



# CENTRAL COAST Rescue Mission

An Outreach ministry of



August 2015

Changing Lives for Good

## Purpose Prevails over Pain - Christ over the Bottle



Darren had much to live for; great job, kids, and a wife. Darren's wife died in 2004 and everything went downhill from there. He started drinking to remove the pain, but little did he know that he would lose everything else - family, jobs, and even a place to live. Darren needed help and when he turned to the Central Coast Rescue Mission for that help, he found a healing relationship with Jesus Christ. Finding peace each day is still a task. Overcoming a deep sense of loss is still painful, and trying to answer so many questions racks his mind each day. But, with the help of the other residents at the mission and the volunteers who mentor, pray, and listen to Darren, he is able to live with the hope that his life has purpose and his pain is a thing of the past.

## A Perfect Fit

Erminia came to us as a volunteer through Welfare to Work. She was returning to work after three years without a job and she was indeed looking for a change. Erminia had shopped at the Central Coast Super Thrift Store before and liked her experience. She especially liked that the store is for the purpose of changed lives. She felt in her heart this was the place for her to work, so she was delighted when Social Services placed her at the store. She is an excellent team leader for the other volunteers, and she provides excellent customer service.



## Leading through Service – Like Mother, Like Daughter



Melissa and her daughter Gracie are faithful volunteers with the mission. Gracie doesn't like to miss an outreach, even during her summer vacation! It's amazing to see an individual at a young age with such compassion and a heart to serve those in need. We are blessed to have them on our team.

If you would like more information about volunteering, please contact Audrey Perry, Volunteer Coordinator at (805) 357-1208 or email her at [aperry@erescuemission.org](mailto:aperry@erescuemission.org). You can also find information at our website [www.ccrescuemission.org](http://www.ccrescuemission.org).

# My Parents Raised Me Better Than This

My name is Sidney. I was born and raised in Ventura, CA. I had a pretty good upbringing. My father was a U.S. Marine and a veteran from Desert Storm, also a LAPD officer. I guess you could say my dad was pretty stern with both me and my little sister, mostly with me. I was always pretty rebellious growing up, but I still managed to pass all my classes and graduate Ventura High school in 2002. I didn't party much or drink while growing up. But it was after high school that my life took a sudden turn. Growing up I was an active kid with skateboarding, surfing, dancing, and drawing. That was my life. At 19, I got a DUI and that's when the beginning of my downfall started. I still managed to work and take care of my responsibilities and at the age of 21 became a father.

Life was okay until I was about 23 and I broke my leg skateboarding and got my first taste of Vicodin, a pleasurable painkiller. By the time I was 26, I was addicted to all the opiates I could get my hands on. By 27, my addiction progressed to the use of heroin. And that's where everything really hit the fan. I lost a good job at Nissan as a transmission tech. I stopped my work tattooing. I lost my vehicles and all my expensive toys that I had worked so hard for. Eventually I lost the most important thing in my life, my relationships with my family.

From then until now my life has been a rollercoaster, going from rehab to another and from program to program. I was burning all my bridges! My resources were gone!

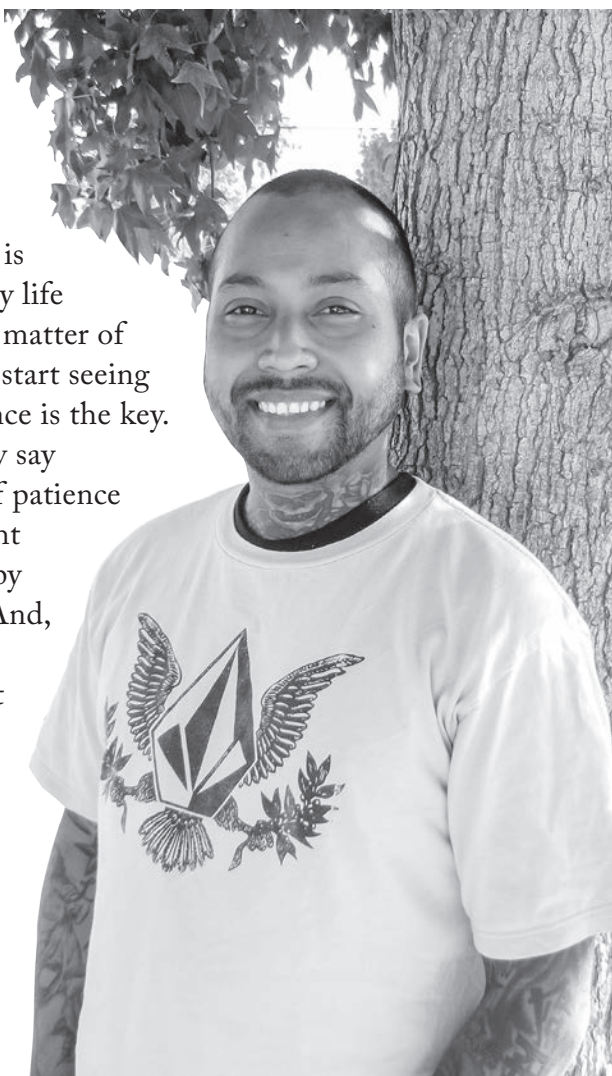
Eventually I found myself not having a place to go and staying at a shelter. That's when shame hit me. My parents raised me better than that. I felt defeated, hopeless, and like I had nothing to live for. I found myself at a psychiatric hospital and it hit me, "I have

to do something different." And that's when I heard about the rescue mission and found myself in Santa Maria... Who would've thought?

That's when I realized that following God's will would probably work, because apparently mine wasn't. I have humbled myself and still work on building a relationship with the Lord. All I can do is try, and so far I am doing the next right thing.

Now, almost two months sober, I feel better about myself.

I'm feeling healthier and growing spiritually. I really feel like the Lord is working in my life and it's just a matter of time before I start seeing results. Patience is the key. I can honestly say I have a lot of patience in my life right now. I'm happy where I am. And, even though things are not where I want them to be, the Lord will work his miracles and replace all that I have lost.



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