



THE

VOLUME 6 • ISSUE 2 • JUNE 2007

Missionary

A PUBLICATION OF CENTRAL UNION MISSION

Discovering New Places

As a child playing and exploring nature at Central Union Mission's Camp Bennett, Emmanuel Fields never imagined that one day he would one day be working to provide the same opportunities for underprivileged children. After spending three of his boyhood summers at Camp Bennett, Emmanuel returned to Central Union Mission in 2004 as a staff member in the development department.

"Camp Bennett really is a great place for children to have fun, be free, and fellowship with other kids while being given the opportunity to deal with their faith," he comments.

When Emmanuel reflects on his days at Camp Bennett, he recalls playing in basketball competitions, enjoying the giant manmade rope swing, toasting s'mores over the campfire, and exploring the woods on nature hikes. Emmanuel attended Camp Bennett along with his siblings and other children from his church—St. James Church of Deliverance. Coming from a Christian home, his camp experience gave him the chance to interact with other young people.

"It was a good form of fellowship outside of the church with other youths in a Christian environment," he says.

Years later when he became aware of a job opening at Central Union Mission, Emmanuel immediately remembered his experiences at camp and knew that he should pursue the position. When he returned to the Mission, he found Senior Chaplain Ted Ross, who had provided spiritual guidance at camp when

Emmanuel was a boy, still meeting spiritual needs at the Mission. Today as the Gift Processing Specialist, Emmanuel plays an integral role in ensuring that Mission supporters receive acknowledgements for their gifts in a timely manner.

He also continues the legacy of building strong foundations for children by serving as the youth leader at his church. Every summer, he maintains the connection between St. James and Camp Bennett by encouraging eligible families to send their children to camp as well, knowing that it will be an enriching experience for them. Emmanuel continues to learn at Central Union Mission, even now as a grown man and a staff member. He enjoys talking with the men in the Spiritual Transformation Program and listening to them share about their journeys.

"I feel I can be a positive role model, even at a young age," he says. "It's a learning experience for me to listen to them and understand their experiences." ■



Today, Emmanuel is an important part of sharing hope with people at Central Union Mission.



Campers jump into summer fun at Camp Bennett!

You Provided!

From January to March of 2007, Mission supporters touched the lives of neighbors in Washington, DC with...

- 27,583 nutritious meals
- 683 individual, group, and family counseling sessions
- 13,474 chapel, devotions, and Bible study sessions*
- 354 health care services
- 643 community members with clothing and furniture
- 22 English classes for Spanish speakers*
- 32 literacy and GED training sessions*
- 5 citizenship classes*
- 10,422 safe places to sleep
- 12 legal consultations

* These reflect the number of attendees.

Thank you for your partnership which makes these valuable services possible!

Certificate of Excellence Recognizes High-Quality Management

On May 17, Central Union Mission was awarded the "Certificate of Excellence" at the 94th Annual Association of Gospel Rescue Missions (AGRM) Convention in Atlanta. The Certificate of Excellence is the highest level of recognition offered by the AGRM and "recognizes ministries that are models of effective programming and operations, exemplifying the best of what rescue ministries can be in their service to God and to those in need" (www.agrm.org/gtte). The Mission was evaluated in the following areas: growing church relationships, efforts at ministry

expansion, program analysis and vision, personnel development, and resource development plans.

"Throughout history, Central Union Mission has had a positive reputation for integrity and strong management," said Executive Director David Treadwell. "However; we always welcome the opportunity to confirm that we are living up to the standards set by our predecessors, and the AGRM Certification of Excellence is another way of doing that."

Special thanks to Executive Director Emeritus Dr. Robert Rich who oversaw the certification process.



Senior Director Barfonce Baldwin and Executive Director David Treadwell accept the Certificate of Excellence from former AGRM President Rex Whiteman on behalf of Central Union Mission.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Life Change and New Places at the Mission

As spring turns to summer, we are reminded of the great change God orchestrates around us in the shifting seasons. At Central Union Mission we are passionate about change. Our great joy is to come alongside people with little hope to discover real life change beyond their expectations.

Discouraged men come to the Mission with little hope of overcoming decades of addiction and lack of education. They can join the Spiritual Transformation Program, discover who they are in Christ, and eighteen months later report to a new job as a confident, well-equipped employee. They are reunited with family and involved in their children's lives in meaningful ways. This is the kind of change of which we dream.

Moms who are discouraged as they work to raise children in Washington with a job barely paying above minimum wage come to the Mission for Food Depot and find bimonthly bags of groceries to help stretch their budget. They also learn that Camp

Bennett for their children is free, and Heaven's Grocery Store (formerly our Distribution Center) can provide clothing and furniture for the whole family. There's someone to help her with referrals to other service organizations and offer Christian counseling. In August children can get a backpack loaded with school supplies for the new school year, and Christmas bags full of clothes and toys are free for the holidays. They find that hope begins at Central Union Mission and supports lasting change.

Immigrant families often come to us fearful and in great need. At the Hispanic Family Ministry, they meet our warm staff who speaks their language and share God's love while teaching, counseling and sharing food and other necessities. Soon, trusting relationships develop in the community amidst formerly estranged neighbors. They find a refuge of love and they are changed.

Now, summer is upon us and with schools closed, Camp Bennett is calling. It is calling to children for a

fresh perspective and changed lives. Camp Bennett has a well-equipped staff ready to assist young people in learning about Jesus' love for them as they discover new places in nature, in relationships, and in themselves. They learn and are changed.

Throughout the year, the Mission demonstrates that we're passionate about change, especially that which Jesus brings to broken lives, hearts, and relationships. And it's because of our special donors and volunteers that we can bear witness to these changes on a regular basis. Thank you for sharing our passion for change.

Blessings,





The Easter Luncheon provided an opportunity for true fellowship.

Celebrating New Life and Resurrection on Easter

This year Central Union Mission celebrated Easter Sunday with a joint service of Sons of God Church and St. Brendan's in the City Church followed by a community luncheon. On Easter Monday, a group of over 200 people from the Hispanic Family Ministry enjoyed a day of games and family time at Camp Bennett. ■

Young and old enjoyed food, crafts, and games at Camp Bennett.)



Many thanks to our volunteers who made the luncheon possible!



A Journey Well-Traveled: Saying Farewell to John



Long-time resident and friend of Central Union Mission, John Schlessor passed away on March 27, just weeks before his 103rd birthday. John lived at the Mission from 2001 until 2006 when he was moved to a nursing home. He was remembered at a memorial service in his honor on March April 9. John impacted

many of the men at the Mission, especially the Spiritual Transformation Program participants who cared for him. "The memorial was touching to me because I cared for John while he was at the Mission," said 2004 STP graduate Phillip Ford. "He was a blessing to me, and will be truly missed."

Target Grant Opens Up World of Reading at Camp Bennett

In September 2006, the Mission was awarded a \$1,500 grant from Target for our Camp Bennett Reading Encouragement Program. Our goal is to provide every child who attends camp this summer with a brand new book when they go home. "Some of these families don't have the

extra money to spend on things other than basic necessities," said Grants Coordinator Michele Crosby. "We're very excited that Target has made this dream a possibility." The grant is offered to organizations around the country who promote education, arts, and services to children and families.



Thank you for your support, Target!

Help a Child Discover New Places and New Hope in Christ!

Over the years, Central Union Mission has taken seriously Jesus' words when he says that "whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me." (Matthew 18:5). From the early days of providing supported housing for orphaned children to our current Camp Bennett summer program, the Mission has sought to welcome our youngest neighbors to provide for their physical needs and lay a strong foundation for their future.

Today, Camp Bennett continues this legacy by welcoming over 60 children every week ages 8 to 12 to discover new places during a week in the Maryland countryside where they can breathe fresh air, run freely, and learn truths about Jesus and his love for them.

Eligible children attend Camp Bennett for free, meaning that for many it is an opportunity they might never have had to discover nature or enjoy a ropes course, swimming pool, art & crafts, and much more. Trained counselors at Camp Bennett share love with and build character into these young lives as they step away from the pressures and busyness of their urban neighborhoods. This summer, we invite you to partner with us to provide this discovery of new places to DC's children. One day at Camp Bennett costs \$70 and a week costs \$350—a worthy investment in the life of a child who never dreamed of attending summer camp. Would you consider providing such an opportunity for fun and learning for a child this summer? You can do so by filling out

the enclosed card, giving us a call at **202-MISSION** or visiting us online at **www.missiondc.org**. Thank you for playing a part in building the future of our Washington, DC community through these young ones! ■



Bring a smile to the face of a child this summer through Camp Bennett!

Upcoming Events

■ Celebrating Father's Day

On Sunday, June 13, Central Union Mission will host our annual Father's Day Luncheon in honor of the everyday heroes we call "Dad." All are welcome to join us for lunch at 12:00 p.m. To volunteer, please contact Shelah Wilcox at 202-MISSION or swilcox@missiondc.org.

■ Operation Backpack: Back to School Bags

School may have just let out for the summer, but at the Mission we're already gearing up for the back-to-school season. Plans are underway for our annual Back to School Backpack drive, and we need your help! Last year we provided backpacks filled with grade-appropriate school supplies to over 800 local children, and this year we're looking to help even more children start the year off on

the right foot. If you would like to sponsor a child, or donate supplies, contact Shelah Wilcox at 202-MISSION or swilcox@missiondc.org.

■ Christ on the Mall

Look for us on the National Mall on July 4th, when the Mission will join with Christians from all over the country to participate in "Christ

on the Mall." As people from all over the world gather to celebrate Independence Day in our nation's capital, we will gather to serve and to minister to those in need. Whether through a bottle of cold water or much-needed prayer, the Mission is ready to spread the love of Christ to all!



THE

Missionary

PUBLISHED BY CENTRAL UNION MISSION

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.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
David O. Treadwell

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Brittany Noetzel

MANAGING EDITOR
Barfonce K. Baldwin

WRITERS

Jonathan Bibb | Brad Hearn | Herman Reinhold | Julia Smith | Sarah Spinler | Jermaine Wyatt



CERTIFIED MEMBER

