

THE MISSIONARY

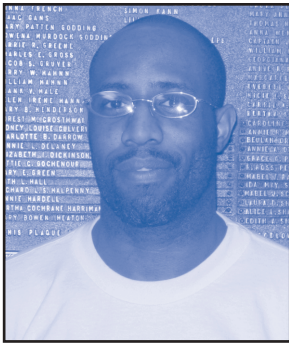
Central Union Mission



April 2005

New Beginnings

Randy Grayson shares his story of deliverance and healing



Randy Grayson has tasted success and happiness, holding down a job for places such as the Federal Reserve Board and Bolling AFB. Alcohol and drug abuse however, led to the forfeiture of many of his most precious blessings including a steady job and his loving wife.

Randy began experimenting with drugs in high school. He always maintained a job and consistently reported to work. However, habits began to form and he began to spend his nights, from the very moment he got off work, drinking heavily and doing drugs with other co-workers. Each night he would return home with barely enough hours to sleep off the effects of the drugs and alcohol before reporting for duty at work the next morning. "No matter what I did on my own time, I would always get to work," he explained. In reality, Randy was becoming increasingly dependent on drugs.

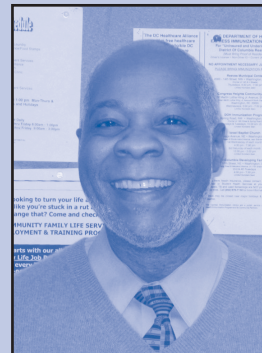
Randy narrowly escaped many serious injuries, wrecking 4 cars in 5 years due to the influence of drugs. "I was doing what I wanted to do and I wasn't even coming home after a while." At the end of himself, Randy turned to Central Union Mission, where he was led to the saving knowledge of Christ.

Currently, Randy is a cook in Central Union Mission's kitchen. He truly demonstrates a servant's attitude for Christ. Deacon Dwayne Chandler of the Good Success Church, where Randy recently joined, describes Randy as "always filled with joy and always willing to encourage and enable other

men who are coming through our doors with exactly the same circumstances he was in."

Randy's time at Central Union Mission is the longest amount of time that he has remained clean. God has been persistent,

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A Faithful Volunteer

Reverend Ray McKissic, an active member of Triumphant Baptist Church, in Hyattsville, MD, began volunteering at Central

Union Mission in 2002 when he was introduced to the Mission by Pastor Gregory Strong. Rev. McKissic believes that God has placed a love for teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ in his heart, and has been coming to Central Union Mission every Monday since 2002 to provide Bible study lessons to our Food Depot clients. "It's very rewarding," says Rev. McKissic, "Leading Bible study at Food Depot helped develop my teaching ministry." We wish to thank Rev. McKissic for his dedicated service to the Mission!



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Party

From the Executive Director

As Central Union Mission is a faith-based organization, Christ is the center of all we do, whether it be in celebrating the birthdays of over 100 men, providing food and shelter to our overnight guests, or sending

hundreds of children to camp each summer.

Without Christ our efforts towards healing broken men, providing necessities for women and families, and nurturing children through Camp Bennett would be in vain.

Because we are Christ-centered, we are not only able to meet physical needs, but we are also able to meet deeper spiritual, heart-based needs.

While we provide beds and hot meals, we allow men to come to a better understanding of how much God loves them. We also help men break free from their addictions, providing them with the spiritual tools to better fight temptations the next time they are confronted by their drug and alcohol addictions.

Central Union Mission has been able to grow not only because we serve in the spirit of Christ, but because of the prayer and financial support of our faithful churches and individual donors. Thank you for each one of your prayers and financial gifts that help us to thrive in all we do. Please continue to support us as we strive to help not only our guests' physical needs, but their spiritual needs as well.

Send a Child to Camp Bennett

As spring turns into summer, children's thoughts turn from school to summer vacation. Some dream of summer camps filled with fun, adventure, and s'mores. However, for many under-privileged children living in DC, summer vacation means long, hot days on the city streets. For these children, Camp Bennett, located in Brookeville, Maryland, provides an opportunity to relax, play, and learn about the love of Jesus Christ in a rural setting. At Camp Bennett, children can swim in the pool, hike on the nature trails, spend a rainy afternoon making arts and crafts, conquer a ropes course, and learn about Jesus through Bible study and praise and worship. Once again, Central Union Mission has been blessed with a dollar for dollar match to send children to camp. Because of the match, your gift of \$90 will double to \$180, covering the cost of one child's week of camp. Please consider sponsoring a child to allow them the joy of attending Camp Bennett this summer!



Online Donating

To donate online:

Log on to our website at www.missiondc.org
or

Visit Network for Good at www.networkforgood.org

Souper Bowl!

All-American sports are some of the few things in life that break the barriers of communication. Regardless of race or socioeconomic status, there is a common competitive spirit that springs from a game of football.

On February 6, homeless men in the D.C. area gathered to watch the New England Patriots take on the Philadelphia Eagles at the Mission's Annual *Souper Bowl* Party. Volunteers also assembled to enjoy the game, while serving the traditional homemade chili and other game snack favorites to overnight guests.

While Central Union Mission is focused on providing spiritual and physical assistance, we recognize the



Our team of volunteers who served our overnight guests at the Souper Bowl.

importance of offering fun-filled activities in a warm, safe, and drug-free environment. Recreation and leisure are often dismissed in the daily struggle of survival, yet it is an important part in the rehabilitation process for the hurting and homeless.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Pastor Gregory O. Strong, Director of the Spiritual Transformation Program



As we look back on the Easter season, we should turn our thoughts towards the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the most important event on the Christian calendar. It is interesting that much of the world prefers to focus on Jesus' birthday and proceed to shower each other with gifts and commercial excesses instead of doing what Jesus commanded which is to remember His death, burial and resurrection (I Cor. 11:23-26). Even though many of

us may celebrate the Easter Bunny and facilitate Easter Egg hunts for our children, this sacred holy day has a much more significant and life changing meaning.

Resurrection is the cornerstone of the Christian faith. Resurrection which means to "restore to life" according to Webster's Dictionary is also the foundation on which Central Union Mission's Spiritual Transformation Program is built. Through Christian discipleship, the resurrection power of Christ is literally demonstrated in reviving the "dead things" in the lives of many of our clients. This may include relationships with family members that have been destroyed because of drug use as well as jobs and careers that have been lost due to the addictive lifestyle. Are there any "dead things" in your life that need reviving? I encourage you to connect with the risen Christ so that you too may walk in the "Newness of Life" (Romans 6:4).

Tribute Giving

In Memory of: Given by:

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Eugenia H. Carpenter

The Cousins Family

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Anita & Michael Turk

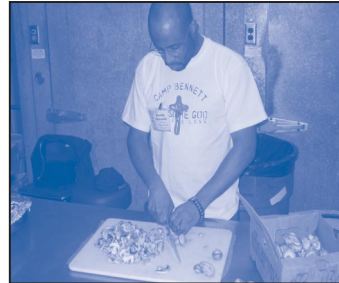
Thank you, Dean & Deluca!



Thank you to Dean & Deluca for their kindness and generosity in their donations to Central Union Mission. Since December of 2003, Dean & Deluca has donated assorted sandwiches and pastries to Central Union Mission every day. Thank you, Dean & Deluca for your gift-in-kind involvement that allows us to better serve our community!

New Beginnings

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forgiving and loving enough to discipline Randy. In 2 Corinthians 5:6, the Bible promises: "Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord." It is this loving responsibility from the Lord that has challenged Randy to

stay off drugs, alcohol and wrong living. "It took God to stop me in my tracks," acknowledges Randy. "God let me run my course only to bring me back to Him."

Through DC Central Kitchen, Randy has completed vocational training, and has received a Food Handler's License. He is currently pursuing further vocational training in Culinary Arts in order to enhance his skills and marketability.

The Missionary is sponsored by:



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CENTRAL UNION MISSION - THE MISSION OF THE CHURCHES

Central Union Mission launches Church Ambassador Program

From our founding by Washington church leaders over 120 years ago, Central Union Mission has enjoyed a special relationship with our partnering churches. The Mission is correctly seen as an extension of the church to reach out to people in need in the city and throughout the area and as the provider of residential and other services not available in most churches. It is our special joy to continue and build on these partnerships through our new Church Ambassador Program. The purpose of the program is to build up the connection between churches in the D.C. Metropolitan area and Central Union Mission. The program will allow us to keep your congregation informed of the needs of the Mission, to offer our services as a resource for the people you serve, and help us inform your members of volunteer opportunities at the Mission. Central Union Mission understands the power of prayer and this relationship will allow us to keep one another uplifted regarding the needs of your church and our

ministry. We have a heart for service and spreading the Gospel, and it is essential that we partner with churches that share this vision. We are excited about the Church Ambassador Program and look forward to cultivating a cooperative ministry relationship with you and your church.

If you would like to serve as the Ambassador for your church or would like to hear more about this new initiative, please contact Kelli Davis at 202-745-7118 ext. 250.

Happy Birthday to You!



On February 16th, 82 overnight guests and over 40 men from our Spiritual Transformation Program gathered in the chapel to celebrate their birthdays. The chapel was decorated for the occasion with colorful balloons. Volunteers helped served the delicious birthday dinner and after dinner and the birthday song, guests feasted on cupcakes and ice cream. After dinner, each overnight guest received numerous birthday cards and Mrs. Maryland gave each guest an autographed picture of her. The men were grateful for the opportunity to celebrate their special day. Thank you all for making this a fun and festive birthday party!

In Celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.



In an effort to commemorate the life of a man dedicated to racial harmony and social justice, Central Union Mission hosted its Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration on Monday, January 17th. Homeless men and women gathered to enjoy an exciting rendition of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech presented by Revered Jeffrey Johnson, Pastor of Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Fairfax, Virginia. Guests listened intently and nodded in agreement as they reflected on the Civil Rights Movement. The celebration also included inspirational messages from pastors of several local churches and musical selections from D.C. Washington, Vice-President of the Mission's Board of Directors.

In his concept of the Beloved Community, Dr. King expressed his lack of tolerance for hunger, homelessness, and poverty. The Mission is committed to these same ideals, and has established a special tradition to celebrate a holiday focused on humanitarianism.

Camp Bennett Staff Needed for Summer 2005

Do you love children? Do you want to impact them with the love of Christ in a camp setting? We are looking for male counselors (16 yrs. and older) and a camp medic/nurse. Sessions run Monday – Friday; June 27 – August 12 and it is possible to work only one or some of the weeks for the camp medic position. Contact Rev. Colin Seager at (301) 774-4420, or campbennett@missiondc.org for more information.



Special Need!

We need your help to send our Food Depot families home with balanced, nutritious meals! We especially need rice, beans, canned vegetables and meat. Please mail or deliver all donations to Central Union Mission, 1350 R Street, NW, Washington, DC...we are open 24 hours a day!

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:

- April 13: Senior's Luncheon
- April 21: Volunteer Recognition Social
- Every Monday beginning June 27 – August 1: Volunteer opportunities for Camp Bennett Registration – check in children, check in luggage, Nurses to help with mini physicals.
- Ongoing events: We are always in need of volunteers to help answer phones, send mailings, make beds, help at Food Depot, serve meals, or clean the Mission.

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For more information, please contact Greg Warner
at 301-982-0300 x174.



Yes! I want to partner with Central Union Mission 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
- \$_____ 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.