

# URM TODAY

EASTER 2019

Changing the Future of the Homeless... One Life at a Time

NEWSLETTER FROM THE UNION RESCUE MISSION



a beautiful

new  
beginning

Misael's life is being restored  
in ways he never imagined.

*On Page 3: Read how your support is  
giving Misael a reason to celebrate  
this Easter!*

*Easter*<sup>2019</sup>  
ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Don't miss... 2 How You  
Restore Hope

3 "Now I feel God  
touch my heart."

4 Annual Easter  
Campaign

“I’d never experienced God.  
Now, I pray and I feel  
Him touch my heart.”



**M**isael had always felt he wasn’t wanted, wasn’t loved.

It began when he was two and his grandparents took him to live with them in Mexico. He still doesn’t know why his parents sent him away.

Then, when he was 16, his grandparents sent him back to the United States to live with an uncle he’d never met. “I didn’t want to go. They just did it to me,” he says. “I felt rejected and so bitter that I couldn’t even talk to them.”

well, couldn’t work. I was living in hotels, and the shame of my addiction made me run from everybody.”

Then, one day, he awakened in his hotel room lonely, hungry and thirsty, and he had a moment of clarity. “I couldn’t do it anymore. I wanted to change,” he says.

It was then he came to the Mission and entered our New Beginnings life-change program, where he met the Lord. “I’d heard about God, but I’d never experienced Him,”

his New Beginnings counselor have helped Misael heal from rejection. “My counselor told me to forgive my parents and grandparents so I could move on,” he says. “I took it to Christ in prayer, and I’ve been able to forgive them. Now, we actually have a relationship.”

Misael has now graduated from the program and joined our staff as a cook. “I feel the Lord called me here to serve Him, to serve others, and to be an example that it’s possible to change.”

**This Easter, Misael will be celebrating the beautiful new beginning in his life – made possible by your generous support.** “If it wasn’t for this place, I don’t think I could have made it. They saved my life.”

---

“I grew up fearing rejection.”

---

When he was 39, Misael began using drugs to numb his pain, and his life spun out of control. “I couldn’t function

Misael says. “Now, I’ve got intimacy with Him. I pray and I feel Him touch my heart.”

His newfound faith and

VISIT [urmwichita.org](http://urmwichita.org) to read stories of hope, learn more about our ministry & securely donate anytime.

Let’s be friends!



# Easter 2019

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Here's how your gift provides comfort & care over the next month!



7,944 meals to serve



3,230 nights of shelter



27 men to care for in our recovery and job assistance programs



675 hours of education & counseling to provide

## A Message from DENNY BENDER

# YOU RESTORE Hope

When we pass a homeless person on the street in Wichita, it's often easier to avert our eyes to our phones rather than engage with that person's very real pain. That way, we don't have to hear their cries... or see how broken their lives are... or feel how much they suffer.

But their pain is real, even if we look away.

On the cross, Jesus didn't look away from suffering, but endured it, fixing His eyes on "the joy set before Him." The glory of the cross is that Jesus boldly engaged with our pain. He experienced our struggles and our cries, and suffered with all of humanity. Jesus took our pain upon Himself and redeemed it.

### **Easter is our celebration of that new hope!**

Your generous gifts demonstrate that you **turn toward** those who are hurting – and want to offer them healing and restoration through



Christ's love.

Because of you, people like Misael are celebrating HUGE changes in their lives. Misael's story is on page 3, and I hope as you read, you're inspired by how your gifts can turn a life filled with pain into a beautiful new beginning.

By God's grace, and your support, many like Misael are experiencing hope restored. On behalf of each person in our care, thank you for reaching out to them with the love and kindness that helps restore lives this Easter.

Dennis H. Bender, APR  
Executive Director

## EAGLES WING ABOUT TO TAKE FLIGHT!



**Drive by our North Hillside campus and you'll see that our Eagles Wing transitional housing project is nearly done!** Construction is ahead of schedule. The estimated completion date is Early March 2019.

Imagine, in only a few days or so, the men who've graduated from our program will have a place to call home, a place they can grow even stronger and send their roots even deeper into the Lord as they prepare to go out into the world to live productive, independent lives.

We thank you for your prayers and gifts that have helped make this dream a reality for the Mission and those we serve. We couldn't have done it without you!

# Preparing for Easter...

## AND WE NEED YOUR HELP!



**Sunday, April 21:** 10 a.m. Worship  
Shelter and Program Guests  
Easter Celebration

Will you help set more places at our tables for hungry people this Easter?

**Just look at our needs this  
Easter season:  
7,000+ meals for men.**

And there's no way we can serve them without you!

**Donate food:** Please consider hosting a food drive or donating these needed items by **Friday, April 19:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> HAMS                  | <input type="checkbox"/> HOMEMADE                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BAGGED<br>POTATOES    | <input type="checkbox"/> DESSERTS<br>(cookies, brownies,<br>pies, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CANNED<br>GREEN BEANS | <input type="checkbox"/> SALAD  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DINNER ROLLS          | <input type="checkbox"/> ASSORTED<br>CANDY                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FRUIT                 | <input type="checkbox"/> SNACKS   |



Drop off donations at the  
Mission, 2800 N. Hillside  
in Wichita, weekdays,  
8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Thank you!

Don't have time to shop?  
Donate now!  
**(316) 687-4673**  
**urmwichita.org**



## CHRISTIAN HAS A REASON TO CELEBRATE!

Meet Christian! He came to the Mission believing all hope for his life was gone. Your support provided the hot, nourishing meal that changed everything – and gave him hope for a new life in Christ.

Today, you can help more people like Christian with your gift to feed, shelter and share God's love during our Annual Easter Campaign.

**A meal is just \$2.15... and the hope it provides in the lives of homeless and hungry people is truly a reason to celebrate!**

GIVE NOW using the enclosed reply card & envelope.

GIVE ONLINE anytime at **urmwichita.org.**

Thank you for the new hope you make possible in hurting lives! Happy Easter!



**Volunteer:** You can help from now until Easter Sunday!  
Contact Tracey: **(316) 687-4673** **volunteer@urmwichita.org**