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"THE MISSION OF THE CHURCHES"

[www.missiondc.org](http://www.missiondc.org)

# THE MISSIONARY

Central Union Mission



June 2004

## *To Whom Much is Given* **Much is Required**

by Vonice Deon Harrison



**I** grew up in Southeast DC with my mother and nine brothers and sisters. As a single parent, my mother turned to Central Union Mission for help. We attended meetings on Saturday mornings, received Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas gifts. I was 5 years old the first time I attended Camp Bennett.

At Camp Bennett we sang songs about Jesus, songs about His faithfulness that would carry me through tough times ahead. My siblings and I had no idea the impact Camp Bennett would have on our lives. My family eventually moved to Northwest and lost touch with the Mission, but God continued to be faithful. In 1992, my spiritual mother, Rev. Stephanie Smith Howard, began mentoring me through an organization

called Young Life. As this godly woman poured her life into mine, watering the seeds planted by Camp Bennett, I surrendered my life to Christ at age 18.

Even before my commitment to Him, the Lord began to put a deep desire in my heart to teach. I have spent the last 12 years involved with Young Life as a volunteer leader and Camp Counselor. During this time God has put young girls in my life to mentor and disciple. I have also spent time mentoring five younger siblings, teaching them about the love of Jesus and encouraging them to share with their friends through a Bible Study. Our Bible Study grew so large that we had to split into smaller groups! I used the things I learned at Camp Bennett and Young Life to lead these groups.

In 2003, my mentor reintroduced me to Central Union Mission and Camp Bennett. I served as a camp counselor last year and this year I am going to be the Senior Girls' Counselor! If it wasn't for God using Camp Bennett to plant seeds, there is no telling how I would



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### **Save the Date!**

Our 120th Annual Appreciation Banquet will be on October 8th at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, DC! Be watching for more details.



FROM THE DIRECTOR...

A major challenge for Central Union Mission has been to enlighten the public that we are more than a shelter for men. For example, our Camp Bennett has played an instrumental role in fulfilling the Mission's goal of caring for children. In 1934, satisfying a dream of expanding the Children's Emergency Home, the Mission's Evening Auxiliary purchased a farm in Maryland to serve as a summer respite for children in the emergency home. Camp Bennett served as a place where children could escape to the country from the hot summer months in the city. Over the years, Camp Bennett expanded its mission, providing a fun, relaxing summer break in a safe, Christian atmosphere for hundreds of at-risk children from the Washington metropolitan area.

At Camp Bennett, children spend the week



swimming, playing on ropes course, hiking on nature trails, befriending the animals at the petting zoo, and creating crafts. In addition, children spend time with Christian counselors and learn valuable lessons from the Bible, such as how to effectively resolve conflicts. Most of these children could not afford to attend camp without your help. Please send a gift today to help a child attend Camp Bennett this year. Your gift can make all the difference in the life of a child this summer.

## Send a Child to Camp Match!

Camp Bennett is celebrating its 70th year! This summer, hundreds of at-risk children will escape the city ready for a week of fun, friendship and fresh air as they learn about exalting Jesus! Each camper's family is asked to pay \$20. One group of children from Southeast DC (pictured below) is so excited about the opportunity to attend Camp Bennett this summer that they have held several car washes to raise the registration money!

Just as the children are excited about the opportunity of escaping the city, we also hope you are excited about the opportunities they will have to learn and grow in a safe environment. **We have been blessed with a dollar for dollar match up to \$25,000 to send children to camp!** Please consider sponsoring a child so we can continue caring for these young members of our community. Because of the match, your gift of \$90 will double to \$180, covering the remaining cost of one child's week of camp!



## STP Graduation

Congratulations to our recent Spiritual Transformation Program graduates! Charles Carr, John Cullen, Kenneth Ford, Donnell Gudger, Andrew Lilly, Daniel Lumpkin, Rodrick Ratcliff, Don Tate, and Pierre Winkfield graduated on May 13th in a ceremony held at the Vermont Ave. Baptist Church. We praise God for the wonderful work He is doing in each of these men's lives! Continue to pray for them as they rebuild their lives.



Left: Our new STP graduates!

Below: Many of our graduates' friends and families came to celebrate with us!





### Much is Required

(continued)

have ended up. Thank you for sponsoring children and giving them a chance to make a difference in life.

Vonice is majoring in Biblical and Theological Studies and Christian Education at Nyack College. She is also the President of The Light House College Fellowship in Washington, DC and assistant to the Founder and President of The Light House Building Bridges and Crossing Borders (BBCB) where they continue "to connect a generation of youth, filled with potential, to a generation of adults and college students who can help them reach their highest goal."



Vonice and her family.

### Did you know?

"True Stories of Hope," the Mission's weekly radio broadcast is Washington, DC's longest-standing Christian radio program! For 58 years, the Mission has ministered to the people of Washington by radio. You can still enjoy hearing the stories of hope from all walks of life shared on our radio program, "True Stories of Hope" airs on WAVA 105.1 FM at 6:00 a.m. Sunday morning.



### Street Sense

The next time you're in DC, be on the lookout for people selling *Street Sense*, a newspaper that is produced and sold by homeless people. Since November, *Street Sense*, a publication of the National Coalition for the Homeless, has benefited its vendors by providing them with a way to make money. For every *Street Sense* the vendor sells at \$1, they earn 70 cents. Some vendors have even been able to use the

money they earn to move off the streets!

With articles such as "How to approach a homeless person" and poetry by homeless people, *Street Sense* is a great way to stay informed on the issues of homelessness while providing an creative way to help the homeless men and women in our nation's capital. Be sure to purchase your copy of *Street Sense* next time you are in the city!

### John turns 100!

On Friday April 2, the Mission celebrated the 100th birthday of one of our very special guests, John Schlessler. Originally from Latvia, John came to the Mission in 2001. Not only are we able to help John, but he helps us as well, teaching the men in our Spiritual Transformation Program valuable life lessons such as patience and selflessness as they care for John on a daily basis. John's birthday party was a joyous occasion as Mission staff, men from the Spiritual



John sang and danced on his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday!

Transformation Program, overnight guests, and volunteers gathered to celebrate the century of John's life! To read more about John's story, visit the web at [www.missiondc.org/](http://www.missiondc.org/)!

### Easter Dinner

Thanks to all our volunteers who came for Easter dinner!





## JOIN CIRCLE OF HOPE (FORMERLY FRIENDS OF THE FRIENDLESS)

Can you give to the Mission on a monthly basis to help feed and care for underprivileged men, women and children? Circle of Hope, our monthly donor program is a group of faithful donors who have made just that commitment. If you would like to give on a monthly basis by credit card or bank account, please contact Melissa Hilker at 202-745-7118 x250 or mhillker@missiondc.org.

## SPECIAL NEEDS!

- Our men's ministries are in need of new men's underwear and seasonal clothes.
- Food Depot also needs your help to provide our families with balanced, nutritious meals. We especially need canned goods of stew, meaty soups, tuna, and other canned meats such as chicken and beef.

If you can donate these items, please drop them off at the Mission (1350 R St., NW, DC)...we are open 24 hours a day!

## CALLING ALL VETERINARIANS

Are you a veterinarian looking for a way to use your gifts and talents? At Camp Bennett, we have animals that are often in need of attention from qualified vets. These animals are used in special ways throughout the year. Not only do they teach children about God's creation, but



they also teach the men from our Spiritual Transformation Program about compassion. If you can give of your time and talents as a veterinarian, please call Colin Seager at 301-774-4420.

Proudly printed by Todd Allan Printing Company, for more information, please contact Greg Warner at 301-982-0300 x174.



## UPCOMING EVENTS AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you are interested in volunteering, or would like more information on the following events, please contact Shelah Wilcox at 202-MISSION. Upcoming events include:

- July 4: Christ on the Mall
- August 14: Back to School Backpack Party
- September 6: Labor Day Dinner
- October 8: 120th Annual Appreciation Banquet
- November 11: Veteran's Day Dinner
- November 20: Help the Homeless Walkathon
- November 20: Turkey Basket Giveaway
- November 22: Great Thanksgiving Banquet
- November 25: Thanksgiving Dinner
- December 4: Christmas Bag Party for our Hispanic community
- December 11: Christmas Bag Party for our English speaking community
- December 24: Christmas Banquet
- December 25: Christmas Day Dinner

# THE MISSIONARY

IS PUBLISHED BY CENTRAL UNION MISSION  
1350 R STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20009  
(202) 745-7118 • (202) 647-7466  
EDITOR IN CHIEF: DAVID O. TREADWELL  
MANAGING EDITOR: JENNICA M. JARDINE  
WRITER: MELISSA R. HILKER

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**Yes!** I want to participate in the Send a Child to Camp Match to help underprivileged children have the week of their lives at Camp Bennett.

Enclosed is my donation of:

- \$22.50 one child for one day
- \$90.00 one child for one week
- \$180.00 two children for one week
- \$360.00 four children for one week

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to donate by credit card, please call 202-MISSION or log on to [www.missiondc.org](http://www.missiondc.org).