



THE

VOLUME 6 • ISSUE 1 • FEBRUARY 2007

# Missionary

A PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRAL UNION MISSION

## Discovering Fresh Starts

### A Place to Live and a Sense of Hope

This fall, Steve discovered a fresh start when he moved into his own apartment for the first time in twenty years. Like many who come to Central Union Mission, independent living had become a mere dream while he lived day-to-day in shelters and worked as a day laborer. His newfound independence testifies to the transformations taking place at Central Union Mission. In 2006, 17 men like Steve found true support and love through the Overnight Guest Ministry and Spiritual Transformation Program (STP).

After years of poor decisions, instability, and substance abuse, Steve graduated from the STP in December 2005. Not yet ready to live independently, he took time to prepare vocationally, obtaining his Commercial Driver's and Food Handler's Licenses. He was hired as a Mission cook, and soon Food Services Manager Jeff Tooles and other staff demonstrated trust in Steve. Inspired by their faith and desiring to create space for other men, he sought support in finding an apartment of his own.

In reflecting on his transition, Steve says, "It shows that [the STP] works... The Mission saved my life. It's a place for men like me to learn how to be a man."

Steve's story of moving from instability to independent living is a

goal for all ministries at Central Union Mission. In 2006, 54 Mission clients obtained more stable housing as a result of our supportive services. And in January 2007, we were awarded a \$40,000 grant by the Williams Abell Foundation allowing us to further expand our "Homelessness to Housing" initiative.

Steve continues to be a part of the Mission's ministry of fresh starts. Working at the Mission, he stays connected to those who have supported him. He is inspired by people who care about him and look to him for encouragement, particularly STP participants. "Even when you're by yourself, you know that person cares about you," he says. "I was on the outside looking in and now I'm on the inside, but it's still the same. It's been like that since the first day." ■



Sharing his apartment with staff member Jonathan Bibb

## You Provided!

From October-December of 2006, Mission supporters provided...

- 1,344 Thanksgiving turkeys
- 1,966 Christmas Bags
- 768 community members with clothing and furniture
- 660 counseling sessions
- 6 citizenship classes
- 55 men with recovery services
- 117 health care services
- 397 Overnight Guests with safe places to sleep and nutritious meals
- 254 Senior citizens with food and fellowship at monthly luncheons
- 10,581 safe places to sleep
- 29,014 nutritious meals

*Thank you for making these miracles possible!*

## Remembering the Legacy: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



On January 15, Central Union Mission celebrated the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., almost 40 years after his assassination. Pastor Gregory Baldwin of Freedom Baptist Church led the service here as community members gathered to remember King's life and pray for the realization of his vision. "Central Union Mission enjoys sharing the story of Dr. King every year because we understand his message applies not only to racial equality, but also equality for the poor here in the DC community," said David Treadwell. ■

### FROM THE DIRECTOR

## Discovering Fresh Starts in So Many Ways

As we look forward to many fresh starts in 2007 for those in the Central Union Mission community,

I want to first thank our faithful Mission family for all your great support in the last quarter of 2006. We know the prayer warriors were hard at work by the overwhelming response to our Christmas Bag drive and by the warm fellowship during the Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. We are also grateful for the support of our volunteers who showed up in droves and for the financial support which will make the rest of the fiscal year's activities possible. Thank you all for a great fall and holiday season!

In this new year, we will enter the pre-construction phase for our new facility on Georgia Avenue. As we refine our dream based on

neighborhood and city needs, economic realities, and space constraints, we ask that you continue to prayerfully support this effort.

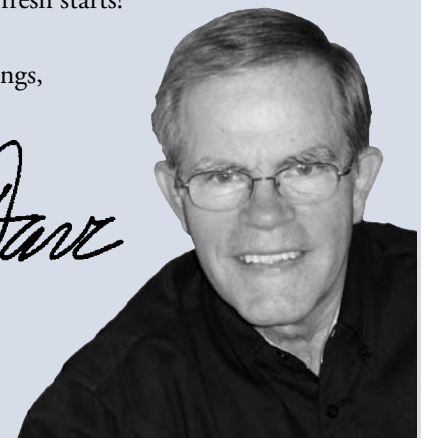
In planning for the future, fresh starts for real people in the present remain our most important effort. Steve's story (Page 1) reflects only one of many ways people find fresh starts here at Central Union Mission. Spiritual Transformation Program participants enjoy the fresh start of leaving the streets for substance abuse counseling, four months at Camp Bennett and preparing to transition toward independent living. Camp Bennett is also preparing for a fresh start as we complete our staffing and curriculum for another great year of ministry to children.

Also, struggling families of the Hispanic community receive help in the form of educational opportunities,

material assistance, and spiritual guidance as they make fresh starts. And we love the fresh starts of our seniors as they enter another year with the confidence offered by the knowledge that the Mission will be there for them even in the tough times.

All this is possible only by God's grace and the resources entrusted to the Mission by our supporters. Thank you for these daily blessings. Please continue to join us in assisting with these fresh starts!

Blessings,



# Holiday Highlights



Christmas is a special time of year at the Mission when we strive to emulate Jesus—the “Reason for the Season.”

Through our annual Christmas Bag distribution, over 1,900 children received bags filled with clothes and toys just for them! “This year’s distribution was a huge success. This was the most children we’ve ever served!” said Outreach Coordinator, Shelah Wilcox. Even **ABC-7 News anchor Leon Harris** joined the excitement and helped hand out toys to the smiling children. Special thanks go to all of the donors who helped bless so many families, who may not have had the means to provide during the holiday season!

*Thank you for making these families’ Christmas a bountiful one!*



Central Union Mission also celebrated with a special holiday distribution to families in need at DC’s Macfarland Middle School. In addition to our monthly food distribution, we took time to celebrate with the students and families and thank the counselors and World Vision DC staff who make this project possible.

*Students also shared refreshments provided by the Mission with parents at the holiday celebration.*

Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Eve were filled with praise, worship, and a wonderful meal as hundreds of people filled the chapel for the Mission’s holiday meals. Overnight Guests and STP participants received a Christmas present along with holiday cheer. Our thanks go out to the community members who volunteered their time serving dinner, singing Christmas carols, and chatting with the guests.



*Because of Mission support, STP participant Anthony was able to visit family for Thanksgiving for the first time since 1969!*



*Macfarland students helped prepare boxes of much-needed food for families in their community.*

## SOUPERBOWL OF CARING BRINGS SERVICE TOGETHER WITH FELLOWSHIP

Central Union Mission celebrated the Super Bowl by transforming the weekend into The Souper Bowl of Caring ([www.souperbowl.org](http://www.souperbowl.org)). Supporters donated either one dollar or a soup pot filled with food to help feed those the Mission serves. The Souper Bowl also included a “Service Blitz” during which volunteers served food to men at the Mission while enjoying the Super Bowl. “It’s great just to be able to serve the men at the Mission and spend some time enjoying a football game,” said staff member Jonathan Bibb.

## Discover Fresh Starts with Us!

In Psalm 4:8, the psalmist writes, “I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.” Every day, men at Central Union Mission are able to give similar thanks because they have found a safe place to sleep.

Mission staff seeks to reach out to people in need—often hurt and fearful—and work with them to find healing and rest. For some, this means intensive support in battling addictions or safe shelter at a time of crisis. For others, it’s a bag of groceries, fellowship, or much-needed warm clothing. Still others find long-term educational support in obtaining a GED, learning English, becoming literate, or studying

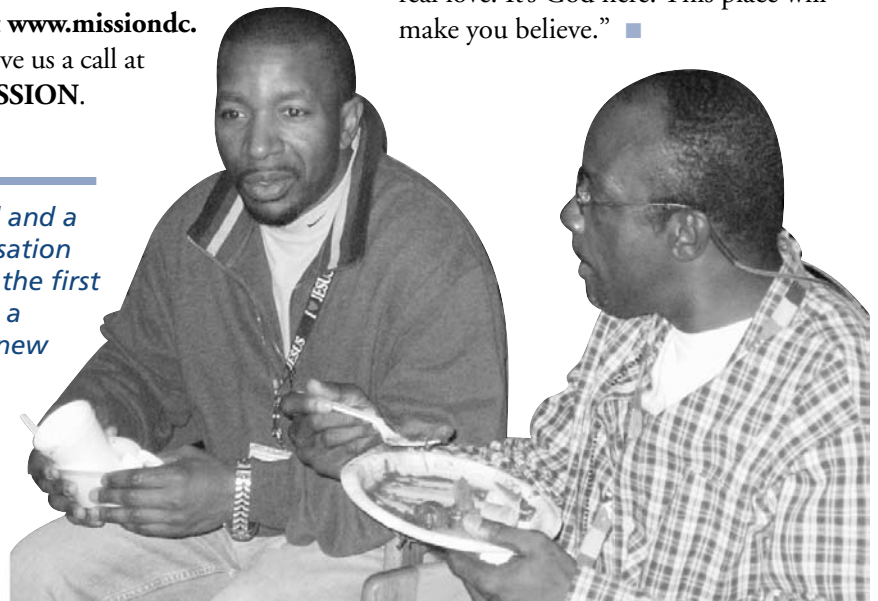
for their citizenship. No matter what the needs, Central Union Mission is committed to helping individuals and families discover the fresh start of peace and hope.

These fresh starts ultimately come from God’s love for us in Jesus Christ, but along the way they take the form of meeting basic human needs for food, shelter, safety, and fellowship. In these winter months, the Mission asks you to partner with us in providing these to our sisters and brothers in need. For volunteer opportunities, ways to give, or more information, visit us online at [www.missiondc.org](http://www.missiondc.org) or give us a call at **202-MISSION.**

“We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.”

—SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL

As you join us through your time, finances, and prayers, even more people will find safety and restoration like Steve (see Page 1), testifying that at Central Union Mission “you find love here—real love. It’s God here. This place will make you believe.” ■



*A meal and a conversation can be the first step to a brand new life.*

## Upcoming Events

### Overnight Guest Birthday Party

February 15, 5:00 p.m.  
Central Union Mission Chapel

Every winter, we try to restore hope and dignity to our Overnight Guests with a birthday celebration in their honor. Please send birthday cards, undergarments, toiletries and cold weather items for these special guests to encourage them in the winter months. Questions? Contact Shelah at 202-MISSION.

### Easter Sunday Luncheon

April 8, 1:00 p.m.  
Central Union Mission Chapel

Resurrection Sunday is still a few weeks off, but please plan now to join the Mission family in providing a free Easter Luncheon to the community. Volunteer servers and table hosts are needed. For more information or to sign up, contact Shelah at 202-MISSION.



THE

PUBLISHED BY CENTRAL UNION MISSION (CFC# IS 7133)

*Missionary*

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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