



THE

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# Missionary

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*The coming Spring promises new life just as Christ's resurrection gives new life for His followers. In this issue of **The Missionary**, we celebrate the new lives that Christ has redeemed and you—our faithful supporters—who helped to make these regenerations possible. These testimonies are from men participating in the Mission's 12- to 18-month-long Spiritual Transformation Program (STP).*



## Bernard Hamilton



I was a “grate” man. My bottom was on a grate living outside. It was bitter cold. I had no gloves, and my blanket was wet from the steam and the rain. I was drunk and angry. A shelter had put me out for fighting a staff member—who started the fight in the first place. A lady saw me on the grate and gave me a bag lunch with a little book in it that touched me. It was about a boy who

died alone in an alley with no one who cared about him.

Well, I could empathize. I started to cry. I couldn't stop no matter how I tried. I drank some beer; I smoked some crack. I took a walk with no intention—just a walk.

I looked up and realized I was at 14<sup>th</sup> and R St., NW. It was Central Union Mission—you know the shelter with the sign on the roof that says “Come Unto Me.” I entered the

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR New Lives, New Home

Easter is always our greatest time of celebration, and we continue to thank God for His Son Jesus' Resurrection and the glorious future He promises us. This year we're adding special thanks for His provision of the opportunity for greater service to His children through the restoration of the Gales School.

I hope you can join us at one of our Special Services or at our Ground-breaking ceremony. It would mean so much to see you there. You can read page 6 for information about our upcoming special events.

Please let me thank you again for all your prayers, volunteer time and financial gifts. Your compassion

partnered with God's love is creating brand new lives in Christ.

Blessings,

*Steve*



## Read All About It

*At a typical Book Club meeting, we have a story reading with questions, an activity, song time and a nutritious snack. Mrs. Maria Ester Rodriquez, coordinator, and her assistant Mrs. Ramirez gave participating children a free backpack with all the materials from the session. We thank local bilingual education organization Centronia for providing the materials for our Book Clubs.*

Dr. Jorge de Casanova  
Hispanic Family Ministries director

When Hispanic Family Ministries started our first book club three years ago, we focused on serving toddlers and pre-school-aged children and their families. We just completed our successful winter session during which twenty-six mothers and 30 children attended our nine reading sessions.

The Book Club's purpose is to give mothers and their children the opportunity to spend time together in an intellectual and fun environment. Our goals are to develop bonding relationships and establish early patterns for involvement between parent and child, to spark interest in reading and to incorporate fun through developmental challenges. ■



Moms and children enjoy crafts at Family Book Club.



## The Campers are Coming!



Campers make good friends and good memories at Camp Bennett.

Summertime is just around the corner, and Camp Bennett is getting ready to welcome hundreds of children. For many inner-city kids, the prospect of a week in the secluded Maryland countryside is a dream that can only come true with your help.

Your gift of \$375 will provide a week's room, board and unforgettable fun for one needy camper. When you sponsor a child for Camp Bennett, you will receive a photo and some information about your child and a thank-you note.

Sponsoring a Camp Bennett summer camper is also a good missions project for your church group or service organization. You can sponsor a camper online at [www.missiondc.org/summer\\_camp/](http://www.missiondc.org/summer_camp/) or contact **Tracy Duncan** at 202-MISSION, ext. 260 with any questions. ■

*There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children.*

Nelson Mandela  
Former president of South Africa

## Smell That Green...

Your game of golf will help send 125 children to Camp Bennett this summer. Why not gather some friends for a foursome? This could also be a good incentive for your employees or a thank-you to your hard-working pastor.

Co-sponsored by Central Union Mission and Fellowship of Christian Athletes (DC)



**June 4, 12:00 noon**  
**ARGYLE COUNTRY CLUB**  
**14600 Argyle Club Rd.**  
**Silver Spring, MD**

You can read more about the tournament and register here:  
[www.missiondc.org/shop/](http://www.missiondc.org/shop/).

Your organization or business can be a tournament sponsor!  
See [www.missiondc.org/sponsorships/](http://www.missiondc.org/sponsorships/) for details.

*continued from page 1*

building to get a bed and met some guys just like me. There were some others who could relate to my story, but they had something different about them. They were the STP men.

I was an alcoholic. I was a drug addict. I was a bad parent, a thief and a liar, a lost sinner who needed a Savior. Thank God for Jesus. I am clean now and sober, but more importantly, I am saved, and I am part of the body of Jesus Christ committed to doing whatever it takes. I repented, and because I am a disciple of Jesus Christ, I have the Holy Spirit's power. I will persevere because my past is redeemed, my present makes sense and my future is secure. I will tell everyone the Good News of Jesus Christ, that He works through people like you and me. God bless you!

## Robert Hamner, Jr.

I came to Central Union Mission May 17, 2011, straight from the DC Jail, after sitting 30 days for not applying with the DC Probation Board. My family found Central Union Mission and asked Pastor Lewis and Chaplain Don Ross for help. The Mission took me in like the Prodigal Son. Since I've been at the Mission, God and my mother have been with me every step of the way.



The Mission has helped me to read and study the Bible, to pray and to fellowship and love my brother. They showed me how to give back to the homeless and the less fortunate. By doing these things I see how much God and the Mission have turned me into a better man for the Lord.

## Domonic Garrett

I came into Central Union Mission in January 2011 a broken man. I was 24 years old, confused, frustrated and lost. I had left my home in South Carolina looking to escape a lifestyle of drug addiction and violence. When I came to DC, I had nowhere to go. I ran into a lady who gave me the homeless shelter hotline, who then referred me to Central Union Mission.



After arriving here a supervisor named Kevin Wright told me about a Spiritual Transformation Program and what it did for him. That night I prayed on it, and the next day I joined the STP. My life has never been the same.

Here I learned I don't have to be high to enjoy life. I have experienced what it's like to have people genuinely care about me and my past and what I'm going through. God has shown me His riches, His mercy and His son Christ Jesus through Central Union Mission. During my time here I have become a new creature as stated in 2 Cor. 5:17: "If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" by being reconciled to God (2 Cor. 5:18-21) through Central Union Mission. I will be forever grateful. Thank you.

## In Their Own Words

What has Central Union Mission done for me?  
Central Union Mission has helped me see how fortunate I am, but most importantly, I've started to build a meaningful relationship with God.



## In Their Own Words

God Has Always played a Big part in my life, he has Always been there, even when i didnt want him to be. He has blessed me more then i could every tell you when i am wrong, and when i am right. No matter where I make my bed he is there. He won't let go if my crazy self, he just keeps picking me up when i fall down. And now i'm here at Central Union Mission, going in the right way once more, with alot of help from GOD I will make it this time.

## Everett Jenkins

I came into the Mission not knowing what my next move was going to be. I passed this place by many times and never knew what the Mission was all about. Then I found myself homeless and in need of everything. Central Union Mission welcomed me in; that is when I started to really see what I had in life.



My stay started as an overnight guest, then I began doing the outreach special services program. In January 3, 2011, I became a STP student. This was a way for me to get in touch with God and myself. The Mission has been good to me, providing shelter, clothes and food as well as helping me toward getting my GED and Food Handlers license and starting job training.

Central Union Mission provides much more to the community with everyone in need coming to the front doors. Words can't say everything that the Mission has done. It has been a mighty long road of sin for me, so it is time for the way I am today. Walking and talking God's Word, going down the path of righteousness for Jesus Christ and all the changes in me are because of the STP program at Central Union Mission. Going to Camp Bennett was the biggest change I had in my life spiritually. You can find peace and comfort of mind there, more time for reading your Bible and fellowship with God and the other brothers there with you. Thank you to all the staff and all of the Mission family. Yes, again, thank God for the Mission and this program.

## Adrian White

Lord, I thank you for my life—good and bad—because you have given me lumps to keep it moving in life. The Lord has given and taken life from around me, and I was sad and glad. But it opened my eyes to my mistakes: going to jail, selling drugs, smoking weed, not having a care in the world about anything. I was blind to my faults until I asked for help because I had a child on the way.



My minister sent me to the Central Union Mission to get help. My six months at the Mission really opened my eyes to the emptiness that I had against others. I thank the staff for staying on me. I thank St. Brendan's in the City for being my church and my family. I put my blood, sweat and tears into this Spiritual Transformation Program, and because of that I'm in Phase One. Jesus Christ is really helping me to be humble, to work on my anger, to submit to authority and to learn the Word. So I am thankful for the Mission and Camp Bennett for helping to me to excel and for changing my life. Amen. ■

# Gales School Groundbreaking Events

Join us as we praise God and celebrate Central Union Mission's new home.

*"Unless the Lord builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted." Psalm 127:1*

After five years of planning and negotiation, in July 2011, the District Council agreed to release the Gales School property at 65 Massachusetts Ave., NW, from government use and to allow the Mission to lease it for 40 years with a subsequent 25-year extension available. The Mission has been praying for many years to return to the very heart of the city, and this is God's answer.

A huge task lies ahead: we must restore the historic structure and convert modest classrooms into a large dining/meeting room, remodel an attic and basement and add 5,000 square feet for a kitchen and pantry. We will provide sleeping and bathroom areas for over 150 men per night and house our offices, classrooms and counseling areas for all our men's ministry activities.

Please pray for wisdom for our architects and planners, and pray that God will provide the contractors we need for the construction phase. Thanks so much for your faithfulness; we look forward to working with you in this new adventure.

## Special Services for the Gales School Renovation Project

Before any renovations can begin, we want to be sure our foundation is firm. That's why we are relying on God to provide the resources and wisdom we need to complete this project in His name. Please join us at one of three locations where we will dedicate our efforts to serving God and praying for His guidance.

**Monday, April 23 at 7:00 pm**  
**First Baptist Church of Glenarden**  
(3600 Brightseat Rd., Landover, MD 20744.)

**Saturday, May 5 at 10:00 am**  
**Immanuel Bible Church**  
(6911 Braddock Rd., Springfield, VA 22151)

**Sunday, May 6 at 3:00 pm**  
**Central Union Mission**  
(1350 R St., NW, Washington, DC 20009)

Please RSVP to [www.missiondc.org/specialservices](http://www.missiondc.org/specialservices) with your name and number of guests attending, or contact Jocelyn Harris, communications manager, at 202-MISSION, ext. 221.



ForgottenDC.com

## Gales School Groundbreaking Ceremony

**Monday, May 7, 2012, at 11:00 am at the Gales School**

Today, our Gales School renovation commences with a groundbreaking ceremony. Please join Mission staff, friends and city officials for this historical event. Please RSVP to [www.missiondc.org/groundbreaking](http://www.missiondc.org/groundbreaking) with your name and number of guests attending. ■





## Upcoming Events

### Easter Luncheon and Open House

Sunday, April 8, 2012

1:00 pm

Please join us for our Easter celebration and tour of the Mission's facility.

### Hispanic Family Ministries Easter Celebration

Wednesday, April 11, 2012

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

HFM families meet at Camp Bennett for a day of teaching, games and family fellowship.

### Special Services for the Gales School Renovation Project

You are invited to attend a service dedicating the Mission's renovation of the Gales School to the Lord's work. Please select which date location you'd like to attend; you can RSVP to [www.missiondc.org/specialservices](http://www.missiondc.org/specialservices) with your name and number of guests attending.

Monday April 23, 2012

7:00 pm

First Baptist Church of Glenarden (3600 Brightseat Rd., Landover, MD 20744)

Saturday, May 5, 2012

10:00 am

Immanuel Bible Church (6911 Braddock Rd., Springfield, VA 22151)

Sunday, May 6, 2012

3:00 pm

Central Union Mission (1350 R St., NW, Washington, DC 20009)

### Gales School Groundbreaking Ceremony

Monday, May 7, 2012

11:00 am

Please join us at the Gales School property as we break ground for the Mission's renovations. You can RSVP to [www.missiondc.org/groundbreaking](http://www.missiondc.org/groundbreaking).

### Seniors Luncheon

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

10:00 am

Please help serve a hot lunch to our Seniors celebrating Mother's Day at the Mission.

### Health Fair

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Hispanic Family Ministries is sponsoring a health fair for Hispanic families in the Central Union Mission chapel.

### Spiritual Transformation Program Graduation

Thursday, May 31, 2012

11:00 am

Please come and show your support to our new graduates.

Contact Seamus Merrigan at **202-MISSION, ext. 249** or [jmerrigan@missiondc.org](mailto:jmerrigan@missiondc.org) for volunteering information.

## Changing the Channel on Poverty



Many thanks to STE-DEL Services for their generosity and to Charm Makell (first from left, second row), Greg Currier (third from left, second row) and company owner Steve Delonga (seated, first row).

Central Union Mission thanks STE-DEL Services in Alexandria, Virginia, for its generosity. STE-DEL is the premier apartment furnishing rental service in the metropolitan DC area. Its clients rent expensive furnished apartments and expect top-notch furniture, appliances and accessories.

So what happens to TVs in excellent condition that aren't the coveted flat-screen style? STE-DEL could just throw them away, but instead STE-DEL President Greg Currier, Assistant

Accounting Manager Charm Makell and their staff make the effort to find charities that can use them. According to Mr. Currier, "We really want to make someone's life better rather than just taking these things to a landfill."

Central Union Mission has benefitted from receiving nearly 400 TVs from STE-DEL. Do you have useful household articles that you'd like to donate to the Mission? We can use appliances, bedding, kitchen utensils and cars. You may even receive a tax benefit for your donation. Please contact TaJuanna Patterson at **202-MISSION ext. 235** or [tpatterson@missiondc.org](mailto:tpatterson@missiondc.org) with any questions. ■



Mrs. Patrica Fords receives a TV donated by STE-DEL Services.

## Time for a New Start



Easter is such a powerful reminder of God's regenerating love. Jesus's resurrection gives us a new start and a clean slate. Our future with Him is secure.

Central Union Mission celebrates that love every day by caring for the poor people in our community and offering them Christ's reassuring salvation. We help them in the here-and-now, too, by teaching them how to care for themselves and their families.

Would you partner with us in this effort? Your volunteer time and financial contributions literally change both lives and potential generations. Thank you so much for your compassionate support.



Volunteers help serve and share Easter lunch with our guests.



THE

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A copy of Central Union Mission's current financial report is available upon request by writing to 1350 R Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009 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, 1-401-974-5534. 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, 1-804-786-1343.

## Your Small Gift Brings New Life

I want to help transform a life this spring by sending:

- ☐ \$39.60 to serve a hot meal to 20 hungry guests
- ☐ \$59.40 to serve 30 guests
- ☐ \$89.10 to serve 45 guests
- ☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_ to serve as many as possible

Please make checks payable to "Central Union Mission." To donate by credit card, please see our website at [www.missiondc.org](http://www.missiondc.org).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Your gift is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.  
We'll send a receipt for your records. God bless you for caring.*

Central Union Mission, P.O. Box 96763, Washington, DC 20090-6763

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