

THE MISSIONARY

Central Union Mission



August 2005

Making a Difference for 121 Years

For 121 years Central Union Mission has helped hurting and homeless people with emergency food, safe lodging, warm clothing, hot meals, and spiritual rehabilitation. In 1884, **Latham A. Douglas'** passion to help Washington's poor and homeless enabled him to birth Central Union Mission in the heart of the nation's capital. Thousands of men, women and children from every corner of the city have entered the

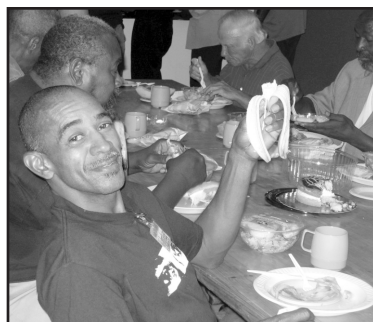
doors of the mission hungry and helpless. They leave with faith in Christ, restored hope and changed lives.

We are honored to feature **Luis Palau** as our principal speaker at our 121st Annual Fundraising Gala on Friday, September 23, 2005 at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington, DC 20004. Dr. Palau's passion for souls has driven him around the world to preach the Gospel of Hope.



Author and Christian communicator **Luis Palau** has shared his message of hope with hundreds of millions through his **worldwide ministry**, including close to 20 million people face-to-face in 70 countries.

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"Let the Church Say Amen!" Interview by Emmanuel Fields

Recently one of our chaplains, David Surles, was featured in a documentary produced by PBS, *Let the Church Say Amen*. Chaplain Surles currently teaches classes and serves our senior citizens, helping them find and retain affordable housing. He has not always led a life of service. Growing up, Chaplain Surles's father was incarcerated until he was a teenager, and his mother was often strung out on drugs. Eventually, Chaplain Surles got involved with drugs and lost his wife, home, and finally his children.



Through David Surles's work as a plumber, he was introduced to the World Missions for Christ Church.

Emmanuel: *How were you introduced to World Missions for Christ Church?*

Surles: Well, I had my own home improvement business and one of the ladies from the church asked me if I could fix the leak at her church. There had been several plumbers who attempted to fix it but had failed. I promised myself that I would stop that leak. I worked hard for three days, and finally was able to stop the leak. They wanted to pay me but I told them to keep their money. They asked if I would at least come back tomorrow for Sunday service, and I told them I would be there. I always was looking for a way to help my neighbors.

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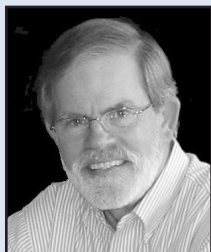


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From the Executive Director



This issue of the *Missionary* focuses on service. So watch out! Among many valuable lessons I've learned in 25 years in Washington are: first, service is contagious, perhaps even addictive, and, secondly but equally important, time is often more valuable than money.

We are bombarded with service opportunities and placed on overwhelming guilt trips for not spending more time with our families, in church or at our children's schools.

So, with great care, we want to thank the hundreds of friends who serve the Mission in so many ways each year. We recognize your sacrifice and your selection of this opportunity from among many worthy causes. And we encourage those who are considering serving here to be assured that we value your time and that we will do our very best to provide a rewarding and perhaps even life changing experience as you serve people in great need.

For over 20 years I was in military service and now I've been blessed with another 18 years of not-for-profit "service." May I assure you the rewards from serving friends who are striving to restore their lives with God's help are about as great as we can enjoy in this life?

Please consider joining us by sharing your time with children, women or men in need or through your continued financial support which enables us to serve alongside our wonderful corps of volunteers.



We trust you're enjoying a great summer and are preparing now for an autumn of service to honor our Lord.

Rich Blessings,

Camp Wrap Up

During the past six weeks, Camp Bennett was transformed from quiet retreat grounds to bustling campgrounds. Two-hundred fifty-four children and twenty-three full time camp staff descended on Camp Bennett for a week at a time to experience summer camp fun and learn about Christ's love. Children were seen (under the watchful eye of their counselor's) swinging from ropes, jumping into small bodies of water, drinking bug juice, singing songs, reading the Bible and bowing their heads. Counselors and staff were sighted mentoring children and sharing the love of Christ. Although camp is wrapping up, each person, whether child or staff, will take with them a vivid memory of the transforming power of Christ's love in their lives.





Dr. Semmler - GIK spotlight

Dr. Richard Semmler, a donor and volunteer of the Mission, was featured in the Washington Post for his immense contributions to several charitable organizations. Over his lifetime, he has donated approximately \$770,000. Last year he donated over half of his annual income to charitable ventures, Central Union Mission received \$22,800 of his donations. His contributions have helped us serve 10,400 meals to hurting and homeless people in the Metropolitan area. Aside from his financial support, Dr. Semmler has donated his mathematic skills to the Mission. As a calculus and algebra professor for Northern Virginia Community College, he volunteers his time to teach our math GED class. He also serves in the kitchen on a weekly basis and has become a very familiar face in the building. *Thank you Dr. Semmler!*



The Washington Post article ran on June 11, 2005. CBS and 20/20 are running similar stories that will feature Dr. Semmler's passion for philanthropy.

Making a Difference for 121 Years

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He has written books and articles on matters of faith that have been published in dozens of languages, and his radio broadcasts are heard daily on over 2100 radio stations in 48 countries.

We invite all to come to our annual fundraising gala to celebrate our 121st year of making a difference in the lives of needy children, hurting women, and homeless men. Ticket information may be found at www.missiondc.org or by calling 202-MISSION. Contact us now to reserve your tickets or table.



"Let the Church Say Amen!"

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Emmanuel: *You have come a long way, how did the Mission help?*

Surles: ...through my church. I knew I needed help. I graduated from the Mission's STP program and then they paid to send me to WORD OF LIFE to study God's Word. What a blessing! When the Mission gave me my first assignment, I had to clean up the clothes in the storage room. I was determined to make the storage room the best looking storage room in the mission. God's used the Mission to teach me a lot!

Emmanuel: *Are you satisfied with where you are or are you looking to do more?*

Surles: I am proud of my accomplishments thus far. But I want to own a house with a tree in the back yard. I want to be there for my children. The relationship has been restored but there is a lot of work to do. I thank God for where He has brought me from.

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Help us continue to serve Sellers & Buyers in VA and the Metro DC Area. A percentage of every home sold will be given to Central Union Mission to support their efforts in spreading God's word and His love.

The Ask

Central Union Mission has helped Washington's hungry and hurting people for over 121 years. We are only able to do this with the help of faithful donors like you. As you vacation or spend time with friends and family this summer, please remember your friends at Central Union Mission. The need for nutritious meals, a place to rest and Christian counseling continues all year long. We serve three meals per day and provide shelter for nearly 150 men. For only \$1.93 you can provide a meal or care for one of our guests. Although our revenue decreases during the summer months, we can continue to serve the homeless with your ongoing prayers, donations, and financial support.

2005 STP Graduation

On May 26, the mission family and friends of eleven graduating men filled the Freedom Baptist Church in Washington DC for a well-anticipated day—graduation. Acapella hymns resonated in the sanctuary as the graduates celebrated the completion of the Spiritual Transformation Program, an 18-month course for men who seek spiritual restoration. During the commencement service the audience listened intently as Pastor Gregory Strong, Director of the Spiritual Transformation Program, shared each graduate's testimony. The men currently enrolled in the program shouted cheers of encouragement to their peers who share similar life experiences. At the close of the service, graduates and their families gathered for a special dinner served at the Mission to celebrate their great milestone.



Congratulations to our 2005 STP Graduates!

Keith Curtis	Arnold Gant
Michael Jenkins	Joseph Savoy
Aaron Davis	Randy Grayson
Devon Lancaster	Russell Shepherd
Phillip Ford	Andre Toye
Danchester Richardson	

Please pray for our graduates as they continue their walk with Christ.

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Yes, I'll help Central Union Mission make up the difference this summer!

Here is my gift of:

- \$19.30 to feed or help care for 10 people.
- \$28.95 to feed or help care for 15 people.
- \$38.60 to feed or help care for 20 people.
- \$77.20 to feed or help care for 40 people.
- \$386.00 to feed or help care for 200 people.
- \$_____ to feed and care for as many people as possible.

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If you would like to donate by credit card, please call 202-MISSION or log on to www.missiondc.org.