



# the MISSION

## Stories of Second Chances

### God Never Let Go of Me

By Tonya



Tonya sat behind the wheel, traveling with her teenage son through Nevada, on their way to Arizona. She had been clean for 12 years and had a good job as a property manager of an apartment complex. But in recent weeks life had taken a turn when her ailing mother began a rapid decline.

In her mother's final days, Tonya had returned to the drugs of her past, and her son suspected as much. "As we

**"I just see God all over this place."**

were driving, he asked me, 'Mama, you don't have any of that stuff on you, do you?'" she recalls. "I said no. I lied."

Before they got through Nevada, Tonya was arrested for possession of meth and ordered to complete 30 days at a local rehab center. Upon completion, a pastor brought her to Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission to stay for a couple

of nights until she could arrange to get back home. But God had other plans.

Tonya was placed in Prayer House, our home for women, where she began a year-long recovery program. "It was like God was just leading me here," she says. "They just love on me and I just see God all over this place."

Now about halfway through the program, Tonya is wholly focused on getting well physically and spiritually. In addition to intensive counseling and classes to help her overcome her addiction, she participates in daily devotions and is growing closer to God. "Mama always told me to hold onto Jesus' hand," she says. "I let go for a minute, but He's never let go of me."

Tonya is deeply thankful for new work God is doing in her life, and for friends like you who make the Mission possible. "I'm extremely grateful that you give from your heart to help," she says. "This is an amazing program and I thank you so much."





The Mission's 9th Annual "Walk a Mile in My Shoes" event is set for 9 a.m. Feb. 23, 2019, at Wingfield Park in downtown Reno.

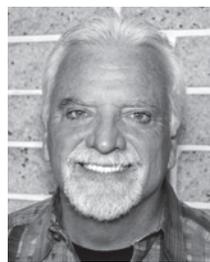
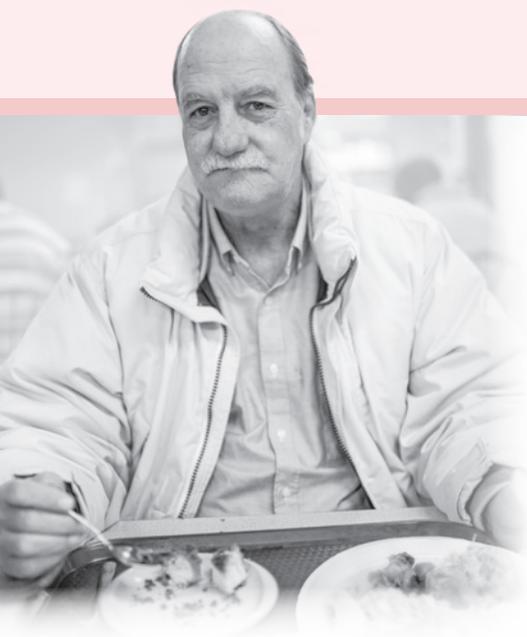
The festive event brings together more than 600 people to walk a mile in support of services for area homeless. Along the route from the park to the Mission, walkers pass out hygiene kits to the needy and inform others of available services.

Families, moms with strollers, singles, students, and folks who just like to walk make up the core of the walkers.

Local businesses also enjoy friendly competition for the coveted "Golden Shoe" awarded to the largest group of walkers. Reigning champ is Greg Latimer's Triad Plastics in Reno.

All proceeds help the homeless. Registration is \$25 per adult (12 and older) or \$20 per adult for groups of 20 or more. We highly encourage registration prior to the walk to avoid lines on the day of the event.

To register, please contact Mariah Peaslee at **775-323-0386, ext. 16** or visit **www.rsgm.org** after Jan. 1 and download a flyer.



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Rick Redding**

That Feeling in the Air

We're gonna love on some folks this Christmas season.



Dear Friend of the Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission,

Imagine that very first Christmas, when Mary was turned away from the inn during her time of need and told she'd have to sleep outside. The image is heartbreaking, and it's one we never want to see here at Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission. That's why I'm so excited about the expansion of Prayer House, our home for women.

Through the generosity of friends like you, we are working to double the size of Prayer House to accommodate the growing number of women turning to the Mission. The daily physical, sexual, and substance abuse many women face on our streets just absolutely tears at my heart. But together, we can make sure there's always room at our "inn" for these women.

*God is doing incredible things at the Mission this holiday season, and He's using caring people like you to do them.* Right now, 1,300 meals are being served every single day! And with your help this Christmas, we want to bring some peace. We're going to offer great meals. And we're going to have presents for everybody in our care.

I've been a follower of Jesus a long time and I'm never fully shocked at what He does, but I'm always in awe. I'm in awe, too, of friends like you who give so generously for the sake of those who are suffering. Thank you, and Merry Christmas!

Your servant,

## Please help hurting men, women

"While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn" (Luke 2:6-7).

It's almost unimaginable. Jesus Christ, Creator and the world's true king—was born homeless, in poverty. Yet because of that, God teaches us to see His face in every hurting, homeless man, woman and child who comes to the Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission. And your generosity toward these same precious souls proves you see what we see—and we are so grateful!

# GOD WAS WHAT I NEEDED By Donnie

**My name is Donnie and alcoholism pretty much cost me everything.** My home, my job, my marriage ... and almost my life. I first started drinking back in my early 20s, just socially with friends. But after a while, I couldn't quench the thirst and it began to take over my life.

For a decade, I was a functioning alcoholic, working a job but drinking whenever I wasn't on the clock. Eventually my wife left me because of my addiction. That's when I really hit the bottle hard and when my health started to go. I was in and out of the hospital constantly with chronic pancreatitis from drinking, and I had a heart attack when I was just 30 years old.



I have your acceptance letter right here. You're going today."

That was two years ago, and my life has done a 180-degree turn. Everyone here welcomed me with open arms, and I jumped in with both feet. From recovery classes to anger management to Bible studies, I was all in. I even completed my GED while at the Mission.

After graduating from the Mission's program, I obtained my EMT certification at a local community college and I'm now continuing my education to get my advanced certification. Meanwhile I work in the Mission's warehouse and stay in their transitional housing while finishing school.

Jesus, working through the Mission and kind people like you, has completely changed my life. I'm forever grateful!

## Looking for a unique way to help? Try "Stuff a Sock!"

1. Get a new pair of tube socks — place one inside the other.
2. Stuff the sock with travel-sized items, such as toothpaste, a toothbrush, deodorant, soap, lip balm, antacids, mittens, gloves, etc.
3. Tie the end with a ribbon (pink or red for women, blue or green for men).
4. Bring them to us and we'll make sure they get into the hands of the homeless!

If you can help in any of these areas, please call us at **775-323-7999**.



**"I came up to Reno trying to run from my problems."**

When I got out of the hospital, I came up to Reno trying to run from my problems. Homeless, I would couch surf at the homes of friends and occasionally sleep behind dumpsters. All the while the drinking continued, which led to a DUI. While in jail I heard about Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission. I knew God was what I needed in my life to make a change. So, during a probation hearing I told my public defender I wanted to come to the Mission. She said, "What a coincidence.

## n, and children in Reno!



### Please remember those who are homeless this Christmas

This Christmas, friends like you who support the Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission give the greatest gifts of all: nourishing food, warm clothing, safe shelter and the promise of God's transforming power to every man, woman, and child who needs our help. So please remember our hurting and homeless neighbors who are seeking hope and a new start this holiday season.

In the spirit of this holy season of giving, we encourage you once again to give a donation of any amount to help lessen the suffering of those who come through our doors. For your convenience, please use the remit slip in this newsletter to give your donation. You may also donate online at [www.rsgm.org](http://www.rsgm.org) or call us today at **775-323-0386**. Thank you and God bless you!

Thank you for remembering our hurting and homeless neighbors who are seeking hope and a new start this Christmas.

# Holiday News



Did you know we'll serve more than 120,000 meals in the last 90 days of the year?

In between, we'll also welcome hundreds of men, women and children to our annual Thanksgiving and Christmas Day events.

It's a busy time! We need your help with the following:

## Food Needs

- Turkeys (fresh or frozen)
- Hams
- Coffee (ground or whole bean)
- Canned goods
- Whole pies
- Plastic knives/forks/spoons
- Baked cookies and other goodies

## Clothing/Hygiene Needs

- New, unwrapped toys for all ages
- Winter coats/jackets for men and women

- Warm socks
- Knitted caps and ski masks
- Blankets
- Gloves
- Thermal and regular underwear
- Hygiene kits (soap, toothbrush/toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, etc.)

To volunteer, **contact Mariah at 775-323-0386, Ext. 16** or by **email at [mariah@rsgm.org](mailto:mariah@rsgm.org)**.

To donate items or financial support, call us at **775-323-7999**.

For more information and updates, please visit us at **[facebook.com/renomission](https://www.facebook.com/renomission)** or **[www.rsgm.org](http://www.rsgm.org)**.



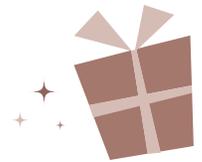
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## MY CHRISTMAS GIFT

**YES, Rick,** please use my gift to help bring new life to struggling neighbors this Christmas season. **Here is my donation of:**

- \$21.70** to provide **10** meals and other assistance
- \$30.38** to provide **14** meals and other assistance
- \$60.76** to provide **28** meals and other assistance
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_** to provide as many meals and care as possible
- Please bill my credit card: (please print)     VISA     MC



ACCOUNT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY / STATE / ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission, Inc.  
P.O. Box 5956  
Reno, NV 89513-5956

Please mail this completed form and return it with your generous donation. Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law. You may also give online at [www.rsgm.org](http://www.rsgm.org). You will receive a receipt.