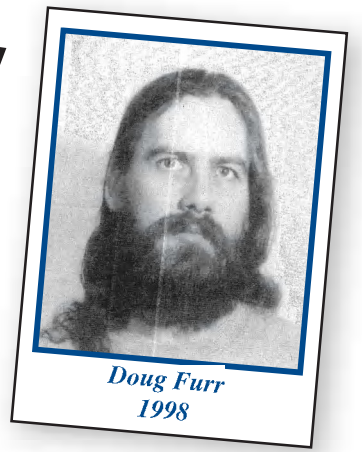




Good News Rescue Mission

2842 South Market St.
Redding, CA 96001
(530) 242-5920



March 2010

Dear Friend,

Amazing Grace (Continued): "The Story of Doug Furr"

As you may recall, last month we shared the story of John Newton, the author of the famous hymn, Amazing Grace. The hymn has become an inspiration for us here as **Newton's story is one of transformation from depravity and despair to honor and hope. These themes run deep here at the Mission as so many come to us bereft of hope and full of despair.** I told you last month that I would share the story of a dear friend of the Mission, the story of Doug Furr.

Doug was born on February 10, 1964, the youngest child of eight children. Doug's home life was guided by a father who drank and smoked pot. Doug lived in Hayward until the age of 11 when his Dad packed up his family and moved them to Susanville, California. It wasn't long after that Doug began to experiment with alcohol and by his early teen years with methamphetamine.

In a very short time, Doug's experimentation with alcohol and drugs turned into a full blown addiction, one that lasted for the nearly two decades. At 17 Doug dropped out of school and moved from Susanville to live in Sonora with an older brother. While in Sonora, Doug's addiction moved from drug use to drug dealing and to run-ins with the law. During this time, he also became involved in 9 year romantic relationship with another addict. Running from his girlfriend's warrant for writing bad checks, the two moved to Redding. Their relationship, however, would end in tragedy when she overdosed on prescription medication and died in Doug's arms. Adding to Doug's grief, within a two year period he also lost his Mom and Dad.

Doug moved to one of the harsher neighborhoods in Redding, "The Hood" as it is often referred to, and buried his grief in a sea of drug use. Drug use turned into drug sales and continued trouble with the law. Doug felt fortunate that he avoided prison with two felony arrests that resulted in probation and suspended sentences. But, not one to heed warnings, Doug continued to use dope, deal drugs and dodge the police.


"T'was Grace that taught my heart to fear." One too many lies would eventually catch up with him. In an attempt to avoid his probation off cer, Doug misled him by claiming he was homeless when, in fact, he was renting a room at a local low-rent hotel. This little lie would be the beginning of the end. A run-in with his landlord led to an eviction notice, a notice which founds its way to his probation off cer. That led to his re-arrest for a probation violation. This time, however, the suspended sentences were invoked and he found himself on a bus f lled with other convicts and on his way to fulf lling a 14 month prison term.

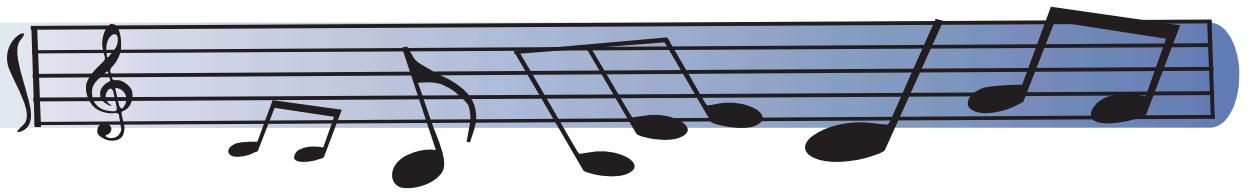
As the bus rolled down Interstate 5, he felt broken and at the bottom. **Not unlike John Newton, the trials of life now pushed Doug toward an encounter with the Almighty.** It was on this bus ride that Doug would f nally be introduced to the truth of Jesus Christ, a message he had never really heard and one that would shine a light into the dark world in which he had lived. **His frst night at Norco, Doug turned his life over to Christ.** He can't explain the peace he felt, but says the verse

"How precious did that grace appear, the hour I frst believed."

(Turn Over Please)

For information, please call (530) 242-5920 or visit our website at www.gnrm.org. Please detach the form below and mail with your gift today.

MEAL TICKET	 Good News Rescue Mission P.O. Box 991626 Redding, CA 96099 (530)242-5920	Yes Ken, I want to help hungry and homeless people now and throughout the new year. Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ For Credit Card Donation: (check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly Recurring <input type="checkbox"/> One Time <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover Card # _____ Exp. _____ Signature _____ Name (please print) _____ <small>Gifts are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed. Thank you for caring and helping.</small>	MEAL TICKET
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$22.50 to help feed and care for 10 people <input type="checkbox"/> \$45.00 to help feed and care for 20 people <input type="checkbox"/> \$90.00 to help feed and care for 40 people <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____		
PROOF <small>Approved for Printing</small> <small>CUSTOMER SIGNATURE ASSUMES ALL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ERROR AND OMISSIONS</small> <input type="checkbox"/> PROOF O.K. AS IS <input type="checkbox"/> REVISE & SUBMIT NEW PROOF			
_____ <small>Customer Signature</small>		_____ <small>Date</small>	



***“T’was Grace that brought me
safe thus far, and Grace will
lead me home”***

that best describes his experience is found in 2 Corinthians 5:17 which reads, “if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new.”

His brokenness was fertile ground for Christ’s transformation. He went to church on the inside with a fellow inmate. He attended Bible studies. He learned that his choices were his own to make and that he had made bad ones. He learned the basic tools to overcome his drug addiction. And, when the CDC returned him to Redding, he sought help at the Good News Rescue Mission.



It was here at the Mission that he was able to build on the foundation of his relationship with Jesus Christ. He found the strength and relationships he needed to stay sober, finally began making strong choices and treat people with love. **Doug now says his greatest goal is now to live out God’s greatest commandment which is to “love your neighbor as yourself.”** And, that is exactly what he’s doing. After his graduation from the Mission’s New Life Recovery Program in 2001, Doug joined us on staff. In October he celebrated his 11th anniversary being clean and sober. **Your support and God’s powerful and amazing grace have given Doug the chance to live a redeemed life, a life that, because of your support, now helps others conquer the same demons that also haunted him.**

What an amazing story of God’s Grace! But the story doesn’t end there. As we move toward March and our “March to End Hunger” campaign, you’ll here another story of God’s grace and redemption, a love story, a story that now spans several generations. And, because of your continued faithfulness, this story, like that of John Newton, is reaching and will continue to reach many more with God’s Amazing Grace.

Doug’s story and countless other like his are a direct result of your own measure of grace extended to the hungry, homeless and hurting people of our community. Some have made horrible choices that have led to dire consequences. Some, have not, and through no fault of their own, now find themselves on hard times. Whatever their lot, these are lives worth saving and your faithful support helps us reach out to them with food, shelter and God’s grace. Please know that your gifts are stretched to their absolute maximum and in these tough times are needed now more than ever.

Thank you for all you do in helping us reach out to those in need with God’s Amazing Grace

In Christ,

Ken White

Save these Dates and Mark your Calendar!

(see www.GNRM.org for more details)



P.S. We are excited to announce that Country singing star, Sara Evans, will be assisting the Mission with our March to End Hunger drive on March 3rd. **Log onto our web site at www.GNRM.org for more details and for a chance to win concert tickets and backstage passes.**

MARCH TO END HUNGER FOOD DRIVE

Wednesday, March 3rd, 2009 – 6 a.m.
Redding Convention Center

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION AWARDS LUNCHEON

Friday, March 26th
Good News Rescue Mission - 3075 Veda Street

SEEDS OF HOPE BANQUET

Friday, May 7th 6:30 p.m.
Redding Christian Fellowship - 2157 Churn Creek Road



*** Be sure to log onto our web site at www.GNRM.org for a chance to win concert tickets and backstage passes.**