

# A Special CROSSROADS Update

March 2024



**A meal doesn't just feed a neighbor in need. It opens the door to new life.**



## You Can Transform Lives With \$2.53 Easter Meals!

Easter is nearly here, and it will be our busiest ever. For the record numbers of men, women and children on the streets, hope and healing can begin with a meal . . .

When someone is fighting to survive on the mean, uncaring and often *deadly* streets, Easter is no different than any other day.

Survival is the only goal.

But you have the power to change that. You can provide our neighbors experiencing homelessness with compassionate meals that inspire 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 truly inspires

real, permanent change.

This Easter season, thousands of men, women and children with nowhere else to go will turn to Los Angeles Mission. They're hungry for food and hope. Your support is needed now to help provide thousands of meals and the promise of lasting restoration.

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



As record numbers turn to the Mission this Easter season, we need your help!



Your compassion can lift a neighbor off the streets of Skid Row.



By God's grace, the \$2.53 meals you provide will inspire transformation.



## Resurrection Miracles



As we approach Easter and prepare to celebrate the triumph of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I'm reminded that Los Angeles Mission is truly a ministry of resurrection. Here, men and women struggling with addiction, hunger, homelessness and overwhelming mental and emotional wounds find new hope and healing in Jesus. They are resurrected into new life and second chances. They are transformed into new creations.

But even more amazing, God is using friends like you and me to partner with Him in this resurrection ministry. What an extraordinary privilege and blessing! Every dollar you give, every hour you volunteer and every time you pray for us, you are participating in God's miraculous resurrection of another life.

This Easter season, I invite you to reflect on the new life we can all experience in Him. And when you do, ask God to grant you a renewed commitment and passion to partner with Him in this resurrection ministry at Los Angeles Mission.

## This Easter, Elisa Is Safely off the Streets — Thanks to You!

When Elisa's husband passed away eight years ago, the trauma was bad enough. But then she started struggling financially. Her savings dwindled, she had no one to help her and eventually lost her housing. As a result, the state took custody of her kids. Then her trauma suddenly turned to overwhelming grief. Unable to cope, she ended up on the streets.

"I lived out there for two years," she remembers. "I had never experienced homelessness before. It was very scary. I slept in my car, but I was all by myself. I was frightened all the time."

To shower or eat, Elisa often came to Los Angeles Mission's Anne Douglas Center for Women, but then she'd always leave again. Finally, she decided to stay to change her life for good.

"I feel safe now, so I sleep much better," Elisa says. "I also enjoy the meals. The support I have here has really helped me emotionally."

She continues: "Since I've been here, I've heard so many other women's stories. To hear how far they've come gives me hope. Now I'm focused on getting permanent housing so I can get my children back."

Elisa is deeply grateful for the support she's received, and says, "I want to thank the donors for everything. You're changing the lives of people like me."



## Easter Has Given Juan New Hope

If you had seen Juan several years ago, you might have assumed he was doing well. He was married with children, and he was a hard worker. In fact, he was working two jobs to provide for his family. The problem was, it was taking a lot out of him. That's why, in a moment of weakness, Juan was persuaded to try meth. He was told it would help him stay awake during his second job.

"At first, I just used a little, and it helped me work more hours," he says. But slowly, the drug took over, destroying his marriage and work and leaving him on the streets.

"I spent three years homeless, sleeping in parks and recycling bottles and cans for food," he explains. "I never felt safe. Many times, people stole my clothes, my backpacks and my shoes."

Finally, he was arrested for trespassing when he took shelter in an abandoned building. "The judge gave me the choice of spending time in jail or getting into a recovery program to get help," Juan says. "That's when I came to Los Angeles Mission."

"I not only had a safe bed and three meals a day, but they also started teaching me new job skills. But I think the best thing was learning more about Jesus and what He did for me. When He walked out of the tomb, He gave me hope and promised to walk with me every day."

Juan is truly grateful for donors like you, and it's easy to see why. Thank you for transforming his life!

