

Happy Independence Day!

This is the time of year that most people in our country think about our freedoms and what it took to attain them. For me, this time of the year I am always reminded of the 1st Amendment to the US Constitution. This amendment gives us the freedom of religion, the freedom to assemble, and freedom of expression, and we at the Mission take these freedoms very seriously.

When it comes to our ministry, I'm thankful for all the people who have been involved with the Medford Gospel Mission for over sixty years. It is because of you and others like you in our community that we can help men and women have freedom over trauma, addictions, and poverty. All of you have equipped us to help people live lives of independence, rather than lives dependent on the entanglements of the world.

Religious liberties are certainly a blessing. But like most blessings they come at a cost. As our culture changes, many people find the word of God offensive and label Christians as backwards, mean, and full of hate. Many foundations and individuals are hesitant to give to Christian non-profits because their practices don't conform to current moral trends. Some people even seek to work against what we do. Liberty means we aren't going to grow at a rapid pace that government funded non-profits can. It means we can't help everyone that needs help and solve every problem that needs solving.

The good thing is, religious liberties bring freedom. Freedom to live differently than the world, operate programs without government intrusion, and stay true to the word of God in a culture that is rapidly moving away from it.

As good as freedom is, some of the people we aim to reach define freedom in a much different way. Some people look at what the Mission has to offer and they say it is too constraining, that they have much more freedom camping out, or staying in a low-barrier camp or shelter operated by other non-profits. They tell us that the Mission isn't for them because it takes away their freedom, when in reality what they are truly experiencing is bondage.

When people understand freedom wrongly it becomes a barrier to receiving the help they truly need. True freedom isn't the extermination of everything imaginable that constrains our wills and actions. That isn't freedom at all, and in fact it is quite the opposite. It is enslavement to the passions of the flesh, so much so that it gets in the way of making wise decisions.

It is a national interest to preserve the great  
prevalent law. Most regulations will  
under the rational basis test.

## First Amendment

The First Amendment to the Cons

Congress shall make no law respect  
of religion, or prohibiting the free  
exercise of religion, or abridging the freedom of speech,

We are funded by generous donations from people in our community and we do not accept any federal, state, or local government funds

**JACKSON CAMPUS**  
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When men and women come to the Mission, they are choosing to leave the bondage of homelessness behind and start to learn about true freedom, freedom that comes from Christ.

*Galatians 5:1 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery... [16-24] But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*

True freedom only comes from Christ. It starts with being redeemed from sin. It involves denying self, and abiding in Christ and walking in the Spirit. True freedom is living for God, and this is the life that the Gospel offers. Thank you for helping us bring freedom to people struggling in poverty right here in our community.

You will know the truth  
and the truth will set you free.



## GIFTS FROM THE HEART

**In honor of Jesus Christ**

by Ken & Diane Capp

**In honor of Yashua**

Alan & Nicolene Buchta

**In memory of John Anderson**

by David & Adelia Maurer

**In memory of Nancy Mills Bachmann**

by Ron & Charmaine Brackett

**In memory of Corrine & Harry Belau**

by Betty Hunter

**In memory of Earl Best**

by Nickolas & Lindsay Boosalis

**In memory of Norm Bishop**

by Breta Smith

**In memory of Mildred Bray**

by Joyce Lull

**In memory of Jami Anne Burk**

by Pete & Margaret Jackson

**In memory of Jami Anne Burk**

by Roberta Hawkins

**In memory of Tammy Carr**

by Steve Carr

**In memory of John Collins**

by Frank Albert

**In memory of My Sister Deb Joy**

by Lynn Baker

**In memory of Russell Elder**

by Lori Kovaleff

**In memory of Jim Estep**

by Vivian Estep

**In memory of Buck Fixsen**

by Patricia Fixsen

**In memory of Steve Fixsen**

by Patricia Fixsen

**In memory of Lorraine Florey**

by Jim & Marilyn Kelley

**In memory of Rochelle Roby Frymire**

by Paul & Janice Roby

**In memory of Patricia Gilbert**

by Joanie Ganong

**In memory of Lorraine Hays**

by Mehrene Larudee

and by Paul Larudee

**In memory of Billie Joe & Joan Hunter**

by Dusty & Debbie Hoffman

**In memory of Lu Lull**

by Joyce Lull

**In memory of Willard Marsh**

by Marilyn Marsh

**In memory of David Mayer**

by Frank Albert

**In memory of Ronelda McCollum**

by Kathleen Frazier

**In memory of James Myrick**

by Nancy Mitchell

**In memory of Billie Ray Nering**

by Ken & Diane Capp

**In memory of James Newell**

by Dave & Ginny Newell

**In memory of Christine Norfleet**

by Jim Norfleet

**In memory of Norm Oberst**

by Steve Oberst

**In memory of Ray Offord**

by Brandon Offord

**In memory of Susie Penwell**

by Carol Walker

**In memory of Patricia Piter**

by Steve Piter

**In memory of Jack Salter**

by Judy Salter

**In memory of Nancy Scafani**

by David Scafani

**In memory of Jerry Scheid**

by Jackie Scheid

**In memory of Duane Shinn**

by Garland & Roberta Shinn

and by Dianne Carter

**In memory of J. T. Smalley**

by Arlene Smalley

**In memory of Lane Tesdal**

by Marlene Tesdal

**In memory of Calvin Waddle**

by Lyle & Judy Norton

**In memory of Myrna Wagler**

by Betty von der Hellen

**In memory of Horst & Margaret Wauer**

by David & Helene Uhreen

**In memory of Dustin Weidman**

by Donna MacKenzie

**In memory of Elizabeth Westerberg**

by David & Lauri Westerberg

**In memory of Griff Wilder**

by Pattie Wilder

**In memory of Garry Wilson**

by Arline Wilson

**In memory of Wayne Zimmers**

by Richard & Lois Wallace

Thank you for equipping us to restore lives in our community!