



THE

VOLUME 7 • ISSUE 6 • DECEMBER 2008

Missionary

A PUBLICATION OF CENTRAL UNION MISSION

On a Journey of New Beginnings

A New Blessing for a Fresh Start



Aleazar and Melva Samuel

Remember Aleazar? We've followed Aleazar Samuel's successes since 2005, when he graduated from the Spiritual Transformation Program (STP). He then graduated from Lincoln Technical Institute in 2007 as a certified heating and air conditioning technician. Both triumphant years, of course, but this year is most special of all: Aleazar married Melva Cunningham on June 21, 2008, and the newlyweds are spending their first Christmas together.

Facing a Dead End

A political refugee from Ethiopia in 1984, Aleazar lived in a camp in Kenya where he picked up an all-too-common drug and alcohol addiction. Three years later, he came to the States, where he worked at a 7-Eleven in Maryland until his addictions left him jobless and homeless.

In 2003, he found his way to Central Union Mission looking for a bed for the night. At first, he continued to do drugs. Aleazar confides, "Many homeless people make excuses for why they are that way, but when they are alone, all homeless people blame themselves." He realized that he wanted more from life—and that the STP could help.

When he started Phase One, he worked as a dishwasher and faithfully followed his Bible studies. He got his GED, and in 2005, was awarded the Mission's Trophy of Grace for his exemplary participation in the STP.

A Partner for Life

Aleazar met Melva at Good Success Christian Church & Ministry in Washington, DC, where Melva is church administrator. As Chief Armor Bearer for the pastor, Aleazar serves Dr. William H.

Bennett. Both Samuels are instrumental in their church's mission outreach. During their trip to Ethiopia this year, Aleazar said, "I gave testimony to what God did in my life. He's calling me to serve in Ethiopia."

Now Aleazar's job at a Verizon building takes him daily near the city park where he slept while homeless. He prays for the homeless men there and ministers to his brother, who is schizophrenic and refuses to leave the street. "I know how they feel; when you're homeless, you feel rejected, no matter what." Aleazar's devotion to serving God in Ethiopia and on the streets of Washington, DC, is a joyful outcome of his faith in Christ, his personal determination and God's perfect blessings. ■

In Grateful Thanks

Central Union Mission thanks our donors, who gave generously this fall in memory of loved ones:

In Memory of Anula Goldweber
from James H. Goldweber

In Memory of Lillian D. Watkins
from Guthrie J. & Shelly W. Beddingfield

In Memory of Judith McAleer
from Doug & Kathy Strickland and David H. Rowe

In Memory of Adam Ike
from Allison Tarr and Patricia Pasqual

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Crucial Prayers at a Critical Time

As the cold days and long nights hit Washington, we are reminded of the critical nature of our services during this season. Even as we prepare for our Great Christmas Miracle and the delivery of gifts for perhaps 2,000 children, the severe needs of homeless and desperate people during winter and the costs related to this expensive season weigh on our minds.

I would like to ask for your special prayers this year. Pray for all those we serve—hurting men, women and children, our economically hard-hit Hispanic community, the struggling urban poor, as well as addicted and angry guests in need of a Savior.

We also covet your prayers for our efforts to build a God-honoring facility worthy of the Capital of our country. If God wills, this is likely our last winter on R Street. Finally, I ask for prayers for our dedicated staff which has made personal and financial sacrifices to continue His work at the Mission this year. Their enthusiasm is contagious, their diligence often hard to believe.

As you pray, I hope you will consider our opportunities for volunteering. We especially need those who can come regularly and stretch our thin manpower. It's the end of a tough economic year for so many who love the Mission—we've felt the impact, too. Please remember your Mission as you make your Christmas and end-of-year gifts. Thank you for enabling us to minister for another year. We're counting on your participation as we enter Year 125.

Blessings,




Meet the Director of Ministries



DJ Robert Burwell (left) interviews Pastor Lewis during the Radio One Radiothon.

*Correction: Our apologies to Golden Girl Pat Beal for misspelling her name in the October issue of **The Missionary**.*

Pastor James Lewis is a vision guy. As Central Union Mission's Senior Director of Ministries, he makes sure that our vision is followed throughout all the ministries.

In addition to setting policies and ensuring that the staff is well supported, Pastor Lewis also oversees the internship program that provides experience for seminary and social work students. This fall, the Mission is training five seminary, two social work and two AmeriCorps interns.

As pastor of the Sons of God Outreach Christian Ministries, a position he shares with his wife Co-Pastor Caroline Lewis, he cares for a congregation of current and former Mission residents and neighbors involved in urban ministries. He maintains relationships with the many churches that provide programs and chaplains for the nightly chapel services and Bible studies, including St. Brendan's, a new inner city ministry that meets in the Mission chapel on Sunday afternoons.

Before joining the Mission staff in March 2000, Pastor Lewis described himself as "bi-vocational." While working as a computer consultant, he also served as a chaplain in the DC and TN prison systems. He is a Howard University School of Divinity graduate. He and Caroline live in Maryland and have three grown children. ■



Holding the banner high to help end homelessness.

Truth is Marching On

In below 30° weather, Central Union Mission joined thousands of people on the National Mall for the 21st Fannie Mae Foundation Help the Homeless Walkathon on November 22.

The Mission's team included staff, STP participants, Overnight Guests and community members.

“The Walkathon is one of my favorite events,” said Sarah Spinler, who coordinates the Mission's effort. “It's amazing to see thousands of people with the same goal in mind—to end homelessness.”

As well, the Mission was pleased to host two Mini-Walks with DC public schools Mamie D. Lee School and Potomac Lighthouse Charter School. We also thank SunTrust Bank and Todd Allan Printing for their support.



Austin Ballard and Shirley Johnson, director of social work, display a donated and much-appreciated laptop.

We Need Your Stuff!

Hand-me-downs, leftovers, extra stock, second-hand, used, surplus, extra: these items are known to the non-profit world as “gifts-in-kind.” Instead of donating money that will be used to purchase goods and services, a gift-in-kind occurs when the actual goods and services themselves are donated.

One reason you may choose to make a gift-in-kind is that donated goods are less likely targets for political or corporate corruption. Another is that gifts-in-kind allow a company or family to make positive use of materials that might otherwise have been a liability—or even trash.

So please take a look around your home, business, church and community. When you find furniture, computers, clothes, toys and other items in good repair, remember the Mission. You can give these items a new life to benefit the poor in our community. For information about donating gifts-in-kind, please contact Dwayne Chandler at **202-MISSION**.

Santa's Coming!

It's time to share the joy of Christmas with needy neighborhood children like these. Through the Mission's Christmas Miracle program, we hope to give bags filled with special presents to more than 2,000 children. To sponsor a child or fill a bag, please call Ben Doggett at **202-745-7118, ext. 260**.



A New Chance for the New Year



Central Union Mission is all about new beginnings: compassionately giving homeless, addicted and desperate people the training and opportunity for a second chance. The Bible says “if anyone is in Jesus Christ, he is a new creature; the old has gone, the new has come” (2 Corinthians 5:17). The Mission makes those words real every day.

Changes abound in Washington, DC: a new year, a new economic outlook, a new political administration. Yet one thing remains constant: as 2009 comes around the corner, you can help make these spiritual life-changes possible. Please pray as you contribute your time and treasure to Central Union Mission today. Visit us online at www.missiondc.org or call 202-MISSION. ■

Upcoming Events

■ Great Christmas Miracle Party December 13, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

To bless a needy child with new, unwrapped gifts and clothes, please contact Ben Doggett at 202-745-7118, ext. 260. We also need help distributing the gifts at the party.

■ Christmas Day Banquet December 25, 5:00 pm

Volunteer servers and table hosts are needed for our annual Christmas Day Banquet. Bring the family, and celebrate with guests who are often forgotten on Christmas.

■ Souper Bowl Party February 1, 5:00 p.m.

Root for your favorite team with the Mission, and help serve chili and fixings to our neighbors.

■ Everyone's Birthday Party February 19, 5:00 p.m.

Please donate birthday cards, new undergarments, toiletries and cold weather items to encourage our Overnight Guests.

To contribute to or to volunteer for any of these events, contact Sarah at 202-MISSION or volunteer@missiondc.org.

You Provided!

With the generous support of donors like you, Central Union Mission provided the following services to the community from July through September 2008:

- **34,636 nutritious meals** for men, women, families and children including daily meals, grocery bags and seniors' luncheons
- **Support to families and individuals** in need through distributing **1760 articles** of clothing and **229** household goods
- Residential recovery services through the 18-month Spiritual Transformation Program for **71 men overcoming addictions** and other issues.
- A safe place to sleep and other supportive services for **8132 men** through the **Overnight Guest Ministry**.
- Coordinated appropriate **housing for 23 individuals and families** through our Hispanic Family Ministry and Homeless to Housing Initiative.
- **Counseling services**, including individual counseling, group counseling, family counseling, home visits and hospital visits for **955 families and individuals**.
- **Free medical and legal services**, including health fairs, exams and consultations for **213 individuals**.
- **Educational services for 55** including English as a Second Language, literacy, GED training, tutoring, computer class and citizenship class and **1729** Spiritual Transformation classes.



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PUBLISHED BY CENTRAL UNION MISSION

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1350 R ST, NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20009 | MISSIONDC.ORG | (202) MISSION

Proudly printed by Todd Allan Printing Company. For more information, contact Greg Warner at 301-982-0300 x174.

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