

the MISSION

Stories of Second Chances

Falling Into Place

By Tony



I've always been the guy who drank too much at the party. Just always went overboard. Alcoholism is rampant on my dad's side of the family, so I guess the apple didn't fall too far from the tree. But the last seven years is when the drinking really took me to that dark place. I started losing control over it, couldn't go without it.

“I had never had a relationship with God before.”

I tried several other programs and got sober for a few months. But then I relapsed hard. Within a week I lost my job and apartment, and I was suddenly homeless. That's when my stepdad told me about Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission.

When I walked through the doors of the Mission, I was so broken, so lost. But the people here were welcoming and accepting. They told me the program

takes 12 to 15 months, and I said let's do this. I was in it for the long haul.

After the very first week, I could feel the difference in this place. I had never had a relationship with God before. But here they started showing me how and teaching me, and it was like a whole bunch of stuff just started falling into place. That was the part of recovery I'd been missing before.

Now, four months into the program, I'm not just sober—I'm also the most comfortable I've been in my own skin *ever*. That's because this program goes beyond just the alcohol part. It's helped me learn about the loneliness, anxiety, and depression that were behind the drinking. And now I'm learning to have a relationship with Jesus, learning to retrain my ways and my thoughts and become a better person.

The Mission has put so many more tools in my toolbox to fight this thing and to deal with life in general. I couldn't be more thankful!



A Special Treat for Homeless Children

One of the sad struggles of children facing poverty and homelessness is not being able to participate in some of the fun events the other kids do. These girls and boys often feel left out, like they're on the outside looking in.

On October 27, we have a special treat in store for the homeless children in our care—our annual Halloween-themed event we call Street Treats. Thanks to our many community partners, and generous friends like you, the children will enjoy candy, face painting, games, and prizes. And their families receive hygiene kits and other essentials.

Thank you for giving a bit of joy to some of our most vulnerable neighbors!

A special thanks to our community partners:

Triad Plastics • Nature's Way • A&H Insurance • Bridge Church • Sierra Meat & Seafood Company • Sparks Christian Fellowship • Discovery Fellowship • TreeHouse Foods • Multnomah University • Dimensions Valley View Christian Fellowship • Volunteers of America



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Luis Santoni

Giving Thanks for You

Dear Friend of the Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission,

I love the holiday season because it reminds me so much of the powerful work God is doing here at the Mission.

Every day, I see men and women who were once “dead” in their addiction. But through Christ, they are coming back to life, and they are not the same person they once were. Because that’s what Christ does. He resurrects people...He gives them new life!

I see it time and again in the folks who graduate from our program. The mom who was once dead in her addiction, but is now a vibrant woman of God. Or the son, father, or grandpa who was once lost to drugs and alcohol, but is now made new in Christ. These people understand what it means to come out of the tomb.

What a blessing to be a witness to it all, to see the power of Jesus reclaiming and restoring the lives of His children. It’s a blessing, too, to be in partnership with you. Thank you for the selfless sacrifice you make for the sake of those we serve—and for allowing God to work through you to make old lives new.

Your servant,

Luis Santoni



GOD IS WITH ME EVERY STEP

By Evelyn

My name is Evelyn, and I started drinking by the time I was 20. I just wanted to have fun and do whatever was “cool.” But along the way I was introduced to meth, which I would continue to use for 30 long years. I got to the point where after using meth I needed something to calm me down. That’s when I turned to opiates.

Thankfully, I got help and enjoyed five years being clean and sober. But one day when I was working as a caretaker for a gentleman recovering from knee surgery, I saw his bottle of pain meds and it just set me off. I took two of the pills and it was all I could think about after that. I was determined that whatever I got my hands on next, I was going to use it. That turned out to be morphine. Next thing I knew I was waking up in a hospital, lucky to be alive.

When I was released, I came straight to Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission, where a big part of my year-long program is getting right with God. Before, I felt like I was slapping God in the face. That was an awful feeling. But now I know God is with me every step. I’ve never felt His presence so strong



“I felt like I was slapping God in the face.”

as I do here. And I know I’m forgiven and that I can do anything through Him. I’ve been here just under three months, but already I feel stronger, more grounded.

I am so thankful for you and the love and support you provide the Mission, because you’re making a huge difference for people like me.

Volunteers Welcome



The coming holiday season brings many opportunities for you or your organization to help care for our hurting neighbors:

DAILY DINNERS

Help serve hundreds of men, women, and children in our dining room. Daily 4:30-6 p.m.

STREET TREATS

A fun Halloween-themed event for homeless children and families. Event: 2-4 p.m., Oct. 27

THANKSGIVING

Set up: Noon, Nov. 27
Dinner: 4 p.m., Nov. 28

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

Event: 1-3 p.m., Dec. 20

CHRISTMAS

Set up: Noon, Dec. 24
Dinner: 4 p.m., Dec. 25

Volunteer today by calling Mariah at 775-323-0386, Ext. 16.

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



Please Help Our Hungry, Homeless Neighbors This Fall

“Give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for men, For He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things,” (Psalm 107:8-9).

If there’s one thing that best characterizes the heart of Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission, it’s gratitude. All the hurting men, women, and children here are deeply thankful, not only for food and shelter, but also for the grace and healing they experience here. Even more, all of us who are part of this miraculous ministry are especially grateful for your extraordinary generosity and faithfulness.

Your gift today will provide hope and a new start

Thanks to your sacrificial support, Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission is open 24/7, providing nourishing food, warm clothing, safe shelter, and the promise of God’s transforming power to everyone who comes through our doors seeking help. This fall, please remember all those who are homeless, hurting, lonely, and struggling with addictions—and who are seeking hope and a new start.

To donate immediately, please use the enclosed remit slip. You may also give your donation by visiting us online at www.rsgm.org or calling us at **775-323-0386**. Thank you for touching so many lives through your generous giving this Thanksgiving season and throughout the year.



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YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE



Emergency Housing
for Women & Children



Addiction Recovery
for Men & Women



150 Warm, Clean Beds



Coat & Blanket Drives



Thousands of Thanksgiving
& Christmas Meals Served



Food Pantry for
Hungry Neighbors



Transformed Lives

“Blessed *is* he who considers the poor...” —Psalm 41:1



MY FALL GIFT

YES, Luis, I want to continue my support and help bring new life to struggling neighbors as we head into the Thanksgiving season. 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 _____

Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission, Inc.
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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. You will receive a receipt.