

the MISSION

Stories of Second Chances

“The person I’m meant to be has finally been unlocked.”

By Kyle



My name is Kyle and I’m 30 years old. For me, 2018 was just complete bottom. My alcoholism got very bad and I was drinking heavily every day. My fiancée left me and then I was hospitalized with pancreatitis from alcohol. They told me I needed to stop drinking, so I started using cocaine. I completely gave up, just living in my truck and using drugs every day. I wasn’t going to commit suicide, but I didn’t care to live. I didn’t care about anything or anybody.

“I have optimism like I’ve never had before.”

One day, sitting in my truck, a song came on the radio and it just reminded me about God. All of a sudden it became clear that I needed to start following God again. A few weeks later, I came to Reno-Sparks Gospel

Mission. I came here to completely change my life and change the person I am. And that’s what’s happened and what’s continuing to happen. I feel like a completely new person...like the person I’m meant to be has finally been unlocked. A huge part of that is God and what I’m learning at the Mission.

This place saves lives, restores lives. But it’s far more than just a drug and alcohol program. It took a broken person who thought he was absolutely nothing, no good to anybody, and gave him hope. And it’s turning me back into a functioning member of society. For the first time in my life, I feel like I can do anything. The Bible says with God, anything is possible. And that is such a resounding statement in my heart right now. I really feel that. I have optimism like I’ve never had before.

Thank you for the important part you play in helping Kyle and others find restoration and new life in Christ!



Lace up for *Walk a Mile in My Shoes*

Over 500 people are expected to join us for this year's **“Walk a Mile in My Shoes”** event **set for 9 a.m., Feb. 22, 2020**, at **Wingfield Park** in **downtown Reno**.

The annual mile-long walk will begin at Wingfield Park and end at the Mission, where participants can tour our Record Street campus and catch a firsthand glimpse of the life-changing work God is doing. Vans will be available for transportation back to Wingfield Park.

Individuals, families, church groups, businesses, and other groups are all welcome. Suggested registration is \$30 per adult (\$25 if part of a group of four or more). Kids under 12 are free, and **all proceeds go directly to meeting the needs of hurting and homeless people in Northern Nevada**.

Register today by calling **Mariah Peaslee at 775-323-0386**, ext. 16. Hope to see you there!



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Luis Santoni

“You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here.”
—Mark 16:6

Dear Friend of the Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission,

Imagine that first Easter Sunday...what it must have been like to walk into Jesus’ tomb only to discover He was not there, that He had overcome death and risen as He’d said He would.

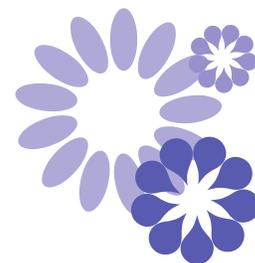
That day in history marks God’s powerful promise to all the world—to you and me—that we too can overcome death through new life in Christ. And we’re seeing that promise play out at Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission every single day.

Hurting men and women who were once trapped in addiction—in death—are being made new. As they discover God’s unconditional and unending love for them, their old ways fall away and they blossom into a new life filled with real hope and purpose.

How humbling to be used of God in such a life-transforming way, and to be in partnership with caring friends like you who share my passion for reaching lost and broken people. On behalf of all of us at Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission, and the many men, women, and children we serve, thank you for your strong support...and Happy Easter!

Your servant,

Luis Santoni



Please Give Easter Hope to

Imagine that first Easter morning. Jesus has been dead for three days. But in an instant, He opens His eyes, takes a deep breath—and stands! He is risen to brand-new, resurrected life! And in that moment, the entire world changes forever.

Today, every one of us is offered that same hope for new life—not only for today, but for all eternity. That is the same hope that compels us to reach out to every hurting person who comes to Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission, so they can experience Christ’s resurrection in their own lives. Your generosity shows that you also share this same eternal hope—and we thank God for you!

LEARNING TO LIVE AGAIN

By Tonya

I used to have a strong family, a great job at a hospital, everything was good. Then I suffered a debilitating back injury and was prescribed pain pills. At first, I would just take one pill at bedtime. But gradually I was taking more and more. And before I knew it, I was addicted.

When I could no longer get prescriptions for pain medicine, an acquaintance offered me something else to help with the pain. It was meth. That's when my life began to spiral. Addiction makes you do horrible things, and I had turned into a monster. I lost my job. I lost my family, and I quickly went from being a respected member of society to somebody no one wanted to be around.

One night, I was wandering the streets and saw a flier in a window about the recovery program at Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission. Long story short, in my most desperate state, they welcomed me with open arms. I was somebody who had no hope, no self-worth. I didn't believe I was worth anything and just had such a huge hole in my heart. But at the Mission, they're teaching me how to fill it with Jesus. I've developed a personal relationship with God here, and I've learned how to



“Addiction makes you do horrible things, and I had turned into a monster.”

release my worries, my fears, my guilt, and my shame—and to live again.

If it wasn't for Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission, I don't know if I would even be alive. They've brought me back from the pit, and I have more hope than I've ever had...and a vision for my future. *Thank you for supporting this wonderful place, and for helping people like me find new life and new purpose.*

HOLIDAY REPORT: Your Compassion in Action

So many blessings were shared with homeless and hurting people over the holiday season, and caring friends like you made it all possible. From festive meals and shelter to Christmas toys and special street events, you brought the joy of the season to our most vulnerable neighbors across Northern Nevada. Here are a few of the highlights:

- Over **160,000** holiday meals were served to hungry men, women, and children.
- Over **18,000** nights of safe shelter were provided to those with nowhere else to go.
- **Thousands** of children and families received Christmas toys and clothing.
- Countless hearts were touched by your spirit of compassion.

Your continued support is needed to rescue and change more lives in 2020. To volunteer, donate or learn more about our mission, please visit us at www.rsgm.org. You can also call **Mariah at 775-323-0386, ext. 16.**

Hurting People

Every gift you give and every prayer you pray for those who are hungry and homeless at Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission brings new hope and resurrection life to those who have lost hope. God is transforming lives through you! But every day, more men and women continue to seek our help—and they need people like you to give them hope and another chance for new life in Jesus Christ.

To give your generous gift today, please use the remit slip enclosed, or make your donation online at rsgm.org. You may also call us at **775-323-0386**. Thank you for being an Easter friend to men, women, and children who need your help.

**Your prayers
and gifts bring
new resurrection
life to those who
have lost hope.**



Never Too Late for a Fresh Start

Homelessness among seniors 65 and older is on the rise across the country, including here in Northern Nevada. And while life on the streets is an uphill battle for people of any age, it's especially dangerous for elderly folks. They are more vulnerable to extreme weather and age-related health risks, such as hearing and vision loss, cognitive impairment, and arthritis.

Here at Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission, we believe it's never too late for a fresh start—that no one is too old to discover new hope and new life. And with your support, we're reaching out to this fragile segment of our homeless population to help get them off the streets for good.

Thank you for partnering with us to treat our elderly guests with the care, respect, and dignity they deserve.

"...but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

— Isaiah 40:31, NIV

Help Homeless Neighbors of All Ages This Easter!

Send your gift with the reply slip below. Or give online at rsgm.org. Thank you!



MY EASTER GIFT

YES, Luis, please use my gift to bring new life to struggling neighbors during the spring. 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 AMEX

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.