



How a Grizzly Turned Into a Teddy Bear

“I felt abandoned and thrown out, discarded like garbage.”

If you met René, you’d think of a big soft teddy bear. A huge man with a fuzzy beard, a warm smile, and a jovial voice, he certainly meets the criteria.

But if you’d met him not long ago, you’d think of an agitated grizzly . . . and you might run for your life. For decades, René couldn’t control his alcohol or his anger. Together, they contributed to three failed marriages and, eventually, some serious health issues, including severe heart problems.

He had quit drinking about 10 years ago, but his failing health kept him from keeping a job. When he ran out of money, he lost his apartment and had nowhere to turn. He was homeless.

“I felt abandoned and thrown out, discarded like garbage,” he says. “I couldn’t survive on the streets. I’m too old and too sick. I lost hope and felt like ending my life.”

But he didn’t. René, 50, had already attempted suicide twice before in his life, but this time, he was determined to find help instead.

A Miracle

So René came to Tri-City Union Gospel Mission, where he soon found a reason to live . . . and to *thrive*.

He enrolled in New Life, an intense, biblically based recovery program. When René finished the “Survival Kit,” the section that teaches about following Jesus, he knew he’d never be the same.

“I learned that if I prayed to God that I was sorry for the things I’ve done, He could help me,” René says through tears. “I really wanted it bad, and I really meant that prayer. After that, I had such peace, like I had never had before.”

René stuck with the program, and is now a new man.

“It has been a miracle,” he says. “I’ve changed a lot, and I can see the progress.”

“Your support has brought hope to my life again, and I’m thankful!”



How Water Can Transform a Life

Message from Andrew Porter, Executive Director

Dear Friend of the Mission,

Jesus said that a cup of water given in His name is a powerful thing (Mark 9:41). That's more than just a nice thought or a clever metaphor.

It can be life changing.

I've seen it happen time and again. Recently, the police brought a young man to our doorstep. The man was spaced out, possibly on drugs, clearly agitated. We tried to bring him inside to help, but he refused, choosing to stay out on the sidewalk, pacing nervously.

When we gave him a bottle of water, you could see his face start to change.

The police officer stayed around a while, trying to help us get him inside. But when it was clear that wasn't going to happen, I said, "It'll be fine. We've got this."

I asked one of our staff members to bring a sandwich and a bottle of water. When we gave that to the man, you could see his face start to change. He stayed outside to eat and drink, but he was clearly starting to change — more at ease, less upset.

Then we brought him some clothes. And he smiled. And then he came inside.

It shows how important that meal, or that bottle of water, can be. For that man in that moment, those things *were* the gospel, no doubt.

That first act of kindness is often the first step toward complete life transformation.

When you give to Tri-City Union Gospel Mission, you're giving more than just a meal or a cup of water. You're helping to literally change a life.

And now, as we prepare for the busy Thanksgiving season, when we serve *lots* of meals, I want to thank you again for your generous support.

This ministry wouldn't happen without you! Thank you!

Andrew Porter, Director

P.S. I hope you like the new look of our newsletter! Please read René's story on the cover, to see how your support is transforming lives.



MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN NEED YOUR HELP!

"Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done"
(1 Chronicles 16:8).

That is exactly what our *New Life* newsletter is all about . . . praising God, proclaiming His name, and letting everyone know what He has done in the lives of hurting men, women, and children at the Tri-City Union Gospel Mission.

But it's also how God uses caring, compassionate people like YOU to provide struggling neighbors with food, shelter, grace, healing, and transformation. Thank you for your faithful generosity!

This fall and Thanksgiving season, please continue to remember our homeless neighbors, and all those in need, who come to us seeking hope and a new start. Your gifts will ensure that every man, woman, and child who comes through our doors will receive the help they need.

To give today, please use the enclosed reply slip, or make your donation online at www.tcugm.org. You may also call us at **509.547.2112**. Thank you for being a friend to men, women, and children who need your help.

Online Donations Make a Difference

Did you know that online giving is actually safer than giving by check?

Thanks to advancements in security for credit cards and online transactions, your gift through our website is more secure than ever . . . and goes to work even faster!

Plus it saves postage, so it's a win-win all the way around.

Please consider making your next gift online today at www.tcugm.org.

Thank you!

PLEASE GIVE TODAY

"Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward" (Mark 9:41, NIV).