

"Now I Have Joy"

As Jenny Rubalcava described her journey to The Bridge, she recalled that she had already made four "miserable attempts" in other treatment programs to escape heroin addiction. With three children, each attempt became harder, especially when she ended up in jail. Fortunately, her father was able to take the children during her incarceration.

Being in jail made her realize that she desperately wanted to make a life-altering, permanent change. "I'd tried different county programs, but I knew that if I wasn't released to a program I wouldn't make it. I would have just picked up where I left off in my addiction." Then the probation officer offered her an application for The Bridge Restoration Ministry. God had a different plan for her.

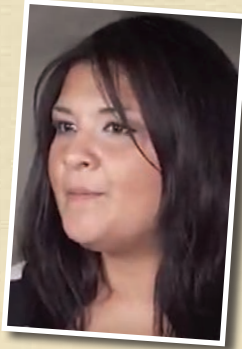
"When I first came to The Bridge, I had no idea how God changes lives," Jenny said. "I had every intention of completing the program, but thought it would just be another piece of paper. I didn't realize I'd walk out knowing

how God put people around me to help me."

Jenny had a painful childhood. Her mother died when she was nine years old. As the youngest and only girl with seven older brothers, she felt left out. "I grew up mad at God and thought that He owed me something. I didn't realize--when I came here so broken, so lost, so hopeless--that I'd leave The Bridge with a relationship with God," she said.

Currently employed at Second Chance, Jenny plans to become a drug and alcohol counselor. She's taking online classes under the guidance of Pastor Mike Casey. "I want to help people who are where I was. I want others who struggled like I did to realize that God can change our lives."

Today, Jenny spends time with her children, and has a future filled with hope. As she put it, "Now I have joy."



"When I first came to The Bridge, I had no idea how God changes lives."

Executive Director's Corner
Mike Casey

The Journey



The 12th annual Bridge banquet is just around the corner, and I look forward to seeing you on October 19th at Calvary Monterey to celebrate all of the successes that are made possible because of your faith in The Bridge and your ongoing support.

Each year, I choose a theme for the dinner and the program. This year, I've been thinking a lot about where each of us comes from, and how each of the residents of The Bridge has taken a specific journey that led him or her to our program.

This year's theme is "The Journey." I feel it's important for people to know that residents entering The Bridge program have come from all walks of life and backgrounds. And though some people may not have had the experiences of being addicts or alcoholics--or even struggled with anything close to what The Bridge residents have struggled with--we are all on a journey.

The journey--for each of us--began when we realized the need we have for Jesus Christ.

This year I have had the opportunity to teach Bible studies to men and women at the Monterey County Jail. For many of our recent residents, their journey began at the jail. It has been a blessing to get to know them during their time of incarceration, then welcome them into The Bridge and watch them grow. Not everybody's journey begins in jail. For some it begins in State Prison after a lengthy incarceration of 20 years or more. Some of our residents are Moms with children, some have been homeless, some are Dads looking for the way to put their families back together.

Everyone's journey begins differently and through the grace of Christ we can all find peace. Please continue to pray for the men and women of The Bridge.

The journey for each of us began when we realized the need we have for Jesus Christ.

The Bridge Catering Business: A Delicious Success

Since its launch one year ago, the culinary program at The Bridge has flourished. Under the direction of head chef Zach Wilson--a graduate of The Bridge--the program offers vocational training to five residents, five days a week. The program's goal, chef Zach explained, is to prepare the men of The Bridge for employment by building skills and self-esteem.

The Bridge Culinary Program has branched out with the opening of The Bridge Catering. In less than six months, its list of clients has grown from weddings to private parties, church events at Shoreline Church and St. Angela's Church, and into the community with events at the Montage Health Foundation, the Veterans Transition Center of Monterey, and the Community Hospital Recovery Center. "We started out with nothing and now we're nearly self-sufficient," observed Zach.

Not only does catering help fund The Bridge Culinary Program, but also the men who order, prepare, and serve the food learn skills necessary to find employment in the culinary arts fields. Citing a few skills from a long list, Zach said, "They learn knife skills, product identification, to health and sanitation. And when they show great interest, they can become leads in the kitchen and go as far as ordering to menu planning."

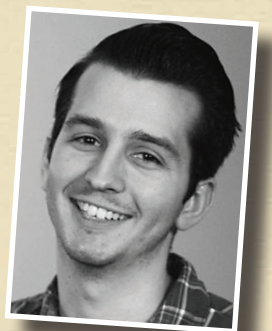
As the business grows, the possibility of owning a restaurant is on the horizon, as it would offer additional employment to graduating Bridge residents. And it looks like the culinary arts is a good field to get into. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics,



See **Culinary** other side

The Bridge New Tech

Conna Craig, Director of Outreach for The Bridge, interviews Bernhard Klingenberg, the Tech Director on Calvary's Ministry Team



The Bridge Restoration Ministry has a new app. Yes, and it's like a portal to the future (for those of us who grew up with rotary phones, that is!).

Recently, I had the pleasure of interviewing Bernhard Klingenberg, the Tech Director on Calvary's Ministry Team. Bernhard is the brains behind TBRM's new app, and he was kind enough to explain it to a newbie like me.

Q. It seems there was an earlier app, and you updated it. How did this come about? What changes did you make?

A. Yes, I believe the Bridge purchased an app service about a year ago and did some initial work to set up the app, but there was no frequent maintenance of it. So after a while, the app became unusable. I was asked, since I manage the app for Calvary Monterey, to come in and update the app with a new look and be responsible for making sure the app stays current.

Q. How do you measure the success of an app? For example, is success measured by the number of downloads?

A. From my understanding

Did you hear the results of June's Matching Funds?

Thank You
Something you \$34,450 can bite into...

matching funds campaign

See **Tech** other side

Second Chance's Divine Appointment

Michele Casey, Program Manager of The Bridge and manager of the Second Chance Thrift stores, just happened to be clearing out a storage shed facility rented by the Pacific Grove Second Chance store. To save money, the store was giving up the unit and its monthly rental fee. "The shed storage was a holding place for all kinds of things," said Michele, explaining that the limited floor space of the two stores keeps them constantly taking items out of the store and putting new items in for shoppers. So, what to do with all these items?

"This was definitely God's timing."

LT., Sc., USN. Benjamin M. Chime also just "happened" to be in the store at the same time. He is originally from Nigeria, had been in the U.S. Navy for 15 years, and was on assignment in Monterey with his wife, Ifeoma, and their three children. "I was looking for things to buy and send to Enugu, my village in Nigeria," he explained. "My wife and I had been doing this for some time."

Talking with Benjamin, Chelsea, one of the staff at the store, became interested in why he wanted to buy such large quantities of clothing and other soft items. She also knew that the store was clearing out its storage shed. "I think you should talk to Michele" she recommended. "I know she can help you."

"This was definitely God's timing. It was a mutual blessing. We were in a time crunch to disperse all that was in the shed and Benjamin and his wife were looking for a way to acquire items," noted Michele, who made arrangements for Benjamin and his wife to look through the items. "They came from a village and knew firsthand how much those living there need things like children's clothes," said Michele.

It didn't take long for Benjamin and his wife to select what they knew those in their village would most need. The items were packed in storage bins. Benjamin drove a truck to Los Angeles to load them on a ship headed to Nigeria. "I plan on going to Nigeria to hand out the items, hopefully with help from others," said Benjamin. He mentioned that his wife is planning a program to continue sending items to Enugu. She named the program As I Am Serving Humanity.

"Our challenge is to get our abundance here over there and then to disperse it," Benjamin said. "We're happy to help," said Michele. "We're always looking for ways to manage overflow of things that have been on sale for a time and need to be passed on."

Tech from other side

the success of an app is not only measured by the number of downloads, but also how many impressions occur. Someone can download your app and never open it. But if someone downloads your app and interacts with it on a daily basis, then you get more impressions. To put it in perspective, we did the app update in June 2018. In May 2018 we had a total of 187 impressions. In July 2018 we had 897 impressions. That is almost eight times as many impressions!

Q. Do you have plans to enhance the app? Maybe a Bridge 2.0 version?

A. The nice thing about Subsplash (the company who manages our app) is that they are always improving their service. So in the future there may be better video support, or different app layouts. When things like that happen I will work on making sure The Bridge app is updated and utilizes all the features Subsplash has to offer.

Q. Is there anything else you would like to add?

A. Apps are used more by people with smartphones than mobile websites are. With that data, it is great that an amazing ministry like The Bridge is able to provide an easy way for people to learn about the ministry and help support it.

Culinary from other side

employment of chefs and head cooks is projected to grow 10% from 2016 to 2026, faster than the average for all occupations. Now that's a delicious prediction.

A scrumptious look at just a few of the items available on The Bridge Culinary Catering menu.

Hot Appetizers – Thai spring rolls with cilantro hoisin • crab cakes with ginger remoulade • chicken lychee skewer

Cold Appetizers – White Tuna Tataki in cucumber shell • blue cheese marbles • beef tenderloin crostini

Beef, Lamb, and Pork – sliced beef tenderloin with a peppercorn mushroom sauce • lollipop lamb chops with a mint demi glace • salt and pepper encrusted rib-eye of wild boar

Poultry – chicken roulade with apple walnut sauce • roasted Cornish hen with hickory grilled peaches • Thai curry chicken

Seafood – macadamia encrusted tilapia • grilled sea bass with lemon caper sauce • Santa Barbara prawn a la Provencal

Vegetarian – Sun dried tomato ravioli • eggplant Napoleon • roasted red pepper and ricotta lasagna

Starches – crispy scalloped potatoes • purple Peruvian potato hash • blue cheese risotto cakes



Over 30 years, the Yellow Brick Road Benefit Shops have donated more than \$6 million to Monterey County nonprofits, including The Bridge. To help continue this philanthropy, they need more volunteers. Please call (831) 626-8480 or visit www.YellowBrickRoadBenefitShop.org.

Second Chance Thrift Store

A Ministry of  The Bridge

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www.secondchancePG.com

Donation Programs



The S.H.A.R.E.S program has been replaced by the eScrip program. To sign up

simply go to escrip.com and create an account and select The Bridge Restoration Ministry at 225 Central as your charity. You link the account to your Lucky's shopping card and benefit the Bridge by shopping for groceries or shop at hundreds of popular merchants at eScrip's online mall!



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