

# BELIEVER



**The Mission**  
AT KERN COUNTY  
do you believe

Restoring lives in your community since 1952... do you believe

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MISSION AT KERN COUNTY • Holiday 2022

**Don't miss...**

**2** The Joy that Comes from Christ

**3** "Now I'm a child of God."

**4** Find a Bargain, Bless a Life



**The best Christmas gift there is...**

*Kelleye*

**has joy and new life, thanks to you!**





# “I was lost, but now I’M A CHILD OF GOD.”

Kelleye awakened in the Fresno Burn Center, frightened and confused. **She had no memory of starting a fire in her apartment or being overcome by carbon monoxide.** “I found out that, while I was intoxicated, I’d set a box of cleaning supplies on the stove and accidentally lit the burner.”

It wasn’t the first time drinking had landed her in trouble. She’d been struggling with addiction for years, relying on family to support her, and gradually, giving up on every dream she’d ever had to do something meaningful, to make a difference in the world.

**But as she lay there in the Burn Center, she had a moment of clarity.** “I found out that my neighbor had saved my life and I realized God must have a purpose for me,” she says. “I decided it was time to get sober.”

Kelleye entered our Christian Life Training Discipleship Program, where Bible studies, faith-based addiction recovery and Christian counseling led her to surrender her life to Christ and taught her to lean on Him each and every day.

Meanwhile, life skills classes and job readiness training equipped her to live a productive, self-reliant life. Her family is overjoyed with her transformation. “I prayed for God to restore my relationships with them and He did. He’s been so good to me.”

Now a graduate of the program, Kelleye has a place of her own and works at Adventist Health, helping ICU nurses care for their patients. “Now I have a purpose,” she says, proudly. “And I’m no longer relying on my family to support me. I’m doing it by myself and it’s a good feeling.”

**Kelleye is excited to celebrate the restored hope she has been given this Christmas – and wants YOU to know just how grateful she is.** “Before I came to the Mission, I was lost. I had nothing. But now I’m a child of God.”

“MY LIFE IS SO GOOD WITH GOD IN IT!”





# Give 2X the help on GIVING TUESDAY

Tuesday, November 29

## A Message from CARLOS BALDOVINOS

### The JOY that Comes from Christ

Don't you just love the words of John 1:14? *"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."*

As we rejoice over the birth of our Savior, it's such a blessing to know God fills our hearts with joy everlasting – today and every day. His faithfulness sustains us through every circumstance and His grace offers renewal in our lives... as well as in the lives of those we serve.

While we do provide Christmas gifts to the guests in our care, what's most important is that they know about Jesus' sacrifice and the gift of salvation that is freely given to us all.

This year, as our ministry celebrates 70 years of service in our community, we are thankful for caring friends like you, whose support allows us to share the "good tidings of great joy for all people" during the holidays and throughout the year. Your fervent prayers and ongoing support help restore lives – and wrap local men, women and children in God's loving embrace.

Just like Kelleye, whose story we've shared on page 3, God still works miracles in the lives of people all around us.

This Christmas, I hope your heart overflows with peace, joy and love as your blessings abound.



Carlos Baldovinos  
Executive Director

## SHARE A CHRISTMAS MEAL...

You can help make this Christmas a time of celebration for our neighbors who are hungry and homeless. With so many obstacles to overcome during this season of hardship, they need a helping hand and to experience God's love!



**\$2.05**  
for 1 hot meal



**\$15.69**  
for 1 night of safe shelter

**CAN GIVE SOMEONE**



**Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!**

## \$25,000 Year-End Matching Challenge DOUBLE YOUR HELP!



Here's a huge blessing as we end this year: Thanks to the generous Skeet Varner Foundation, **any gift you make until December 31 will be matched through our \$25,000 Matching Challenge!**

That's right... your gift today doubles to provide twice the food, shelter and care. And that means twice the hope for many of our neighbors who are struggling with inflation, soaring gas prices and other hardships.

**DEADLINE TO GIVE: 12/31**

- ✉ Add your special year-end gift to the reply card and send it today.
- 📄 Give online anytime at [themissionkc.org](http://themissionkc.org).

**THANK YOU**  
for doubling your  
impact during  
our Matching  
Challenge!



## Find a Bargain Bless a Life!

Thank you for your generous spirit. It's reflected in all you do to share your blessings with those in need.

Would you like to continue bringing healing and hope to the broken beyond your lifetime? When you remember the Mission at Kern County in your will or estate plan, you ensure that your spirit of compassion continues blessing others tomorrow and beyond.

For information on planned giving opportunities, please contact Carlos Baldovinos at  
☎ (661) 325-0863 or  
✉ [cbaldovinos@themissionkc.org](mailto:cbaldovinos@themissionkc.org).

When you make a donation or shop at our Encore Boutique, you bless others' lives in so many ways!

- Our residential recovery program participants gain valuable vocational skills and experience working at our store.
- While shopping at Encore Boutique, you can find a bargain and bless a life!
- The proceeds from all Encore Boutique sales support our



programs that save and transform the lives of hurting people in Kern County.

Shop or drop off your donations at Encore Boutique, 1817 Eye Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Saturday from noon – 4 p.m.



*Thank you!*