Encourage a Child This Easter!

Children experiencing homelessness often feel alone and without hope. Here's a simple but powerful way to remind them that someone cares — provide them with a personalized Easter Storybook!

This simple, life-changing, true story of Christ's death and resurrection will remind a child at Union Rescue Mission or Hope Gardens that God loves them — and so do you.

Just sign the bookplate included in this package and send it back to us with your special $5 gift. Be sure to check the $5 box on your remit to indicate your desire to share this powerful Storybook with a child. We will attach your signed message of encouragement inside the Storybook and give it to a child experiencing homelessness this Easter!

Send your $5 extra gift and signed bookplate to bless a child today!

Only $5!

50-CONL

Your Gift: An Easter Investment in Changing Lives

Your investment in Union Rescue Mission is truly a cost-effective way to help transform someone's life for eternity! Compare these costs:

One day of simple shelter only:
$37.50

One day in prison:
$134.00

One day in private recovery program:
$300.00

One day in URM's Life-Transformation Programs:
$26.35

Your generous gift of $25, $35, or more will help provide food, beds, shelter — and give more people the real long-term help they need to rebuild their lives. So please send the most generous gift you can today. Thank you!

For more information or to put your gift to work even faster, go to **www.urm.org/ChangeLives**

Our Mission

We embrace people experiencing homelessness with the compassion of Christ — giving hope and healing for a changed life — helping them find their way home.

Union Rescue Mission®
the way home

545 S. San Pedro Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013
1-888-77-THE WAY HOME (888-778-4392)
www.urm.org

Notes from Andy

Living Second-Chance Lives

Every day when I come into Union Rescue Mission I'm reminded that when Jesus died and rose again on that first Easter morning, God promised every man, woman, and child a second chance at new life. I see that promise at work every day in the lives of hundreds of people here at URM and at Hope Gardens.

In addition to counseling, classes, caring love, and mentoring, I believe the single most important part of our life-transforming programs is helping men and women experience the power of Jesus Christ in their lives. In the end, it takes a miracle of God for people to experience real, lasting change.

Right now, more than 48,000 people are experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles, most of them able-bodied men and women who have the potential of returning to work and rebuilding their relationships as husbands and wives and mothers and fathers — to be productive members of society again.

All they need is one more chance, a little help, and the power of God to overcome addictions, learn to change their lifestyles, gain new job skills, grow their spiritual lives, and build a firm foundation that enables them to live in a healthy way. Thank you for being a part of this miraculous, life-transforming work.

Blessings, Andy

MARCH 2010

THE MISSION

let's end homelessness in LA

An Investment in New Expectations

Daniel was a rising star in the investment world until alcohol ruined his life. Your investment in *him* gave Daniel another chance.

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4 Notes from Andy Living Second-Chance Lives

"People would always tell me what a great man of God I was going to be ... but I didn't want any part of it."

Daniel's friends and family expected big things from him. After all, he had earned a spot on the National Honor Society in high school, appeared on the "Who's Who" list of American students, and was awarded a full academic scholarship to study business and finance in college.

"People would always tell me what a great man of God I was going to be and that I was going to affect so many people," Daniels says. "But I didn't want any part of it."

To cope, Daniel turned to alcohol, and the more he climbed the corporate ranks of the banking industry, the more he drank. "Every night after I got home, I drank myself to sleep."

Finally, in January 2007, his drinking cost him his job. By Christmas, he had lost all his savings and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

YOU are THE MISSION™

URM.ORG

Easter is God's Promise That

We All Get a Second Chance at Life

Your generous gifts give them that opportunity.

Union Rescue Mission, along with partners throughout Los Angeles, is committed to ending homelessness in Los Angeles within 10 years. Our short-term goals include cutting the number of people living on Skid Row 90% by 2012; and cutting the number of people experiencing homelessness in L.A. County 50% by 2016.

Step #9 of You Are the Mission, our 10-Step Plan to end homelessness in Los Angeles, involves investing in life transforming programs that truly change people's lives.

Your investment in Union Rescue Mission has helped thousands of individuals and families address and overcome the barriers that led them into homelessness — and helped them return to our community as productive citizens.

A 10-Step Plan to End Homelessness

Step 9: Invest in more Life-Transforming Programs.

Transforming Lives From the Inside Out

How your generous gifts give people experiencing homelessness a second chance at life.

Men and women trapped in homelessness must often overcome significant barriers before they can return to a productive life. Devastating emotional challenges from their past, broken relationships with family, addiction issues, criminal pasts, and insufficient job or life skills all hold people back and keep them trapped in homelessness and poverty.

Overcoming these barriers usually requires a structured, long-term recovery process. Union Rescue Mission's Life Transformation Programs, lasting between one and three years, give men and women experiencing homelessness the real help they need to rebuild their broken lives.

For 118 years, generous people like you have offered tens of thousands of hurting men and women the chance to rebuild their lives. The three most important parts of our programs include:

The Discipline to Change

People experiencing homelessness often distrust structure in their lives and resist accountability. Our programs give people a daily structure that demands discipline. And we provide them with a network of mentoring relationships, including chaplains, counselors, and each other that encourages and strengthens them.

Support through Tough Times

Many people who enter our programs face long-term emotional abuse, neglect, addictions, and life-related issues that have shipwrecked their lives. Our programs provide ongoing counseling and classes with chaplains and counselors that help them deal with the wounds they carry with them.

Learning to Lean on God

The most important component to change is spiritual growth. We encourage each man and woman to develop a relationship with God and rely on His strength to rebuild their lives. Then we offer regular Bible studies, worship services, and daily opportunities for personal devotion that strengthens their relationship with God.

Specifically, your generous gifts provide:

- Addiction Education
- Christian Discipleship
- Re-Igniting Learning & Thinking Skills
- Tools to Handle Grief and Loss
- Anger Management
- Biblical Disciplines
- Healthy Relationships
- Finances & Biblical Stewardship
- Work Ethics
- Leadership Development

Union Rescue Mission's Life Transformation Programs change men and women from the inside out — and those changed lives advance the kingdom of God for eternity.

"AN INVESTMENT IN NEW EXPECTATIONS"

— CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

found himself on New Year's Eve in downtown Los Angeles, with only $17 to his name.

"As I sat there, I started to pray," Daniel recalls. "Lord, I'm sorry. I know this is all my fault. Please forgive me and take control of my life."

The next morning, Daniel heard about Union Rescue Mission and immediately joined the one-year **Life Transformation Program**. He knew it was his only chance — and he wasn't going to miss it.

"Every day I attended classes taught by the chaplains, met with counselors, studied my Bible, prayed, and completed every assignment designed to help me be more honest with myself, and dig into the deep-rooted issues and fears I had always tried to cover up," he says.

He dealt with resentment he felt toward his father for abandoning him as a child, and even reconnected with him. He learned to trust friends and authorities, and to let himself be vulnerable, exposing his weaknesses — and most important, accepting their help and support.

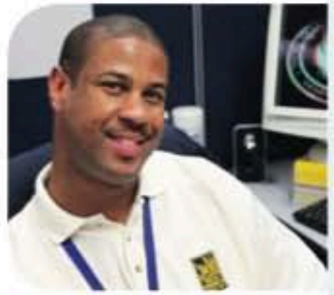
And finally, the Program helped him uncover his crippling "fear of success, a fear that had always kept me from going after big dreams."

One year later, in January 2009, Daniel graduated from URM's Life Transformation Program a new man. "I haven't touched alcohol in over two years," he says today. "Every day I feel myself becoming a stronger man in God.

"God has called me to some big plans and I'm no longer afraid of the success He has planned for me. I'm like the Prodigal Son. I was once dead, but now I'm alive. And I know the life I have now is all because of what Jesus did."

"The people who give to Union Rescue Mission aren't investing in stocks or bonds, they're investing in human souls and transformed lives. I know, because their investment gave me a second chance at life."

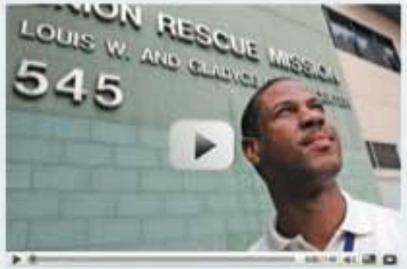
Please watch Daniel's story online at ***www.urm.org/stories.***



"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — His good, pleasing and perfect will."

— Romans 12:2

Daniel Out of the Lion's Den



Daniel seemed to have everything going for him as he rose up the corporate ranks in the banking world. But alcohol cost him his job and landed him on the streets of downtown Los Angeles.

In this compelling video, Daniel talks about his experience with addiction and homelessness — and how God rebuilt his life. To watch this video, go to **www.urm.org/stories**.

You can also read more about Daniel on page 1 of this newsletter. See "An Investment in New Expectations."

See a List of Our Memorial Gifts Online!

In order to commit more of your generous donations to changing lives at Union Rescue Mission, we are no longer printing a quarterly listing of the memorial gifts we receive. Yet we remain committed to honoring your memorial gifts to URM. To see a current list of memorial gifts and those who are being honored, please visit our website at **www.urm.org/memorialgifts**.

Thank you for your generous support.