

the MISSION

Stories of Second Chances

A Spark of Hope Can Change Everything

By Joyce



My name is Joyce and for 41 years I worked as a registered hospital nurse. Next to my family, my work was my passion in life. I loved it dearly.

Unfortunately, life took a turn in my early 40s that changed everything. Till that point I only drank socially and it was never a problem. But after a painful divorce I began “relief drinking.” The sudden stress

“I thought it was just too late for me.”

of being a single mom and raising two teen girls was overwhelming at times, and I thought drinking would help me. But it just made things worse as my alcoholism spiraled out of control.

Afraid of what I was becoming, I sought help from several sources. But none of them worked, and I always returned to drinking. Eventually, I was caught drinking on the job, which was very humiliating for me. I was

placed in a diversion program, but that only worked for a while. Finally, I quit my job. I just couldn't put my patients in danger.

I remember feeling hopeless. I thought it was just too late for me. But my daughter, who lives in Reno, called me and told me about Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission. She said it was a year-long Christian-based program. I said I would do it if they would take me.

After talking with the Mission staff on the phone, I had a spark of hope. And now that I've been in the program six months, I just love it. There's something different about this place. Not only is it Christ-centered, it's a more loving program. They really want to help you heal. And not only am I putting my drinking behind me, but my faith has become much more personal. I have real hope now.

I would probably be dead right now if I hadn't come here. Thanks to people like you, the Mission has saved my physical life...and it's also helped save my soul.

Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant!



Rick Redding
1963–2019

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission's beloved Executive Director, Rick Redding.

Rick went to be with the Lord on March 24, following complications from a recent heart surgery, and will be greatly missed. But his legacy is sure to live on in the God-ordained ministry he devoted his life to over the past 22 years.

The impact Rick has had on the community, and specifically the men and women who have come through our program, is immeasurable. He truly

reflected Christ, and his daily passion was to make sure each guest knew about God's grace and love for them.

Rick was also a servant to the Mission staff, always modeling compassion and humility. We will be honored to carry on the vision God planted in his fragile heart. And as we shed tears and share hugs, we also celebrate because we know Rick is in the presence of his Heavenly Father.

Please join us in praying that God would shower Rick's wife Charlotte and their family with an extra measure of comfort and peace.



New Executive Director Calls for Prayer

In the wake of Rick Redding's passing, Luis Santoni has assumed the role of Executive Director for Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission. For the past 13 years, Luis has faithfully served as our Director of Development. He knows firsthand the inner workings of the Mission and is deeply committed to our guests, to our devoted staff, and to partners like you who help make this ministry possible.

When asked how friends of the Mission could be praying right now, Luis offered two specific prayer requests. "Pray that our staff will band together like never before and carry out Rick's legacy of sharing Christ's message," he says. "And please pray for comfort for our staff. We are like a family here, and there is much grieving."

Thank you for your prayer support during this difficult time.

Your Support Is a Special B

Your generous support today is especially appreciated, because summertime poses an extreme challenge here at Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission. Over the next few months, we'll experience a large influx of homeless men and women seeking shelter from the scorching heat—in addition to the many people we're already serving on a daily basis.

Adding to the challenge is that contributions to the Mission drop significantly during the summer, as many of our supporters are away visiting friends and family. This creates a real dilemma.

I HAVE A PURPOSE

By Zack

When I flagged down the police officer, I told him about my warrant and that I needed to be arrested. He was happy to oblige.

My life was such a mess. But if I'm being honest, it's pretty much been sideways from day one. My parents worked in a brothel, so I was exposed to that at a very early age. They would sometimes take me there at night to help clean. I was also molested by a family member, one of the very people who was supposed to look out for me and care about me.



try but said if I didn't graduate from the program, I'd be right back in a cell.

I'm happy to share that I graduated last fall, and the Mission is the best thing that has ever happened to me. Not only have they helped me overcome my addictions, but it's here that I actually felt real love for the first time in my life. I learned and believe now that Jesus loves me and cares about me, and that I have a purpose.

Thank you for supporting the Mission. Because without people like you, none of this would be possible. You're changing a whole bunch of lives because that's what this place does. It changes lives like no other.

Volunteer for Christmas in July!

We're gearing up for our annual Christmas in July celebration that helps feed and bring



hope to more than 700 men, women, and children. It's also a great reminder for the community that hunger and homelessness are year-round concerns.

If you would like to volunteer to serve meals and pass out hygiene kits and clothing, please call **Mariah Peaslee** at **775-323-0386, ext. 16** to sign up today, before all the spots are taken. You can find more information on our website at **www.rsgm.org**. But the main details are:

When: Thursday, July 25

Where: Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission, 355 Record Street, Reno

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Hope you can join us!

Blessing During Summertime



So, as we head into the summer season, I urge you to please send a special gift today to help care for the homeless and hurting folks who will be drawn to the Mission. These are people like Joyce (see page 1) and Zack, who is featured above. They saw this place as their *last* hope. And because of the generosity of friends like you, they now have *new* hope for a life filled with promise.

Please take a moment to read their stories. Then, if you are able, send your generous summer gift today using the included reply slip. Or give online at **www.rsgm.org**. And know your selfless support is a blessing to every person who walks through our doors. Thank you!

“Your selfless support is a blessing to every person who walks through our doors.”

STAGGERING TO THE CROSS

There was a time when men and women used to walk into the building at Third and West streets and stagger out drunk. Now, they walk out of Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission with their heads held high. In fact, more than 70,000 men and women who have entered our doors carrying the oppression of addiction have left as changed creations.

“People come to us for answers and we give them The Answer: Jesus.”

That's largely because people who come here are received with grace, accepted for who they are, and treated with dignity. As a result, hearts are softened and ears and minds are opened, allowing transformation to begin.

We never force our beliefs upon anyone. But as a Christian organization we'll never compromise our beliefs either. People come to us for answers and we give them The Answer: Jesus. He's the Way, the Truth and the Life. He's where true success lies.

Some of our guests inch toward the cross. Some come running. And others are literally staggering toward it. But thanks to you, Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission is a place where they can find it . . . and the new life it offers!



Your continued support today will pave the way for more hurting men and women to be transformed this summer. Please give as you are able. Thank you!



MY SUMMER GIFT

YES, I want to help during the challenging summer months. Please use my gift to bring new life to hurting and homeless neighbors. I've enclosed:

- \$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 _____

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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. You will receive a receipt.