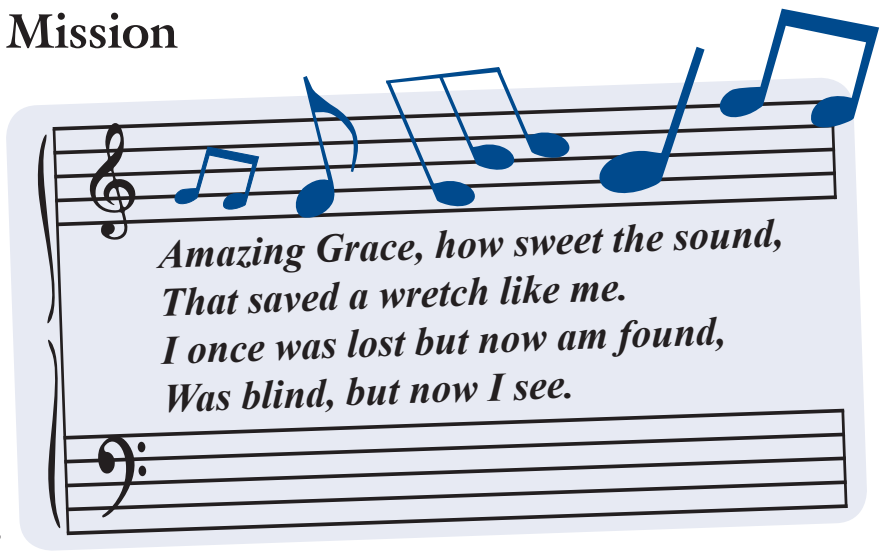




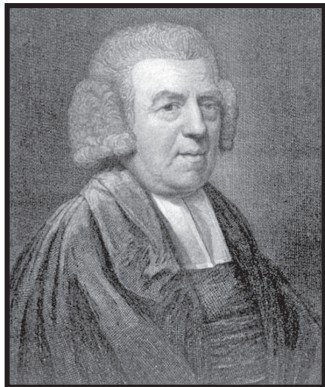
Good News Rescue Mission

2842 South Market St.
Redding, CA 96001
(530) 242-5920



Dear Friend,

The words above are some of the best known in all of the English language. It has been called the most popular song in the world, referenced by believers and non, sung by paupers and presidents alike. But, the amazing thing about Amazing Grace is not its music, not its popularity, no - not even a heart wrenching bagpipe rendition. No, the most amazing thing about the lyrics to Amazing Grace is their inspiration, the real life story of their author, John Newton.



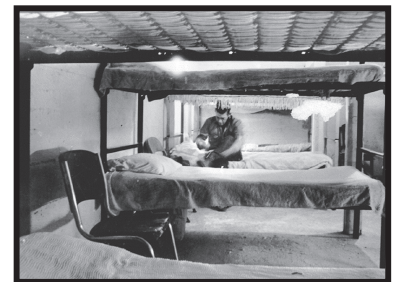
John Newton

Born in 1725, John Newton lost his Mother at the tender age of 6 years old.

While she had reared him in those early years in the church, her death left Newton's upbringing to his father, a sailor. At around 18 years of age, he was conscripted into the Royal navy only to desert, be flogged, demoted and then grow murderously angry and suicidal. His insubordination continued and he requested service on a slave trading ship. There, life went from bad to worse, as his depravity continued. His mouth was so foul that by some accounts even the saltiest ship's captains were offended. On his first slave ship, he ran afoul of the captain who as punishment nearly starved him. Forced to remain on land at one point, he accepted employment in Sierra Leone, but so offended his employer's African mistress, "a tribal princess" that she "imprisoned him in chains, starved him and treated him brutally." Newton was later rescued by another slaving ship and then went on to command his own vessel. During one voyage he was harpooned in the hip by his own crew after falling overboard and hauled on board wounded and bleeding. The incident left him with a limp until his death.

Out of boredom, he began reading a copy of the book "Imitation of Christ" by Thomas a Kempis. One fateful night, his ship and crew were caught in a severe storm and it appeared they would perish. As the crew called out that the ship was sinking he called out, "Lord have mercy on us."

And, to Newton's and the whole crew's surprise, they survived. Newton saw that day as the beginning of his understanding of God's grace. While his conversion experience may have been dramatic, the changes in his behavior took time. It was several years before he would end his career in slave trading and pursue the ministry. He wasn't immediately accepted by his contemporaries in the Church of England because of his evangelical leanings. With the help of



a friend, he was eventually granted a leadership position in small church in Olney, an out of the way small English town. By the end of his life he had become a leading voice for the abolition of slavery and a mentor to one of the movement's strongest advocates, William Wilberforce. The 2006 motion picture, "Amazing Grace" which starred Ioan Gruffudd and Albert Finney highlights Wilberforce's fight and Newton's impact on his life and struggle.



(Turn Over Please)

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MEAL TICKET



Good News Rescue Mission
P.O. Box 991626
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- \$22.50 to help feed and care for 10 people
- \$45.00 to help feed and care for 20 people
- \$90.00 to help feed and care for 40 people
- Other \$ _____

Yes Ken, I want to help hungry and homeless people now and throughout the new year.

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 Address _____ Phone _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

For Credit Card Donation:

(check one) Monthly Recurring One Time

Visa MasterCard Discover

Card # _____ Exp. _____

Signature _____

Name (please print) _____

Gifts are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed. Thank you for caring and helping.

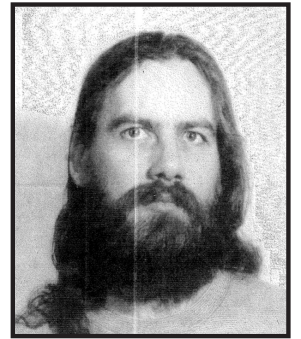


I can't imagine a world without the joyous, comforting, redemptive song of Amazing Grace. Like John Newton, so many of our guests come to us in the midst of a life filled with chaos, hardships, wrong choices, disasters and dire consequences. And, admittedly, not unlike the famous song's author, the evidence of God's grace is sometimes slow to blossom and bear fruit. But imagine, just for a minute, if Newton had not experienced that grace. What if he had been left to drown? What if he hadn't received the help of a friend? What if the former slave trader had not heard God's voice and become an ardent abolitionist? What if?

We've all heard it said, "But for the Grace of God, there go I." A portion of Newton's self-authored epitaph reads:

Once an Infidel and Libertine, a servant of slaves in Africa, was, by the rich mercy of our Lord and Saviour, JESUS CHRIST, preserved, restored, pardoned, and appointed to preach the Faith he had long laboured to destroy.

The parallels of Newton's life to the lives of so many here at the Mission are not lost on us. It is the work of Grace that motivates and inspires each of us here at the Mission. Each person here has value, no matter their past or present circumstances. It is for their future filled with Grace that we labor and strive.



Doug Furr

Just before my first day here at the Mission nearly two years ago, I heard God's voice in the words of Proverbs 31:8 which reads, "speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute." It has been my foremost mission here to acquaint you with not only the work we do, but why we do it and who we do it for, and to share with you true stories of changed lives. We try to fill our letters with real stories and local people you have helped. One such person is Doug Furr. Some of you may know Doug, but for those who don't, in the coming months you'll hear more about Doug and others like him who, **because of your commitment and support**, have come to the Mission and experienced – as John Newton did -- God's Amazing Grace. **On their behalf, thank you!**

In Christ,

Ken White

P.S. Donations fell precipitously in November and December, typically our best months of the year, yet the needs remain. Your gifts are very much appreciated right now and will be stretched to their absolute fullest.