



THE

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Missionary

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Discovering Hope

Friends and Food in Times of Need

At 61 years of age, Walter proudly claims to be a “true Washingtonian.” He’s happy when he’s walking on the streets of his familiar neighborhood. He enjoys greeting his neighbors, especially when he’s on his way to Central Union Mission twice per month for Food Depot—a Mission ministry to local families and senior citizens in need. At Food Depot, Walter and other seniors gather to enjoy fellowship, celebrate God, and receive groceries.

Walter discovered Food Depot seven years ago when a local pastor referred him to the Mission. After being ordered to retire from his job of twenty-two years because of heart problems, he sorely missed the companionship of his coworkers. He found the many free hours of retirement long and lonely. Food Depot has given him something to look forward to again. “You get to know each other like family,” he says. Walter has only missed Food Depot once in his seven years of participation.

Currently, over 70% of the 175 registered clients for English-language Food Depot are senior citizens. Walter’s group is scheduled for the first and third Tuesday of every month. They arrive early on Tuesdays to spend time chatting before Chaplain Ted Ross delivers a message. Afterwards, they continue to fellowship as they wait to receive their bags of groceries. Walter’s particular

favorites are the cheeses, fruit juices, and peanut butter.

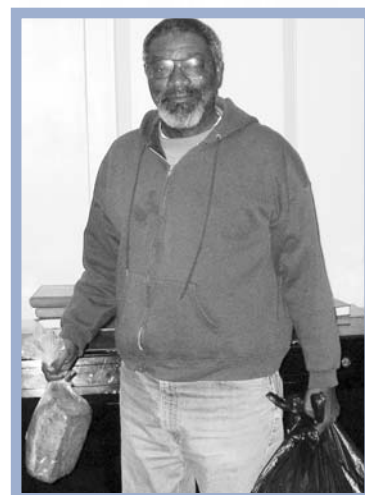
Once a month, all the seniors from Food Depot join together with others from the community for Seniors Luncheon: a hot meal and a joyful service replete with singing and praising. The Luncheon is a much-needed opportunity for Walter and other seniors to meet up and build relationships.

When Walter’s mother made her first visit to the Mission with him, she told him, “Walter, this is where you need to be!” Since then, he’s found a place where everybody is family, where “everybody knows who everybody is.”

The Hispanic Family Ministry also provides Spanish-language Food Depot services to about 40 people weekly at Freedom Baptist Church on U Street, NW. ■



Food Depot participants are glad to see one another.



Walter is loaded up with groceries and fellowship!

You Provided!

In January & February of 2007, Mission supporters touched the lives of neighbors in the District with...

- 16,380 nutritious meals
 - 406 counseling sessions
 - 8,706 chapel, devotions, and Bible study sessions*
 - 220 health care services
 - 264 community members with clothing and furniture
 - 20 English classes for Spanish speakers
 - 26 literacy classes*
 - 6,779 safe places to sleep
- * These reflect the number of attendees.
- Thank you for your partnership to make it all possible!***

STP Graduates Celebrate Miracle-Filled Lives

On February 22nd, family members, pastors, staff, and friends gathered at Freedom Baptist Church to honor ten men completing the Spiritual Transformation Program (STP). The crowd celebrated the miracles their lives represent and wished the men well as they began a new chapter in their lives.

“There’s a special anointing on these guys,” said Donald Ross, Assistant Director of the STP. “They went through trials and tribulations, and if they keep their eyes on Jesus, He is able to keep them from falling.”

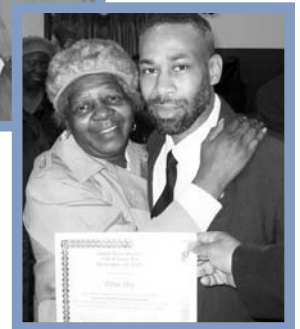
Congratulations to the following recent STP graduates!

- Austin Ballard
- Darion Carter
- Michael Chase
- Abdul Forneh-Delo
- Willie Irby
- Donald McIlhoney
- Ronald Pointer
- Robert Russ
- Kevin Sothern
- Ronnie Thomas

Your support makes it possible for these men to discover true hope and new life. Thank you! ■



STP Director Greg Strong congratulates Ronald on his success in completing the STP.



Willie shares a moment of celebration with his proud mother!

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Discovering Hope Every Day

Hope springs eternal—for some. Hope is an essential element of the Christian faith based on the acts of God in the past and His promise for the future through Jesus. During the beautiful Easter season, we are reminded that hope is chiefly found in Jesus’ love and sacrifice. This hope keeps the people of God from despair and fires us up to live for Him. Our hope for the future keeps us going through present difficulties.

Hope is a core part of Central Union Mission as well, especially during the Easter season. Men, women, and children who have known repeated discouragement receive real hope in the powerful, transforming love of Jesus. At the Mission, this spiritual hope takes

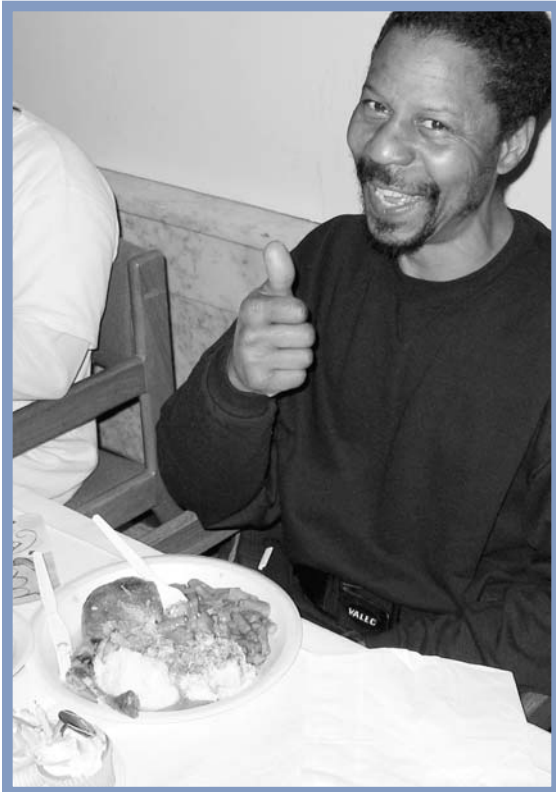
root in tangible, earthly hope as well. Sometimes it’s the extra food we provide or maybe the unimagined opportunity for a child to attend summer camp. Often it means victory over drugs replaced with new job skills or the ability to read and to care for one’s self and loved ones.

At the Mission, hope is both spiritual and practical. New creations in Christ are blessed with bright hope for tomorrow and for eternity. And you make this possible! Your support of Central Union Mission makes it possible for men like Walter, Darion, and Abdul—along with thousands of others—to discover their own stories of hope. We thank God regularly for our faithful donor family. You enable us to share God’s hope with those who might not know it otherwise.

We hope and trust that you will continue to partner with us as we share the message of hope with those who need it desperately. Our hope is that many will come to Jesus—the source of both eternal and immediate hope—during the coming months as a result of your faithfulness.

Blessings,





One of our special guests says "Thank you!" for a delicious birthday dinner celebration.

8th Annual Birthday Party Brings Unexpected Honor to Overnight Guests

As the Mission's 82 Overnight Guests filed into the chapel on Thursday, February 15th, they were greeted with friendly smiles and cries of "Happy Birthday!" Little did they know that they were the guests of honor at Central Union Mission's 8th annual Overnight Guest Birthday Party.

"A lot of men are separated from their families by geography and circumstances," said Executive Director David Treadwell. "This party is our way of showing them that someone really cares for them."

After a wholesome dinner of chicken and potatoes, each person was treated to a cupcake as the crowd sang "Happy Birthday." Then, amidst the balloons and streamers, each guest received a red duffel bag filled with a blanket, shirt, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, water bottle, tissues, shower gel, and birthday cards.

"At first, I was surprised because I didn't know the party was for us," said Theodore, one of the guests of honor. "But it showed me that they cared about us."

Special thanks go out to all who donated their time, gifts, and cards to help make this year's birthday party a success! ■



A volunteer prepares bags full of essential items for our guests of honor. Thanks to all who added a personal touch by sending in birthday cards!



Thank you to the young scholars from Northern Virginia Homeschool Circle, who visited the Mission to learn more about the lives of the people we serve. We were blessed by their gifts of Valentine's decorations for our chapel and homemade cookies for our residents!

Would your group like to visit us this spring or summer for a special event or ministry at Camp Bennett? Please consider a special service project to partner with us in ministry!

Help Us Share True Hope!

The powerfully contrasting forces of power and poverty in Washington, DC are often reflected on the weary and worn faces of those who come to Central Union Mission. Men, women, and children living in the District face incredible challenges—from cycles of underachievement and addiction to rising housing costs and fractured family structures.

In the face of this, the Mission believes there is tremendous hope! As the stories in this newsletter reflect, people are discovering the hope of God's love and mercy as the

Mission meets physical and spiritual needs. As Isaiah 40:30-31 reminds us,

He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

To those who are burdened by the brokenness of sin and the struggles of

poverty, the Mission brings the message of hope and renewal through Christ Jesus. As we celebrate new life this spring and look forward to a summer of fruitful Camp Bennett ministry, we ask you to continue to partner with us in sharing hope with our neighbors. We depend on your support through prayer, volunteering, and material donations to sustain our ministry of hope-sharing. To find out how you might join us, please give us a call at **202-MISSION** or visit us online at **www.missiondc.org**. ■

Upcoming Events

■ Easter Sunday Luncheon

Sunday, April 8 1:00 p.m.
Central Union Mission Chapel

Celebrate Jesus' resurrection by joining the Mission family in providing a free Easter Luncheon to the community. We will also be providing tours to our guests who would like to learn more about the Mission. Volunteer servers and table hosts are needed. All are welcome!

■ Spring Radiothon

Thursday, May 24 4:00-7:00 p.m.
WAVA 105.1 FM

Tune in to WAVA 105.1 FM to take part in our annual Spring Radiothon! Starting at 4:00PM, you can hear live testimony from people whose lives have been changed by the ministry of Central Union Mission. You'll learn about the different programs available to help our brothers and sisters in need, and hear about our plans for the future. You can also support our ministries by donating directly over the phone. Volunteers especially are needed to answer phones!

For more information on these or other volunteer opportunities, please contact Outreach Coordinator Shelah Wilcox at 202-MISSION or swilcox@missiondc.org.



Many thanks to Saddleback Church for providing free copies of *The Purpose Driven Life* to the men in the Spiritual Transformation Program! Morning devotions have taken on new life with these texts.



THE

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