

HANDS Across the Valley

E A S T E R 2 0 1 0

“The Lord is Faithful!”

Lisa was a drug addict for 28 years. But even in her addiction, the Lord was blessing her and looking over her. “My addiction was the main focus of my life, but I was blessed with a great mother who stepped in when I stepped out and took care of my three daughters.”

When she was ready to get help for herself, Lisa turned to the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission. The first time she came here was at the insistence of her boyfriend, now her husband, who came to the

Mission in 2005. “We both went through the program together, but then we fell away and went back to using drugs.”

Her husband later went to prison, and Lisa got in trouble with the law. But the Lord wouldn’t let her go. “I just knew I needed to come back here, and I was lucky that they gave me a second chance.”

“When you take something bad out of your life, you have to fill it with something good.”

“Fill your life with something good.” That’s what Lisa learned here in our New Life Program. “I know now that if you take your eyes off the Lord for a second, you can lose everything.

I have learned that the hard way. I am so thankful that He never gives up on what He starts. The first time I was here, He started

something in me and I knew where to turn when I couldn’t take it anymore.”

Today, Lisa is a graduate of our Women’s New Life Program. By identifying the factors that contributed to her homelessness, she was able to develop plans that are now helping her and her husband lead Christ-centered, productive lives.

Lisa and her husband both have jobs so they can support themselves, and she enjoys having more time to spend with her three daughters and a new grandson! “It’s not something I could have done by myself,” says Lisa. “The Lord is faithful and loving and very forgiving.”



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A Message from the Director



Homeless in More Ways Than One...

We see them every day. Frightened. Hungry. Lost. Men, women and children who need so much more than the physical comfort of a hot meal or a warm bed. Many believe that God has abandoned them – given up on them because they've made too many wrong choices or ignored His voice for too long.

You and I know better. We know the promise Jesus makes to us all, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." We know that through His death and resurrection, which we will celebrate in just a few weeks, that He has already prepared a place of eternal shelter for us in His Father's house!

Your support of the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission enables us to share this message of hope with those who come to us in need; to help them build a firm foundation in Jesus Christ that will enable them to prosper spiritually as well as physically and be "homeless" no longer.

Darla Burkett

Darla Burkett
Executive Director

Easter Celebration!

On Sunday, April 4 there will be a very special Easter celebration at the Mission, including a festive Easter dinner and service. You can take part by joining us, or by donating some of the food we'll need to serve more than 12,500 meals we will serve this Easter season (see list on page 3). Please contact Linda Garland at (760) 347-3512 ext. 221 for more information.

May you come to know GRACE and PEACE in the way of JESUS.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die." – John 11:25-26

We are more grateful than we can ever express for your prayers and continued support of this ministry. May you feel the Lord's presence near you, not only this Easter, but always.

2009 Operation Drumstick

Amazed, astonished, overawed and surprised are only a few of the words that come to mind when we try to describe the outpouring of generosity we saw this past Thanksgiving season.

The Coachella Valley Rescue Mission was blessed tremendously with two new convection ovens. The kitchen staff was extremely grateful.



They start early to cook several turkeys but when we started we only had ONE turkey in the freezer. We appealed to the community, and the Mission was abundantly blessed to receive hundreds of turkeys and all of the trimmings!

Thanks to you, we served 3,400 traditional Thanksgiving meals! In addition, we were able to bless several hundred more families who are unemployed or underemployed with a Thanksgiving basket filled with all of the supplies needed to serve their family a fabulous meal.

There is a generous spirit of goodwill in the hearts of our donors! Thank you for putting the "giving" into Thanksgiving!

Operation Safe Shelter

The Mission offers food to fill empty stomachs, beds to rest weary bodies and prayer to restore worn out souls. As a partner with the Mission, you provide these benefits and more – giving us the means to help end homelessness one person at a time.

As part of the Coachella Valley's Winter Overnight Shelter Plan, the Mission opens its chapel area and operates an overflow shelter to care for those who cannot find shelter at other

facilities. This means more meals, more clothing... more of everything. Your gift today will help make a big difference and encourage these men, women and children to make permanent changes in their lives.

As one guest said recently, "The Mission really gets you on the right track!" Please help us transform even more lives now, and during the Easter season, by using the enclosed envelope or making a gift online at www.CVRM.org. Thank you!

“God Brought Us Here!”

Sometimes a family can survive the loss of one job. But when both husband and wife work for the same company, a downturn in business can be disastrous.

That’s exactly what happened to Kelly and his wife when the recession hit and a local polo club started making cuts in their staff. With rent due and utilities to pay, Kelly began looking for another position. “I figured I have turf management experience and there are thousands of golf courses out here, so I wasn’t too worried.”

But after making calls to more than 75 courses, Kelly discovered that everyone was “tightening their belts.” With most of their money going for rent and bills, there wasn’t enough to buy food for themselves and their five-year-old daughter, Paige.

“We had heard from my wife’s sister that the Mission gave out food, so we came here to get a food box.” But their biggest worry was their daughter. “Paige came first. As long as she was fed, we were okay.”

“It all came crashing down.”

As their money ran out, the couple started thinking about what they were going to do if Kelly didn’t find work and they lost their home!

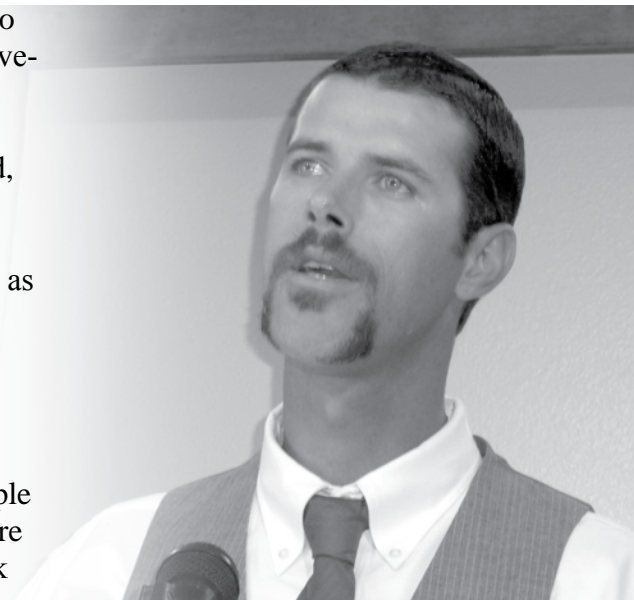
One of the first places they researched was the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission. They learned the Mission offered shelter and meals, and that it’s one of the few places in the Valley that provides housing for women and children!

Another thing that impressed them was a brochure Kelly’s wife received. He describes it as “a book of hope.” “I kept telling my wife, ‘I know God will point the way.’”

After much soul-searching, the family finally came to the Mission, even though Kelly would have to live in the men’s dorm and his wife and daughter in the family shelter.

“God wasn’t going to let us down.”

Kelly found work as a welder and they began saving money. They also began attending a local church. “We were getting filled with the Word of God, and that’s when I started thinking about joining the New Life Program at the Mission so that Jesus could really become the cornerstone and foundation of our family.”



Today, Kelly is a New Life Program graduate and is on staff at CVRM as a driver. His wife, Shannon, is employed full-time and they have moved into their own place. Their daughter, Paige, is enjoying her new school. “God has opened so many doors for me and my wife. We’re blessed by what the Mission has done – they’ve opened their hearts and their hands, and if I ever have another problem in my life I wouldn’t hesitate to come back.”

Become a Fan of CVRM

The Coachella Valley Rescue Mission is on Facebook! You can now be up-to-the-minute on special announcements, upcoming events or urgent needs at CVRM.

facebook

You can find us at www.facebook.com/CVRescueMission. Sign up to become a fan and you will receive important, live information from the Mission.

This is a great way to find out what’s happening at the Mission and to share your passion for helping the hurting and homeless with others.

Easter Needs List

- Ham
- Potatoes
- Baked beans
- Bacon
- Eggs
- Rolls
- Butter
- Paper plates
- Napkins
- Plastic cutlery
- Drink mix

Donations can be dropped off at 47-518 Van Buren Street, Indio. Please call Linda Garland at (760) 347-351, ext. 221 or visit CVRM.org for more information.

“Grace to Go”

How often have you seen a homeless person on the street and wanted to do more than drop a few coins into an outstretched hand?

Now you can, with a “Grace to Go” bag. It’s filled with nutritious, easy-to-eat foods and directions to the Mission. They cost just \$1.10 each!



According to Executive Director Darla Burkett, this idea came from a dedicated donor who has so far provided the funds for the food and bags.

You can find “Grace to Go” bags at local churches and in the cars of Mission donors and volunteers. In fact, the program has become so popular that we’re looking to expand.

You can help by picking up a couple of “Grace to Go” bags at the Mission or by adding a small extra gift to your next donation. Just \$5.50 will provide five “Grace to Go” bags and the encouragement people need to make more permanent changes in their lives!

Project Wishbone

We made it through Christmas, and what a wonderful Christmas it was! We wanted to make Christmas joyful for the Valley’s most needy children and their parents. With the help of you, our wonderful Christmas angels, we were able to provide toys for over 5,500 children on Christmas Day!

You also helped us provide over 3,700 Christmas dinners, and you “adopted” over 600 children and 50 families from our “Giving Tree”



program. Without your compassion and generosity, we could not have done this. We want to extend our most sincere “thank you” to those of you who helped make this possible. For more information on this annual Mission event, visit www.CVRM.org or call (760) 347-3512.

The 7th Annual Golf Tournament

The Coachella Valley Rescue Mission’s 7th Annual Charity Golf Tournament was held January 18 amid towering palm trees, glistening lakes and lush emerald fairways at Palm Valley Country Club.

We began the morning with a continental breakfast, a chance to peruse our silent auction items and a shotgun start at 8 AM. We were graced with Al “Mr. 59” Geiberger’s presence once again to man our putting contest. When the golfers returned, we enjoyed

a fabulous lunch and our live silent auction, which included some fantastic items.

It was a fun-filled day with many of our friends and supporters. On behalf of Executive Director Darla Burkett, Golf Director Bill Heck and the Board of Directors, we say a very hardy “thank you” to everyone who helped make this year a success! For more information on next year’s Golf Tournament, visit www.CVRM.org or call (760) 3457-3512.



Enclosed is my gift to provide meals, shelter and care at Easter and throughout the year:

- \$16.92 to help feed and care for 9 people
- \$26.32 to help feed and care for 14 people
- \$50.76 to help feed and care for 27 people
- \$_____ to help feed and care for as many as possible
- I’m also enclosing an extra \$5.50 to fill 5 “Grace to Go” bags

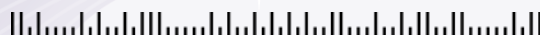
- Bill my credit card
- VISA MC AMEX DISC

CREDIT CARD # _____ CIV/SEC # _____

EXP. DATE _____ PHONE # _____

Donate online at www.CVRM.org, or call 760-347-3512

Coachella Valley Rescue Mission
P.O. Box 10660
Indio, CA 92202-2564



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