

THE central union MISSION **Missionary**

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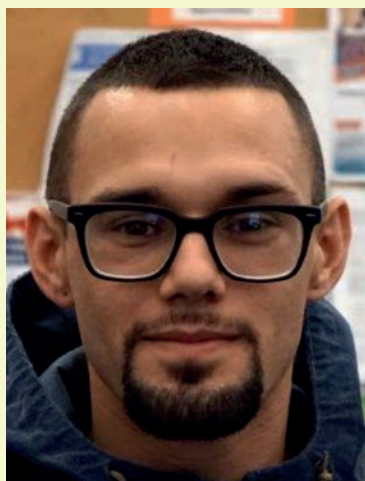
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*Serving
neighbors,
changing
lives*

God is Real, and Anything is Possible

FRANK LOPEZ HAS HAD A LOT OF DRAMA in his short life, but the changes he's made in the Spiritual Transformation Program are the most dramatic by far.

Late one October 2106 night, after an argument, Frank's stepdad threw him out of his flower delivery truck on I-95 South in Wilmington, DE. Frank decided to start walking to Florida to get a copy of his birth certificate. Buying a used bike at a truck stop made travel faster, but police officers diverted him onto other



Frank Lopez

roadways. One officer gave him \$20 and said, "Thank Jesus for this. Have a safe trip."

A Ringing Endorsement ►

Frank asked a man sitting outside a Walmart if there were any good homeless shelters in DC. Frank couldn't fully understand his mumbling but

thought he heard "Mission." A hundred miles later, Frank tracked down Central Union Mission, and after only a four-day stay decided to enroll in the Spiritual Transformation Program (STP).

Frank's backstory includes a drug-addicted mother, foster care, an abusive missionary orphanage in El Salvador and countless moves all over the United States. After high school he worked in food service and stayed with his grandmother in San Francisco, but he had picked up his own drug and alcohol problems. "My first beer was a 32-ounce King Cobra malt liquor at age 13. Later I started doing XTC, mushrooms, acid, salvia,

ketamine and got into this hippie stuff. I had a great time, don't get me wrong, but I had a feeling it was leading me to the wrong direction."

He left California to follow girlfriends and family members around the country, "I found myself retracing my steps all over again. I never had a problem getting a job or making myself fit in, but I just didn't see myself going anywhere." That's how he ended up by the side of I-95 that October night.

WHAT THE MISSION OFFERED ► What did Frank find at the Mission? Besides food and shelter, Frank found encouragement and a purpose. "I've just been

devoting myself to the Word and trying to figure out my calling. I'm trying to do as much praying as I can,"

Frank comments. Now 25, he's been sober since he arrived, and he's committing himself to finishing the program for an important reason: He has a four-year-old daughter in Washington State that he wants to provide for. "This is all for myself, for God and my daughter. I don't want to her to grow up to think I'm a bad dad, that I didn't try, that I was just some pushover drug addict."

He's grateful for the testimonies of Mission "alumni": "That's actually really motivating to see people who have gone to the bottom and made it through. It tells you that God is real, and anything is possible." Frank would like to pursue more education, and his interests are wide: "I could be a physical therapist, yoga instructor, electrician or engineer, or I might join the Coast Guard." He responds, "I would like to thank the people who give their time and money to this place because the Mission really does help people who want to succeed."

*"The Mission really
does help people
who want
to succeed."*

More Good News Inside!

Follow the Rules to Success	2
Winner, Winner	3
Thanking Our Donors	Special Insert
Our Upcoming Events	4

**Volume 17
Issue 1**

The Difference Between Fairness and Equality

THROUGH A COMMON REAL ESTATE PRACTICE in France, Andre-Francois Raffray agreed to pay \$500/month to Jeanne Calment—then 90 years old—until her death, in order to secure eventual ownership of her apartment. Unfortunately for Raffray, Ms. Calment outlived him and became the oldest living person at 122! In the end, Raffray paid \$184,000 for an apartment he never lived in. Would you say Raffray was simply a victim of circumstances or fairness? It's all about perspective.

Life's full of big "fairness" questions like "How should I divide my Estate? Should I treat all my children the same?"

In *Splitting Heirs*, author Ron Blue advises readers to determine the next steward of God's wealth by loving them unconditionally but treating them uniquely. Begin by asking:

- Are they equipped?
- Do some have more genuine needs than others?
- What are their differences?
- Is there a way I can bless my loved ones and the ministries I care about like Central Union Mission in my Estate Plan?

We would like to help you find answers to These tough questions. Contact us today.



For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of ***The Greatest Gift You Can Give Those You Love*** by contacting Minister Deborah Chambers from Central Union Mission at 202-745-7118, ext. 227 or dchambers@missiondnc.org

From the Executive Director

Sometimes the Hard Way is the Only Way



Executive Director David Treadwell (left) congratulates Spiritual Transformation Program graduate Carlton Cotton for his dedication.

AT LEAST TWELVE PEOPLE were living amidst trash and rats when the city dismantled their homeless encampment near the Kennedy Center this winter. Half of them accepted housing that the city offered, but the rest declined help. Why would they prefer living under a freeway in the freezing cold to going to an area shelter?

Many homeless people with mental illness have slipped through our social safety

net; they don't have the power to advocate for their own safety. Others are afraid of being bullied or infested with bedbugs or having their meager possessions stolen. Possibly, however, the heart of the matter is that if they stay at a shelter, they will have to follow the shelter's rules.

At the Mission, our Overnight Guests have no fear of bed-bugs or being bullied, and we provide lockers to cut down on theft problems, but we do have rules. Ironically, it's those very rules that help people the most. We refer those with mental illness to programs that can help them medically. For the rest, those who learn to respect themselves and others can join our education and employment programs and learn to be successful in the community.

It's false compassion to enable people to keep living on the street. It's only through the tough love your donations provide at the Mission that men can commit themselves to hard work and go on to jobs, homes and family. From them and from us on staff, thank you for your support.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dave".

David Treadwell
executive director

What Does Homelessness Mean?



HOMELESSNESS means hunger, boredom, wearing all your clothes at the

same time. It means fear of the elements and harm from vicious attacks. It means hopelessness.

Many homeless people gather by the Columbus Memorial at Union Station unaware of the help and refuge available to them at Central Union Mission not even two blocks way.

Thanks to our donors and volunteers, more have access to the "Mission with a Heart in the Heart of the City." Your generous gifts bring healing and hope. Thank you so much for your compassion.

central union
MISSION

THE Missionary

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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.

Senior Fellowships

May 19 and June 16, 2017

May 26 and June 23, 2017, in Spanish
9:30 am

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

World Hunger Day

May 28, 2017

Show your commitment to God's command to serve the poor by volunteering

Do More 24

June 8, 2017

Join us in this nationwide day of community fundraising.

STP Graduation

June 25, 2017

We celebrate the achievements of our Spiritual Transformation Program graduates.

Join Us!

Mission Muffin Dedication & WGTS Cookout and Concert

July 8, 2017

3:00 pm

Join us as we dedicate our Mission Muffin food truck and WGTS 91.9 FM hosts a BBQ including a Christian comedian and a concert on the Mission lawn.

HeArt & Sole

October 26, 2017

6:00 pm

Save the date for our signature fundraising event—an evening of food tasting, music and fun that saves lives. Interested in being on the Host Committee? Contact Deborah Chambers at 202-745-7118, ext. 227, or dchambers@missiondc.org.

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

My Gift Means Hope

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

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.

Central Union Mission

2600 12th St., NE
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God bless you for caring!



#85786



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NEWS517



Name _____

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CHEF ROCK HARPER and his generous and talented friends presented our Overnight Guests with a Sunday Gospel Brunch of fried chicken, cheddar biscuits, fried potatoes, red beans and rice, braised kale and garden salad. Many thanks to Chef Rock, Chef Joe Cacciola, Chef Jana Bates, Chef Horatio Davis, Chef Ama Amala and Chef Johnnie Scott for their time and donations. Longtime Mission friends Cary and Andrew Umhau served as sous chefs, bidding for this honor at the HeArt & Sole 2016 Silent Auction. With these chicken dinners, our guests were the winners!



Luckily for the volunteer servers, there were leftovers!

Chef Rock (left) and Chef Joe Cacciola know how to cook chicken.

Serving Up Down-Home Flavor

3



Chef Rock's new duties include training kitchen volunteers.

Chef Rock Joins Mission Kitchen

CENTRAL UNION MISSION is thrilled to announce that *Hell's Kitchen* winner Chef Rahman "Rock" Harper has added Mission "Executive Chef" to his broad list of culinary projects.

In 2007, Harper won Season Three of the Fox reality-television show *Hell's Kitchen*. In 2013, he appeared on *Chef Wanted* with Anne Burrell and won the executive chef position at The Precinct, a steakhouse in Cincinnati, Ohio; providentially for us he did not accept the job. In addition to his

executive chef positions at notable DC restaurants and clubs, he served on the board of DC Central Kitchen and as director of kitchen operations as well as being an instructor both at DC Central Kitchen and Stratford University.

Do homeless people "deserve" delicious meals? According to Chef Rock, "I'm convinced that good food does more for a person than just provide nutrition. My goal at Central Union Mission is to encourage people to improve their lives through the care and attention we put into serving them. I want our food to add some self-confidence, gratitude and pleasure to down-and-out-folks' lives."

Chef Rock is president of RockSolid Creative Food Group and creator of The Shift Drink Show, The Chef Rock Xperiment Podcast and Chef Rock's Sunday Suppers.

"We're honored that a chef of Rock Harper's caliber is willing to share his talents with DC's homeless and hungry neighbors," commented Mission Executive Director David Treadwell.

Central Union Mission's

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The Mission gratefully acknowledges our generous supporters. Thanks to your financial and in-kind donations, together we serve thousands of homeless and hungry people in Washington, DC.

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