



**The Lord
your God
is with
you,
He is
mighty
to save.**

**Zephaniah
3:17**

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

I remember when I got the call from Joe Walker, Chairman of the Board, that I had been selected to be the new Executive Director of the Mission. I was standing in a parking lot in Bend, Oregon where I was attending a conference on opiate addiction and overdose. Immediately upon hanging up this scripture popped into my head,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.’” Mark 1:3

This is speaking of John the Baptist and is a scripture mirrored in Isaiah 40:3. It cannot be overstated the importance of keeping scripture in context and I spent the next several months chewing on this scripture, wondering why I liked it so much and how to apply the Word given about John the Baptist to the Mission. The answer came to me when I was preparing for our open house and I wanted to put the scripture in the flyer. I came upon this,

“To make straight paths involves the creation of a road that is straight, unmistakable, level, smooth, in order to make the arrival to a destination possible without difficulty”

That’s It! The destination of course being Jesus Christ. That’s why I love this scripture because that is what we are supposed to do at the Mission. Through teaching of the word, through worship, through prayer, careful guidance, using our own lives as a testimony, giving structure to broken lives through the enforcement of rules and doing all of these things with gentleness, meekness and love. By doing these things we create a road that leads straight to Jesus and salvation so that people can find permanent victory over addiction, mental health trauma and homelessness.

I am happy to report the Mission is building that road with several ‘first time ever’ that have happened at the Mission in the recent month. God truly is doing a work here as we strive to make His paths straight.

First Time Ever And What A Witness!

The Mission had its first baptism! I had thought to share with you the testimony of someone else this month since Jonathan has been talked about in the last two newsletters but it would appear God had other plans. It is with great joy and praise I am able to announce that the South Coast Gospel Mission had its first baptism! On Wednesday, August 10, during our evening chapel service Jonathan made the public declaration that he would serve Jesus Christ. It was an amazing experience and *an incredible witness to all of our other residents*. I would like to say thank you to Kurt Smith and his wife Bonney for being such faithful servants and sharing the message on Wednesdays and being such a huge part of Jonathans’ newfound walk with the Lord.



First Time Ever And To Stop The Revolving Door

With unanimous board approval the Mission has hired its first Peer Wellness Specialist. This is a state certification that allows a person to work one on one with individuals with both substance use issues and mental health issues. The official title for the position at the Mission will be Care Coordinator and they will be responsible for meeting with each resident and creating a plan that will help them navigate to permanent victory over homelessness. They will also help residents with finding treatment plans for addiction, help them to establish mental health care, assist with regular primary care doctor visits, find housing and employment and so much more.

First Time Ever Laundry Service

Clean clothes have always been a struggle for residents. Most come to the Mission totally destitute and do not have the means to pay for the laundromat. This can be a real barrier to people seeking employment and can also be a point of shame when out in the public in general but also when going to important things such as doctors' appointments. I was able to remove this barrier by purchasing washable nylon laundry bags. Every bunk now gets a bag assigned to them and once a week one of our residents, trained to use our commercial washer and dryer, collects and washes residents clothing.

First Time Ever Weekly Random Drug Screenings

Accountability is very important in this environment and temptation is everywhere, especially when you are fresh off the streets. To help provide that accountability and give incentive to fight temptation every Friday when we gather for morning

devotional and prayer two names get pulled out of a hat. This policy seems to be working as a deterrent to relapse.

The South Coast Gospel Mission receives no government funding and operates completely on private donations. You can help us "make straight paths" and also make a difference in our community by giving. It's easy just go to

www.southcoastgospelmission.org or mail your gift to:

**South Coast Gospel Mission
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Coos Bay, OR 97420**

South Coast Gospel Mission
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North Bend, OR 97459

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Mission Needs

Food: Lunch meat
Shredded Cheese
Chicken Thighs/
Leg Quarters

Other Items: Razors
Tennis Shoes
Mens' Deodorant

