

News from Los Angeles Mission

# CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

MARCH 2023



**Our busiest Easter ever is just around the corner. For record numbers of neighbors facing homelessness, hope and healing can begin with a meal.**



Turn to page 2 to see how your gifts transform lives.



**Inspire  
Lasting  
Hope  
This  
Easter**



Dear Caring Friend,

Life feels hopeless on Skid Row. There's no safety, no rest. Without reliable food or water, it's all a person can do to survive.

But after someone arrives at Los Angeles Mission, that changes. With a meal, a place to sleep and clean up, guests start to understand how the Lord is giving them a chance to start over. They begin to believe in a brighter future — and by God's grace, you help turn that belief into reality.

Your faithful prayers and support for the men, women and children who take refuge here make their recovery journeys possible. Because of your compassion, each person has everything necessary to rebuild their lives on the solid foundation of the gospel.

This Easter season, will you please continue meeting the most pressing needs of our neighbors experiencing homelessness? The need has never been higher. Thank you in advance for your faithful partnership, and God bless you this Easter season.

Troy Vaughn  
President/CEO

P.S. For a little encouragement, visit **LosAngelesMission.org/EasterMessage** for my Easter sermon. I hope it will bless you, just as you've blessed me and so many others. Thank you!

## Transform Lives With \$2.53 Easter Meals!

Your support gives meals, hope and more to neighbors experiencing homelessness.

For men, women and children on Skid Row, Easter is no different than any other day. Survival is the only goal.

By God's grace, your generosity can change that. You can provide our neighbors experiencing homelessness with meals, compassion, comfort and the promise of renewal. While the food you give fills their stomachs, it's the love and compassion of Christ from our staff, volunteers and friends like you that really inspires change. *His love heals!*

This Easter season, we're expecting thousands of men, women and children. They're hungry for food and a reason to hope. Your support is needed now to help provide 396,665 meals to people who are turning to the Mission because they have nowhere else to go.

**Please support the Mission with a generous gift today! Thank you!**



Easter is rapidly approaching, and we need your help right away!



Your help will give hope to someone who is hurting.



Feeding a hungry soul is the first step to new life this Easter season.

**Every \$2.53 feeds one hungry  
person, opening the door to  
hope and new life.**

# This Easter, Valerie Is Grateful for You

Valerie is deeply thankful for her new life in Christ — but she traveled a long, painful road to get here. “My brother introduced me to drugs when I was 12,” she says. “I spent the next 40 years as a functioning addict.”

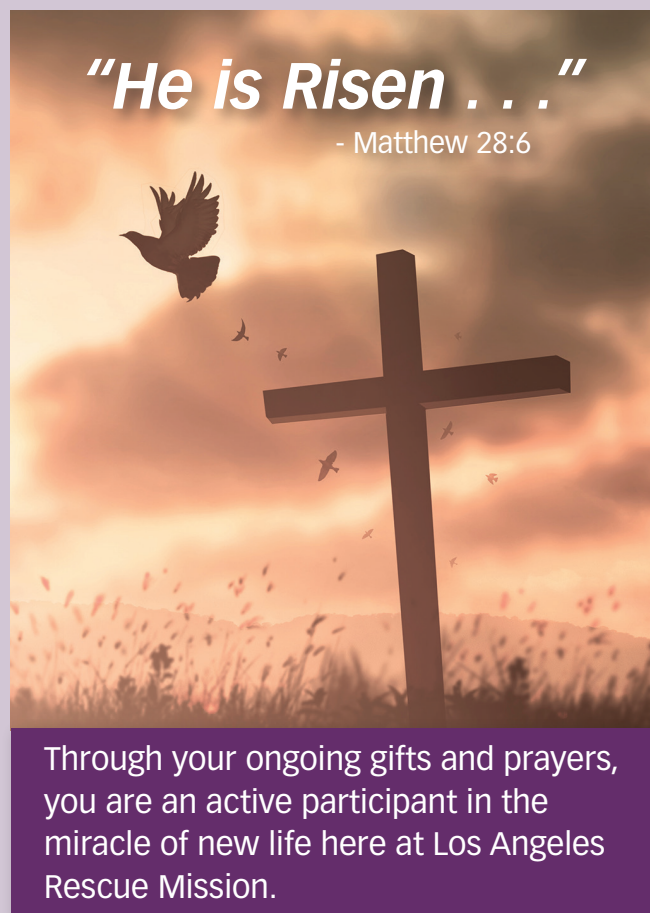
Despite her addiction, Valerie always worked, and had a number of very good jobs. Sadly, she spent her earnings on drugs, lost every job and ended up experiencing periods of homelessness.

In 2008, Valerie’s brother found new life at Los Angeles Mission and began reaching out to Valerie. It took time, but she eventually listened. “God started touching my heart. I was so tired of my life, I dropped to my knees and cried. Then I came to the Anne Douglas Center at Los Angeles Mission.”

With steady meals, shelter and sobriety, her heart began to change. In a Bible study, she really began to understand what Christ had done for her. She gave her life to Him and has been growing in the Lord ever since.

“Today, I am a woman who really wants to serve the Lord,” Valerie says. “God and Jesus gave me new life, and They used the Mission to do it. This place is like family to me. I will love the Mission until the day I die.”

**Thank you for giving Valerie another chance. Your support helps our neighbors in need rebuild their lives.**



## New Life for Francisco, Thanks to You!

When Francisco immigrated to the United States, he left his family behind in Mexico to start a whole new life in Los Angeles. He found a good job, rented a room with a family, attended church and even fell in love. But when his girlfriend ended their relationship, Francisco fell into a deep depression.

“The people at my church kept encouraging me, ‘Get closer to God!’” he says. “I didn’t listen.” Depressed and brokenhearted, Francisco started using drugs to ease his pain. Soon, he lost his job, then his home. “I ended up homeless on the streets for three years,” he remembers.

Completely broken and alone, he endured cold, damp winters, summer heat and constant hunger. He lost all hope for a better future.

“I finally got so tired of it, I came to Los Angeles Mission,” Francisco says. “This has been such a huge blessing for me.” Today, Francisco has graduated from the Mission’s recovery program. He has a new job and says, “I’m a completely different person. I put God first in everything, I have a bright future again and I want to thank the donors. Without them, none of this is possible.”

His words are a credit to your compassion. Thank you for blessing Francisco and so many others with a pathway to new life this Easter.



Francisco is so grateful that caring friends like you helped heal his broken heart.



## UPCOMING EVENTS/ SAVE THE DATES

### Volunteer Opportunities

Check out meaningful volunteer opportunities at the Mission. Visit [lamission.volunteerhub.com](http://lamission.volunteerhub.com) or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 337 to see how you can make an impact for neighbors in great need.



## Where There's a Will

*(No Really . . . Where IS Your Will?)*

Congratulations! If you have a completed, legal Will, you already understand the peace of mind that comes from having a plan in place. But before you check "Will planning" off your to-do list, make sure you aren't settling for one of these not-so-helpful documents.

### 1. The Will That Missed the Mark

Through your Will, you not only care for the needs of your loved ones, but you can also give to ministries like Los Angeles Mission in a significant way. Does your Will reflect your values? Make sure your Will mirrors what matters most to you.

### 2. The Will That's Out of Date

If your goals and circumstances have evolved, or if it's been more than three years since you last looked at your Will, it's probably time to dust it off and review it thoroughly.

### 3. The Will That's Lost

If there's one thing that can render your Will useless, it's if no one knows where to find it. Make sure you tell your family practical details like where documents are stored and any lock combinations or keys they'll need to access them.

Need help making sure your Will reflects your goals and passions? Through our partnership with Barnabas Foundation, you have complimentary access to trusted planning support, all from a biblical perspective. To learn more, call Kyle Patterson at (213) 629-1227 Ext. 304 or email [K\\_Patterson@lamission.net](mailto:K_Patterson@lamission.net).

## How To Make a Lasting Difference This Easter



Nutritious meals, shelter and compassionate care are essential building blocks of recovery for men, women and children experiencing homelessness. To help Los Angeles Mission meet these urgent needs, please consider becoming a Meals-A-Month partner. This dedicated group of donors provides a steady stream of support that helps us budget and plan more efficiently, stretching every dollar a little further.

To sign up online, visit us at [Give.LosAngelesMission.org](http://Give.LosAngelesMission.org). Or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 334 to join by phone.

## Give Hope That Leads to New Life This Easter

Send back the enclosed reply form with your special Easter gift to provide meals, care and life-changing services to people who need hope and a second chance. Please give generously during the Easter season and offer encouragement to people who are looking to rebuild their lives. Thank you!



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### Stay Connected

Keep track of the latest Mission news, make safe online donations and more.  
[LosAngelesMission.org](http://LosAngelesMission.org)



### LOS ANGELES MISSION DONATION DROP OFF

316 Winston Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90013  
Hours of operation are Monday-Friday: 7am-7pm  
Saturday: 7am-5pm; Sunday: Closed