

# CROSSROADS



Los Angeles  
**MISSION**  
The Crossroads of Hope

March 2005

[www.losangelesmission.org](http://www.losangelesmission.org)

## What would make this Easter season different from any other?

# You!



**You can make the difference!**

We invite you to be a part of what will make this Easter in **Hope Central** (a.k.a. *Skid Row*) a family celebration for men, women and children who are in need.

Whatever you can provide will help us to share the love of God, in some very human expressions that the homeless deserve every day of the year, especially during the Easter season of renewal.

These are three simple, practical things that you can do to help make a tremendous impact in the lives of desperately hurting people.

Join us as we celebrate new beginnings for those who come through our doors simply to enjoy a hot meal and end up accepting the opportunity to have a second chance at life through our Urban Training Institute.

### How can you be involved?

*Here are three simple ways:*

First, and most importantly, we ask you to join us as we uphold in prayer the thousands of men, women and children who will come through our doors this Easter season.

Next, we would love to see you volunteer your time this Easter season! There are volunteer opportunities here every day at the Los Angeles Mission, and volunteering during the Easter season is especially fulfilling.

Finally, please remember to support the Los Angeles Mission with a financial contribution.



*Hosts Billy Davis Jr. and Marilyn McCoo help serve the nearly 3,000 hot Easter meals.*

*photos by  
André B. Murray*



# Overcoming the Odds!

**T**wo years ago, this newsletter featured Clarence and Dedra Crenshaw. The Crenshaws had been involved in an addictive lifestyle and sought help to save their marriage and their family. They both entered the Los Angeles Mission's Fresh Start Rehabilitation Program at the same time – Clarence on the men's side and Dedra living separately at The Anne Douglas Center. After spending 13 months in rehabilitation, they graduated together in the same ceremony.

They spent another 13 months living together in the Mission's transitional housing, followed by another 13 months renting an apartment in Upland. They considered themselves blessed by God for the way that He had provided for their needs and restored their family.

Most important to Clarence and Dedra in their new life together was their dedication to seeking God's will. They tell us "Continually, we sought the face of God to guide us in the direction He wanted us to go. We stayed faithful and obedient and now God has blessed us with a home of our own." (*Clarence and Dedra recently purchased a home in Rialto, close to her mother and away from the environment of their past.*)

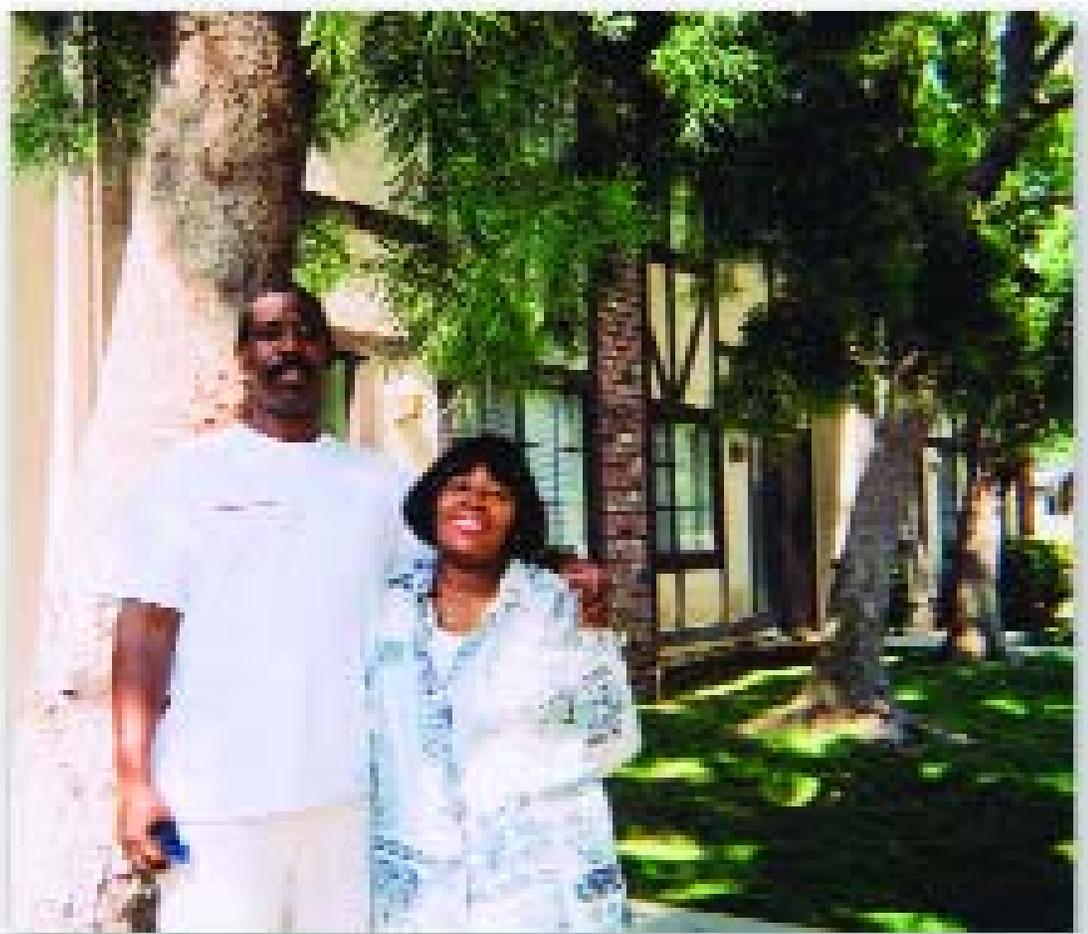
The blessings that have come their way are a direct result of their obedience to God. Their life together is no longer about them; it is about practicing the presence of God in their lives. They want God to see the best in them and use their testimony to encourage others.

There have been challenges, but they realize that their faith can overcome any obstacle. Establishing the right priorities and maintaining a grateful spirit for what God is doing is foremost in their minds.

The purchase of their new home was not allowed to jeopardize their ability to tithe. They remain faithful in ministry to their church and in their support of others who are struggling to overcome problems of addiction and abuse. Clarence and Dedra truly are over comers and they are living witnesses to the fact that "...we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us." (*Phil. 4:13*)

**Clarence and Dedra would like to thank the following for supporting them through the years to get to where they are now:**

Lorraine Cervantes, Pastor & Mrs. Mel Brown, Loretta Sanders, Malachi & Donald Upshaw, Pastor Alex & Lupe Miramonte, Aunt Barbara, Aunt Melrose and Shirley, the ir daughter Ronedra, their grandchildren Iauna, Anaya and Jalachi, the Los Angeles Mission and Anne Douglas Center.





# Los Angeles Mission Community Clinic

Reaching Hearts  
by Touching Soles



Los Angeles  
**MISSION**  
Community  
**Clinic**



**W**hat is life like when you're on your feet all day wandering the streets of downtown Los Angeles? Ask the several hundred homeless men and women who plan to receive a free foot washing at the Los Angeles Mission's annual Easter Dinner on Good Friday, March 25, 2005.

Los Angeles Mission Community Clinic doctors and volunteers will provide foot exams as well as symbolically bathe the feet of the homeless as Jesus did for his disciples the night before he was crucified. Free socks and foot care products will be provided.

But it isn't all about footcare this joyous Easter celebration. The Los Angeles Mission anticipates serving nearly 3,000 hot meals to homeless men, women and children. And, over 600 homeless children will receive Easter bags full of candy and surprises.

You can be part of this event. We invite you to pray with us for the thousands of men, women and children who will be coming to us this Easter.

***We are in need of volunteers to help us wash the feet of the homeless. Please consider joining us in this most symbolic act of humility. We guarantee that you will be blessed because of it!***



photos by André B. Murray



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# 4 Easy Steps to Making a Gift

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**H**ow easy is it to make a gift to the Los Angeles Mission? Actually, it can be very easy whether you are considering an immediate or a deferred gift. Immediate gifts are those that the Mission can use for the purpose of providing immediate care to the individuals and families we serve. Deferred Gifts are those that we would not expect to receive until a later time such as bequests.

The gift we receive most often is by check; pretty easy. However, did you know that you could make a non-cash gift using appreciated assets such as stock? Making a gift of stock is as easy as contacting your broker with instructions to transfer stock directly to Los Angeles Mission. Your broker should contact our office for instructions about the transfer or redemption of the stock.

The easiest and most often used method for making a deferred gift is a simple Bequest to the Los Angeles Mission that is included in a Will. All you need is a Will, with language that states the amount of the gift, or a percentage of your estate, or its remainder. If you have a Will that does not yet include a bequest to the Los Angeles Mission, your attorney can simply draft an amendment (Codicil) that will carry out your Bequest intentions.

Finally, for donors who would like to make a gift and get income in return, an easy method to achieve this is called a Gift Annuity. The Gift Annuity is a simple agreement between the Los Angeles Mission and our donors, in which the donor agrees to provide a lifetime income in exchange for a gift that we will receive at a later time.

Four easy gifts for you to make that will impact the lives of the people we serve for both immediate and long-term benefits.

If you would you like to learn more about making a gift to the Los Angeles Mission, and/or would like to arrange a confidential meeting, please contact Myles Clark at (213) 629-1227, or visit our web site at [www.losangelesmission.org](http://www.losangelesmission.org).



*The information in this article is, to the best of our knowledge, accurate and is provided for general informational purposes only. The Los Angeles Mission is not engaged in rendering legal or tax advice. The application of any laws discussed herein may vary from state to state. Consulting with independent counsel is recommended for individual applications.*

# Heartfelt Thanks...

**T**he Los Angeles Mission is blessed to have donors that constantly amaze us with their compassion and generosity. On occasion, we receive donations that stand out because of the impact they have on the homeless community that we serve.

One of these donations came from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. The impact, however, of their donation - **500** sleeping bags was tremendous! Our staff handed out the bags to those who were sleeping in cardboard boxes on the street and their gratitude was overwhelming.

A heartfelt thanks, as well, to Beyond Zebra, a private promotional company. They made a gift to establish a scholarship fund for the graduates of the Anne Douglas Center at the Los Angeles Mission. This fund will provide opportunities for education and job training to women who are in the process of rebuilding their lives.

Beyond Zebra's donation will truly have a long-term impact on many lives.



*Joining Marshall McNott, president (back row), and Tina Babcock, Director of Anne Douglas Center (front row, left) are Beyond Zebra's staff who recently volunteered at our Annual Christmas Event. They are (second from left) Karen Yamate, Terry Berling, Kim Yamate, Stacy Burlison and Chris Spinelli.*

## Make a Difference in Hurting Lives!

For information or questions please call the Los Angeles Mission at **(213) 629-1227** and select from the options below:

How to become a volunteer: **Ext. 301**

How to make a financial gift: **Ext. 334 or 336**

To make a gift-in-kind donation: **Ext. 326**

To arrange for a large gift-in-kind donation pick-up: **Ext. 333**

Inquiries regarding mailing list and donor relations: **Ext. 334**

Information about the Urban Training Institute: **Ext. 504**

Information about the Anne Douglas Center: **Ext. 507**

To make a monetary donation online, visit our website at **[www.losangelesmission.org](http://www.losangelesmission.org)**.



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# God Granted Her Request

3 Years after Graduating from the Los Angeles Mission's Anne Douglas Center, Tammy's life remains on the Right Path, keeping her First Priority for Serving the Lord!

**W**hen I came to the Anne Douglas Center at the Los Angeles Mission in 2000, I was a perfect example of a life otherwise lost.

I met a man at the Riverside City Mission named Michael Fishback and the Lord used him to introduce me to the Anne Douglas Center. He brought me to Los Angeles in his truck and I enrolled in the Fresh Start Program. Michael was my Good Samaritan and I will be eternally grateful for the kindness that he showed to me.

After graduating from the Anne Douglas Center in November, 2001, I worked for Robinson's May for a year but felt led to pursue a career in the medical field. Thanks to a grant from Bryman College, I received the training that I needed to become a Medical Assistant and X-ray Technician.

God has blessed me with wonderful husband and a career. My desire is to remain a faithful servant and allow Him to use me as He sees fit. I want to keep serving

the Lord as my first priority.

My vision verse at our graduation ceremony was *1st Chronicles 4:10*: Jabez cried out to the God of Israel. "Oh that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." And God granted his request.

God has also granted my request. He truly has blessed me. Graduation from the Anne Douglas Center truly was the beginning of my future.

My message to you is that if I can do it, anyone can do it.

And, for those who faithfully support the ministry of the Anne Douglas Center, I just want to put a face on what you contribute to.



For all of the graduates, I say "Thank you".