

I Stayed for Something More



by David

Thanks to you, I have a new focus for my life!

Growing up here in Pasco, I always envisioned Tri-City Union Gospel Mission as a place filled with winos and drunks, laying around everywhere. I certainly never thought I'd end up here.

The past 30 years has been kind of a rollercoaster for me. But overall, I was pretty successful. Working in the automotive industry, I made good money, enjoyed a lot of material things, even owned my own house. And I never got into too much trouble.

But 13 years ago, I had a pretty serious traffic problem, which I made worse by ignoring. To be honest, I thought the whole thing got dropped years ago. But in 2016, I found out otherwise. I was arrested and ended up spending 45 days in jail. I lost almost everything I owned and all my savings.

When I got out of jail, I was homeless and had to start completely over. I needed to go somewhere for a few days to figure out what I was going to do. I ended up coming to Tri-City Union Gospel Mission. It wasn't filled with winos and drunks laying around. It was a congregation of men,

at all different stages, actively trying to get their lives together. Like me.

My first night, this big bear of a man gave his testimony about what Jesus and the Mission had done for him. What he said stayed with me, and I felt the Holy Spirit leading me to join the New Life program. I knew I could go out and find a job immediately. But I wanted something more. I wanted a relationship with Jesus. I let all my materialistic instincts go and pursued Him. And today, He has given me a new focus on others I never had before. What a blessing.

Your donations do a lot more than provide meals and shelter to people. Your gifts are changing the hearts of men like me — even women and a lot of families. There are so many victories here. Thank you for all your support.

You didn't give me a hand out, you gave me a hand up, and I'll be grateful for the rest of my life.

"When I got out of jail, I was homeless and had to start completely over." – David



A Season of Change

Message from Andrew Porter, Executive Director

Dear Friend of the Mission,

Whenever I think about the extraordinary compassion and generosity of this community of Pasco and the Tri-City area, whenever I think of the faithfulness of people like you, one verse comes to mind: "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9).

"Without your help, most of our homeless neighbors would have nowhere to turn."

Over the past 10 years, as homelessness exploded in our community, you never stopped caring. You never stopped giving. You never stopped loving. And because of your support for the Tri-City Union Gospel Mission, the lives of countless men, women, and children have been transformed — lives just like David's in this issue of *New Life*.

Without your help, most of our homeless neighbors would have nowhere to turn. But thanks to you, they have food, shelter, and

safety, showers, and clothing. But your generosity provides far more than the basic needs. Because of you, they experience recovery from addictions. They get treatment for serious health problems. They get counseling, vocational and educational help, help with employment and housing, life-skills training, friendship and community, and more. In other words, you provide the real lifesaving help and hope they need to return to our community healthy and whole.

But there's one more thing, as David discovered: Your gifts mean all our guests are offered a life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ. As my dad used to say, the Gospel is the golden saddle that everything else we do rides on. Because only there do lives really change — today and for eternity.

This summer, I pray you continue your life-saving support in the name of Jesus Christ. Thank you!

Andrew Porter, Executive Director

National Statistics

One in 45 children in the United States lives on the street, in homeless shelters, in motels, or with other families. A typical family who is homeless is comprised of a mother in her late twenties with two children.

- Almost half (650,000) of children in homeless families are under 6 years of age.

Families experiencing homelessness are under considerable stress, and the impact of family stress is not lost on children:

- 74% worry they will have no place to live.
- 58% worry they will have no place to sleep.
- 87% worry something bad will happen to their family.
- Many families who are homeless have been witness to or have experienced violence in their lives and neighborhoods.
- 1 in 11 children who age out of foster care end up homeless.

— *The National Center on Family Homelessness*



YOUR GENEROSITY WILL SAVE LIVES THIS SUMMER

Thank you for all your extraordinary acts of love and compassion for hurting men, women, and children at Tri-City Gospel Mission. As the Apostle Paul promised, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9). Your support means new hope, health, and life to our guests struggling with poverty, addictions, and homelessness.

But this summer, many more need your help. People burdened with homelessness and poverty don't get a vacation from their misery. Every day is another challenge to hold on to hope or even to survive.

So please remember the hungry, homeless, and hurting people in our community this summer.

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.

PLEASE GIVE TODAY

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"If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." —1 JOHN 3:17-18, NIV