

THE MISSIONARY

Central Union Mission



June 2005

Camp Bennett, Reaching Across Generations

Camp Bennett played an important role in Donna Fletcher's life. Today she is glad that her children have the same opportunity to attend camp. For Donna, "Camp Bennett was my favorite camp because there was something different about the atmosphere."

At age nine, during her first year of camp, she invited Christ into her life. "I was feeling sad and then my counselor prayed with me and talked to me about Jesus. I asked Jesus into my heart and the best part was feeling unconditional love and knowing that Jesus forgives our sins." From that point on, she was a different person, and even began sharing Christ's love with the children she babysat. Some 20 years



Donna with her children, Ladonna, LaNesha, LaNae and Lionel.

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Sponsor a Child! Create Memories of a Lifetime!

Children and parents look forward to Camp Bennett all year. Parents speak of what a great experience their kids have and of knowing their kids are safe and nurtured. When asked about Camp Bennett the children break into a huge smile and talk about the friends they made, their favorite counselors, the pool, the ropes courses, songs, crafts and much more. Younger siblings cannot wait for their chance at camp and older teens wish they could return!



Arriving at Camp Bennett



Camp Bennett provides a nurturing Christian environment for children ages 8-12 to experience faith, hope, and love. Your donation of \$90 will be matched, allowing a child to attend camp for one week. This is an exciting opportunity to make a difference in a child's life!



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Celebrates
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Mission



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You
Provided!



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Special
Need

From the Executive Director



My introduction to Central Union Mission came as a volunteer in the mid-90's when I built a pinewood derby track for the Camp Bennett children and helped them make and race their cars each week. This was a special time and ultimately led to my being hired as Executive Director.

Freed from the confines of the city, the children at Camp Bennett need prayer and hands-on attention from our counselors and other older friends who can encourage them as they thrive in the enriching camp environment. And we need financial support to continue providing camp for these children whose families cannot afford to send them.

We are privileged to once again offer an opportunity for matching your gift to Camp Bennett, dollar for dollar, up to \$25,000. We hope you'll be able to join us in this challenging investment opportunity made possible by our Board and a few special friends of the children. We trust as you enjoy a wonderful summer that you will also remember our camp children – the future of our city.

Blessings,

Online Donating

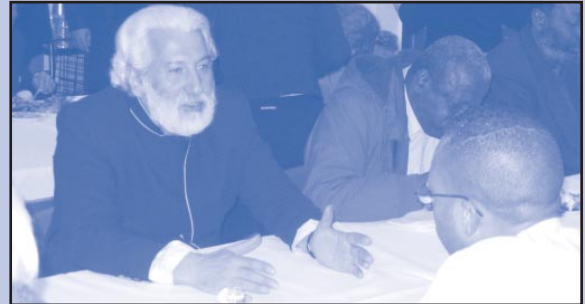
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Log on to our website at www.missiondc.org

or

Visit Network for Good at www.networkforgood.org

World Bank Retiree Celebrates with Central Union Mission



Alfredo Sfeir-Younis fellowships with our Director of Men's Ministries at dinner.

In February, Central Union Mission had the opportunity to share the retirement party of Alfredo Sfeir-Younis. For 28 years, Alfredo served at the World Bank, motivated to work with the poor and homeless by his experiences as a child, living in the shantytowns of Santiago, Chile. During his years of service, Alfredo regularly volunteered at homeless shelters. It was only natural to have his retirement party at Central Union Mission because “the homeless in Washington played a fundamental role at the very critical moment of my spiritual transformation and so for me there was no way out of Washington without the homeless; without sharing the table with them, sharing a conversation, sharing a big hug and a smile, and an interaction that was meaningful for me to cut the umbilical cord so now I can begin a new cycle in my life.” Alfredo's new cycle of retirement begins in Portugal where he plans to continue working on issues of homelessness.

Alfredo Sfeir-Younis's retirement party was a reminder that Central Union Mission not only transforms those who come seeking our help, but also blesses those who come seeking to serve and share.

Celebrating our Risen Savior!

Easter is a special time at Central Union Mission. This year, as we celebrated our risen Savior, we distributed approximately 200 Easter bags filled with personal hygiene products to families facing economic difficulties, men in the Spiritual Transformation Program, and our overnight guests. For the third consecutive year, McLean Bible Church donated many of these items through their Love Thy Neighbor program! *Thanks, McLean Bible Church!*



Donations from McLean Bible Church.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

*Reverend Colin T. Seager,
Director of Children and
Camp Bennett*



Camp season is upon us, and we're anxiously waiting for hundreds of children to take over our quiet campgrounds!

This summer, we are beginning our new five-year curriculum, designed to encourage and equip our children to thrive in their life situations. This year's theme, "Running the Race," will focus on the importance of prayer, the Scriptures, and Christian fellowship.

Please pray that our children will grasp the Gospel and begin building a solid foundation for their lives. If you would like specific prayer requests from our families, please contact Melissa Blauvelt at mblauvelt@missiondc.org.

You Provided!

(January to April 2005)

Beds:	13,867
Meals:	64,896
Bible Study:	3,943
Chapel:	12,892
Counseling:	974
Clothing:	19,700
Furniture:	481



Camp Bennett, Reaching Across Generations

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later, Donna still remembers many of the Bible verses and can still sing songs she learned at camp.

When Donna's own children reached camp age, she called Central Union Mission to inquire if Camp Bennett still existed. Since then, her children have been coming to camp every year they can. The kids enjoy their time at camp, and Donna notices that their demeanor is different when they return home. "They get along better, talk about God more, and are more loving in general." One of her daughters even sets goals to learn more Bible verses! Donna is grateful for the positive impact Camp Bennett had on herself and continues to have on her family.

OPPORTUNITIES for you to help

Special Need!

Help send our children back to school in style! August 20th is our annual Back to School party and we need your help to supply backpacks and school supplies for our children. Please mail or deliver all supplies to Central Union Mission, 1350 R Street, NW, Washington, DC. Or, if you are interested in sponsoring an individual child, call TaJuanna at (202) 745-7118 x235.

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:

- June 19–25: Men's Health Week
- June 27–August 12: Camp Bennett
- July 4: Christ on the Mall (Sharing Christ on the National Mall)
- August 20: Back to School party (Distributing school supplies to children)
- September 23: Annual Fundraising Gala with Luis Palau
- Mondays, June 27 – August 1: Volunteer opportunities for Camp Bennett Registration – check in children, check in luggage, Nurses to help with mini physicals.
- Ongoing events: We are always in need of volunteers to help answer phones, send mailings, make beds, help at Food Depot, serve meals, or clean the Mission.

The Missionary is sponsored by:



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THE MISSIONARY

IS PUBLISHED BY CENTRAL UNION MISSION
 1350 R STREET, NW
 WASHINGTON, DC 20009
 (202) 745-7118 • (202) MISSION
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Proudly printed by Todd Allan Printing Company.
 For more information, please contact Greg Warner
 at 301-982-0300 x174.



Yes! I want to partner with Central Union Mission to help underprivileged children have the week of their lives at Camp Bennett!

Enclosed is my donation of:

- \$22.50 – one child for one day
- \$90.00 – one child for one week
- \$180.00 – two children for one week
- \$360.00 – four children for one week
- \$_____ 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.