When you receive our newsletter or see some other references are you ever confused as to who is sending it? Beacon Light Mission; Southern California Floating Christian Endeavor Association; Doors of Hope Women’s Ministry; or if you are old enough, and I doubt many of you are, how about, Sailors Rest Mission (1905). Well, we are/they are all the same. Our roots go way back...back to 1902, or about thirty years after the first Mission was established in America.

Step back in time with me and let’s see how all this got started.

Back in 1872, a man by the name of Jerry McAuley founded his first rescue mission. Born in 1839, in Ireland, Mr. McAuley grew up unsupervised; with no father he ever knew, and a mother who was less than ideal. Today we would probably describe this as a dysfunctional family, but I am going to step aside and let you read what history has to say about this “nerdowell”, turned good.

Ministry of Jerry McAuley Early Years

Born in Ireland in 1839, Jerry McAuley never knew his father. Since his mother was unable or unwilling to care for him, he went to live with his grandmother at an early age. One of his earliest recollections was of his grandmother on her knees praying the rosary. He would throw things at her, and she would get up and curse at him.

Growing up with no supervision, he roamed around stealing and causing trouble wherever he went. At 13, Jerry was packed up and sent off to New York to live with his sister and brother-in-law. This arrangement didn’t last very long; he soon moved out and lived with a family on Water Street in the slums of Lower East Side New York. Thievery was his main “occupation”; he stole to buy clothes and drink.

During the next five to six years, Jerry became one of the most hated ruffians in the neighborhood. Later he said of himself, “Stealing came natural and easy. A bigger nuisance and loafer never stepped above ground.”

His lifestyle resulted in many stays in the local jailhouse. Sometimes he was held only a few days and at other times he was imprisoned up to six months.

By his late teens, Jerry could strike fear into the heart of anyone he fixed his gaze upon. He was such a nuisance that even the rum sellers wanted to get rid of him. Looking at him, one would have had to wonder if he wasn’t born to be bad. He had a retreating forehead and small, deep-set eyes with a wide mouth and heavy, projecting nose. He was strong, with a tall, well-built frame, long arms and large hands.

At age 19, Jerry was falsely accused of highway robbery, convicted on trumped-up charges, and sent to Sing Sing prison for 15 years. It was January 1857.

After five years in prison, Jerry experienced the first of three significant events that would lead to a real life change. At a Sunday chapel service, he heard Orville Gardner testify of his Christian conversion. Jerry was moved to tears by this testimony. He knew Orville was sincere because he had been his associate in many corrupt deeds.

The powerful testimony started Jerry’s search through the Bible for answers. Night after night he read, which led to a burning desire to experience the same change he had seen in Orville’s life.

On March 8, 1864, Jerry was pardoned and set free. The 26-year-old set out to associate with Christians, but their “wavering, unstable, half-and-half faith staggered me.” The lessons he learned during this time later helped shape his style of operating the first rescue mission in North America.

Even though there were to be many more years of drinking, fighting, and crime, Jerry always pointed to that night as his conversion to Christ.

Near the end of the 1860s, a sort of revival, known as the John Allen Excitement, broke out in the Water Street district of New York. Henry Little befriended Jerry and was instrumental in getting Jerry and his girlfriend, Maria, to a Bible study and prayer meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Smith.

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During the prayer time, Mrs. Smith fervently interceded on Jerry’s behalf, crying out loudly and weeping great tears. When Jerry saw how much the woman loved his soul, it broke the hardness of his heart that had crept back in over years of willful sin. He began to weep, and, with the urging of the other Christians, he cried out, “God, be merciful to me a sinner.” He repeated this over and over adding, “in Jesus’ name” until he felt a calm joy and cleansing.

**A Rescue Mission Vision**

Soon after this second life-changing event, God sent a very important person into Jerry’s life. Frederick Hatch was a self-made man whose shrewd business sense and tendency to be in the right place at the right time had led him to great wealth. His Park Avenue Victorian home was the epitome of respectability.

From 1870 to 1872, Jerry worked at many jobs and lost most because of his bold testimony about Jesus as God prepared him for his future ministry.

That same year, Jerry began to consider how he might serve God. One day while singing and praising God while working in a basement as a porter, Jerry had a vision of what he felt God wanted him to do: Jerry washed and cleaned people on the outside as they came into his house, and the Lord cleansed them from the inside. The tender moment of being in the presence of the Lord brought streams of tears as Jerry vowed to go and serve if the Lord opened the way.

This third significant life event led Jerry to raise money for a mission. With the help of Fredrick Hatch, in October 1872 he took possession of 316 Water Street. He used the money he had raised to repair the building and then opened Helping Hand for Men.

For the next 12 years, Jerry was instrumental in countless thousands’ conversions to Christ. The tender love and acceptance he showed to the down-and-out won over many souls. Hundreds of missions have launched and millions of lives have been transformed as a direct and indirect result of Jerry’s ministry.

When Jerry McAuley founded his rescue mission in October 1872, he gave birth to an idea and a ministry that was to spread around the world. Out of this humble but virile beginning came a number of missions that, through their leaders, saw a need for an organization that would foster “fellowship, cooperation with all engaged or interested in gospel missions, and other rescue work throughout the United States and in other lands, in the mutual advancement of the cause of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The International Union of Gospel Missions (later called AGRM) was organized on September 17, 1913, in New York City. Mr. Sidney Whittemore is credited as the father of the body. The State of New York granted the rescue ministry leaders a certificate of incorporation on October 14, 1913.

The rescue missions that are now in almost every major city of the United States and in many foreign cities are a testament to how God rescued Jerry from darkness and set him free to help rescue thousands more.

Next month we will see how the International Union of Gospel Missions; Christian Endeavor Association, and Sailors Rest, became to be known as Beacon Light Mission/Doors of Hope Women’s Shelter. ™

For a more detailed story about Mr. Jerry McAuley, please visit our website at www.BeaconlightMission.org

Click: Beacon Light Mission History

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**URGENT NEEDS**

We have been experiencing a larger number of open showers lately and are in urgent need of **toothbrushes & razors**.
Thank you Anchanel Ministries for the 12 shoe boxes of gifts for the ladies. All of the ladies thoroughly enjoyed them. Wow, since the cold winter shelters closed we have been full. What a blessing, more are going to chapel and that means more are hearing the gospel! Also we have seen an increase of ladies coming in for showers on Monday’s and Thursdays.

One of our former staff that stayed here in 2011 was brought here by her children. They told her that this was the last chance she had. This lady was broken and addicted to drugs. She stayed with us for a few months and did very well. She stops by here off and on for some hygiene items and is drug free and attends church regularly. Praise God!!!! God keeps on working even when they leave the shelter.

Thank you to all who has responded to our requests for ladies underwear. It has been a huge help. We still need more as we are getting more ladies each week. And a special thanks the ABW of The First Baptist Church of Palos Verdes for rallying together to give us a generous donation to purchase ladies underwear. Thank you ladies!

Another praise report. One of our guests who helped out here for about 3 weeks went back to her home state and was reunited with her sons, and got a job within 2 days. God is an awesome God. He works in so many ways and in so many lives. And you are a part of this process. We could not do any of this without your prayers and support.

Mark your calendars! We will be having another rummage sale on Saturday, April 12th. So come on down and buy something in support of our shelter. The rummage sale is possible through your in-kind donations. What we cannot use ourselves or what our ladies cannot use is offered in our rummage sale. Thank you all for your donations! 

Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.” Deuteronomy 31:6

We would like to give a special thanks to all of the great volunteers who come to help with dinner here at the mission. Your help in the kitchen and the love and caring you show the homeless is greatly appreciated.

Each month the wonderful ladies of Branch of Hope church bring in casseroles to feed all. The girls of the Palos Verdes High Cook Club come one Saturday each month and use their skills to bless our guests with a yummy dinner. The guys at NuStar Energy, who come down quarterly, were her this past week and prepared a wonderful meal that included meatloaf, mashed potatoes, salad and fruit topped ice cream! Andrew & Eunice Wang who came out to help serve nearly every Wednesday, we thank you too! You are all such a blessing! Thank you for being Christ’s extended hands!

THANK YOU! First Baptist Church of Downey ● The Neighborhood Church ● New Life Faith Center Church ● Rolling Hills Covenant Church (College Group & Rooted Groups) ● The Kayumanggi Lions Club ● Palos Verdes High Cook Club ● NuStar Energy ● Unity of the Faith ● Boys & Girls Club/Port of Los Angeles ● Boy Scout Troup 718 ● Westminster Christian Assembly ● Catalyst LTM Church and so many more!

“Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ Matthew 25:44-45
We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is qualified to receive tax-deductible donations.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Our mission is to minister the love and grace of Jesus Christ to the homeless in the South Bay by providing a safe and nurturing environment where they can receive food, clothing, temporary shelter, discipleship and spiritual encouragement in their present life circumstances.

**Drop off your donations:**

You may drop off your food, clothing or other donations any time between 8:00am-6:00pm for both Beacon Light and Doors of Hope. Just go to the back gate of the Beacon Light Mission and honk your horn. Someone will come out and collect your donations.

Financial donations can be given online at:
- Beacon Light
  www.beaconlightmission.org
- Doors of Hope
  www.doorsofhopewomensshelter.org

Or by mail to:
525 Broad Avenue, Wilmington, CA 90744

Thank you so much!