

MILESTONES

Recovery happens in relationships.

EASTER 2022

All Because of Friday

"I never believed in God really until I came to Bethel House and I pray every day now. It made me believe." —Monique

GOOD FRIDAY changed all of our lives. And on a Friday in 2018, Monique's life changed for good.

That Friday, she died, too. She died to herself, to her addiction, to living in a broken-down storage shack, and to a life that she was tired of living.

"It was a Friday and I walked up the driveway and into Bethel to change my life," she remembers.

Looking back, "change my life" doesn't begin to describe how Monique's life was utterly transformed. To be able to truly celebrate where she is now, you have to know where she came from. And that's where the shack comes in. (See photo inside).

Did She Choose Addiction or Did Addiction Choose Her?

Monique was living in that shack you can see on page 2. At the time, she thought it was a good option. Because at least then, she could still use drugs. Like many people who come to the Mission, she didn't even choose her addiction as much as it chose her. It started when she was only 11 or 12, in the 6th grade.

Continued inside...



INSIDE:

An Incredible Opportunity | 3

Where Are They Now? | 4

Offer Lasting Transformation! | 6

All Because of a Friday

Continued from cover

"I got jumped into a gang, and then I started hanging out with older people and older crowds," she says.

"Then I started selling drugs. . . I met the father of my kids when I was 17, and he was from LA, and he sold drugs and it just escalated to an even bigger situation."

"Eventually it all started to fall apart. . . Every time something bad would happen, it would just get worse and worse and worse until I ended up in that horrible little shack with nothing."

When she says nothing, she means it. Even the most precious realities in her life were stolen.

On the Verge of Death

"The kids stopped talking to me and that only made me spin out more and worse into my addiction," she says. "I would have to go to the hospital, and they would fill me with liquids because I wasn't eating and I used to do meth, so I wouldn't eat for like weeks at a time."

The doctors told her that her addiction was going to kill her. She says she was at the point where she didn't even care.

But then, a relationship changed her life. Someone she knew went through the 12-month Residential Recovery Program at the Mission, and she saw how it changed their life.

Her best friend's mom, who had gone through the program and has been sober for 18 years, encouraged her to fill out an application.

Her Last Chance

"It was like they always say, Bethel House is your last resort," Monique says. "I was scared, I was so nervous. I wanted to get better, but I didn't know if I could because I was already so far gone."

But no one is too far gone for Jesus to get ahold of them and save them. Not even Monique.

She went through the program and graduated. At the beginning of February, she celebrated 5 years sober. She now works at a local high-end grocery store, has reconnected with her mom, is living in a home – not a shack – and has a relationship with God. She also has restored relationships with all her kids – including her 22-year-old daughter who had refused to talk to her for years.

"I'm a totally changed person now, I don't even recognize the person I used to be. It's amazing what Bethel has done for me and my family."

***When you give an Easter gift today,
you can help someone else experience
lasting transformation!***

***"I have a life because of the donors.
I went in there with nothing, so I
appreciate everything.
I'm so grateful." – Monique***



Photos from Monique's Scrapbook.
LEFT: This is the shack Monique lived in during her addiction. RIGHT: This is Bethel House where she spent her recovery.



A NOTE OF FRIENDSHIP FROM ROLF GEYLING

An Incredible Opportunity

I'VE BEEN THINKING about an Easter sermon I once heard. It's so profound and I want to share it with you. The sermon was about the resurrection, but it was also about the importance of one event of Good Friday that is sometimes overlooked.

The moment that Jesus died, the curtain in the Temple that separated the Holy of Holies from the area where people could be was torn in two.


Right down the middle.

The tearing apart of that huge curtain was a profoundly important symbolic moment.

Because at Jesus' death, we are given complete access to God the father. Suddenly, not only were the barriers gone, but because of the resurrection, there was power to change. That power still exists today and your gifts to the Mission help people like Monique access that power so that they can live transformed lives, starting today and lasting into eternity.

What an incredible opportunity we have to share that message with more people this Easter. I hope you'll help by sending a gift.

Rolf Geyling
President



**"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."**

1 Peter 1:3

Where Are They Now?

You may have talked to Monique. She may have served you at the grocery store she works at, and you didn't even know it. And that's a good thing. It shows how transformed she is.

All over Santa Barbara, Mission graduates serve in the community, volunteer, work, and give back, but often we don't even realize it. So this Easter, we're celebrating how far three of our graduates have come – and praise God for the roles He has given them as important members of our community who we might get to cross paths with the next time we're running errands, shopping, or eating at a restaurant.



Class of 2019: Jessica

Jessica is the manager of the deli at the upscale grocery store where Monique works. She's Monique's boss and had a hand in making sure Monique got a good job! She's also helped to hire several other graduates from the Mission's 12-Month Residential Recovery Program. In addition, she is also the assistant manager of a sober living home for women.



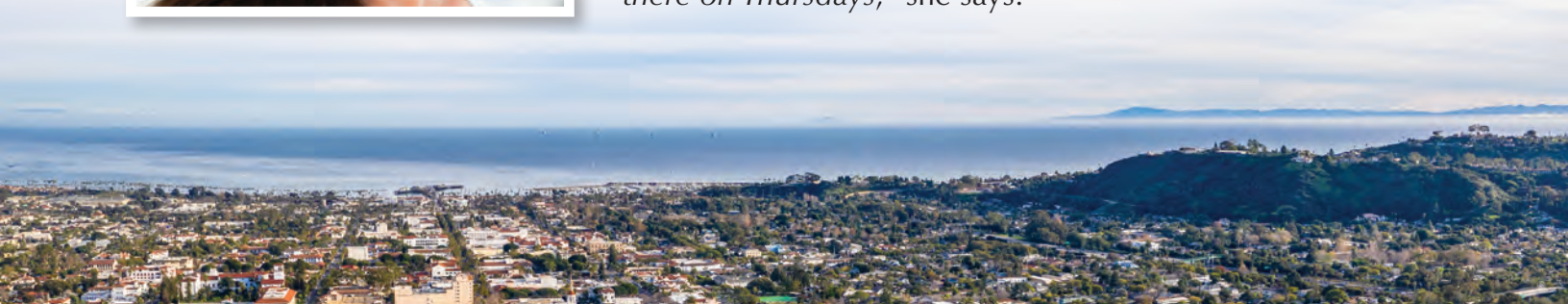
Class of 2018: Tyrell

Tyrell has been working hard at a local retail store, and he was recently promoted to manager. It's an amazing opportunity for him and he continues to succeed. His lasting transformation is incredible!



Class of 2016: Susan

Susan works at a local fine foods restaurant and deli. As of December, she's been working there for six years. She also volunteers at Bethel House on a regular basis. *"I sponsor girls at Bethel House and also facilitate a 12-step meeting there on Thursdays,"* she says.



Art that Heals

If you ever find yourself at Bethel House, you'll see some vibrant collages hanging on the wall in the Devotions Room. They are vision board timelines created by women in the 12-month Residential Recovery program.

This required project, which Monique also did while she was at the Mission, is a way for program participants to work out the pain of their past while also looking to their hopes for the future. For many, the process of creating and presenting them to staff and other residents is a fundamental part of transformation and healing.



In Loving Memory

Last year, Jane Blair, one of our most dedicated volunteers passed away. She had been serving at the Mission for many years.

Jane was a retired teacher who tutored hundreds of men and women through our Learning Center. She was patient and caring, and she took great joy in seeing her students develop confidence, take the GED, and go on to further their education and get meaningful jobs.

Many graduates credit her investment for leading them on to lives they never imagined possible. We are so grateful for her dedication, generosity, and friendship.

Jane was also a monthly partner, a member of our legacy society, and her children have continued to honor her memory by donating to the Mission.



Offer Lasting Transformation!

GIVE AN EASTER GIFT

There was a short statement at the end of Monique's story that could be the most powerful part. Did you catch it? Her older daughter had refused to talk to her for years. But now their relationship isn't just surface-level. It's great.

Why? Because Monique's daughter has seen that her mother's transformation is real – and it's lasted.

Lasting transformation – that extends all the way into eternity – is what Jesus' death on the cross made possible. It's not surface-level. It's not temporary. It's deep. It's real. And yes, it doesn't end.

That's the kind of transformation you can offer to men and women in desperate need when you send an Easter gift today.

It will make a big difference for someone like Monique. Any amount you give will help provide food, shelter, counseling, addiction recovery, hope, and Christ-centered care.

You will help people escape addiction, homelessness, hunger, poverty, and despair and live new, beautiful, meaningful lives.



Your Easter gift of any amount will provide food, shelter, counseling, addiction recovery, hope, Christ-centered care, and more! You can also give simply and securely online at sbrm.org/hope



It's Happening!

The Easter Feast

Our Easter Feast will be held on Maundy Thursday (April 14). We're excited to make this day special for those in need.

Because meals often bring people to the Mission, every meal served is the chance to start building a relationship and connect someone to our 12-Month Residential Recovery Program. Because of that, every meal can be the start of transformation!

MILESTONES

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