

Fingertip Faith

"...Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." John 20:25

The words of the first man to step on the moon were undoubtedly the result of careful deliberation on his part since he was fully aware that this utterance would be heard around the world and recorded for all future generations. No spur-of-the-moment statement would suffice in this magnificent moment.

Perhaps, had Thomas known on the spring evening so long ago that his words would be remembered throughout the ages, he might have chosen them more carefully. Instead, his reply to the assertion of his friends, "We have seen the Lord," earned for him the appellation, "Doubting Thomas." Probably the other ten disciples tried to convince him they actually had seen Jesus with their own eyes and heard him with their own ears, but Thomas remained unbelieving, his faith in his fingertips. A week later when Thomas saw Jesus with his own eyes and heard with his own ears the invitation to "reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side..." all doubts were dispelled. Yet Thomas is not remembered for his confessions, "My Lord and my God," but for his doubts.

By Ruthela Welty, Easter 1970

What proof can we offer today to the "doubting Thomases" in our scientifically oriented society to substantiate the claim that Jesus Christ is alive? If we could join the crowd worshipping at the empty tomb on Easter morning, would that be proof enough? Or is not the Biblical account of the resurrection convincing evidence? What further proof do we have — or need? The most irrefutable testimony to the fact that Jesus Christ lives today was aptly expressed by the song writer: "You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart!" The life of the Christian should prove that Jesus lives.

Notice that Jesus did not scold Thomas for his doubts but rather offered to him the exact proof he required in order that Thomas, too, might be numbered with the believers. Honest doubts are understandable, but to cling stubbornly to doubt in the face of overwhelming evidence is unforgivable. If yours is a "fingertip faith," Jesus invites you to come to Him for the proof you need to believe that He lives. If you are among those of whom Jesus said, "...blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed," then it is your responsibility to prove by your life that the message of Easter is true, that Jesus lives, and that He lives in your heart.

The Impact of Legacy Gifts

Throughout Lima Rescue Mission's history, legacy gifts have provided significant support for our ministry to the homeless and less fortunate, ensuring that we are able to provide care to others well in to the future.

Lasting impact

Our Camp Roberts ministry to inner-city youth was started in 1975 through generous bequests. Over 40 years later, thousands of children have been introduced to God's Word because of those legacy gifts.

Projects and improvements

Legacy gifts have allowed us to complete major projects and improvements that would not have been possible otherwise.

Financial stability

Legacy gifts provide financial stability for daily ministry, especially during times when we are serving more people, or when there are unforeseen expenses.

Future investment

These gifts also allow us to save funds that may be used for future ministry growth.

We're thankful for friends who have made arrangements for a gift after their passing. There are several options for making a legacy gift, including a fixed amount or percentage listed in your will, a payable on death account, an IRA, life insurance policy, or other options. Your attorney or financial advisor will be able to help arrange the best option for you.

Thank you for considering a gift that will leave a legacy!

We currently have multiple openings for part-time positions, both at the Mission and Camp Roberts. To view complete job descriptions, see our statement of faith, and download an employment application, visit our website at www.limamission.org/employment.

Memorials

The Lima Rescue Mission would like to thank everyone who recently contributed in memory of the following individuals:

William Bassett
Wendla Black
Robert P. Buhrow
Dee Converse
Delores "Dee" Estes
Lloyd Few
Bill Hill
Bill Kimmel
Robert McBeth
Dixie Shellenbarger
Sarah Schultz

Online giving

Our new online giving site is available at give.limamission.org. Features include:

- Create an account and save information for future access
- View giving history
- Update address or other profile information
- Create and manage recurring gifts (change date of gift, giving method, or pause gift)

As always, you can make a designation for a specific ministry, and you can dedicate your gift in memory or honor of someone.

Ministry updates

For continued updates between newsletters, you can sign up for email updates by visiting limamission.org/eupdate, and view our blog posts at limamission.org/resources/blog.



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Donate online at www.limamission.org

2020 Statistics and summary

As we reflect on last year, we want to thank everyone who joined us in prayer and giving—we know that we are not alone in this ministry; your partnership allows the Mission to provide care to the homeless regardless of what is going on in the world around us. Our goal is to continue to appear as lights in the world, holding forth the word of life. (Philippians 2:14-16)

Here is an overview of statistics from 2020:

Meals provided: 12,830

Nights of shelter: 4,026

New guests: 122

Years in operation: 114

We normally see fluctuations throughout the year, both for meals and shelter. There may be times when only a handful are staying in our overnight shelter, and other times that we have to use an overflow space. Despite the sometimes unpredictable swings, we continue to focus on working with every individual—evaluating needs, determining the best ways to help, and setting achievable goals.

Activities throughout the year

included discipleship, Bible studies, classes on a variety of topics, and chapel services conducted by staff and volunteers. Clothing and personal care items were distributed daily. We were joined by many volunteers, some individually and others in groups, who were involved in serving and preparing meals.

Although we weren't sure what to expect early in the year, we ended 2020 with an increase in giving. We also had an abundance of donations of personal care items, food, and cleaning supplies. Thank you for giving generously! Your support makes it possible to provide physical and spiritual care every day.

Your prayers are an encouragement to our staff as we work to effectively reach and care for everyone who turns to us in a time of crisis. Please pray that the hearts of the men who come to us will be open to the gospel message.

Thank you again to everyone who joined us to provide care to those in need last year. We appreciate your continued prayers and support!

Camp Roberts ministry update

We will soon begin preparations for this summer's ministry at Camp Roberts. Please join us in prayer that we will be able to proceed without interruption; we value this ministry, and it is important that we carry on this summer. The camp provides a safe haven for children who are facing difficulty. It's a place where they can enjoy the outdoors, learn about God's Word, and spend time in a safe and caring environment. We know that the camp ministry has a lasting impact on the children who attend!

And the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying."

Matthew 28:5-6

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