

# Reaching the Lost and Gathering the Reached Since 1959

Remember to have year end gifts in the mail before Sunday December 31st.

#### VOLUME 65 - NUMBER 1

Happy New Year!

This is the time of the year when we reflect on the past year and look forward to the year to come. As we enter our 65th year as a parachurch ministry, I am extremely thankful for the thousands of people that have been a part of the Mission throughout the years. We have had hundreds of board members and staff who continued to operate with biblical truth and practice in the midst of an ever-changing culture. And then there's the countless volunteers and donors who gave of their time, treasures, and talents to help establish the Mission and kept it operating as a premiere para-church ministry in Southern Oregon. Without all of the support, thousands of men and women whose lives have changed by the grace of God through our ministry would not have happened.





At the start of 2023 there was quite a bit of angst around homelessness in Southern Oregon with an unprecedented amount of government money coming into our community to carry out their ideologically driven homeless policies.(a) Just like the characters in the 1948 film *The Treasure of Sierra Madre* were divided by the sudden increase of riches, our community is more divided than ever on how to spend the sudden increase of government funding.

While this was all happening in our community, we had a very stable year at the Mission highlighted by three things: currency, churches, and clothing.

CURRENCY: Because of your generous donations and operating within a reasonable budget, we once again finished the year in the black. On top of that we were able to work on three legacy projects in 2023. First, we were able to completely remodel the main bathroom at our Jackson Campus. Another legacy project is our staff's office space that is now designed to better facilitate our relational restoration process with staff, volunteers, and the men and women in our program. And lastly we are just about finished with our upstairs dorm remodel that we have been working on since 2021. These projects couldn't be accomplished without legacy gifts that are generously given to us by people that want to help the Mission and carry on a legacy long after they are gone.(b)

CHURCHES: 2023 was a year of developing closer relationships with local churches. Using input from numerous local pastors we developed a better way to teach the men and women in our program about the importance of the local church in the lives of God's people. Now, during the first six months of our program our participants visit churches that have allied with us to teach our participants about the *Gospel of the King, the Words if the King, the People of the King,* and *the Care of the King.* In addition to this, pastors of these churches come to the Mission on a regular basis to visit with the men and women in our program. The goal is that after they finish learning about the church from local churches, they would be ready to join a church and form relationships that would last far beyond their time at the Mission.

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 125 West Jackson Street Medford, OR 97501 541-779-1597 DONATE ONLINE: medfordgospelmission.org DONATE BY MAIL: PO Box 1172 Medford, OR 97501 BARTLETT CAMPUS 534 North Bartlett Street Medford, OR 97501 541-772-2931

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Learn about Christ-Centered poverty alleviation and how you can be involved in the relational restoration process. Poverty 101 Workshops Nightly 5:30-6:30 Find out more: medfordgospelmission.org/learn



CLOTHING: 2023 brought a big change to the way we help people in need of clothing. In the same way that many retailers have had to lock up items of value because of the increase in crime, we had to make big changes as well. As hard as we tried to keep the Outfit Outlet a friendly shopping experience for everyone it became an uncomfortable experience for many after the passing of measure 110. An increasing number of people were showing up inebriated on all sorts of substances that were no longer criminalized, being rude and aggressive, and at times violent with our staff, program participants, and volunteers. In an attempt to help people in need we were actually hurting the wider community as much of the clothing we freely gave away ended up discarded along the greenway and parks for others to pick up. So we pivoted, and closed our free store to walk-in visitors in the fall of 2023, and instead we started to operate by appointment only. This gives us the time and atmosphere to give assistance people need from a trained and qualified staff member that is concerned not only about their physical needs but their deeper needs as well.

As we enter our 65th year we are super excited about working closer with local churches and volunteers, utilizing their assets to continue to reach the lost and gather the reached in our community.

### MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU IN THE YEAR TO COME!

(a) https://medfordgospelmission.org/february-2023-newsletter/ AND https://medfordgospelmission.org/january-2023-newsletter/ (b) https://medfordgospelmission.legacywill.org

## **GIFTS FROM THE HEART** Christ In memory of Robert Covey In memory of De

In honor of Jesus Christ by MGM Team In honor of Luke & Katie Amuchastegui by Grandma & Grandpa In honor of Rodney & Carol Clark by Tim & Carol Alford In honor of Barbara Hatch by Carol Wythe In honor of Gary & Nancy Payton by Lucy Stubbings

In memory of David Alford by Tim & Carol Alford In memory of Peter Amorde by Judith Amorde In memory of Jerry Armstrong by Mary Armstrong In memory of Eustace & Lorene Arthur by Jillinda Arthur In memory of Teddy Arthur by Tom & Marilyn Arthur In memory of Teddy Arthur by Tom & Marilyn Arthur In memory of Harry Belau by Betty Hunter In memory of Earl Best by Nickolas & Lindsy Boosalis In memory of Norm Bishop by Breta Smith In memory of Bobby Black by Joanie Ganong In memory of Brice Brandt by Frances Brandt In memory of D.J. Branson by Vern & Pat Parent In memory of Nicholas Brown by Sherry Morrison In memory of Ray Buck by Idelle Collins In memory of Jami Anne Burk by Roberta Hawkins In memory of Jerry Burns by Sharon Burns In memory of Dean Collins by Idelle Collins

by Diana lanora In memory of Pamela Cowart by Jack Cowart In memory of Hank Delladio by Mark & Karen Delladio In memory of James Estep by Vivian Estep In memory of Buck Fixsen by Patricia Fixsen In memory of Steve Fixsen by Patricia Fixsen In memory of Rochelle Roby Frymire by Paul & Janice Roby In memory of Rollen Gallaher by Lee Gallaher In memory of Ernie Gallo by Muriel Gallo In memory of Gerald & Shirley Gleason by Lunette Fleming In memory of Pete Hale by Darlene Hale In memory of Dovie Hodges by Carol Wythe In memory of Debra Irene Johns by Richard Johns In memory of Kathleen & Robert Johnson by Richard Johns In memory of Daniel Johnson by Richard Johns In memory of Allen Jones by Nancy Flanagan In memory of Scott & Melva Kent by Richard Johns In memory of Marjorie Kinney by Joseph & Carole Eselin In memory of Penny LaVada by Gary & Nancy Payton In memory of Ronelda McCollum by Kathleen Frazier In memory of Bill McTaggart by Lori McTaggart In memory of Ginny Newell by David Newell In memory of Bonnie Nutter by Kenneth Nutter

In memory of Don & LaRue Oberlander by Melody Stevens In memory of Ramesh Patel by Hina Patel In memory of Ina Pearson by Jeff & Jennifer McFarland In memory of Harold & Borgia Pickrel by Sharon Burns In memory of Patricia Piter by Steve Piter In memory of Danny Rehm by Cynthia Rehm In memory of Larry Root by Glenda Root In memory of Jack Sabin by Donna Rae Sabin In memory of Nancy Scafani by David Scafani In memory of Jerry Scheid by Jackie Scheid In memory of Billie Schott by David Schott In memory of Dorothee Shadzad by Michelle Hobbs In memory of Duane Shinn by Dianne Carter In memory of Brandie Short by Charlotte Gibbs In memory of Charlotte Sutherland by Ross Sutherland In memory of Kevin T. by Richard Johns In memory of Lane Tesdal by Marlene Tesdal In memory of Ron Von Der Hellen by Cheryl Schmidt In memory of Horst & Margaret Wauer by David & Helene Uhreen In memory of Joliene Williams by Albert Williams In memory of Garry Wilson by Arline Wilson and by Betty Rule