

## Making Progress



Sam

My name is Sam Daurio, I came to the Eureka Rescue Mission when I lost my place in town before COVID-19. The wonderful staff and New Life Program members have made my transition very seamless. With Gods love and the support of the staff, I am slowly putting my life back together. Having been quarantined for over a month has helped me attain sobriety, which has helped me to find a job and save money. God bless the Eureka Rescue Mission for their continued help and support.

Hello my name is Brendan Miller, I was living in a rented room in Ohio with my girlfriend and my girlfriend passed away in a car accident last September. This crushed me, unable to afford rent I ended up moving in with a friend here in Eureka. After moving here I ended up with crippling depression. Barely able to leave my bed because of my state of mind, I was unable to pay my rent and was asked to leave. I came to the Eureka Rescue Mission shortly after and mainly kept to myself, not comfortable with talking or interacting with anyone. The mission helped by providing me with food, shelter, showers and clothing and good fellowship in my time of need. Being on the streets could've made my mental state worse but the Mission gave me a place to recover as well as helping me be clean and sober. I was able to find part time employment and now I am able to save money for a place to rent. Currently I am looking for a second job.



Brendan



Leroy

Hi, my name is Leroy Sims, I have been struggling with addiction for most of my life which landed me in jail several times over the years. While struggling with my addiction I have been in and out of rehab programs since 2014. Lately I've been staying at the Eureka Rescue Mission because it offers me a safe and sober environment including a place of prayer. I am blessed because today I am employed at a local furniture company and my plans are to save up for transportation and a place to live. Thank you to the supporters of the Eureka Rescue Mission for helping me better my life and God bless you.

My name is Gerald Evans, I came from Siskiyou County where I was heavily involved in using methamphetamines which pushed me away from my family. In my addiction, I had burned a lot of bridges and it turned me into a person that nobody wanted to be around. I came to the Eureka Rescue Mission and am staying as a guest. Being at the Mission has been extremely supportive which has helped me stay grounded, drug free and connected to Christ. Since being here I have been volunteering at a local restaurant helping set up and tearing down their dining tables on a daily basis. The owners liked the way that I worked as a volunteer and gave me a chance at employment. I now have a fulltime job at that restaurant, have a roof over my head, am sober and I'm looking to have my own place soon. Thank you to the Eureka Rescue Mission and its supporters, they have a great staff and I am very grateful for them. God bless you all!



Gerald

# Eureka Rescue Mission

Rebuilding Broken Lives... One Life at a Time

# CHANGED LIVES

Serving Our Community Since 1967

## Proclaiming the Gospel in the Midst of the Storm



Women's Shelter Staff, Lori

Some have inquired as to whether we are holding evening chapel services at the shelters since COVID-19 has fallen upon us. The answer is absolutely yes! We had a small pause right at the onset due to all of the drastic changes that suddenly had to be implemented. Our average nightly occupancy at the Men's Shelter was between 60 to 70 men and we needed to figure out how to implement social distancing and quarantine measures handed down by the

Health Department. Our volunteer chapel service providers who came nightly through the month were notified that we could no longer allow those from the outside to come in, due to the possibility of spreading the virus. We most certainly don't want anyone to get sick. This left us with a bit of a challenge but when things seem impossible, God is always faithful to make a way, especially when it comes to sharing His message. We recruited staff, senior program members and graduates to step up to the podium and share their inspiration from God's word. It has been a very fruitful time since the pandemic hit and God has blessed those listening as well as those who have brought the evening message. Our numbers have dropped a bit from the nightly average but we have been receiving guests and new program members on a regular basis who have been screened for COVID and have tested negative. We have been holding evening chapel services at our Women and Children's Shelter as well. We are using staff to share the word but we aren't using program members simply because the ladies are few who are in the Women's New Life Program, we are still small but growing. Overall we have learned to adapt and overcome with the help of the Lord. Sharing His word is of the utmost importance, it is what we are all about, proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



Graduate Lucas Corwin



Graduate Robert Hagerman

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## For Many are Called, But Few are Chosen Matthew 22:14



Chris before Jesus

Chris Andrews was born in Auburn Ca, his mother was a secretary and his father was medically discharged from the Navy. When he was 3 years old his mom and dad divorced and he and his brother and sister stayed with their mother. His mother found a boyfriend and they moved in together with the kids which turned out all bad, her boyfriend physically abused him. Chris said that his older brother would fight back and his mother's boyfriend wouldn't hit girls so that left him to be the punching bag. The abuse got worse when Chris's brother turned 16 and moved out of the house. Chris dreamed of being a marine biologist when he grew up but due to his upbringing and suffering throughout his life, that dream fell by the wayside. When Chris was about 9 years old he turned to marijuana and alcohol to cover the pain that he was experiencing. Chris managed to graduate high school but unfortunately was introduced to methamphetamines while in school. Meth led to PCP, LSD and according to Chris, "Anything that was put in front of me, I did it."

Throughout his life Chris has worked various labor jobs but hasn't had any formal training in any particular trade. Drugs had taken over his life and he ultimately resorted to stealing anything that

he could to support his meth habit. In 2000, Chris got married and he and his wife had a beautiful baby boy. They were living in Bakersfield at the time and Chris was still using excessive amounts of methamphetamines and started suffering from meth induced psychosis. He and his wife and son moved to Eureka in 2004 and then moved back to Bakersfield in 2007. Life was hectic and unfortunately Chris and his wife divorced in 2007, Chris took custody of their son and moved back to Eureka to live with his mom who had moved to Eureka to take care of her mother who was ill. Chris was still using meth and his psychosis became worse which caused him to relinquish custody of his son back to his ex wife. During this time, Chris' grandmother passed away leaving he and his mother living together.

Sadly, Chris' mother was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and he became her caretaker. Chris became even more disturbed because of the meth psychosis and ultimately landed in jail because of it. After three months in jail, he was released and went right back to using meth, resulting in immediate psychosis once again. On August 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018, Chris was admitted into Humboldt County's Sempervirens 24-hour psychiatric facility for observation. This seemed like the end of the road for Chris but, little did he know, God had a plan for his life. On August 4<sup>th</sup> 2018, Chris was released from Sempervirens and could not return to his mothers' home but was escorted by Eureka Police Officers to the Eureka Rescue Mission. Chris decided to give it a shot in our New Life Program and shortly after, gave his life to Jesus Christ and became a born again Christian! Chris excelled in the program and immediately was given a heart of compassion by the Lord for the homeless population that we serve. He showed exemplary determination and even became a mentor for several other program members, helping them through difficult situations that they experienced.

Near his year mark for graduation, Chris decided that he needed to spend another year in the program to learn and grow more in Christ, and he did just that, a two year program. On September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020, Chris graduated the New Life Program. We asked Chris how the quality of his life is now, compared to his past. Chris said, "When I think about that question I cry. Who I am now is not who I was. Whom I belong to is Christ, praise His Holy Name! He is my sovereign God, my loving Father, my compassionate brother and my nurturer. Due to this chance, I have been able to take a break from life and gain something I've never had, faith, hope and the best love ever in my life. He is my Provider, my Friend, my Comforter, my Teacher. In His bosom I will lay my head forever. Now I know what life truly is, my life is hidden in Christ."

Chris' future plans are in the hands of the Lord and it seems that God may be getting him ready for ministry. We asked him what, if any, plans do you have? Chris said, "I would love to be an ordained minister, to have a congregation, even to be involved in the Eureka Rescue Mission ministry in some way. Maybe a Chaplain or something like that but I need to study to show myself approved unto God, a workman who needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth, 2 Timothy 2:15. I have done a lot of drugs and never applied myself but now things are different. I am now going to begin an internship at a church in Southern Humboldt and soon I will be receiving seminary credits for the Systematic Theology classes I have been taking. I am already scheduled to preach and teach for the next two weeks at my new church, I have the honor of preaching two Sundays. I have preached and shared at the Mission for evening chapel since COVID-19 has happened but I am still nervous, and blessed at the same time, to share in church."

We asked Chris if he wanted to say anything to you, our supporters, and he said, "I pray blessings over you and your families, thank you for your generous hearts. The problem with addiction, depression, anger etc. is that it's a relentless cycle that we can't just, "step off," because we don't know how we got on. In my case, childhood trauma, early drug addiction and victim becoming the victimizer is all I knew. Your support is crucial to those that so desperately need it but don't know how to change, and this furthers God's plan as well, so none shall perish. God is the very heart of this place, staff and the teachers are the bones and muscle that keeps this ministry moving. The guests and program members are the skin, the very expression of your support. You, of course, being the life supplying veins and arteries that God uses to pump His Spirit into this ministry which is built on His mercy and grace. Again, I can't thank you enough for supporting the Eureka Rescue Mission New Life Discipleship Program. God bless you all and may He keep you and your loved ones close to His heart, thank you again."



Chris after Jesu

## Blessed by the Lord

Leigh Waters, a woman with a background of many years of travel and journeys, came from an unstable and unloving upbringing. Interestingly, she prefers not to share much about her past because she said it is better for her healing process. We honor and respect that so we will speak of her new beginnings. Leigh came to the Mission one afternoon seeking nothing more than a hot meal which gave us an opportunity to share with her regarding all of the other services we provide. At that time she was not interested because she didn't trust anyone. However, over a period of a few weeks, Leigh and staff built a bond of trust and communication, which led to her taking advantage of our street outreach programs, which include showers, clean clothes and overnight sheltering. Over a few weeks of utilizing these services, Leigh felt safe enough with staff to enter into our homeless to housing program. Working through the steps and requirements of the program, Leigh was able to save enough money to move into her own place after about five months. We were so excited for the great news!

Upon moving into her new home, she was gifted all of the furniture needed to furnish her new apartment. Leigh expressed her thanks and appreciation to the staff and supporters of the Eureka Rescue Mission. Leigh said, "It is the first time in many years, which I have felt the presence of the Lord in my life. It feels as if I was purposely led here to the Mission, to rekindle my relationship with Jesus. In the midst of my darkness, Jesus brought me here, to the Women's Shelter, to find Him again."

After checking in with Leigh a few times upon moving out, she appears to be thriving in her new environment! Blessings from the Lord! Again, Leigh would like to thank the supporters and staff for allowing her to be a part of this life changing ministry.

This is a heartwarming story of a beautiful family of three. Vera is Paula's mother, Paula is Millie's mother and Millie is the cute little 5 year old, super excited about her new home! Sadly, they were all displaced a couple of years ago in the Shasta County Carr fire, when they lost their home to the blazing flames that swept the mountainsides. This beautiful little family showed up at the door of the Women's Shelter, tired and hungry, so we invited them in for a hot meal, chapel service and shelter. Afterward, staff invited them upstairs to show them to their new room in which they would be residing until they were able to find permanent housing. Being a very quiet and tight-knit family, they did their chores and went out each day on a quest to find permanent housing. Roadblock after roadblock kept getting in their way but they refused to give up, continuing diligently on their search for stable housing. On two different occasions they accepted offers to rent a room, moved out of the shelter, but unfortunately both times it fell through and they returned to the shelter for the third time. This time our Women's Shelter Director, Kristen Freeman, made a deal with them to stay at the shelter until they were able to officially sign their own lease for their own apartment rather than renting a room from someone. They agreed that it had not worked out their way, so they took the advice to stay until they could have their own apartment. After almost two years to the day of them losing their home to the fire, they were able to secure housing and sign a lease of their own! Now they are living happily together as a family in their own apartment. Millie was able to settle into her own routine and was ecstatic when she was shown the new apartment. She jumped up and down and shouted, "Thank you Jesus and Ms. Kristen. We have a home now! Now my friends can come over!"

Kristen said, "This is a memory that will forever resonate in my soul. To see the joy of that child's face, and to hear the happiness in her little 5 year old voice is just priceless. I continue to check in with this family on a regular basis, and assist them with help whenever needed. Future goals for them now are to start saving for a reliable vehicle, and to continue staying safe and well during these times of uncertainties. Eureka is their forever home, according to Vera and Paula. They feel safe from the fires and from the trauma that they experienced. They are grateful for the Mission, which gave them comfort, love and stability. Not surprisingly, they continue to ask me about volunteering at the shelter because they want to pay forward the same blessing that they received. As the COVID pandemic continues, I have to reassure that once we are able, they are more than welcome to come and give back to the same community that helped them rise above their past circumstances." Vera, Paula and Millie wanted us to pass this message on to our supporters, "God bless you all and thank you from the bottom of our hearts."



Leigh



Millie & grandma



Vera, Millie, & Paula