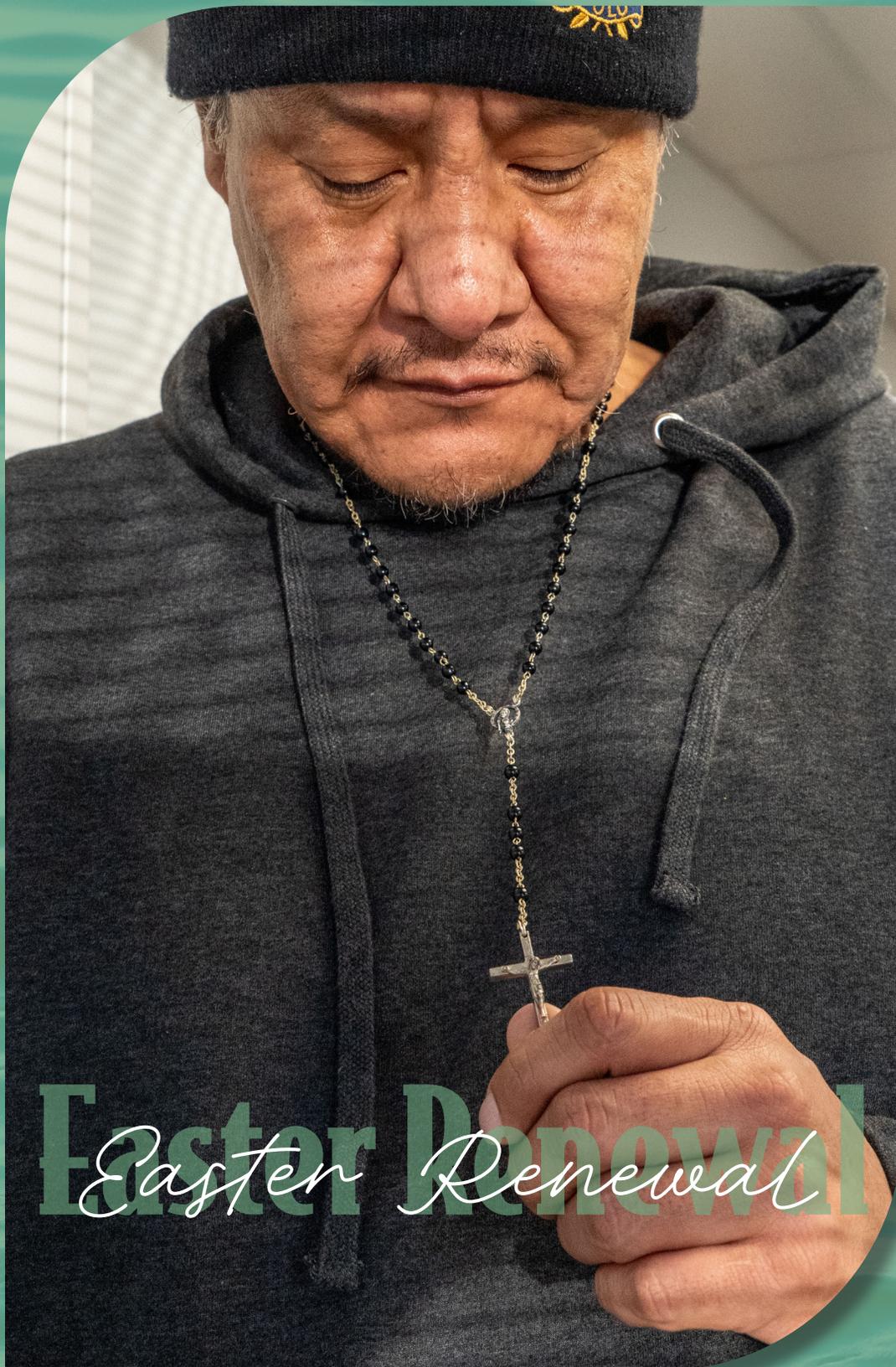


CHANGING LIVES

134 YEARS OF SERVICE



Easter Renewal

Dear Friends,



We are in the season that celebrates amazing and life-changing news—He is risen! Each year at some of our Easter banquets we offer foot washing. Staff and volunteers come, and, in humility, get on their knees and wash the feet of those we serve.

Prior to His death and resurrection, Jesus did something that boggles my mind: He took a towel and a basin of water, and He got on His knees, and He washed the feet of every disciple. The ones who loved Him and the one who would betray Him. Scripture says, “The son of man didn’t come to be served but to serve.”

Last Easter, I washed the feet of a couple experiencing homelessness. After I was finished, the man asked if he could pray for me. Imagine that; they wanted to pray for *me*. Then and now, this brings me to tears.

Just like the disciples, the feet of the guests we serve are not always clean. But through this small act of service, we get to wash their feet, have them checked by doctors volunteering their time, offer them brand new socks and shoes, and I hope and pray we all leave changed.

In the book of 1 John, the author writes:

“God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus.”

That is why we wash feet.

... For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.”

This is why we do what we do at DRM.

We are called to love anyone who comes to us for help, because we love God. I cannot imagine where I would be if not for the good news of redemption and renewal offered through Jesus. God is still in the business of renewal and redemption—like Kyle and Tommy’s stories, which you will read in this newsletter.

Thank you for making our work possible. May you know the power of the resurrection and experience the love of God through Jesus in a new way this year. He is risen!

Dennis Van Kampen | President/CEO

THE MISSION in my words

Cheryl and Linda are members of Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church, which has supported the Mission for 35 years and currently serves lunch at The Crossing twice a month.

Pictured, Linda (far right) with a group from Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church; Cheryl not pictured



Cheryl Mendes-Ellis
& Linda Scott

Why is it important for your church to support the Mission?

Cheryl: We believe in helping the underserved and serving the community. We support the Mission monthly, and as far as being the hands and feet of Jesus, we’re putting food on a tray, but it always comes with a smile, and with a comment to let the guests know that they’re cared for, that they’re prayed for.

What is a meaningful moment from your time serving?

Linda: The guests will talk in line with one another, and we are able to hear what they’re struggling with. It really opens our eyes to what they have going on. Despite these struggles, they are incredibly gracious and thank us often.

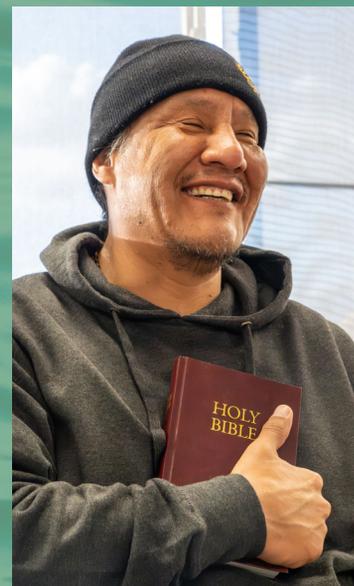
Cheryl: I’ve had a few moments where I ask, “Is there anything I can pray with you about?” More often than not, I get a yes and that means a lot to me.

What does it mean to you to serve those in need, especially around Easter?

Cheryl: Christ gave His life sacrificially, and that’s what we’re called to do. We serve because Christ has put it upon our hearts to do that. We are sinners, but we’re saved by grace, and if we get the opportunity to share that with them, then we’re doing the work of Christ. I call that a privilege.

Easter Renewal

This Easter, you are opening doors to spiritual transformation. For men like Tommy and Kyle—who each came to the Mission in moments of deep desperation—you showed them that a path out of homelessness and addiction can lead to faith, hope and new life.



Treading Water

For years, Kyle and Tommy each felt like they were treading water—stuck in their own cycles that never led anywhere new. Homelessness, addiction, selfishness, isolation, and broken relationships kept pulling them under, hope growing thin with each challenge.

"I have been in and out of recovery for the last 12 years. I had no integrity, was a liar, a cheater and a thief," Kyle said.

Tommy shared a similar experience. "For me, there was really no hope. Nothing worthwhile. There was no emotion, no feeling—just a sense of being lost."

Yet even in the depths a light appeared—like a beacon of hope—leading them each to Denver Rescue Mission's New Life Program with an opportunity for just that—a new life.

"I've always believed in Jesus Christ, but I imposed my will. It was me doing what I wanted to do. **I came to the Mission, desperate,**" Kyle said.

Tommy, raised Catholic, had drifted away from faith until life began unraveling. "I had to reevaluate all my morals," he said. "When I came here, it really kicked into gear—staying focused, staying on track spiritually and growing in the Word again."



Tommy

Kyle





Submerged

A few months apart, both men joined the Mission's program and encountered something new: people who believed in them.

"The staff here show concern about your well-being," Tommy said. **"Being in the program is like building a ship—and that ship is me. It takes time. Then when it's time for me to set out, they will give me a nudge, and it's up to me if I sink or swim."**

Shaun Riley, the assigned chaplain for each of the men, noticed a contrast between their demeanors when they first arrived.

"Tommy was closed-mouthed. He didn't talk to people," she said. "Kyle, on the other hand, was always talking—but I think he was angry about some things."

Both men were clearly looking to let go of their old lives and find a greater purpose. After sessions with their chaplain and choosing to participate in Bible studies, they each made the decision to get baptized.

Washed Clean

Submerged beneath the water, it was a moment that marked a new beginning. When Tommy and Kyle each broke the water's surface, both described a feeling of renewal—of being washed clean.

"It felt like a weight off my shoulders," Tommy said. "Like everything was wiped clean."

Though Kyle had been baptized before, this time was different. "I took it seriously," he said. "Going through the Bible studies at the Mission, I realized that it was time to take action."

Chaplain Shaun saw the change immediately. "The day of the baptism was the turning point," she said. "Tommy was smiling afterward. Ever since then, he has had a glow—a very different countenance."

Teresa Da, Clinician at The Crossing, agreed. “Before, he wouldn’t really engage. After the baptism, he was smiling, making eye contact, asking how you’re doing. He was like a closed flower that suddenly opened.”

She saw transformation in Kyle as well. “The light that resonated off each one of them—it was beautiful. It brought me to tears.”

The baptism wasn’t just an individual decision—it was a communal one. Around 10 men from the New Life Program stood together at a neighborhood church that day, united by shared brokenness and shared hope.

“It felt like a brotherhood,” Kyle said. “We all knew we were taking this step not just for ourselves, but for our brothers.”

That bond has grown into real accountability and friendship—especially between Kyle and Tommy. “Now we support each other,” Tommy said. “If he falls, I can reach down and help him up.”

Teresa sees that growth reflected in their daily choices as they progress through the program and prepare for stability outside of the Mission.

“They’re more intentional now—how they talk, how they interact, how they make decisions,” she said. “They’re seeking things out on their own—IDs, jobs, next steps—and asking, ‘Am I doing this according to Christ?’”

A New Day

As Easter approaches, Kyle and Tommy see their own journeys reflected in the resurrection story.

“Jesus rose on the third day—and it’s like a new day for me,” Kyle said. “This Easter is a marking of me choosing to follow Him more than ever.”

For Tommy, this Easter will feel entirely different. “Before, Easter was numbing. Now it’s uplifting. It’s a whole new perspective.”

Teresa believes moments like baptism help sustain hope long after men leave the Mission. “It seals the deal,” she said. “They’re more likely to find a church home, a spiritual community—to continue in their recovery successfully.”

Many come to Denver Rescue Mission seeking food, shelter or recovery. But often, they leave with much more—a renewed identity, restored dignity and hope for a future.

“I just want to thank the people who make this program possible,” Tommy said. “Because of their kindness, people like me get another chance.”

Help make Easter a season of new beginnings by making a donation today at DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives



Scan to Give!

“Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.” –John 13:14

Each Easter, we host a special banquet for our guests, not only with a special meal, but with foot washing—a humbling practice modeled after Jesus washing His disciples’ feet.

Staff, volunteers and guests kneel together as a reminder for those who often feel unseen or unworthy of a simple truth: **You are valued. You belong.**



Looking for Tax Benefits This Year?

There are additional tax benefits when you gift **stocks, IRA rollovers, Qualified Charitable Distributions, or grants from Donor-Advised Funds** to benefit the work of Denver Rescue Mission.

[DenverRescueMission.org/Ways-To-Give](https://denverrescuemission.org/Ways-To-Give)

Tax ID#84-6038762

OUR CORE STRATEGIES



EMERGENCY SERVICES

Meeting the needs of the most vulnerable



REHABILITATION

Equipping men through a life-changing program



TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMS

Transitioning people into stability



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Providing essential needs for daily life



Volunteer With Us



LOCATIONS Lawrence Street Shelter | Lawrence Street Community Center | The Crossing | Ministry Outreach Center | Holly Center Administration & Education | 48th Avenue Center | Harvest Farm | Fort Collins Rescue Mission

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