

SEARCHLIGHT

Serving the needs of the homeless in the community since 1971

There Is No God, I Said

Before I tell you my story, I need to make one thing clear: I was an atheist — a *militant* atheist so convinced I was right, I was determined to destroy the spiritual foundations of every Christian I met. I didn't just want to shake their faith; I wanted to make them cry in despair.

There was just one problem: ever since college, alcohol, crack, and meth were destroying the foundations of *my* life. I lost a business in Hawaii because of it in 2006, and two years later my wife of nine years, my dream girl, divorced me. My family was so ashamed, I even lost them. I lost everything that made life worthwhile to me. And the more I lost, the more depressed I became.

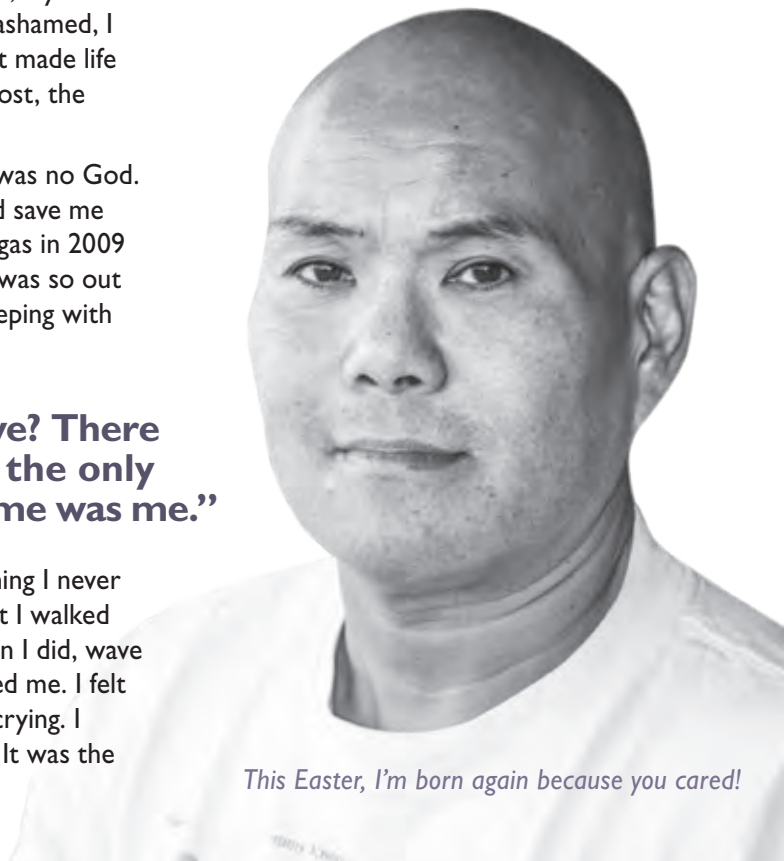
But what hope did I have? There was no God. I thought the only person who could save me was me. So I tried moving to Las Vegas in 2009 to start over. It didn't work. My life was so out of control, I ended up homeless, sleeping with shopping carts at an Albertson's.

“But what hope did I have? There was no God. I thought the only person who could save me was me.”

But on May 17, 2015, I did something I never thought I'd do: I don't know why, but I walked into Grace Pointe Church. And when I did, wave after wave of happiness overwhelmed me. I felt my burdens lift, and I couldn't stop crying. I didn't know it then, but it was God. It was the Holy Spirit. It was a miracle.

And I couldn't deny it. I was done with drugs from that moment on. Three days later, God led me to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission. I was born again, and God used this place to start my new life in Him. This Easter, my shame and loneliness are gone. My life is so transformed, my goal today is to spread the Word of God, to tell others how the living God changed me, and to do my part to fulfill Christ's Great Commission.

There was a time no man could have convinced me God existed. And no man did — it was God Himself.



This Easter, I'm born again because you cared!

Visit Us Online!
www.vegasrescue.org

Our website shows how we're helping the needy every day.

Make a donation and learn more about our programs, fundraisers, needs, events, and how you can help.



480 West Bonanza Rd.
Las Vegas, NV 89106-3227
www.vegasrescue.org
(702) 382-1766

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DONORS STILL PREFER LOCAL NONPROFITS BY A WIDE MARGIN

Sixty-three percent of donors to nonprofits prefer to give to local organizations. That's up from 60 percent in 2015.

Donor preference for giving to national nonprofits dropped from 30 percent to 26 percent in the past year. Donor preference for giving to global nonprofits rose slightly, from 10 percent to 11 percent.

WHAT IT MEANS:

All types of nonprofits may benefit by customizing communications materials with messages that emphasize outreach and results closest to where donors live. Data shows most people like to know they are making an impact in their own backyards.

Thank you for the GIFT OF HOPE.



A Message from My Heart . . .

Harry Hinderliter, President/CEO

Dear Friend of the Las Vegas Rescue Mission,

Every day, we see people walk through the gates of the Las Vegas Rescue Mission, half-clothed, hungry, hopeless, and addicted. I'm sure there are a few people in Las Vegas who would look at some of these hurting men and women and think, *there's no hope for them.*

You and I know, however, that's not true. No matter how broken we are, there's always hope, for one simple reason: We serve an amazing and awesome God.

Whenever someone in need comes to us seeking help, thanks to people like you, we're able to provide them with the absolute necessities of safe shelter, quality food, and clothing. But when those needs are met, we also give them the chance to encounter the Living God, who not only can change their lives, He can transform them. It's a miracle we see every day here at the Las Vegas Rescue Mission. What a blessing that is for all of us!

Thank you for caring about our hurting neighbors

All of this is possible because of so many wonderful supporters like you. There are a lot of places that provide temporary shelter and food for our hurting neighbors, all worthy of support. But you choose to support us because you know the impact we've made on struggling people since 1970. You know your gifts do so much more than provide a Band-Aid for our hurting guests. Your love, kindness, and compassion equip them to live the lives God created for them.

As we approach the coming spring and Easter season, I am humbled and so very grateful for every one of the kind and wonderful people like you who are our partners, as together we seek to care for our hurting neighbors in Southern Nevada. *Thank you!*

Your servant to the homeless,

Harry Hinderliter, President/CEO



"Your love, kindness & compassion equips our struggling guests to live the lives God created for them."



Thanks to an empty tomb . . . yo

Tragically, nearly thousands of homeless men, women, and children throughout Clark County will go to "bed" in cars, trucks, tents, garages, makeshift shelters, and even on our city streets. And almost 2,500 more will spend tonight in shelters like the Las Vegas Rescue Mission.

But there's hope — all because of that first Easter morning, 2,000 years ago, when Jesus rose again and left behind an empty tomb — a tomb big enough to promise wholeness and new life for every struggling person in Clark County and throughout the world. Easter is the reason the Las Vegas Rescue Mission reaches out to the "least of these," and your generosity proves that you share that same compassion and eternal hope in a Risen Savior — and we thank God for you!

A Class Clown Learns to Care

On the surface, I love everyone and everyone loves me. I'm like the class clown, the guy who brings cheer and happiness to people. But underneath the clown mask is another story: I've felt sad and lonely almost all my life.

When I was a child, growing up in Central California, my dad was my best friend and my hero. We were so close, we did everything together. He was a truck driver, and he often took me with him. He was so strong and smart, and he taught me so much. But when I was 11,

he was killed in a car accident. I just couldn't accept it, and it seemed like my life was messed up from then on.

My mom did her best, but I was so angry and hurt, I started drinking when I was 13. At 18, I had four DUIs in one year, and I went to jail. When I got out, no one wanted anything to do with me. I felt so alone. I tried to stop drinking, but it never lasted.

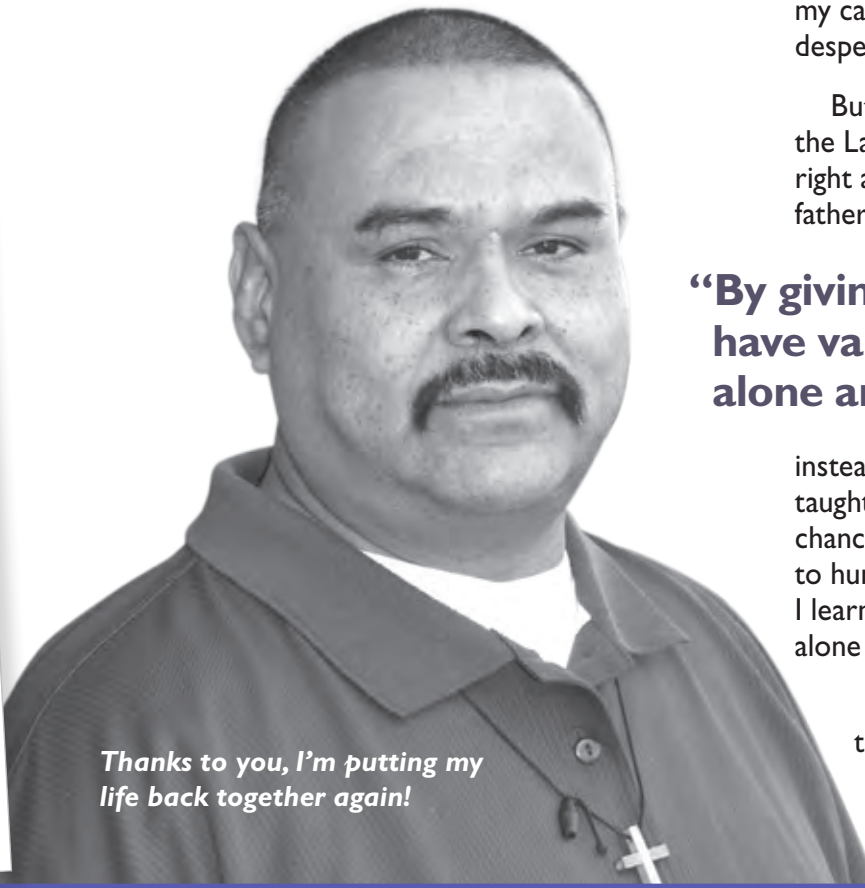
And that's kind of how I lived my life. I'd go to work, come home stinking drunk, and ask myself, "What am I doing?" Then last year, I got laid off from my casino job and lost my home. Unemployed and desperately lonely, I just partied more.

But in January 2015, I was so miserable, I came to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission. They saw through me right away. They helped me face the pain of losing my father. They helped be more open and vulnerable. And

"By giving to others, I learned I really have value and I don't have to feel alone anymore."

instead of just clowning around with people, they taught me to care about people. They gave me the chance to serve others, like helping to provide food to hungry families who come here. By giving to others, I learned I really have value and I don't have to feel alone anymore.

Thank you for helping me put my life back together again.



Thanks to you, I'm putting my life back together again!

ur support can transform lives.

Your Gifts Bring New Life to Hurting People

Your gifts and prayers for hungry, hurting people at the Las Vegas Rescue Mission restore hope and offer resurrection life to those who have lost hope for a better life. God is transforming lives through you!

But every day, more come seeking our help — and they, too, need people like you to give them another chance for new life in Jesus Christ. To give your generous gift today, please use the remit slip enclosed, or make your donation online at www.vegasrescue.org/EasterNews. You may also call us at **(702) 382-1766**. Thank you for being an Easter friend to men, women, and children who need your help.

Your support offers new hope & resurrection life to those who have lost hope for a better life

STUDIES SHOW HOMELESS PEOPLE SUFFER MORE FROM SEVERE MENTAL ILLNESS THAN THE GENERAL POPULATION

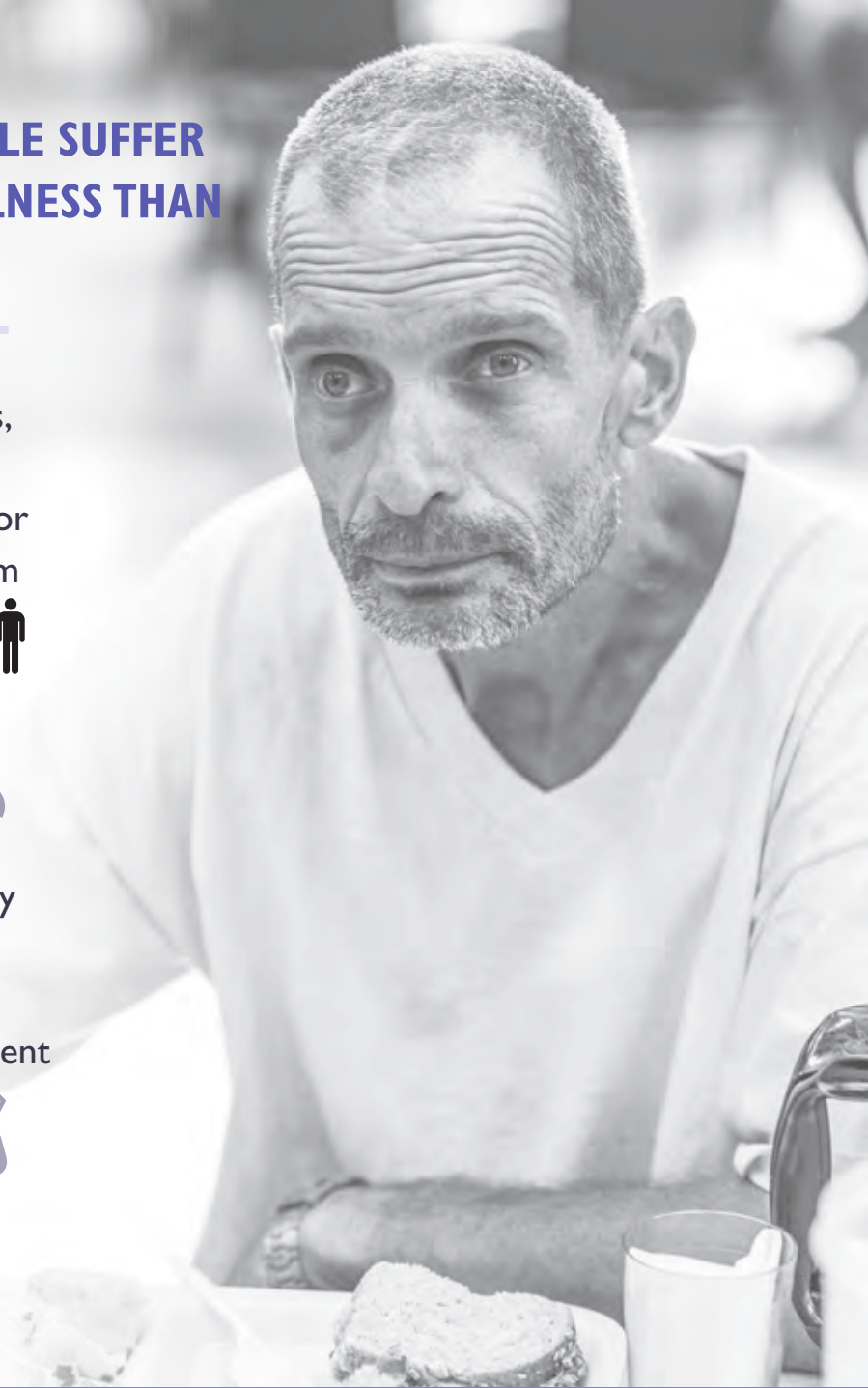
FACT: According to government studies, about 6% of the general population suffers from severe mental illness. But one in five or 20% to 25% of homeless people suffer from untreated severe mental illness.



FACT: 50% of this homeless population self-medicate and are at further risk of addiction and poor physical health.



FACT: A University of Pennsylvania study tracking nearly 5,000 homeless people for two years discovered that investing in comprehensive health support and treatment of physical and mental illnesses is less costly than incarceration, shelter, and hospital services for the untreated homeless.



My Easter Gift

YES, Harry, I want to help give new hope and life to hurting people. Here's my Easter gift of:

- \$20.50 to provide 10 meals and other assistance
- \$30.75 to provide 15 meals and other assistance
- \$61.50 to provide 30 meals and other assistance
- \$_____ to provide as many meals and as much care as possible
- Please bill my credit card:
 - VISA
 - MC
 - AMEX
 - DISCOVER

ACCOUNT NO. _____ EXP. DATE _____

NAME _____ SIGNATURE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Las Vegas Rescue Mission
 P.O. Box 270400
 Las Vegas, NV 89127-5400

Please mail this completed form with your Easter donation, or you may give your gift online at www.vegasrescue.org. Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.