



# THE BEACON

Stories of Light and Transformation from Las Vegas Rescue Mission | **EASTER EDITION**



## Catch the Vision!

Ending homelessness is hard, but donating is easy. Hope grows from envisioning a better tomorrow, and our Visionary Club members see their recurring commitment as helping foster hope every day.

The Visionary Club is a group of faithful supporters who make a monthly gift to the Mission. If you're already a member, thank you so much for your commitment to help save more lives all year round!

If you'd like to join, scan the QR code below, or go to [vegasrescue.org/donate/visionary-club](https://vegasrescue.org/donate/visionary-club).



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Thanks to you, Mark found irresistible love at the Mission.

## In Search of a Father's Love

*Mark resisted coming to the Mission for a long time. But God had other plans.*

**H**e wasn't living on just any street. He chose to live in the alley behind the Las Vegas Rescue Mission. He knew that all he had to do was walk a few steps, through the door and into an opportunity to turn his life around.

But he resisted. Day after day after day, Mark looked across the street and he thought, "No. Not yet." Staff members at the Mission would call to him, beckoning him over, inviting him inside.

"They kept trying," he says, "but I wasn't having it."

Not even his family could break through. After an intervention where they urged him to go to rehab, Mark said, "You're wasting your time." And he stormed out the door.

Why such stubborn resistance?

"Pride," Mark says. "I would never in my life admit that I'm an addict. I always had it in my head that I could make it through on my own. But I'd always end up on the streets, isolated, dirty, alone, no friends. I just had no ambition."

Thirty years of addiction will do that to a man. It will eat at one's soul, tear down one's will, rip asunder any semblance of purpose.

An abusive father will do that too ...

### The walls come down

"Me and my father never got along," Mark says.

Mark was thinking about those things

*Continued on page 2*



## A Note From the CEO

*Hear the bells ringing, they're singing*

*That you can be born again*

*Hear the bells ringing, they're singing*

*Christ is risen from the dead*

Those words, from a 1970s tune called simply “The Easter Song,” perfectly capture the season — and our work here at the Mission.

Struggling souls walk through our doors seeking new life, a fresh start. We believe that kind of deep, lasting change comes through what Jesus called being “born again,” by giving one’s life to Him.

And we believe Jesus has the power to transform us from within because of that last line above: Because He has risen from the dead. Only God can do that!

So, this Easter season, join us in celebrating new life at the Mission — fresh starts that couldn’t happen without your compassionate support. Hear the bells ringing!

*Heather Engle*

Heather Engle  
CEO

## In Search of a Father’s Love,

*continued from cover*

one day when he walked by the Mission. A staff member, someone he knew, called out, “Get over here!”

Suddenly, inexplicably, the wall of resistance began to crumble. Mark walked over, but tried to play it cool. “I said I was fine,” he remembers. “But I was a hot mess.”

And then it happened: “For one split second, I said, ‘Okay, I’ll come in.’ I had said ‘no’ so many times, they didn’t believe me.”

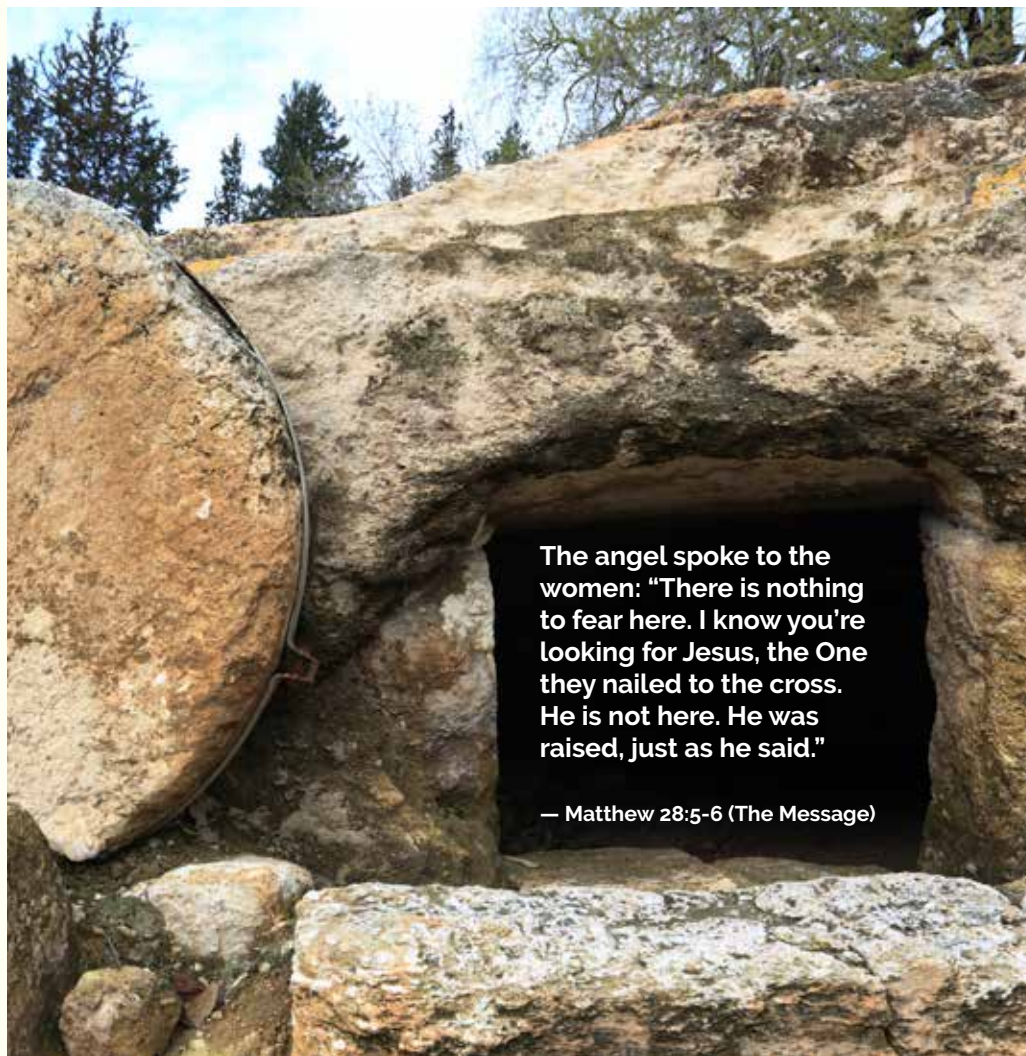
Almost immediately, Mark began to feel the love he’d been seeking his whole life.

“I’m working through this right now,” he says. “I tried to get my father’s love, and apparently he didn’t know how to do it.”

Mark began to realize a life-changing truth: “I had been looking to the wrong person for love. I should have been looking to Jesus Christ.

“God’s love for me is unbelievable. And I need that love ... a lot.”

**Thank you for showing love for homeless neighbors! †**



The angel spoke to the women: “There is nothing to fear here. I know you’re looking for Jesus, the One they nailed to the cross. He is not here. He was raised, just as he said.”

— Matthew 28:5-6 (The Message)

## “A Breath of Fresh Air”

*How a tie-dye-loving, rock-n-rolling biker changed the lives of his friends.*

*It was a memorial service like no other: Everybody wore tie-dye.*

*That’s the way John — the man they were remembering — would’ve wanted it. While going through our recovery program, this Grateful Dead-loving, Harley-riding biker wore tie-dye shirts almost every day.*

*John died of a stroke after graduating from the program. He’d made many friends while there, including Eddie, who went through the program with John.*

*We asked Eddie to say a few things about John. Here’s how he replied:*

“We relied on one another. It was one of those friendships where the camaraderie and the conversations helped us to push forward. When you have someone you can relate to, it makes it easier to reflect on how to change yourself to be a better person. ...

John had been a roadie for a lot of bands — the Allman Brothers, Metallica, Tom Petty. And he was a Deadhead, a Grateful Dead groupie. He was a big fan of tie-dye, but less of a psychedelic thing and more of an open-your-heart-to-the-love thing. ...

John’s biggest pride was the fact that he actually passed the recovery program because he’d never graduated from anything before. ...

**“John let you know he was there for you. He helped people to feel empowered.”**

His friendship kept me in the program a lot longer than I may have lasted. Several times I wanted to leave, but he kept me in place. He cooled my mindset. ...



Eddie holds a framed tie-dye shirt of John's that now hangs at the Mission.

He was a breath of fresh air. When you spoke to him, he let you know he was there for you. He let you know that if he can do it, you can too. He helped some of the people feel empowered. He gave great advice. ...

At the memorial service, it was heartwarming to see how many people he touched, from all walks of life, that he really influenced. He was really kindhearted.”

**Thank you for helping men like Eddie and John find recovery — and friendship! †**

# Never Too Late

*How Sesar found peace and purpose.*

The voices in Sesar's head were so cruel, he wasn't sure life was worth living.

"It's too late," the voices said. "You're too late."

The combination of schizophrenia, methamphetamine addiction and homelessness left Sesar desperate. He slashed his wrists in an attempt to numb the pain.

"You can induce physical pain to avoid emotional pain," Sesar says, "and that's what I was doing."

Sesar started using meth at 14, and was instantly hooked ... for the next 21 years. He started hearing the voices in 2010, and they grew worse over the years. He didn't know why; he wasn't diagnosed with schizophrenia till relatively recently.

In late 2021, Sesar was arrested for loitering and spent 40 days in jail. The sentence literally saved his life. "I was going to kill myself," he says.

His time behind bars "was my wake-up call. It sobered me up and made me realize I had God-given potential."

After his release, he entered the Mission's recovery program: "I wanted a Christian program. I wanted to leave it up to God and see how much life is worth living."

It's working.

"If it weren't for the Mission, I'd be dead," he says.



Sesar has overcome addiction and homelessness, thanks to you!

"The Mission has given me direction."

He still hears voices, but they no longer tell him it's "too late."

"It's never too late," Sesar says. "Everything's possible in God's eyes."

*Because of you, men like Sesar are finding hope! †*

PLEASE CUT OFF THE REPLY FORM BELOW, AND RETURN WITH YOUR GIFT. THANK YOU.

## I WANT TO TRANSFORM LIVES THIS EASTER



480 West Bonanza Rd.  
Las Vegas, NV 89106-3227

To give online, visit  
vegasrescue.org or use your  
phone to scan this code  
**Thank you!**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Yes! I want to help my neighbors in need this Easter. Enclosed is my gift of:**

- \$19.92 to provide 8 meals and care.
- \$32.37 to provide 13 meals and care.
- \$64.74 to provide 26 meals and care.
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ to provide as much care as possible.

I'd like to give monthly. My first gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Please make your check payable to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission.