





We THANK YOU for your prayers and support of the VRM for the past 30 Years!

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Visalia Rescue Mission Summer 2011 Issue No. 2

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Our Purpose, Vision & Focus



Twenty-eleven continues to move with great progress at the Visalia Rescue Mission. Activities continue to draw attention to the Mission as we address

many of the concerns regarding homelessness in the Central Valley; with projects like the Community Center construction, Four-plex transitional housing and the Oval Park: Project Halo. We are preparing to better address the needs of those whom the Mission serves.

Our purpose, vision and focus remain the same: "HOPE AND RESTORATION THROUGH JESUS CHRIST."

We are adapting to better meet the needs of this community. In doing so, we will not withdraw our commitment to that purpose. I have learned a lot about homelessness in the ten years I have been at the Visalia Rescue Mission. I have yet to arrive at the place where we are addressing all of those who have needs. It takes a collaborative effort on behalf of numerous agencies, not just the Visalia Rescue Mission, to serve the local homeless community.

Thank you for helping address these ongoing needs and I ask for your prayers as we seek to be great stewards, ministers and an overall good witness for the Lord.

Thank you and God Bless you!

In Christ,
DL - John 10:10



LIKE US!!!



ON GOING ITEMS AT VRM!

Food Drives • Clothing Drives
Community Center
Chapel Construction
Volunteer Opportunities • Events
Donations • Oval Park • Garden
Distribution Center
RECOVERY • LIFE CHANGE • HOPE

Special Guest Speaker
Will Graham



July:

-ALL MONTH: Grocery Outlet Food Drive/Donation Drive-proceeds go to VRM!

August:

-FRIDAY 19TH: Golf Skills Challenge. Valley Oaks Golf Course, Visalia, CA. Tee-off at 12:30. Ends at 5PM-dinner and prizes. Shotgun starts at 9AM.

-HAPPENING NOW through the first week in August-book/toy drive at Borders in Visalia-Mooney Blvd/Sequoia Mall.



-TUESDAY 30TH: 30th Anniversary Banquet: Featuring Will Graham

(grandson of Billy Graham)
First Assembly Church 3737 S. Akers.
Doors open at 6PM.
Dinner served at 6:30PM Catered by Fugazzi's. \$30.00 per ticket/\$210 table (8).
Call 559-740-4178 or e-mail: jessica@visaliarescue.org

VISALIA RESCUE MISSION

30th Anniversary Banquet

TUESDAY AUGUST 30TH

Doors open at 6pm | Dinner at 6:30pm

FEATURING:

Will Graham

(grandson of Billy Graham)

LOCAL ARTIST:

Travis Aicklen & Co.
First Assembly Church, Visalia
Catered by Fugazzi's



visalia
rescue mission

(559) 740-4178

www.vrmhope.org

Golf Skills Challenge

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19TH

AT VALLEY OAKS

Check-in is at 7:45am
9am shotgun start
Lunch to follow in the clubhouse
Teams of 4
Prizes at every challenge
Sponsorships available!

Help the Visalia Rescue Mission
change lives

Jessica@visaliarescue.org



Watch a VRM Video:
www.vimeo.com/VRM

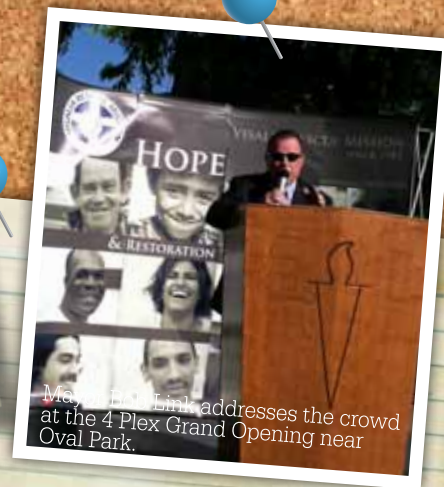


Join our e-mail list to stay up-to-date on all Mission events!
Email jessica@visaliarescue.org

SHOP. DONATE. CHANGE LIVES.



NEWS AND UPDATES



Will Graham addresses the crowd at the 4 Plex Grand Opening near Oval Park.

The Lincoln Oval: Project Halo

- What some have dubbed "the most studied" piece of property in Visalia, is going from the study phase into the action phase. As you read this update, architects are working on the layout for a clean and safe Oval Park.
- The building in the Oval, will be upgraded with minor changes to accommodate a service-oriented facility. The renovated building will be designed to **connect people in need, with community and faith-based services offered by the many organizations and churches of Visalia who have a "heart for the Oval."**
- Various churches and organizations have already stepped-up to the plate and are contacting us to see how they can become involved.

Contact us to get your church/group involved!

Help make a difference at the Oval!

- Our objective is not to duplicate the services of the Visalia Rescue Mission at the Oval, but to identify and direct those in need to VRM's new facilities, three blocks away.

Contact: Nick Anthony at: 559-901-0819
or Jessica at: 559-740-4178
Jessica@visaliarescue.org



TESTIMONY OF A LIFE CHANGED: VRM RECOVERY PROGRAM

I was born in Taft, CA and was the only child in a family with my mom, my grandma, and my uncle and I was spoiled rotten by all of them but it was my grandma "Gee-gee" that loved me unconditionally. I spent a lot of time with Gee-gee and she's the one who taught me to pray and it was with her that I felt safe.

When I was five, **my life as I knew it changed**, my mom got married and we moved to Idaho. My new dad drank a lot and was very abusive to my mom and to me and I was in constant fear of what he would do next. By the time I was seven I started stealing and smoking my mom's marijuana. The only times I would feel okay was when I got to spend the summers with Gee-gee. But I started to feel like a ping-pong ball being bounced back and forth when all I wanted was to live with Gee-gee. My life became a nightmare because of the on-going abuse and it didn't take long before I started to act out. I was sent to a continuation school where I was always in trouble and eventually got kicked out in the middle of my 6th grade year.

By the time I was eleven I was **experimenting with alcohol and harder drugs, stealing cars and breaking into houses with my friends**. I was out of control...my mom couldn't handle me and neither could Ge-Gee. So my uncle, who was now living in Mariposa, stepped in and I went to live with him. I was now living in the middle of no-where which made it harder to get in trouble but I liked living with my uncle, he was firm but loving and he brought structure into my life. I remember my uncle used to take me fishing as a reward when he saw I was being good. I brought my grades up from straight F's to B's & C's, but my uncle's marriage was falling apart so I was put into foster care half-way through 7th grade. I thought I was doing good but I was being sent away...I didn't understand. The rejection I felt drove me to methamphetamine and 'slamming' dope.

I was really messed up for a few years and don't really remember much but I know I got pregnant when I was 13 and had an abortion. By the time I was 16 I was pregnant

again and ended up marrying the father

of my son. My life started to change...I stopped partying and was becoming a responsible person and living a "normal" life. My husband and I had decided to live close to Gee-gee who was very sick so I could take care of her...things were going pretty good, my husband had a great job, we had a car, we were paying our bills every month and then, soon after my second son was born, Gee-gee died. I was 22 and felt my whole world had crumbled. My husband and I both went back to the drugs and it was so bad that my husband left and then my mom took our kids.

Prior to Gee-gee's death my mom and dad had moved to Modesto and turned their lives over to God so I knew my kids were safe but I wanted them back. Mom said she would return my kids if I went to a rehab to get help so I did. I successfully completed a drug rehab program, started going to church, got baptized with my kids and got back with my husband. We were living the "normal" life again but I was miserable. My husband started drinking and food became my drug of choice and I managed to eat my way to 500 pounds. I had gastric bypass surgery but couldn't resist the pain pills I was given so my addiction began again.

I just needed to get away... so I left, "boy was that a mistake". I walked out on my husband and kids in search of happiness. I began staying with friends and when I got tired of "house hopping" I went to the streets. I remember my first night, I was burnt out, it was raining, I had one blanket and I was crying because I didn't know where I was going to sleep. Then, I started praying and soon after that prayer I found a small dry space next to a building and crawled into it and fell asleep. I survived the night which for me was an accomplishment since I had a fear of the dark. The next day I went to a park and met some homeless people who took me to their camp, shared what they had with me (cigarettes & vodka), and taught me the ropes. For seven years the homeless community became my family.

Continue on next page >



I can't explain it but I grew to love living homeless and I was good at it, but that life ended when I was arrested for stealing. One day I just snapped...I needed transportation so I decided to "jack" a car. I grabbed a lady's car keys and demanded her money but as I was getting into her car I noticed a child in the back seat and...I couldn't do it, I dropped the keys and took off with the money. It didn't take long for the police to find me and take me to jail. While in jail I was drawn to this man, Chaplin John, who made regular visits to the jail to teach the love of Jesus. **He encouraged me to check out the House of Hope if I was serious about changing my life.**

Although jail wasn't my residence of choice, I did get reconnected with God and made the decision to turn my life around. Becky from the House of Hope interviewed me at the jail and said I met the program criteria and I should contact the House of Hope as soon as I was released. As my release

date arrived I had no idea as to how I would get to the House of Hope so I hit my knees and prayed. Thirty minutes after my prayer Chaplin John showed up at the jail to let me know that transportation to the House of Hope had been arranged for me. The very next morning a woman arrived with a bag of clothes and drove me to the House of Hope.

I have been at the House of Hope since April and my life is changing. I have been given the opportunity to learn things that will help me in my recovery and to grow in my relationship with God. **I get up excited every day and I am so grateful to the House of Hope and all they do for women like me.**

~ Robin

Recovery Program for Men and Women
Our Spiritual Training and Educational Program (S.T.E.P.) was developed to assist those who seek to escape the slavery of addiction and sin. The core program is nine months with additional aftercare services available for up to a year following graduation.



Men's Program: Updated!

In the 30 year history of the VRM, we have gone through many changes. Though staff, facilities and resources have evolved, the goal has remained the same, Hope and Restoration Through Jesus Christ. We are continuously looking for new and more effective ways to provide life change through a relationship with Christ. We recently came to the conclusion that the only way that would happen would be by providing more of Him, and less of us.

Our new recovery program format does just that. Our once six month program is now

twelve. What once were a handful of Bible and 12 step studies is now an intensive structured spiritual formation and life skills program. Men who graduate this program will possess a solid spiritual foundation to go along with new found sobriety. In addition, GED completion, job training and transitional housing opportunities provide the final step to full re-entry into society. Ultimately however the answer lies with Christ and Christ alone. **He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.** John 3:30
- Alex Reeder: Men's Program Director

SHOP. DONATE. CHANGE LIVES!

Rescued Treasures Thrift Store



LOCATION / HOURS:
2523 S. MOONEY BLVD.
559.733.3180
MON. - SAT. 9 - 8 PM

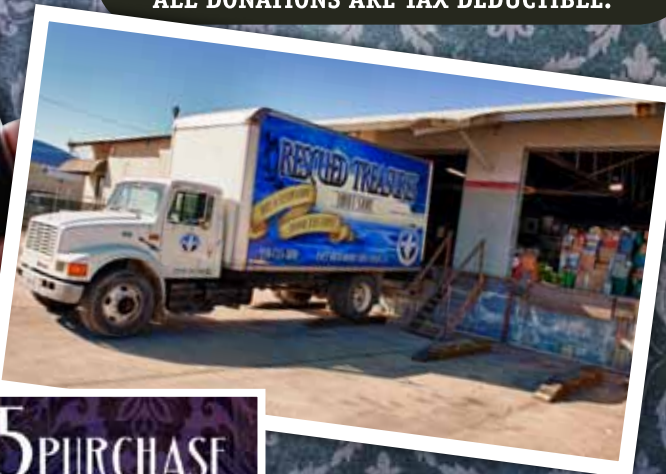
SPECIALS POSTED WEEKLY!

WEEKLY IN-STORE SALES!

Drop off at any of our thrift store locations
or 500 E. Race St. (Admin Office/Warehouse)

**Also available for
FREE Donation Pickup
559-733-3180**

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.



\$3 OFF \$15 PURCHASE
\$5 OFF \$25 PURCHASE
\$10 OFF \$50 PURCHASE

DAILY DEALS!

SHOP. DONATE. CHANGE LIVES!

Simply Chic Boutique

NOW OPEN ON MAIN STREET!



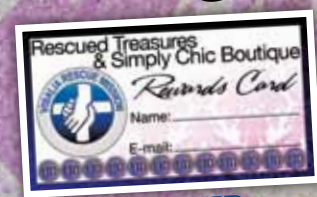
LOCATION / HOURS:
100 E. MAIN STREET
559.735-3184
TUE. - WED. 10 - 5:30 PM
THURS. - SAT. 10 - 6 PM



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BETTER PRICES!**



Thrifty Thursdays!
**Refresh your wardrobe,
Shop Local
& Tax Free!**



**GET YOUR
REWARDS CARD
TODAY!**



Volunteer Opportunities visalia rescue mission

"I got involved in the project because I am in the vegetable seed and transplant industry and I believe strongly in business giving back to the community. The VRM is doing a fantastic job at helping people turn their lives around through a Christ-centered approach, I am doing a small part by helping here at the garden. The possibilities are endless, all we need is your help!" - Ron Colburn



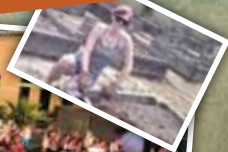
Ron Colburn

Serve a meal



Work in our Community Garden

Zumba Drive at Inshape Sport



Target Stores Volunteer



WWW.VRMHOPE.ORG

Stop by our office at volunteer application online!

- Warehouse: Sorting Donations
- Distribution Center: Handout Food Boxes and Clothing
- Kitchen: Prepare And Serve Community Meals
- Thrift Store: Restocking Merchandise, Consistent Cashier
- Simply Chic Boutique: Restock, Cashier, Meet and Greet Customers
- Feed the Hungry Garden: Weed, Donate Supplies, Prune, Plant, Pick, Decorate...

Contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Janelle, for a tour of the Mission and more information on a variety of volunteer opportunities and needs!

VRM Garden Needs List:

- Weed Whacker
- Rototiller
- Gardening Gloves
- Seeds
- Fruit Trees
- Veggies (to plant)
- Weed Killer
- Shovels
- Large Trees (for shade)
- Flowers/Plants/Etc

THE VISALIA RESCUE MISSION'S COMMUNITY GARDEN: SOWING SEEDS FOR A RICH HARVEST

-BY DANIEL RICE - GARDEN VOLUNTEER

In its own timeless way, God's word remains relevant through its symbolic power, with every page directing believers toward an understanding of the rejuvenating power of Jesus' life, death, burial, and resurrection. As an organization that puts its faith wholeheartedly in God's message of redemption, what better way to symbolize the emergence of new life than a garden? Here at the Visalia Rescue Mission, over an acre of land behind our warehouse at the corner of Race and Santa Fe has been dedicated to the reclamation of dry, rocky soil, repurposing it to put food in the VRM's kitchens, beauty before our eyes, and God's promise in our hearts.

After three years of faithfully repairing the soil with the help of area donors and volunteers, the VRM's Community Garden has begun to bear fruit and show promise for the future.

In Levitical law, the Hebrews were instructed to let a fruit tree mature for three years before allowing it to bear fruit, an exciting analogy we hope corresponds with the investment our generous volunteers and donors have made to the garden.

Initially the brainchild of a VRM volunteer, the garden became a VRM project. In 2010, VRM volunteer coordinator Janelle Macom began oversight of the garden project, enlisting area farmers, irrigation advisors, and other business leaders to help establish healthier soil via an extensive irrigation project. In early 2011, the garden began to acquire volunteer leadership and project coordination with the help of John Schaap, Meg Svensson, and Steven and Jackie

Potorke, who assisted irrigation expert Eric Limas in completing the subterranean irrigation system.

As of today, the garden now consists of several dozen permanent fruit trees, including apples, pears, plums, peaches, nectarines, and apricots. Other permanent plants include several blackberry bushes and two rows of grapes. A beautification effort has been undertaken in an attempt to create an oasis in the urban setting of Visalia's east downtown, and includes flowering vines planted along the chain-link fence of the property and plans for seating and shade. The garden's raised beds consist of tomatoes, pumpkins, zucchini, yellow squash, peppers, green beans, kale, cabbages, lettuces, leeks, eggplant, and a variety of melons.

In the interest of appealing to community investment, family plots are also available for volunteers to come and claim several rows of our subterranean-irrigated land, with seeds, tools, and fertilizer available from our donated supply. There are also plans for educational programs to be held at the garden, including lessons about composting and horticultural techniques. It is the prayer of garden coordinators that these opportunities will be reinvested into creating an abundant harvest for the residents of the VRM, with the bulk of produce devoted to supplying the VRM's kitchens with fresh produce. **There is an immediate need for volunteers to help maintain the garden, as well as a list of supplies currently needed for donation. For volunteer and donation information, please contact Janelle Macom at: 559.740.4178 or janelle@visaliarescue.org**

Honors & Memorials

IN MEMORY OF:

Joyce Bateman

Martha Ruddy

Rose Shuklian

Ernest & Sandra Kerr

Donald Lynch

Kenneth & Laudine Oliphant

Richard & Charlotte Clore

Donald & Virginia Daetweiler

Bob & Sheila Hefner

Jack & Jo Barrett

Margaret Broyles

Cliff & Bonnie Stahl

Bob & Geri Rios

Dwight & Fayrene Hofer

Billie Quin

Marilyn Schmidt

Don & Esther Stahl

Keith & Judy Hash

David & Betty Miller

Drucilla Owens

George & Jane Tucker

Norman & Cliffogean Morrison

Beverly Brown

Michael Brown

Patrick Brown

Eula Mae Hash

Bobby & Ramona Fowler

Jerry & Katie John

Mr. & Mrs. Keith Sprague

Robert & Mary Line

Dr. O.L. & Ann Franklin

Charles & Ethel Vezel

Galen & Claire Grant

Beulah "Bennie" Parker

Bob & Sheila Hefner

Jess Washington

Dwight & Fayrene Hofer

Joseph V. Leal

Manuel & Theresa Espinola

Joseph B. & Lucille Leal

Jacqueline Freitas

Manuel & Vitalina Borges

Edna Scott

Margaret Broyles

Randy Zeeb

David & Betty Miller

Marty & Jenny Zeeb

Yoko Shearer

William Shearer Sr.

James A. Davies

Judy A. Davies

Honors & Memorials

Annette (A.J.) Vanderham

David Borges Farms

Elmer Thomas Smith

Ron & Tanya Cochran

Karen Lambdin

Thelma Jensen

Nora Lambdin

Frances Marie Van Order

Manuel & Vitalina Borges

Anthony (Tony) Azevedo

Deborah Rohan

Geneva Bedford

Walnut Park Retirement

Home Residents

Michael Heatherly

Margaret Broyles

IN HONOR OF:

Helene Oliver

Bean & Marine Te Velde

Ruth Smith

Michael & Sara Knight

Joan Chambers

J. & N. Mann

Wilma Carrillo

Martha Jean Ruddy

Alton Williams

Marianne Gilbert

Attorney At Law

Elfrieda Rodriguez

Florence Kenzi

Cathy Black



MEMORIAL GIFT CARD

Thank you for your gift that will help so many in need of food and shelter. When you send your memorial or in honor gift to the Mission, you will receive a tax-deductible receipt. A card will be mailed promptly to the In-honor of family or the friend being honored, telling them of the gift. Please mail your memorial and in honor gifts to:

Visalia Rescue Mission • P.O. Box 109 • Visalia, CA 93279

Name:	_____
Address:	_____
Phone:	_____
In Honor of:	_____
In Memory of:	_____
Check Amount:	_____ Charge my Visa/Master Card # _____ Exp _____ CIV _____
Send Acknowledgment to:	_____ Name: _____
Address:	_____ E-mail: _____



Give a Gift of HOPE!

Opportunities to Give

Now you have the opportunity to continue your legacy of compassionate care in perpetuity by making a Legacy of Hope planned gift. Why do we call it a legacy? Giving beyond your lifetime sends a strong message to your loved ones and peers; As well as to future generations of homeless men, women and children served by the VRM. That's quite a legacy! Leave a Legacy of Hope:

Memorials and Honorary Gifts

A great way to memorialize or honor someone you love. Make a gift in his or her name to the Visalia Rescue Mission.

Gifts of Life Insurance

Making the Visalia Rescue Mission a beneficiary to part or all of your life insurance policy is a simple way to make a significant gift. You may receive a tax deduction for the cash surrender value, reducing your tax liability in the year of the gift.

HELP CHANGE LIVES!



LIKE the VRM on Facebook! Stay up-to-date with our events, needs, volunteer opportunities and PRAISE reports!

DONATE to the VRM when you sell your used items on EBay! A portion of the proceeds can come directly to the Mission!



Make a donation to the Rescue Mission when purchasing event tickets for the Fox Theatre. To donate, request that a \$1.00 donation be added to tickets on your order. That's it!



Portion of proceeds benefit VRM.

With one swipe of your card 3% of your total purchase at SaveMart and FoodMaxx goes to the Visalia Rescue Mission! Call to get yours today!

HOW YOU CAN HELP: VRM WISH LIST

• CLOTHES HAMPER

- HAND & BATH TOWELS
- TWIN MATTRESS
- WHITE TWIN BED SHEETS
- PILLOWS
- BLANKETS
- DISH TOWELS
- CD PLAYER FOR CHAPEL

• VACUUM CLEANERS

- CANNED VEGETABLES
- CANNED MEAT
- SOUPS • POTS & PANS
- PANCAKE MIX & SYRUP
- FLOUR & SUGAR
- PEANUT BUTTER
- FORKLIFT - BALER

• VANS & VEHICLES

- HOT CEREALS
- VITAMINS
- WASHER, DRYER
- CANNED FRUIT
- CEILING FANS
- REFRIGERATORS

Buy Ticket & Request Donation to VRM.



MEALS AT THE MISSION

In 2010 the Visalia Rescue Mission served over 183,000 meals out of our kitchen. We will turn no one away hungry and through each meal that is served we spread Christ's HOPE and LOVE and seek to transform lives of the lost.



Dear Friends of the Mission:

Celebrate with us! 30 years of ministry at The Visalia Rescue Mission. God is so good!! Each day I am amazed at the work He is doing here through His faithful servants – donors, volunteers, staff and board members.

I am privileged and blessed to have been a part of the Mission board for 11 of the past 12 years. Much has changed since 1999. New facilities, new services, a growing, competent and effective staff –

and most important – hundreds of lives have been changed through the HOPE AND RESTORATION that only Jesus Christ can provide!

We are just months away from completing our new Community Center, where we will be able to min-

ister to the homeless and hurting during the day in new and exciting ways. Partnering with the City of Visalia, we have recently acquired and opened a new transitional housing facility. We are blessed to live and work in Visalia – a community that cares about its people and demonstrates that care in tangible ways. We so appreciate our city leaders and staff and the relationships we have developed with them.

Mark your calendar now for our 30th Year Celebration Banquet, which will take place Tuesday, August 30, 2011.

Thank you for your continuing faithful support of The Visalia Rescue Mission. This ministry is alive and effective because of YOU – our donors and volunteers!

May God richly bless you as you bless others through your gifts,

Randy Vogt
Chairman of the Board

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AT VALLEY OAKS

Check-in is at 7:45am

9am shotgun start

Lunch to follow in the clubhouse

Teams of 4

Prizes at every challenge

Sponsorships available!

Help the Visalia Rescue Mission
change lives



Because You Care...

...we're able to serve more and more.



Board of Directors

Mark Shelton
Wayne Ingram

John Anderson
Linda LaFleur
Randy Vogt
Mike Allen
Trish Burr
John Koster
Murray Minnema
Mark Vanciel
Scott Bosler
Marc Schuil
Jacque Baxley
Brad Reenders

Danny Little -Executive Director

As of July 2011:

Meals Served

91,252

Bed Nights

18,373

Program Graduates

18

Chapel Attendance

13,983

Food Boxes Given

1,240



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