

THE MISSIONARY

Central Union Mission



December 2006

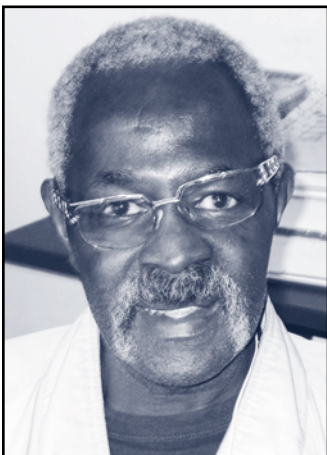
Celebrating God's Faithfulness

James' Story: Discovering a Hand of Compassion in Time of Need

"I don't remember dying,"

jokes 67-year-old James as he recounts the events that brought him to Central Union Mission. His heart did stop twice though during a recent surgery in July 2006. Afterwards James moved into an assisted living center, but the high fees quickly drained his savings. His search for a safe place to stay led him to the Mission this fall.


Despite the surgeries and his recent introduction to homelessness, James attempts to stay in good spirits. He talks of the days he spent attending college in North Carolina, where he counted Jesse Jackson among his classmates and earned his degree in Business Administration. "At that time," he says, "I was a well known track athlete and Jesse Jackson was struggling for attention. Things are a little different now."



James has learned that God is faithful at Central Union Mission.

After graduating from college, James was a successful businessman and homeowner in North Carolina and Washington, D.C., where he was able to make a living despite struggling with the after-effects of wounds he sustained while fighting in Vietnam. Eventually his injuries resulted in surgeries that ultimately left him homeless.

Now James finds himself in need of help and is getting it at Central Union Mission. Instead of spending his nights out in the cold, he stays with a few other men in the Benevolent Room, attending daily services and Bible studies and joining in mealtimes every day. The Mission's Social Work Department is helping James save his monthly Veteran's Administration checks and get back on his feet. Most importantly, James has found the love of Jesus in action at the Mission.

James still retains high hopes for the future. He remains faithful to God and thanks Him for all his experiences—even this one—and hopes to grow from all this and that in one year, his position will be drastically different than it is today. Central Union Mission hopes so too and is helping him on his journey to make that dream a reality by creating an environment in which James and others like him are able to rebuild their lives—physically, spiritually, and emotionally. 



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From the Executive Director: Faithfulness and Blessing



The Rescue Mission movement in the United States began over 134 years ago; from the beginning Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays have been very special times for our communities. During Thanksgiving our hearts focus on our blessings and

our thoughts turn to helping the poor and homeless.

Then during Christmas, many give to the Mission's children and our other ministries as they share gifts with friends and family in recognition of God's great gift of His Son. For all of these expressions of love and appreciation, Central Union Mission staff and those we are privileged to serve are most grateful.

While numbers and outcomes are compelling and important for tracking our services, it's the glimmers of hope and transformation that really shine as our great reward for this work. I wish each of you could enjoy the gratitude I see in the eyes of Hispanic parents, as I speak

to them in my feeble Spanish and as we share Christmas Bags with their children. And I wish you could be there to see a once-estranged wife reunited with her transformed husband as he returns home, accompanied by gifts for each of his children. To catch a glimpse of these special moments, we hope you can join us in person for our Christmas Dinner to meet and celebrate with some of the people we serve.

This is truly a special season, and we thank each donor, prayer warrior, and volunteer who enables us to serve the homeless and hurting people of Washington, D.C. You continue to be God's source of encouragement to the Mission family.

We pray God's special blessing for you during this season of sharing!

Blessings,

Employee of the Year: Food Services Manager Jeffery Toolles

This year Food Services Manager Jeffery Toolles was named "2006 Employee of the Year." Jeff graduated from the Spiritual Transformation Program in 1992, joined Food Services in 1993, and has served faithfully ever since!

Below are his reflections on his experience and work at the Mission:

Q: *What motivates you to work hard at your job?*

A: Just to see the joy on other people's faces as we do what we do. I can be stressed out, but I get to see people get food and the joy it brings them. I just love all that.

Q: *What do you enjoy most about your job?*

A: Serving. I'd rather be behind the scenes any day than out front! You let me know what needs to be done, and I'll get it done.

Q: *What has kept you at Central Union Mission for all these years?*

A: When I first came, I was hurting and didn't have anything at all, but I saw the wonderful work going on here, and I was so touched by that. When I saw the way they brought me in and blessed me so much, I knew that this was my calling. I said, "Lord, I need to be a part of this."

Q: *What is one of the biggest successes you've seen in your job?*

A: The Food Depot program. It started since I came (1993) when they started giving away the bags of food.

Employee of the Year



Jeff receives his well-deserved award from Executive Director David Treadwell.

Walking Together to Help the Homeless

On Saturday, November 18, Central Union Mission participated in the 19th Annual Fannie Mae Foundation Help the Homeless Walkathon. Together with more than 110,000 people, Mission staff, clients, and supporters—including students from Howard University School of Divinity, Washington Bible College, Capital Bible Seminary, and Wesley Theological Seminary—took to the

National Mall to raise awareness and funds for more than 180 Washington metro area organizations working to prevent homelessness.

“It was great to see the community come together,” said Special Projects Manager Julia Smith. “It wasn’t just service providers and advocates trying to raise awareness and funds—we were walking side by side with homeless individuals and recipients of these direct services. There was a lot of energy.”



Thanks to everyone who made this year's Walkathon a success!

Giving Thanks for God's Faithfulness

Psalms 9:18 reads, “But the needy will not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the afflicted ever perish.” It was with the promise of these words that the Mission opened its doors on Thanksgiving Day and welcomed more than 200 people to join us for our Great Thanksgiving Banquet. The dining room and chapel were filled with Mission family and guests for an afternoon of prayer, fellowship, and a traditional Thanksgiving dinner.

Also this year, we were able to provide more than 500 frozen turkeys to families

and seniors through the annual Turkey Distribution. Our deepest gratitude goes out to all who made this such a food- and God-filled Thanksgiving at Central Union Mission!



Honoring Those Who Serve on Veterans Day

On Friday, November 10, Central Union Mission hosted a luncheon to honor the veterans from the Mission and other service agencies in the District. “As a veteran, one of my special joys each year is to host Veterans Day in the presence of scores of other veterans and to honor them for their service,” said Executive Director LTC David Treadwell, USA (Ret.). Men and women of all ages

filled the chapel for an afternoon of prayer, remembrance, and fellowship.



You Provided!

In the first quarter of our fiscal year you provided:

824 children with back to school bags and school supplies

774 community members with extra clothing

786 counseling sessions to men, women and families

18 students with ESL classes

268 children with a week at summer camp

20 students with English and Spanish literacy classes

45 men with an opportunity for rehabilitation and recovery

378 Overnight Guests with safe places to sleep and nutritious meals

166 senior citizens with food, fun and fellowship at monthly luncheons

148 men, women and families with medical orientation, medical services and mental health evaluations

11,134 safe places to sleep

29,245 nutritious meals

Being Jesus: Extend a Hand and Build a Revolution

In the midst of ushering in the revolutionary Kingdom of God, Jesus' commands to his followers were strikingly simple: love God with all that you are and love your neighbor as yourself (Mt. 22:36-30). Those who represent him on Earth are called to build the Kingdom in its vast greatness by meeting people in their need with a personal connection and a commitment to loving them as Jesus does. Although this can sometimes appear meager or mundane, the revolution of it becomes apparent when we realize that Jesus intended for us to turn the world upside down one person at a time!

Every day at Central Union Mission, lives are touched with the restoring love of God in real ways. Each person's burden looks different when they come to the Mission. It could be hunger, abuse, homelessness, loneliness, or endless other forms of brokenness. But we seek to relieve those burdens and point people toward hope and healing. One person and one family at a time, God is calling Creation back to wholeness.

By supporting Central Union Mission in spirit, deed, and gift, you can partner with us to fulfill this charge we have all been given. This holiday season, we welcome you to join us in this amazing privilege of being an agent of healing by joining the work of the Mission. For more information on opportunities for involvement or giving, visit our website at www.missiondc.org or give us a call at 202-MISSION.

Come turn the world upside down, one life at a time!



We were excited to celebrate the lives changed at the Hispanic Ministry this fall.

Upcoming Events:

Christmas Bags December 9, 9:00-11:00 a.m. (Hispanic Ministry) & December 16, 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. (English-speaking Ministries)
Central Union Mission Chapel

Bless a family in need and experience the joy of giving that we celebrate at Christmas by donating new, unwrapped toys through December 15. We also welcome volunteers for our parties on the 9th and 16th. *Contact Shelah at 202-MISSION with questions.*

Christmas Day Banquet December 25, 5:00 p.m.
Central Union Mission Chapel

Volunteer servers and table hosts are needed for our annual Christmas Day Banquet. Bring the family and celebrate with our neighbors who are often forgotten on Christmas. *For more information or to sign up, contact Shelah at 202-MISSION.*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration
Monday, January 15, 12:00 p.m.,
Central Union Mission Chapel

Come celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King! The service will include Rev. Jeffery Johnson's astounding rendition of King's "I Have a Dream" speech, as well as music and reflections on the deep impact of Dr. King's life on our society. Light lunch will be served.

SouperBowl Sunday, February 4, 5:00 p.m.
Central Union Mission

Looking for a fun way to serve others and celebrate a great American tradition? Unleash your Souper Powers and put God's love into action! Host a SouperBowl party and collect donations or non-perishable food items OR participate in the Service Blitz at the Mission! *For more information, contact Sarah at 202-MISSION.*



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