

A NEW DAWN

A PUBLICATION OF THE COACHELLA VALLEY RESCUE MISSION
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From Winter to Spring: Easter Renewal

The one word we hear most often from people coming to the Mission is hopeless. They arrive weary, depleted, and worn down from the circumstances that brought them to the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission's door. They are destitute, depressed, tired, and hopeless.

Our staff and current residents rally around the new clients and the process of healing and restoration begins. Those who have been bruised, faced adversity and failure, broken by disillusionment and defeated by sin understand better than most what it means to be resurrected to new life. We are not only here to meet the physical needs of these people, but to offer words of encouragement, reinforcement and reassurance. The season has changed from winter to spring.

We look forward with anticipation to Easter, the resurrection of our Lord. He is not dead but has risen! We love this holiday because it reflects what takes place here at the Mission year after year within our people. Renewed hope, new life, a fresh start, a slate wiped clean.



We endeavor to make this holiday one of joy by serving a traditional Easter meal complete with filled Easter baskets, which we distribute to all who come to the celebration. This community meal will be served on Sunday, April 24, from 3–6 p.m.

Our valued and caring volunteers came to the Mission to dye eggs and celebrate with the children prior to Easter. More volunteers have enrolled to help prepare and serve food or assemble and distribute baskets at the Easter meal. †

Donations of Easter basket items or food can be dropped off at the Mission or you can give a gift online at www.cvrm.org.

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*Renewed hope, new life, a fresh start,
a slate wiped clean.*

Matthew Shares His Story: Miracles Happen

On August 19, 2010 I made what turned out to be the best decision of my life: I came to the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission.

When I showed up at the doors of CVRM, my life was in a precarious position. I was 30 days clean and sober but desperately fighting my addiction. In addition to that struggle, I was unemployed, broke, facing criminal charges, my son had been placed with Child Protective Services, and I was going through divorce. On my first day there, the Mission was able to find me a bed.

I was told that miracles happened at the Mission but I didn't expect them to start as fast as they did. After sleeping only about two hours, I woke up to find that a gentleman who I knew from AA meetings had already secured a bed for me in Case Management. Mark had already graduated from the New Life Program and was now on staff at CVRM. He gave me a Bible and told me to start reading with an open mind. I began to read and pray for the first time in my life.

The changes didn't occur overnight. But from that day until now my life has continued to improve. I had only planned to stay at the Mission for one week but there is something about the place that changes lives. I now know that something is actually *someone*: Jesus Christ. The many caring, supportive individuals at the Mission led by example and kept me focused.

What I expected to be a one-week stay has turned into six months; I am a different person than when I came here. I have found some great friends, I am now seven months clean and sober, and I have saved \$1,000 to start my new life.



“The changes didn't occur overnight but from that day until now my life has continued to improve.”

Because I completed the New Life Program, all my criminal charges have been dismissed. I have found part-time work. I completed my parenting classes and was given full custody of my son. He and I were baptized together in November.

I am currently looking for full-time employment and have started classes online to receive certification to become a counselor for alcohol and drug addiction. I have secured an apartment in Palm Desert and will be moving with my son and getting back to the most important job of all: being a father.

The best gift of all is Jesus Christ as my Savior and I know with Him my life will continue to be blessed. I want to say thank you to everyone at the Mission for giving me the tools I needed to get my life back. †

Best-Selling Author to Donate Profits to the Mission

Bill is a brilliant guy. He's one of those people that knows a lot about a lot of things. He's an engaging conversationalist, a talented writer, and a gifted artist. And his life was changed by the Mission.

Bill was once a multi-millionaire. He started several successful technology companies and then turned to writing where he found equal success. In the early '90's, Bill authored a series of instructional books on computer animation. It was a new field and Bill was entirely self-taught. But he was respected as an expert in the field. His research and writing went on to influence the computer game and movie industries, particularly Pixar, creator of the famous "Toy Story" series.

Despite his successes in the professional and material world, something was missing in Bill's life. He had lost his spiritual connection with God. Gradually Bill's wealth disappeared through a series of unfortunate investments and bad relationships. One day, he found himself alone in a motel in Corona with nothing. An ex-girlfriend had emptied his bank account and driven off with all of his worldly possessions.

Broken, and with nowhere to go, Bill spent a week sleeping on the streets and not eating. Starving and sick, Bill walked in to two different churches both of which essentially turned him away. With his last bit of will, Bill walked himself to the nearest hospital where he collapsed in the waiting room.

After a few days of recovery, the hospital recommended Bill go to CVRM to recover and rebuild his life.

Bill says he never had a substance abuse problem. Rather, he ended up at the Mission for the reasons

he believe all other residents do: a lack of belief in himself and a lack of a relationship with God.

With the help of CVRM, Bill has begun to rebuild his life and his relationship with God. Bill says his experience at the Mission has helped him find his calling—to study faith and use his gifts of storytelling and writing to help others better strengthen their own faith.

"One of the compliments that readers of my computer animation books often paid me was that I could take an incredibly complex subject and explain it in such a way that anyone could understand it. My writing style is conversational which allows me to engage the reader."

Bill's first book on faith, "Redemption," will soon be available for wide distribution. It is receiving rave reviews. Grateful for the help the Mission has given him, Bill is donating 75% of his book profits to CVRM.†



Bill at the "headquarters" of Komodo Publishing.

A Message from Darla

Dear Friend,

Easter is a special time of year for my family. It is a day to cook a special meal together, to share good conversation with loved ones, and a time to reflect on Christ and His sacrifices for humankind. Even in a tough year like this, my family has much to be thankful for.



You can create a special Easter for those who would otherwise be hungry and alone.

But what about the souls who will spend their Easter at the Mission?

In Easters gone by, your caring generosity for people in need has allowed us to feed people a special, traditional, hot Easter dinner. Ham with all of the fixings. It is truly a blessed meal. And our clients are so grateful —so grateful for the meal and so grateful that they are cared for.

With the recent closure of another homeless shelter in Indio, CVRM is being asked to provide for more people than ever. Last Easter season we provided more than 12,500 meals. We expect even more hungry people this year.

On behalf of those in need in our Coachella Valley I ask you to help feed them again. You can create a special Easter for those who would otherwise be hungry and alone.

Easter Blessings to You and Yours,

Darla Burkett

Darla Burkett
Executive Director

