

THE MISSIONARY

Central Union Mission



February 2005

In the Spirit of Giving

Throughout the month of December, any visitor entering Central Union Mission could have easily mistaken the facility for a toy store. Bags filled with toys and clothes were piled high, each tagged with a child's name. Through its annual Christmas Bag Program, the Mission provided over fifteen hundred children with unexpected Christmas gifts.

According to Colin Seager, Director of Children's Ministry, many of the children who received gifts at the program have participated in the summer camp ministry. "It was so wonderful to see so many happy children," he said. "I especially enjoyed seeing our supporters work together to tangibly demonstrate God's love to the families we care for."



The bag distribution was held on December 4th for the Hispanic community and December 11th for English speaking families. Children enjoyed a puppet show presentation from members of Olney Baptist Church, a message on the true meaning of Christmas, and singing favorite Christmas carols.

The Mission solicited the support of donors who were interested in adding a needy child's name to their Christmas list. Each donor received a child's profile, including their name, size, age, favorite color, and information they might find helpful when purchasing presents. Donors were extremely generous in their giving; most children left with a large bag full of the latest toys and clothes.



continued on page 3



Page 2
A Merry
Feast



Page 5
Christmas
Cheer for
Children

Page 6
Opportunities
for you
to help

From the Executive Director



Welcome to 2005 at the Mission! We're excited to continue in our 121st year of serving the people of our nation's capital. This year *The Missionary* will focus on several thematic aspects of service. Our February issue is centered on giving and as you read, we encourage you to think about your motives for sharing your resources.

In the wake of the recent tsunami disaster, many people have been prompted to give. While we wholeheartedly encourage support of the relief efforts in South Asia, we also ask you to remember that poverty and emotional distress are not one-time events, but are ongoing, whether overseas or in our nation's capital.

Every day men and women enter our facilities with needs resulting from poverty, unemployment, substance abuse, and emotional challenges. Although the needs of the people we serve may not be as urgent as those resulting from the tsunami, God's love reaches out to the poor and hurting wherever they are.

With this in mind, we should respond with the same spirit to the needs of the hurting and homeless people in DC year round as we did during this recent international disaster. As we enjoy the New Year, we ask that you allow the Lord to guide you as you pray, volunteer, and financially support the ministries He places on your heart. The Lord has always supplied the needs of His ministry to the poor and homeless people of Washington, DC through our family of generous supporters, and we are confident that He will continue to care for His Mission as He has for over 120 years. Thank you for your ongoing prayers, for volunteering and your financial support.

Happy New Year!

A Merry Feast

On December 24th, the Mission held its annual Christmas banquet, serving approximately 350 friends and homeless guests. Volunteers served turkey, sweet potatoes, stuffing, greens, and apple pie prepared by the Mission's Chef, Robert Brown, a graduate of our Spiritual Transformation Program! In addition to serving dinner, volunteers created a Christmas atmosphere by fellowshiping with our guests and singing carols during dinner. The Mission ended the program by giving each of our guests gifts of sweaters, blankets, and gloves that were donated by local churches and organizations!



Online Donating

To donate online:

Log on to our website at www.missiondc.org
or

Visit Network for Good at www.networkforgood.org

In the Spirit of Giving

continued from page 1

Verona Strayhorn, mother of two Christmas bag recipients, said her son had to wear a borrowed coat before the Mission provided her children with clothes. "I was so overjoyed," she said. "It was like an answer to prayer. I was so excited because my son really needed a coat. With us having such a low income coming in, I really didn't really have the money to buy clothes for my sons. The sweaters and pants that were given were a tremendous help."



Aside from clothing, Ms. Strayhorn's boys, Ezekial, 11, and Isaiah, 12, also received an X-Box game system. "They really wanted a game system but I could not afford it with my salary." Ms. Strayhorn shared. "When they got the X-Box you should have seen their faces! I really appreciate what Central Union Mission has done for me and my family. It was definitely their best Christmas yet."

Tribute Giving

In Memory of:

Given by:

Victor & Pearl Simmons

Marilyn S. Phelps

John Nichols

Jean A. Nichols & Don E. Pittman

My father

Ms. Rebecca Lent

Miss Emily Amor

Daniel Hall

Frank Chrusciel

Miss Reba C. Branch

Austin Kinna

Virginia Kinna

John C. Patterson, Jr.

James and Mary Gaffney

James Bigbee

L. Wayne Stevens

Tyler

Kathleen M. Bell

Lottie Wall

Pat Ziletti

Jacquelyn M. Rixse

Mildred W. Bagley

Dewana G. Bagley

Charles H. Burton

Floyd W. Harris Foundation for
Personal Evangelism, Inc.

Jesse C. Gram and Harvey B. Gram, Sr.

Annie Gram

In Honor of:

Given by:

Mardelle Richey

Alice B. Clark

Vivian Neuhauser

Joan McAllister

Mr. Harold McAllister

Kirt & Jean King

Maureen Petersik

Ms. Theresa Butler

Her son, Joshua Butler

Jane Chalmers & Frank Greve

Carolyn M. Sterns

The Remy Jurenas Family

Susan Roundtree

Lou & David Smith

Wallace & Donna Newton

Paul Broph & Mary Reilly

Wallace & Donna Newton

Larry & Lyn Huff

Mr. and Mrs. John Russell

Kate Templin

Ethel E. Hudson

Feed the Children Partners with the Mission

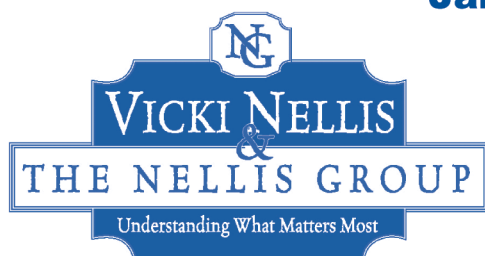
As a part of the Christmas Cheer for Children Week, Feed the Children, a Christian, international, nonprofit relief organization, provided food and hygiene products for nearly 800 families through Central Union Mission. Men and women lined up inside the Mission's chapel to receive boxes filled with food and hygiene products. The Mission was also able to distribute many boxes of food to area churches and ministries to assist them as they serve their immediate communities.

Thank you, Giant!

For many years, Giant Food has faithfully donated their extra bread, vegetables, milk, and other non-perishable goods to the Mission every day! The food we receive from Giant helps us to feed more guests and to enhance our Food Depot, so we can send our families home with balanced meals. Thank you, Giant!



The Missionary is sponsored by:



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Christmas Cheer for Children

Christmas Cheer for Children was a joyful week-long celebration integrating our yearly Christmas Bag programs with child-focused events. Sandwiched between our Christmas Bag Parties on December 4th and 11th, **Feed the Children** arrived with their trucks of food, and the Mission hosted two after school programs with activities such as making gingerbread houses and Christmas cards, and playing Bingo! To make the afternoons extra special, a local **Dominos** donated pizza on both

days, and **Child Evangelism Fellowship** sponsored a "Birthday Party for Jesus" with an interactive performance that taught the true meaning of Christmas.



Unloading boxes of food from Feed the Children.

Children enjoying the Christmas Cheer festivities.

A Gentle Nudge

Most of us can use a nudge now and then to do something we know we should do — like writing or updating a will. We find it easier to procrastinate than to accomplish the task and a good nudge can get us moving in the right direction. If this describes you, consider this little article a nudge.

The reason we want to nudge you to obtain or update your will is because we have seen the difficulties that arise when a person dies intestate (without a will). We also know that many people who intend to include Central Union Mission in their will fail to get their wish unless the bequest has been clearly stated in a valid will.

Another reason we want to gently prod you is because we know you will be glad when the chore is done. You and your beneficiaries will have peace of mind about your final affairs...and you will thank us for the nudge.

One way we can assist you is to make things as easy as possible. Our complimentary **Will Information Kit** is designed to do just that. It contains basic information that helps you think through the various issues and prepares you for your visit with an estate-planning attorney. (If you don't have a good attorney, we can help you locate one.)

The main thing is to complete this extremely important matter while you are able to thoughtfully consider the options and make sound decisions.

To receive your free Will Information Kit, use the handy response form, or call our office at (202) 745-7118.

And finally, one more nudge — please do it today!

PLEASE COMPLETE AND MAIL THIS FORM

Dear Mr. Treadwell,

- ☐ Please send me your free Will Information Kit.
 - ☐ I (we) have included Central Union Mission in our estate plans.
 - ☐ Please contact me (us) about a personal visit.
- The best time to call me (us) is: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Place the completed form in an envelope and mail to:

Central Union Mission

1350 R Street, NW • Washington, DC 20009

The Reality of Winter

For people who have a home, the cold winter months mean staying inside to keep warm, or bundling up to go outside and play in the snow. However, for homeless people, the cold winter months often mean standing on the street corners alone or curling up under a pile of blankets in a bus stop, hugging themselves to keep warm. Throughout the year, Central Union Mission opens its doors to homeless men and offers them an

alternative to the streets. Each night, 82 men are offered a warm bed, a hot meal, and a hot shower. They also attend a chapel service that brings encouragement. With your support, the homeless men who stay at the Mission will discover another meaning of winter. Please continue to support the Mission as we provide extra warmth, shelter, food, safety and encouragement for the homeless community.

COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN



You can donate to the Mission through your workplace!

Our CFC# is **7133**.

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Special Need!

Help provide warmth to our overnight guests by donating hats, gloves, sheets, socks, and long underwear to the Mission. Please mail or deliver all donations to the Mission (1350 R Street, NW, Washington, DC)...we are open 24 hours a day!

UPCOMING EVENTS AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you are interested in volunteering, or would like more information on the following events, please contact Shelah

Wilcox at 202-MISSION. Upcoming events include:

- March 9: Senior's Luncheon
- March 27: Easter Dinner and Open House
- April 13: Senior's Luncheon
- April 21: Volunteer Recognition Social
- Ongoing events: We are always in need of volunteers to help answer phones, send mailings, make beds, help at Food Depot, or clean the Mission.

Yes! I want to partner with Central Union Mission to help feed and care for the hurting and homeless people in Washington, D.C.

Enclosed is my donation of:

- ☐ \$25.00 ☐ \$100.00
☐ \$50.00 ☐ \$200.00
☐ \$_____ Other amount

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