

THE CROSSING

Sharing and Caring in Northern Nevada since 1963

Living with lies, I tried to convince myself I didn't have a problem . . .

My name is Richard. I started drinking in the Navy while in boot camp. When I was shipped to Hawaii, I started smoking pot. I was eventually kicked out of the service. That sent me into deep depression. I felt like I was a failure . . . and I started drinking even more.

The more I drank the more I lied about my condition. *It's not that bad . . . I really don't have a problem . . . Hey, no worries, I can handle this.* All lies. All denial. Later, when I owned a painting company, I had 15 guys working for me. What a great setup — they could work while I drank. After a failed marriage, my drinking got even worse. When I lived in

“The devil lost a good soldier when he lost me. But I have no intention of ever joining his army again.”

Vegas, I'd play the slots just for the free drinks. This was my life — day in and day out.

Becoming a Christian is the smartest thing I ever did

I tell you this so you'll be able to see the contrast in my life today. The smartest thing I ever did was to become a Christian. I'm starting over — like a fresh coat of paint. I was once helpless and hopeless; today “hope” is a word I live with every day. I was once living in darkness; now I see the light — the light of God's Son, Jesus Christ.

The devil lost a good soldier when he lost me. But I have no intention of ever joining his army again. Jesus has set me free. And God, the Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission, and you who donate your

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changing lives

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money and time are all part of my healing. I love my classes and I love the Lord. Thank you for the greatest Thanksgiving gifts you could ever give me — the person of Jesus Christ.

God bless you at this Thanksgiving,

Richard

2010 Quick Review

With the economy still lagging, more people came to the Mission in 2010 for services than in any previous year.

Throughout 2010, the Mission:

- Served a record **345,000 meals** (up from 218,000 in 2009 and 175,000 in 2008).
- Supplied direct food assistance to more than **800 families**.
- Gave away **86,000 articles of clothing** to the homeless (an increase from 40,000 in 2009 and 5,500 in 2008).
- Provided nearly **55,000 nights of lodging** and emergency shelter services.
- Continued to provide the area's most comprehensive free residential substance abuse recovery in Northern Nevada, with nearly **100 beds for men and women**.

We cannot do all of this without you. Thank you!

An Encouraging Word from Rick Redding

Dear Friend of Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission,

Do you want to know what means the most to a homeless person who's staying with us at the Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission? You might think it's the food and shelter — and those are greatly appreciated and vital. But what I hear most is: . . . *when volunteers come to the Mission, they sit with us and listen patiently to our stories. They are never in a rush. They really care about us physically and spiritually. On the streets, no one listens to anyone.*

Perhaps you are one of those volunteers who comes to listen to these stories told by our guests. If you are, thank you for returning again and again to share God's love — and for listening to people in need, men and women who need to know you care.

With Jesus at the center of a life, there is always hope

In this newsletter, you're reading the moving stories of two of our residents, Richard and Laura. The accounts of their earlier lives without Christ are examples of the kinds of stories we hear every day. Is it easy for our friends to allow God to transform their hearts? Not always. But when our guests stay with the program and *keep Jesus at the center of their lives*, miracles really do happen. Thank you for who you are and what you do to keep the light of hope burning in the hearts of the homeless and needy who come through our doors.

Your servant,



Rick Redding, Executive Director



“When our guests stay with the program and keep Jesus at the center of their lives, miracles really do happen.”

This Thanksgiving, people in distress

The little girl was attending her first circus. She laughed as the clowns took their pratfalls and as the elephants trumpeted their arrival into the center ring. But what took her breath away was the trapeze artists. The girl could not believe her eyes. They really *did* fly through the air with the greatest of ease.

She turned to her mother and asked, “Mama, but aren't they afraid?” A man sitting next to the girl heard the question and answered, “No, young lady. They're not afraid. You see, they trust each other.”

Fear not . . . for I am with you

And therein lies the message. Trust breeds confidence . . . and confidence leads to a life that can hold great meaning. But it all depends



Dennis Rodman . . .
***I finally did what you
wanted me to do.***

My name is Laura. From 1987–89, I was a flight attendant for the Detroit Pistons basketball team. I had a lifestyle many people would die for. I enjoyed nonstop parties and unforgettable times with the players.

But my schedule was killing me. I'd get to sleep at 2 a.m. and awake at 6 a.m. to start work. An addiction to pot, alcohol and cocaine would soon become part of my life. When Dennis Rodman heard about my problem, he said, "If you were my girlfriend, I'd tell you to quit drinking." Dennis' drink was milk over ice.



Married . . . divorced . . . addicted

I moved to Nevada, got married, got divorced and felt betrayed. My heart was broken, and I started drinking. I'd drink vodka straight from the bottle. One day my seven-year-old son asked me, "Mommy, is that an adult drink you're drinking?" He was getting it . . . and I knew I needed help.

I'm so thankful for the Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission,

**I once felt I had no
soul. Now my soul is
free and I love my life.**

where God is helping me conquer my chemical dependency. I have a God who forgives and who remembers my sins no more. Today, I like the person I see in the mirror. God, this program and you who give so generously to the Mission are giving me what I need to stay the course . . . and to remain faithful to Jesus, who saved my life. I hope Dennis Rodman receives a copy of my testimony. *Dennis, I finally did what you asked me to do.*

Gratefully,
Laura

Graduation



As a faithful supporter of Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission, we invite you to witness fifteen men and five women graduate from the Mission's yearlong substance abuse recovery program. "I expect it to be an emotion-filled night," said Rick Redding. About 90 men and women enrolled in the program are addressing addiction and relational issues from a Bible-centered perspective.

"We have young women and men graduating and being reunited with their parents and families, and we have moms and dads graduating and being reunited with their sons and daughters," Redding said. "I think people already are starting to cry."

With the record number of graduates — and the heart-wrenching stories they represent — Redding said the decision was made to open the night up to the public.

**Join us in celebration on
Sept. 28 at the Bridge Church,
1330 Foster Drive in Reno.
The event begins at 5:30 p.m.**

need your compassion as never before

on where we place our confidence. It was the Apostle Paul's *trust in God* that enabled him to overcome his fear and continue to preach in Corinth for another 18 months. It was *trust in God* that took the fear from David's heart as he looked into the face of the giant Goliath.

And it is *trust in God* that allows our Mission guests to leave the past behind and start a new adventure with God at the helm of their lives. Those who come through the doors of the Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission are learning to handle fear *God's way* . . . and what they are learning is life changing. To give your gift today, please use the remit slip enclosed, or donate online at www.rsgm.org. Thank you for your faithful support.

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through the doors
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Holiday volunteers and donations are needed

The holidays are fast approaching, and serving the thousands of poor and needy requires a massive effort. Please see if you or your group can help in the following areas:

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Thanksgiving

Setup: 9:00 a.m., Nov. 23

Lunch: 11:30 a.m., Nov. 24

Dinner: 4:30 p.m., Nov. 24

Christmas

Lunch: 11:30 a.m., Dec. 25

Setup: 1:00 p.m., Dec. 25

Dinner: 4:30 p.m., Dec. 25

Sign up to volunteer by calling Tammie at 775-323-0386, Ext. 16.

FOOD NEEDS

- Turkeys (fresh and frozen)
- Hams
- Coffee (ground or whole bean)
- Canned goods
- Whole pies
- Plastic knives, forks and spoons
- Baked cookies, fudge and other goodies!



DONATE

- New, unwrapped toys for children of all ages
- Winter coats and jackets for men and women
- Warm socks
- Knitted caps and ski masks
- Gloves
- Blankets
- Thermal underwear and regular underwear
- Hygiene kits (travel-size soap, toothbrush/toothpaste, comb, deodorant, shampoo, etc.)

If you can help, please call **775-323-7999**. For more information and the latest updates, please visit us online at [facebook.com/renomission](https://www.facebook.com/renomission) or www.rsgm.org.

Thrift Stores

Visit us for great **tax-free** deals on new and like-new furniture, electronics, appliances, clothing and other great items!

You never know what you'll find! Plus, your support stays in this community to help others!

All stores open 9:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m., Monday - Saturday.

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

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My Thanksgiving Gift

YES, Rick, it's a privilege to continue to support the work of the Mission.

- Please bill my credit card (please print):
 VISA MC

Here's my 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 care as possible

ACCOUNT NO. _____ EXP. DATE _____

NAME ON ACCOUNT _____ SIGNATURE _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

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

Please mail this completed form and return it with your generous Thanksgiving donation. Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. You may also give online at www.rsgm.org. You will receive a receipt.