

THE central union MISSION Missionary

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*Serving
neighbors,
changing
lives*

God At Work Behind the Scenes

James Miller: I had made so many mistakes, and I was ready to let go and let God run my life. Central Union Mission did a tremendous work in me. I was about to graduate from the Spiritual Transformation Program (STP) when my past caught up with me. I had to leave the Mission and turn myself in to Suffolk County, VA.

I had my day in court. The judge sentenced me to two years and six months. They took me back to jail. The guys in the hold were asking “What happened?,” but I



Chaplain Spence (left) and Mr. Treadwell (right) congratulate James Miller on his new start at life.

didn't feel like talking to them. I had just gotten back together with my family; my grandson was my main focus. Now all that was gone.

Chaplain William Spence, STP senior manager: After all the positive witness testimony was in, the judge still sentenced James to 30 months in jail. The stiff sentence shocked us all.

After the deputy took James away, we asked the prosecutor if there was any way after a year or so this decision could be revisited. I communicated to her how unfortunate the sentence was—after all the progress

James had made. She walked back into the courtroom, conferred with James' lawyer and then asked the judge for permission to approach the bench.

Let's be clear: the judge was handling other cases at this point, and James had gone back to jail. The judge called for a recess with the two lawyers, and fifteen minutes later they returned to the courtroom.

*“When you have
a sincere heart and
do what is right, God
will definitely move”*

James: The judge said to me, “I brought you back because I want you to be honest—not only to the court, but also to yourself. What problem brought you to Central Union Mission?” I was fighting against my answer because the whole time I'd been at the Mission, I was clean and sober. But I answered the judge, “Your Honor, I have a drug problem.”

He said, “That's all I wanted to hear. This is what I'm going to propose: For one year, I want you to retake and complete the STP program. If you report back to me one year from now with a clean record, you are done with the Virginia prison system.”

Pastor Spence: The judge released James to return to Central Union Mission and ordered that he be provided with quarterly updates on James' progress. One year from now, the judge will release him with no probation requirement if James has finished the STP and has no further trouble with the law.

David Treadwell, Mission executive director: We've had a number of times when a judge has assigned someone to the Mission or lessened someone's sentence, but I never had a man be sentenced, go down into the hold area, and get called back when the

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Rising Above the Chaos

WITH TODAY'S NON-STOP NEWS, it sometimes feels like chaos and fear are unavoidable. But we don't have to live that way. God's Word illuminates how to find and experience rest, despite the chaos all around us:

Remember God is present. You are never alone because God promised never to leave you. "He is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear..." (Psalm 46:1-2a).

Be a catalyst for good. You can make a difference by supporting Christian causes and ministries like Central Union Mission who share the Gospel and provide rest for those in need — and be blessed in return. For instance, a Charitable Gift Annuity can benefit you, your spouse and Central Union Mission. Your gift would allow you:

- An immediate tax deduction.
- Capital gains tax deferral.
- Increased income stream for life.
- An opportunity to put "good" in motion for generations to come.

Know you're alive for "such a time as this." Don't let chaos overwhelm the reality that you're here for a Divine purpose today. Serving others can create positive ripple effects of change around you. ■

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of **4 Keys to Finding Rest in a Chaotic World** by contacting Minister Deborah Chambers from Central Union Mission at 202-745-7118, ext. 227 or dchambers@missiondc.org

From the Executive Director Grace to Spare—and Share

He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. 2 Timothy 1:9

IT'S SUCH A BLESSING that God gives us His grace. He is free with His forgiveness and doesn't keep score of how many times we've blown it.



We're free with our forgiveness at the Mission, too. Our counselors work on instilling character traits like responsibility and integrity, but they also extend the grace that God has shown all of us.

On page one, you'll read how James experienced a striking second chance, and we share how Dr. Rich (page three) extended grace in his tenure at the Mission. You, yourself, show grace to hurting neighbors in DC through your compassion and forgiveness. Your financial support gives people a second chance to succeed. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave".

David Treadwell
executive director

CENTRAL UNION MISSION lost a dear friend when Dr. Robert Rich passed on to heaven on May 30, 2017. Dr. Rich guided the Mission through Washington, DC's turbulent 1980s and early 90s, and as executive director emeritus since 1998, he continued to teach, develop lessons and offer wise counsel to the Mission staff and board.

In 1982, Dr. Rich introduced a more comprehensive study of God's Word through our Spiritual Transformation Program, creating the Mission's now signature rehabilitation program.

The Deeper Need

He believed that addressing a homeless person's spiritual needs is vital and can't be fully met in a public shelter program. "It's not just physical, it's also emotional and spiritual care," Rich told *Human Events* newspaper in 1989. "When you get to the soul and the heart and the mind, then a man is on the road to recovery."

Born and raised in Philadelphia in 1927, "Rocco" Rich enlisted in the Army shortly before age 18. He was in France as a member of General George S. Patton's 54th Infantry Tenth Armored Division. After rehabilitating from a war injury, he re-enlisted and was recruited into the US Counter Intelligence Corps.

He spent eighteen years in clandestine missions in Washington, DC, Philadelphia, PA, and two three-year tours in Germany as well as serving as Instructor at the US Army Intelligence School. He retired from the military in 1964 at the rank of Major. He was the recipient of two Bronze Stars, the Purple Heart, the European Campaign Ribbon with three battle stars and the American Campaign Medal/Good Conduct Medal.

Following a New Call

Dr. Rich said he was saved during a Baptist church revival and immediately felt God's call to preach. Following military retirement he received a Doctor of Ministry degree at Luther Rice Theological Seminary and began his pastoral ministry in Maryland in 1970.

In 1980, he became the Mission's executive director until he retired in 1993, when he returned to his pastoral ministry. Dr. Rich was a member of South Columbia Baptist Church, where he served as deacon and Bible teacher.



Dr. Robert Rich

Tribute to a Ceaseless Servant

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According to Executive Director David Treadwell, Dr. Rich was a great story teller. "He loved to share memories. He could take you from his life being spared in WWII through infiltrating a communist cell in DC after months of intelligence gathering. Or he could take you back to the streets of Philly then fast forward to speeding chases with the Russians in Berlin. His favorite stories were related to his family and sharing his faith. He modeled the transformed life he promoted." ■

Thanks to you!



*Our community can thrive because you provide food, shelter and critical services. Your generosity made **660,755 days** worth of food and care available for your neighbors in 2016, and you persevere in restoring people to their families, jobs and God-given dignity. Thank you for honoring God through your compassion!*

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judge changes his mind. That's a first, so I love this story because it shows God in action.

James: In all my years, I never saw God move like that. It was a blessing. I was so glad for the nice letters that Mr. Treadwell and other staff wrote about me, and everybody prayed for me the whole time I was in court. When you have a sincere heart and do what is right, God will definitely move. ■

Slow Times are Hard Times



THE SUMMER is difficult for homeless people in a way you might not expect. Certainly they risk the danger of heat exhaustion, but the crisis is more from a resource standpoint.

While some people are on vacation or away from their routine, usual gifts to Central Union Mission are forgotten, making August the slimmest month of our year.

Your summer donation will feed and care for homeless and hungry people in our hot city streets today. Thank you for your faithfulness! ■

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MISSION

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A copy of Central Union Mission's current financial report is available upon request by writing to 2600 12th St., NE, Washington, DC 20018 or by calling 202-745-7118. In Maryland, copies of documents and information submitted by Central Union Mission are available for the cost of copies and postage from the Secretary of State, Statehouse, Annapolis, MD 21410, 401-974-5534. In Virginia, a financial statement for the most recent fiscal year is available upon request from the State Division of Consumer Affairs, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23209, 804-786-1343.



CHRISTIAN CAMP
& CONFERENCE
ASSOCIATION



Empowering Ministries To Transform Communities



Please Recycle

Count On Me!

Please use my donation of:

- ☐ \$15 to feed and care for 7 guests
- ☐ \$30 for 14 guests
- ☐ \$50 for 24 guests
- ☐ \$150 for 72 guests
- ☐ \$_____ to serve as many as possible this summer

Your gift is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. We'll send a receipt for your records. Please make checks payable to "Central Union Mission." To donate by credit card, please see our website at missiondc.org.

Senior Fellowships

September 15 and
October 20, 2017
9:00 am to 1:00 pm;
September 22 and
October 27, 2017, in
Spanish

8:00 am to 11:00 am

You can help serve seniors as they enjoy fellowship and a delicious meal.

Fall Clean Up

September 18-22, 2017

Roll up your sleeves. This week we'll make the shelter shine.

Community Breakfast and Health Fair

September 21, 2017

7:30 am to 11:00 am

The Congressional Black Congress Foundation returns with its program of free breakfast and health services for people in need.

Join Us!

Project Homeless Connect

October 19, 2017

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Volunteers are needed to help homeless individuals connect to social services sponsored by the United Way.

HeArt & Sole

October 25, 2017

7:00 pm

Join Mission friends at Dock 5 at Union Market for the best party of the year. Gourmet food tastings, live entertainment and celebrity visits are part of our third annual fundraiser.

To volunteer for an event, please register at missiondc.org/volunteer

Central Union Mission

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God bless you for caring!



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Name _____

Address _____