

# THE CROSSING

RENO-SPARKS GOSPEL MISSION, INC  
Sharing and Caring in Northern Nevada since 1963

HOLIDAY ISSUE 2008

## Jesus Christ has Renewed my Mind... and I'll Never be the Same Person Again

**M**y name is Dwight. I went through the Mission's program many months ago and thought I had all the tools and the armor I needed to return to regular society. But when I got out there I learned I wasn't ready. Now I'm back at the Mission and in a better frame of mind.

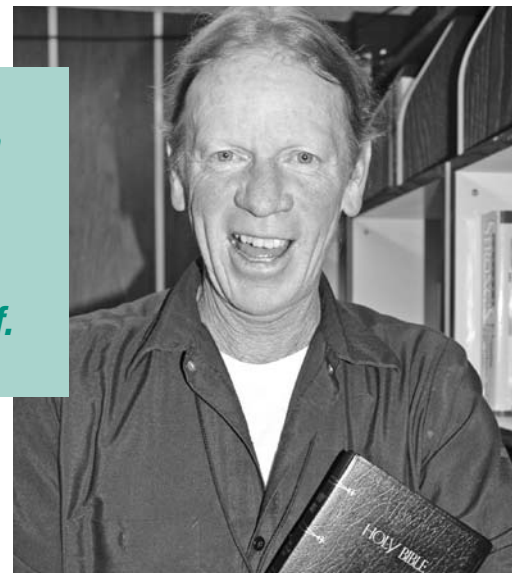
I'm a musician, and over the years I've played guitar with artists such as Mickey Gilley and Jerry Lee Lewis. That was great while it lasted. But you can imagine the lifestyle I had playing in the arenas and on the stages throughout the country. When I wasn't playing I would be drinking. I'm an alcoholic. *The good news is that I've now been clean and sober for a year and a half.* Because of the love, compassion and teaching I'm receiving here I can say without question that I know I'm a child of God.

### I'm learning to care for others

I returned to the Mission because I wanted God in my life. I now find that the closer I am to God, the closer He is to me. In the past I didn't care all that much about people. But when I started working at the Drop-in Center I began to see individuals through the eyes of Christ. I started becoming concerned about the welfare of others.

One of the things I love to do is to work on large appliances such as washers, dryers and stoves. When

*I've now been  
clean and  
sober for a  
year and a half.*



I'm through repairing them they're ready to be used by people who can't afford new things. I'm glad God has given me this ministry. Perhaps you'll be able to purchase one of these units when you visit one of our many Thrift stores.

I want to conclude with a word of thanks to you who donate your money and services to the Mission. You probably don't realize how awesome you are. You are God's gift to people like me. I want to hug and kiss everyone who gives so much to those of us in need. God bless you. I hope you and your family enjoy a Merry Christmas.

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## Monthly Giving Club

Now you can help our area's poor and homeless all year long through the Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission's **Monthly Giving Club**.

### No card needed for this club!

Save postage and time by simply calling 775-323-0386 extension 12 and talking to our friendly executive secretary Katy Cardwell. She'll set up your **safe and secure** account and cover a quick list of options for you, including credit card information, amounts desired and processing times.

There are no fees for the **Monthly Giving Club** and you can cancel at any time.

As a member, you'll also have the opportunity to become more involved in Mission services through special tours, events and communications – just for you!

If you'd prefer to write or email us about the **Monthly Giving Club**, please do so at:

Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission  
Attn: Katy Cardwell  
(Executive Secretary)  
P.O. Box 5956  
Reno, NV 89513-5956  
**775-323-0386 Ext. 12**  
or [katy@rsgm.org](mailto:katy@rsgm.org)

And, of course, you can always give securely by sending your needed donations to the address above or by visiting our website at [www.rsgm.org](http://www.rsgm.org).

## Todd Smith

Todd Smith, the Mission's coordinator of men's services, has

received the first ever full scholarship to Multnomah University in Reno.

The university, formerly known as Meadows Bible Institute, offers an accredited four-year degree in Bible studies. From studying the Pentateuch to the history of Christianity to beginning counseling, Smith said he's excited to receive the formal training to help the Mission's work with recovering addicts.

"I never thought I'd get an opportunity like this," he said. "Five years ago I was selling dope, and now I'm in an intense program learning more about the Bible and God so I can help others.

"I'm stunned and excited at the same time. I know God's got a great plan ahead for me."



## An Encouraging Word from Rick Redding

As we enter the winter months, we come to the Mission's busiest season for reaching out to the poor, the homeless and addicted. During the summer we respond to the needs of up to 700 people a day. However, during the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons we'll easily *triple the amount* of people we serve in the name of Jesus Christ. *That's why we need your help today — more than ever.*

Some who come to us are the newly homeless. They may remember some of the good times of Christmas at home, but now they wake up in a room with strangers on Christmas morning. For those who've been homeless for longer periods, there is still despair. However, for many of these people, the idea of being alone at Christmas is a recurrent theme.

### We rely 100% on the body of Christ for support

But whoever comes to us and for whatever reason, we reach out to them in Christian love and compassion. And this reminder: The Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission receives no government support. We rely 100% on the generosity of a person such as you. When you give to the Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission, your money goes directly to help people in need. That's how the body of Christ continues to respond, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Just a few weeks ago I had rotator cuff surgery on my right arm. It's been a challenge to learn to do my work from the "left side." But during my recovery, I didn't say, "You stupid right shoulder. How could you be so foolish as to need surgery? You're a disgrace. I wish you weren't in my body." No. Instead I cared for it, put it in a sling, nursed it along, and prayed it would be well again. In the same way, needy members of Christ's body who go through *their* recovery from addictions need to know they're appreciated and loved regardless of their "injury." And this is the job of the body of Christ. We will never rely on the government for help. *We will always depend on you, a unique, one-of-a-kind member of the body of Christ.* God bless you. Merry Christmas.

Your servant,

Rick Redding, Executive Director

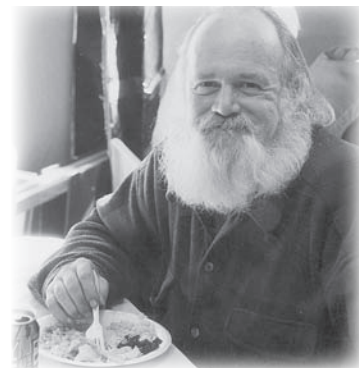


**"We will never rely on the government for help. We will always depend on you, a unique, one-of-a-kind member of the body of Christ."**

## The finest Christmas gift is not the one that costs

The English writer and theologian J. B. Phillips reminds us *The Christian faith is founded upon a well attested sober fact of history; that quietly, but with deliberate purpose, God himself has visited this little planet.* Thank you for giving us the privilege of sharing this Savior of the world with so many needy people during the recent summer months. We hope you realize how important — how absolutely vital — your gifts are.

Your donations provide nourishing food, warm shelter, clean clothes and an atmosphere that is filled with the love of a living God. You blanket the poor with love. Your donations help us demonstrate God's amazing grace to those who had given up all hope.



# The Judge Said it was Either Prison or 13 Months at Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission. I Chose the Mission!

**M**y name is Rebeckah. I'd like to begin my testimonial by saying this: *no person has done so much wrong that he or she can't be saved.* I know, because a loving God saved me. The image of my former life is a black hole with the oxygen sucked out of it. I was facing prison time for drug possession. But the judge had mercy. He said I could either go to prison or spend 13 months at Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission. Well, here I am at the Mission – getting closer to God every day. I wasted 13 years of my life using meth. Once the addiction took control of my life I would leave my family and not talk to them for months. I got involved with stealing and with people who used guns to get their point across. There were too many times when I was scared to death.

*God bless you for helping me start my new life in Christ*



Today I have a new outlook on life. My eyes are open. I have a good relationship with God, and He's restoring me to my family. It's all happening because the judge sent me here. How I thank the judge and God for that decision.

I also want to thank you for donating your service and your money to help people like me. You're here for me as much as the staff is — even if you've never visited the Mission. God bless you for caring, not only during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, but every day of the year. I say it again: *no person has done so much wrong that he or she can't be saved.* If you ever need the help of the Mission, the Mission is here for you, too.

## I appreciate the “sentence” the judge gave me

All that has changed since I've allowed the Lord to rule my heart and my life. The best days of my life have been *every day I've been at Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission.* The verse of scripture that sustains me is found in Philippians 4:13. *I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.*

*the most money, but the one that carries the most love.*

## Help us share the Christ of Christmas

During the coming holiday season we need your strong financial support more than ever before. As you can imagine, all our costs for operating the Mission are increasing. Food is more expensive. The cost of utilities is on the increase. Staff must be paid and services to the needy must continue. At the same time, growing numbers of needy folks continue to come to us for physical and spiritual help.

## Give the gift of love

To send your holiday donation today, please use the remit slip enclosed. Or call us at **775-323-0386**. You may also log on to our secure website at [www.rsgm.org](http://www.rsgm.org) to give your gift. Thank you for being a partner in compassion for the poor and needy in Reno-Sparks during the holiday season and throughout the year.

## New Thrift Depot



**T**he newest Thrift Depot thrift store is open for savings at 5105 Sun Valley Blvd. in Sun Valley. With over 5,000 square feet of deals next to the Dollar Loan Center at First Avenue, the Mission's new store is sure to please bargain hunters looking for sales-tax-free deals on furniture, appliances, electronics, name-brand clothing and other household items.

“We've wanted to come to Sun Valley for quite some time now,” said Rick Redding, the Mission's executive director. “They need more shopping options and this is a great location.”

The Mission now operates six Thrift Depot locations in the area:

- **Thrift Depot Kietzke**  
630 Gentry Way (at Kietzke)  
Reno – 775-825-4424  
9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Mon-Sat.
- **Thrift Depot Reno**  
575 E. Fourth St. (at Elko)  
Reno – 775-786-4499  
9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Mon-Sat.
- **Thrift Depot Sparks**  
640 Greenbrae Dr., #160  
(Greenbrae Shopping Center)  
Sparks – 775-331-5020  
9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Mon-Sat.
- **Thrift Depot North Hills**  
1075 North Hills Blvd.  
(Raley's Shopping Center)  
Reno – 775-677-2266  
9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Mon-Sat.
- **Thrift Depot Prater**  
1450 E. Prater Way  
(Hacienda Plaza Shopping Center)  
Sparks – 775-331-5528  
9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Mon-Sat.
- **Thrift Depot Sun Valley**  
5105 Sun Valley Blvd., Ste. 200,  
Sun Valley (at First Avenue  
next to Dollar Loan Center).  
775-674-6444  
9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Mon-Sat.

**“Your donations help us demonstrate God's amazing grace to those who had given up all hope.”**

# Christmas at Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission

**W**e're in full holiday mode at the Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission!

From harvest parties to turkey dinners to warm clothing, our staff and volunteers are busy serving the more than 1,000 men, women and children who daily seek help from the Mission.

In October, LifeChurch and the Mission teamed up for the annual downtown Harvest Party for families living along the Fourth Street corridor. Kids of all ages enjoyed bounce houses, face painting and yes, plenty of candy and a healthy meal.

October also kicked off our cold weather services program. From

October 1 until the end of the year we'll serve about **75,000 hot meals** to our area's poor and needy.

The Mission is also host to hundreds of volunteers who are helping us give away thousands of items of warm clothing and accessories, including jackets, hats, gloves, socks and blankets. During our annual Christmas Day dinner, at 4 p.m. Dec. 25, we'll give out many of these items plus wrapped presents for children.

The demand is heavy this time of year and we need your help! *(Please look over the accompanying list and see if you, your church or your work and organization can help us help others.)*

"Our donors are fantastic. They always come through for the less fortunate," said Katy Cardwell, executive secretary

and coordinator of volunteers. "They make things happen."

In addition to the daily services we provide, we're doing our annual "**Random Acts of Kindness**" days before Thanksgiving and Christmas, where we fan out in low-income neighborhoods to hand out turkeys and side dishes or gift certificates to local supermarkets.

Thank you, donors, for caring. You have an impact!



*Thank you, donors and volunteers, for caring. You have an impact!*



## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

**T**o meet the needs of thousands of hurting men, women and children in our area, we need the following donations:

- Winter coats (all sizes, especially men's)
- Warm clothing (gloves, scarves, knit hats, socks, boots, etc.)
- Blankets
- Coffee
- Wrapped **new toys** for children (labeled with age and gender)
- Turkeys and hams (fresh or frozen)
- Nonperishable canned food items

**If you can help in any of these areas, please call us at 775-323-7999.**

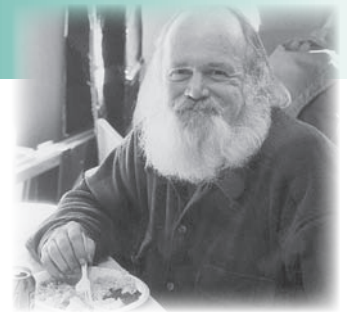
## My Holiday Gift

**YES,** Rick, you can count on my generous donation to help feed and clothe the needy during the holidays.

- Please bill my credit card:  
 VISA  MC  AMEX  DISCOVER

### Here's my best gift of:

- \$20.50** to provide **10 meals** and other assistance  
 **\$30.75** to provide **15 meals** and other assistance  
 **\$61.50** to provide **30 meals** and other assistance  
 \$\_\_\_\_\_ to provide **as many meals and as much care as possible**



ACCOUNT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY / STATE / ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 5956  
 Reno, NV 89513-5956

Please use this completed form and return it with your holiday donation, or donate online at [www.rsgm.org](http://www.rsgm.org). Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.