

THE TIDE

CENTRAL COAST RESCUE MISSION

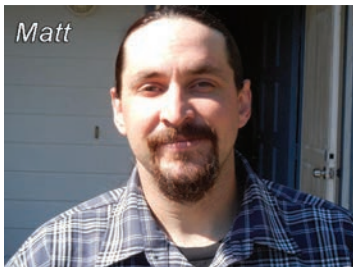
An Outreach Ministry of



December 2015

TO CELEBRATE THE SAVIOR'S BIRTH!

Four of our Life Recovery Program members wish to say "Merry Christmas" and share why this will be a very special Christmas for each of them:



Matt

I'm looking forward to celebrating Christmas with both of my families this year with a new outlook on life.



Sidney

I'm looking forward to celebrating Christmas with my mother this year; I have not seen my mother for almost a year... and certainly not in as good shape as I am today.



Carver

I'm looking forward to celebrating Jesus Christ with a new lease on life and a new understanding of who Jesus is.



Ernie

I'm looking forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus with my grandkids.

GRACE: AN UNEXPECTED GIFT

My name is Anthony Lang and I am 23 years old. I was born in Redwood City, but moved to the Santa Maria area when I was about five years old. I had a good upbringing and didn't get into too much trouble until I was about 18. I started hanging around with the wrong people and that landed me in jail. For different reasons, I kept ending up in jail and never really seemed to care or change; even though my behavior was getting worse.



It got bad when a very important person in my life, my grandmother, died on July 10, 2014. I started using drugs and that made all my cares in the world go away. I went to jail again, that is when I realized I needed help.

I got ahold of the Central Coast Rescue Mission and had an interview to get into the Life Recovery Program. Since I have been at the mission I have learned how to solve conflict and problems in a healthy way. I have learned life skills by going to work. I have grown in my patience.

Most important though, is I am building my relationship with the Lord. I heard the Gospel preached at church that Christ took away my sins and sorrows. That's what I wanted most of all!

I have started getting involved at church for the first time in my life, and now my sister has been going with me. I am learning to trust God and focus on what He is doing in my life each day. My life is continuing to change for the better because of the love and faith I have gained in God.

KIDS, BEANS, RICE, AND JOY ALL OVER

The SOS Monday Outreach has expanded to two sites on Monday evening – in partnership with Coast Valley Ministries at the United Methodist in Santa Maria and at 620 West Alvin in Santa Maria. Two sites – same great meal with awesome volunteers, ministry, and lots of joy; especially in the kids' eyes.



CLOSE TO HOME

When a group from Hancock College in Santa Maria volunteered at an outreach at the Central Coast Rescue Mission, they didn't expect that their project would hit so close to home for two of their group members.

When the students finished dishing out a hot meal for about 60 people, including many children, we reconvened to debrief about their experience. Each student shared how they enjoyed serving and what they liked most about it. When it was Magaly's turn to share, she explained how serving in the apartment complex was an incredible experience for her because she had grown up in the very same apartments! Much to our surprise, another member of the group, Luis, shared that he had lived there for some time as child as well.

Magaly was so moved by the experience, she asked if she could come back every week to volunteer. Her interactions with the children, and seeing the smiles on their faces, moved her to action beyond her class project.

In fact, it was a very moving moment because this young woman, who was a thriving college student on her way to do great things in the world, had grown up in this seemingly decrepit, low-income apartment complex. At first glance, we might judge the kids whom we serve as underprivileged or not having a bright future in front of them because of their family's circumstances. But here was Magaly, who had grown up in those very conditions and has a beautiful, bright education and future ahead of her. What a wonderful picture of truly giving back!



Magaly (second from the left) and Luis (far right) love giving back!