



# CENTRAL COAST Rescue Mission

An Outreach ministry of



September 2011

Changing Lives for Good

## The Best Lesson Learned

Sean is 29 years old and as smart as all get out. As smart as Sean is though, he learned his best lesson just recently.

Sean is what you might call a high performer, but looking back on his life, Sean admits that he was performing for the wrong reasons - to get rid of the hor-

rible sense that he wasn't good enough. Sean worked hard and did everything he could to prove himself - but he seemed to have a penchant for blowing up even the good things that came his way.

Then he joined the US Army and that was a perfect fit for an over-driven, bright, and strong young man. Sean excelled in every way and became a parachutist - pure joy - until the day he broke his back in an accident.

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*Sean found himself at a place he never thought he'd be - a rescue mission.*

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The one place where he excelled and thrived was lost to Sean so he tried his hand at several jobs, but he wasn't happy. And he knew he was overusing medicine to kill the pain - but was it his back pain or his feelings that he was trying to kill? He had lost his way and needed a plan for his life.

Eventually Sean found himself at

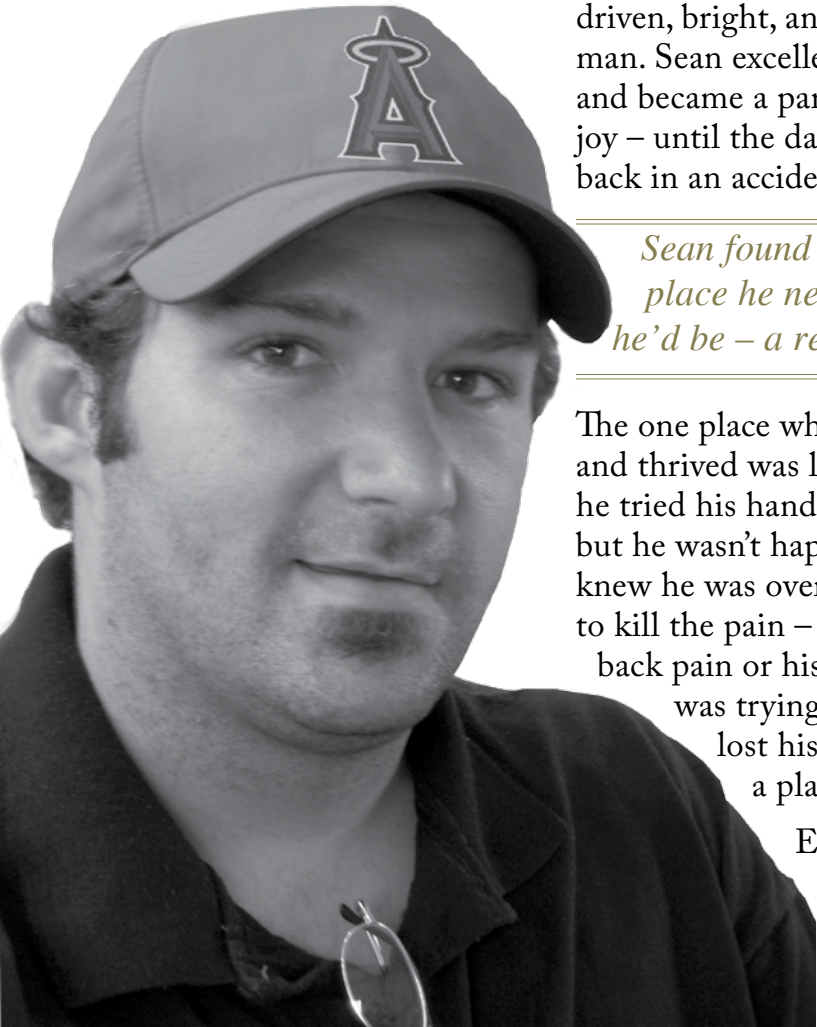
a place he never thought he'd be - a rescue mission. But it made sense; he wasn't going anywhere. And the old demons of shame and worry wouldn't leave - so Sean joined the mission's Life Recovery Program at Christmas time.

Despite the ups and downs of living with other men at a mission, this was the dose of reality that Sean needed. It became a safe haven to slow down and get away from having to perform.

Then he began to understand something crazy...God loved him without condition. For the first time Sean has realized he can relax and rest in God's love for him.

Sean is reuniting with his father to move back home and be close to his son. Sean hopes to become a Bible College student one day.

Sean's life verse is, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)



Sean didn't see this lesson coming - but he's glad it came!

# He's Not Giving Up



Joe finds strength in God, friends, and a little humor!

Joe cannot afford a place of his own so he has been living in his van for two years now. Thanks to the generosity of a local shop owner, Joe now has a place to park his van at night and run an electrical cord so he can use his sleep apnea machine.

Joe's relationship with the mission started with a meal one year ago. Sometimes the meal he gets at the outreach dinner is the only meal he may have that day. Joe's grateful for what he does have. He appreciates the scripture he read on the mission's flyer – "Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame." Joe has never given up on his relationship with God. Joe said, "Sometimes that is all I have - GOD, nothing else."

Thanks for partnering with us to serve Joe and many others with love and care!

# Something Kept Him from Going in

Leon began smoking weed when he was 15 years old. Today he realizes that he is no different than the man who lives on Skid Row; he just sleeps in his truck and washes his face with his own bottled water.

The truth is - Leon is tired. He knew the mission served dinners but something kept him from going in and eating with the others. Now he's glad that he's joined us for dinner. Leon has become friends with our chaplain and our volunteers who have encouraged him to take a good next step. Leon knows that if he's going to change his life, after 40 years of addiction, there's going to be a battle ahead. Leon says, for his mother who deserves to see her son get it together and for his four grandchildren, he knows it is time to do something to get the help he needs.

Please keep people like Leon in your prayers –to see them make the right choice and get off the streets.



Keep Leon in your prayers – God is ready to do big work!

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YOU SHALL  
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