. That means we can use all the help we can get.



If you've ever thought about volunteering and are available on Easter, we'd love to have your help. Not only will it be a blessing to our needy neighbors, it will help remind you what Easter is really about.

**For more information about volunteering contact: Clarissa Hust at 707-578-1830 or [chust@srmission.org](mailto:chust@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.**

## Let God Use You

Karen is an aesthetician. One day when she saw a homeless young man, she felt a strong call to help. She remembered someone in her church mentioning Redwood Gospel Mission and talking about our Coffee Program, so she jumped online.



While scrolling through our website she saw a call for volunteers and signed up. When she came to the Mission, she learned that we had been wanting to offer facials along with foot washing at large events. Karen jumped up and said "That's my talent! That's what I do!" She began raising money to buy equipment and started volunteering regularly three years ago.

*"It's been really wonderful," she says.*

**Karen's story proves no matter what your skills and talents are, there's a place for you to serve. To find out more about how you can use your unique gifts to serve the homeless, contact: Clarissa Hust at 707-578-1830 or [chust@srmission.org](mailto:chust@srmission.org).**

## Prayer Points



***"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."*** –1 Peter 1:3

- **Easter is all about new life! This Easter, please pray specifically for the men and women in our community who are hungry and homeless.**
- **Please pray for the men, women and children who will come to our Easter Feast. Pray that they walk away with a new understanding of God's goodness and grace.**
- **Pray for Christian to continue growing strong in his faith as God deepens his desire to be in ministry full-time.**



# Your Meals Can Change Lives



## Yes! Your \$1.79 Really Makes a Difference!

Christian knows what it's like to have someone offer you love and grace when you feel like all hope is lost. That's one of the reasons he's enjoyed serving at our holiday events.

"One Thanksgiving, I was over at the chapel," he says. "They just keep bringing people in, 40 to 100 at a time. And over and over people kept on giving their lives to Christ. It just amazed me."

Those people didn't come to the feast to encounter Jesus. They came because they were hungry. But God is so good that He can use meals to show people how much He loves them.

## That's why every \$1.79 meal you give matters.

Your meals can be what draws someone in so that they get to experience real, lasting transformation and change. And that is what Easter is all about!

## Will you help provide as many \$1.79 meals as you can?

To help in time, please send your gift by April 10th. You can also give securely at [srmission.org/newlife](http://srmission.org/newlife)



### REAL CHANGE

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