



THANKSGIVING2016

a publication of COACHELLA VALLEY RESCUE MISSION

# A NEW DAWN

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**Jesse was  
preparing for a  
life in ministry,  
but a secret battle  
with depression  
led him to alcohol,  
drugs, and  
hopelessness...  
until he found  
a new life at  
Coachella Valley  
Rescue Mission.**

*Thank you for saving the lives  
of people like Jesse!*  
*~DB*



## A MESSAGE FROM DARLA

"I thank God for leading me to the Mission."

**"The Mission saved my life!"**

"If it weren't for the Mission, I'd be dead."

We praise God every day for bringing men and women to our door to begin new lives: Lives without addiction. Lives free of poverty and abuse. Lives now filled with grace.

More often than not, these transformations start with a simple meal, just like the 18,000 being served in the month leading up to Thanksgiving.

**We also praise God for you.**

This ministry – the meals, the shelter and the life-saving programs – is only possible with your support.

We praise you for fulfilling Christ's command to feed, shelter and care for brothers and sisters in need. And, we share with you His promise: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me."



*Darla Burkett*

Darla Burkett  
Executive Director

# "God met me here."



Jesse was attending seminary, on his way to becoming a pastor, but he was harboring a secret. "I was struggling with depression," he says. "And I didn't really understand my faith. I had the knowledge, but my heart was vacant."

Jesse began using drugs and alcohol to numb his pain, left the seminary, and moved home with his family. "I couldn't function. **I couldn't even take showers or brush my teeth.**"

**"I was suicidal."**

For several years, Jesse was in and out of psych wards and rehabs, successfully completing the last rehab and moving into a sober living house. "I was clean for a year, but a lot of important things hadn't changed," he

says. "I was still miserable."

It was then Jesse came to Coachella Valley Rescue Mission's New Life Program, and got to the root of his problems. "I'd always dealt with my feelings by taking the victim way out, but I talked about them here, and **my mindset changed drastically.**"

Through chapel and spiritual mentoring, Jesse also began to heal and grow in his relationship with the Lord. "I began leading worship, singing songs I'd sung 10 years ago but, this time, I wasn't just playing the music. It was for God."

Jesse has graduated, and moved into his own apartment. "When I got to CVRM, I was bankrupt emotionally and spiritually, but God met me here and people poured into me," he says. **"I'm not who I was."**

