



THE MISSIONARY

Central Union Mission



December 2003

Esperanza: Hope Discovered at the Mission

*“Now I help at the Mission
however I can,
but nothing
I can give compares to
the great help
I have received.”*

By Doris Rubio



In October 2000, I was going through the most difficult time of my life. With my son, I was living in a very small and expensive room in the house of a friend. I was trapped because my income as a waitress was scarcely enough to survive on.

Each morning, after taking Brandon to daycare, I had a cup of coffee at McDonald's (the only thing

my budget allowed me to have) while waiting to start work. One day, I followed two ladies into Central Union Mission and discovered they had a Hispanic Ministry. Pastor de Casanova made me feel at home and the Hispanic Ministry has done a world of good for me. I was most attracted to the Mission because of the warmth and respect in which all

the activities were carried out.

I asked Pastor de Casanova for personal counseling time and he listened as I described my situation. At the time, I didn't know that my spiritual condition was related to my problems. We spoke many times, and eventually I understood the connec-

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Next newsletter — See how Central Union Mission brought joy to children this Christmas season!



FROM THE DIRECTOR...

I'm writing during Thanksgiving week, a special time of year for a sentimental person like me. My thoughts about giving thanks were heavily influenced by two trips this year. Last spring, Alan Chambers and



I visited Ghana to offer counsel on opening a mission in Accra. The poverty we saw was nearly overwhelming, and we were dismayed that many

other African countries suffer far worse poverty. This fall, my wife, Charlotte, and I were blessed to attend the World City Missions Conference in Australia. At the conference, the mission workers from India and several other desperately poor countries shared needs and victories in cities where starvation and death from preventable disease are commonplace. We were emotionally drained after many of the stories. And so, it is quite easy for me to be mindful of my great blessings this year! One of the highlights from my trip to Australia was watching mission workers from Pakistan and India hug each other. Poverty makes strange bedfellows — and so does Jesus!

We hope you've been blessed this year and that you've enjoyed a great Thanksgiving-Christmas season. As we approach the end of the year we also hope that you'll continue to stand with us as we fight poverty, disease, and depression here in our nation's capital. The end of the year is an excellent time to make a generous, tax-deductible contribution. We greatly appreciate your support this year and look forward to serving with you in 2004.

Blessings,

Homeless and Hungry People Feast

On Monday, November 24th, Central Union Mission participated in the Association of Gospel Rescue Mission's (AGRM) 5th annual Great Thanksgiving Banquet. The Mission, along with a host of volunteers and donors, provided a traditional Thanksgiving dinner of turkey, stuffing, gravy, beans, cranberries, pumpkin pie, and more to over 300 homeless men, women and children from the Washington metropolitan area. The Mission was just a small part of a nationwide event, where 285 AGRM missions provided almost 500,000 meals to poor and needy peo-

ple across the country. We were glad to be a part of such a large Thanksgiving event, and are grateful to everyone who helped make the banquet a success.



The Loss of A Great Friend

Central Union Mission has lost a great friend in Charles Burton, Esq. After completing law school before he was old enough to practice, Charlie began his career in the District, then served in the U.S. Navy in WWII. His successful law practice and his ties through Calvary Baptist Church led him to a position on the Mission's Board as General Counsel in 1979 and later as Vice President. For 24 years, he helped wisely manage Mission resources and policy-making. We extend our deepest sympathies to his dear wife Mary and his family. We shall miss him deeply.



Flu Shots Provided!

Winter is coming ... and along with cold weather comes the flu season. People on the street are hit even harder by the flu than are most other people. This year, the D.C. Department of Health provided 51 Overnight Guests and men in the Spiritual Transformation Program with a free flu shot. We send a special thanks to Clara Claybrooks and Emily Harris, who gave their time to provide these flu shots. Hopefully, the vaccine will help keep these men healthy this winter!



Esperanza

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tion and accepted Jesus as my Savior. My life has changed dramatically since that moment.

Through the Hispanic Ministry, I applied for an efficiency apartment under a subsidized government program for low-income families. I was blessed with a beautiful 2-bedroom apartment less than 1/3 of the cost of the rent I paid for one room in my friend's house. The Hispanic Ministry has also helped me get furniture, clothes, a used computer, and even

my driver's license! Now I help at the Mission however I can, but nothing I can give compares to the great help I have received.



Thousands Walk to Help the Homeless!

Saturday, November 22nd was a perfect fall day for Fannie Mae's Help the Homeless Walkathon. Over 30,000 people met on the National Mall to raise funds for people who are homeless by walking 3 miles around the monuments of Washington, D.C. Participants raised a total of \$6.5 million for the 173 Washington area agencies that work to end home-

lessness. Central Union Mission joined the crowds with church friends and men from the Spiritual Transformation Program (STP) who carried large banners and sang gospel songs to encourage other walkers. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the Help the Homeless Walkathon such a big success!



A Celebration of God's Mercy

This year, the Annual Appreciation Banquet was held at the Washington Plaza Hotel, just five blocks south of the Mission. The banquet provided an excellent opportunity to celebrate God's mercy in the lives of the men, women, and children we serve at the Mission.



Thank you, Simply Wireless!

Thank you to Simply

Wireless who recently provided 10 wireless phones for our SmoothJazz 105.9 radiothon!





VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Shelah Wilcox at 202-MISSION. Upcoming events include:

- * MLK Day Celebration (January 19) – Attend a special service and join us for dinner on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- * Souperbowl (February 1) – Food, fun and football with our Overnight Guests!
- * Birthday Celebration (February 11) – Help throw a birthday party for our Overnight Guests!
- * GED Tutoring or Literacy Tutoring (ongoing) – Give the gift of knowledge and continuing education to one of the men in our STP! (To volunteer for this program, you must be a male with a college degree.)

SPECIAL NEED!!!

During the cold winter months, many of us look forward to curling up beside a fire with a cup of hot chocolate. But for our Overnight Guests, winter means coping with hunger and cold weather. Help keep these men warm by donating hats, gloves, blankets, socks, and long underwear to the Mission. We also always need new men's underwear, sizes medium and large. If you can help, please mail or deliver these supplies to the Mission ... we are open 24 hours a day!

JOIN FRIENDS OF THE FRIENDLESS

Are you able to provide the Mission with a monthly donation to help feed and care for underprivileged men, women, and children? Friends of the Friendless is a group of faithful donors who have made that commitment. If you would like to give on a monthly basis by credit card or bank account, please contact Kristin Lane at 202-745-7118 x223 or klane@missiondc.org.

Honoring our Veterans

Retired Army Colonel Bobby Little spoke at the Veterans Day Celebration this year, where we honored our Overnight Guests, STP men, and others who served in the U.S. Armed Forces.



Like What You See?

We appreciate your support and ask that you continue to support the Mission. Your partnership and support is vital to keeping the Mission running! In particular, please consider a financial contribution to help us in our work.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!
www.missiondc.org

New Radio Times!

You can hear True Stories of Hope every Sunday morning at our new location and time: WAVA-FM (105.1) from 6:00-6:30 a.m. You can also find out more about the Mission's ministries regularly on WAVA-FM.



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Yes! I want to partner with Central Union Mission to help feed and care for the hurting and homeless people in Washington, DC.

Enclosed is my donation of:

- \$38.60 to feed & care for 20 people
- \$57.90 to feed & care for 30 people
- \$72.20 to feed & care for 40 people
- \$193.00 to feed & care for 100 people
- \$_____ Other amount

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If you would like to donate by credit card, please call 202-MISSION or log on to www.missiondc.org.