



THE

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Missionary

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W

e are getting ready for the most important holiday of the year. Christ's resurrection changed our futures forever, giving us the gift of eternal life.

Like Easter, Central Union Mission is all about changed lives. In this issue, we'd like to introduce you to people from the Mission community who are vitally changed in many ways. Your dedication to the Mission makes these transformations possible. ■

Charles Thibodeaux



Charles Thibodeaux

Twelve years ago, Charles Thibodeaux thought that if he left Long Island, NY, and moved to Washington, DC, he could escape the "madness" that was his drug addiction, but instead he learned that "he was the madness." After trying gateway drugs as a young man, he found himself addicted to crack and unable to stay employed. He spent time in prison and was alienated from his son and his wife Veronica, whom he married in 1992.

Then a friend told him that Central Union Mission was helpful for someone who wanted to shed his addiction. He came to the Mission in 2009 ready to start his life over. While he already believed there was a God, he learned at the Mission that he could trust God to have authority over him. After raising himself without help from a mother or father, Charles was finally ready to let God be in charge.

He joined the Spiritual Transformation Program, where he most enjoyed Phase 2 living at Camp Bennett and having time for intense Bible study: "What the STP taught me helped me get closer to God." He graduated from the program in November 2010 and now has a job as a supervisor and driver at the Mission. He is living in Maryland with his wife and has recently reunited with his oldest brother. He contacts his son who is incarcerated as much as possible and hopes to help him become a follower of Jesus, too.

He says, "The Mission has been great to me. At one time, I couldn't even handle \$5, but with the Mission's help, I have my own checking and savings accounts now and better know how to take care of the money I'm earning. It's a change for me big time! I have a lot to pay back, too, with my irresponsibility over the years."

On June 14, 2011, he is accomplishing a long-held goal: graduating from Ballou STAY High School, in Washington, DC. Then he hopes to start college classes to become a certified addictions counselor. ■

Alberta Grooms



Alberta Grooms

"We grew up in the projects. On Saturdays, the Mission taught us about Jesus on flannel graphs, and we learned songs about Jesus. We grew up to know the Lord on a personal level. Central Union Mission impacted my life, but I hadn't thought about it much until my sister got a postcard from the Mission. I wanted to go back there. I wanted to be a part of this—how it's affected me and helped me growing up." ■

Save a Tree...

Would you like to receive Mission communication primarily via e-mail rather than snail mail? Go to this form on Central Union Mission's website https://www.missiondc.org/go_paperless/ where you can select how you would most like to hear from us.



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Renewal is God's Business

Spring is here, with its promise of renewal, and we celebrate Christ's resurrection, our ultimate hope. Hope and renewal are good descriptions of what Central Union Mission means to many—from our former campers and Overnight Guests to our Spiritual Transformation Program students, volunteers and Mission staff.

In this issue, we want to share some of these stories of hope with you, our

faithful supporters. Addicted men find a place back in society, lonely seniors make new friends, struggling immigrant families learn English—your dedication to our Lord and your support of Central Union Mission makes these life changes possible.

Please be encouraged about how your spring gifts, prayers and volunteering will impact the metropolitan DC community. Not only do you help people in need today, you are building

futures of lasting significance. We are so grateful for your contribution.

Blessings,




Carolyn Freeman

Carolyn Freeman

For eight years Carolyn Freeman has been coming to the Mission's Food Depot. She relies on the food donations because she says, "when you get food stamps, it's never enough." She shares the food she gets with her neighbors. She also gets compliments on the coat she received from the Clothing Closet. "I like the attitude here," she says about the Mission. "They try to accommodate everyone. I've seen people walk in off the street saying they're hungry, and the Mission gives them a sandwich. I'm really glad the Mission is here." ■



Pastor Bill Jasan

Pastor Bill Jasan

"As a minister of the Gospel, the greatest gift that I can give to others is the Gospel itself. I'm truly blessed to serve in a place where the truth of God's Word is proclaimed freely. Calvary Chapel DC Metro is passionate about serving and witnessing firsthand the transforming power of the gospel of grace. We always look forward to the fellowship and watching God create a genuine testimony in the lives of godly men where His truth can be seen and spoken in their lives and relationships. May God continue to richly bless the Central Union Mission as He is doing." ■



Carmen Knight

Carmen Knight

"Central Union Mission is providing a great service to the DC Metropolitan area. I am honored to have had the opportunity to work as a volunteer. It is important to see how blessed we truly are and to realize that we can all be one paycheck away from being homeless. Homelessness has neither prejudice nor boundaries. It can happen to anyone at any time. The people the Mission services include men, women, children, seniors and veterans who are all God's children. They should be treated as such and not as a victims of their circumstances." Ms. Knight is involved in Zion Baptist Church, Washington, DC. ■

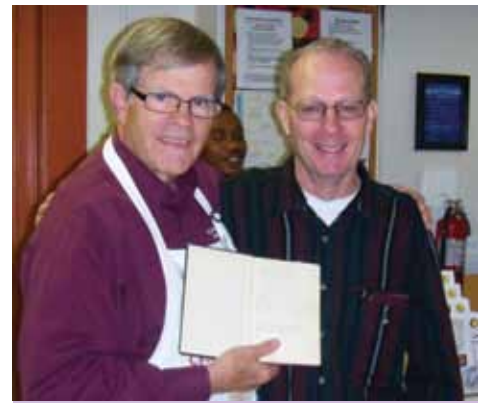
SMELL THAT GREEN!
Compete to benefit inner-city youth!

SAVE THE DATE
JUNE 6 1:00pm
Argyle Country Club

Questions?
Please contact Don Woodall, 703.402.4790 or Deborah J. Chambers 202.745.7118 x227.

Sixth Annual Tee Off for Kids Golf Tournament

Co-sponsored by Central Union Mission and Fellowship of Christian Athletes (DC)



Dan Mallette (right) shows Mission Director Dave Treadwell his Camp Bennett Bible.

Dan Mallette

Dan Mallette's memories of Central Union Mission go way back—to 1960 when he won a Bible for memorizing the most verses at Camp Bennett that week. He still has the Bible with the signature of Rev. Eberhardt, Mission director at the time. He remembers swimming, campfires and that one time when a black snake slithered into the chapel service.

His family attended the Mission for Saturday lunches and sermons but was not involved in any local church. The Bible verses Dan memorized stayed with him as he grew up with seven siblings and an alcoholic father; later as an adult, he became a Christian. "I had the verses in my head but not my heart. I see now that the camping was terrific, but God had a greater purpose for my good and His glory."

Mr. Mallette began his career as a letter carrier in 1973 after serving in Vietnam with the Army. It wasn't until recently, however, that the Central Union Mission letters he delivered made him both remember his time at Camp Bennett and curious about what the Mission is like today. So he volunteered serving the Thanksgiving meal in 2010 and had a tour of the Mission, now in a different location from when he was a child. He is glad for the spiritual foundation built at Camp Bennett and is reaching out to others now telling them about God's love. ■

Ruth Jones

Ruth Jones has been a fixture at Central Union Mission for three years now. Attending Senior Lunches and every available activity, Ms. Jones enjoys meeting with other people and hearing God's Word spoken at the special programs. "It's a joy to be able to come here and fellowship," she comments. She's impressed with the Mission because "it does a lot for the community and has an outreach with other churches." ■



Ruth Jones

Little Campers, BIG Hearts



At Camp Bennett, you can make best friends forever!

For some children, summertime at Camp Bennett is their first experience away from the city. A week of Bible stories, crafts and friendship is a lifelong memory, as our 1960s camper Dan Mallette attests.

For us to provide this desperately needed experience, we need the compassion of donors like you. When you become a *Little Campers, BIG Hearts* sponsor for \$375, you'll find out some basic information about your camper and receive a picture and a personal thank-you note. You'll see firsthand how your support makes a difference in your child's life.

For sponsorship information, please contact Tracy Duncan at 202-MISSION ext. 260 or tduncan@missiondc.org, or you can contribute online at www.missiondc.org. ■

Upcoming Events

Register to Volunteer online at www.missiondc.org/register/volunteer.

Seniors Luncheon

Wednesday, April 13, 2011

11:00 am

Please help us present an Easter program and lunch for our local seniors.

Easter Lunch and Open House

Sunday, April 24, 2011

1:00 pm

Join other volunteers in celebrating Christ's Resurrection with service to the needy.

Easter Celebration

Monday, April 25, 2011

11:00 am

Families gather at Camp Bennett (Brookeville, MD) for games, Bible teaching and lunch.

Seniors Luncheon

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

11:00 am

Please help us honor mothers at this special seniors program. ■

The Regent Bridges Seminar Series Presents:

Revivalism: Rediscovering the Past, Renewing the Future

Saturday, April 30, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

First Baptist Church of Glenarden (Landover, MD)

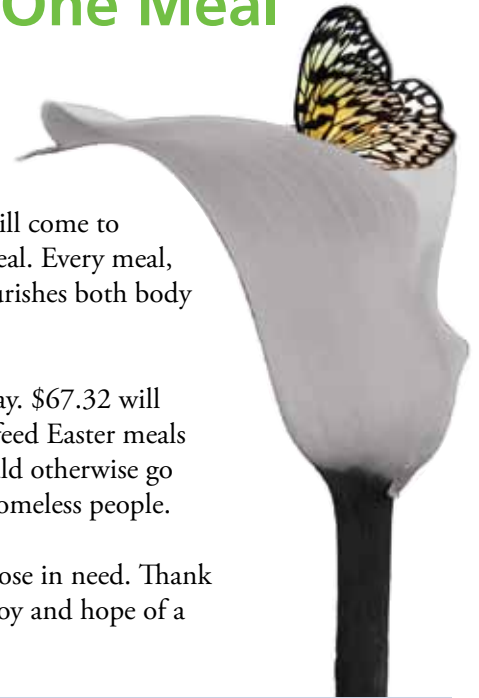
Join Regent University School of Divinity Professor Dr. Dale M. Coulter as he examines the history of the moving of the Holy Spirit, what fuels its movement and how to cooperate with it around the world today. For details and registration, visit www.projectbridges.org.

Easter's Hope in One Meal

Many homeless people in our area remain in darkness; they don't yet know that Christ offers light and joy. During the Easter season, hundreds will come to Central Union Mission for a nutritious meal. Every meal, given as an expression of Christ's love, nourishes both body and soul.

Please help by sending a generous gift today. \$67.32 will provide entire tables of food—enough to feed Easter meals to 34 men, women and children who would otherwise go hungry. Your gift of \$85.14 will feed 43 homeless people.

Your generous gift will be a blessing for those in need. Thank you for touching hurting hearts with the joy and hope of a new life. ■



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Maryland Residents: A copy of Central Union Mission's current financial report is available upon request by writing 1350 R Street NW, Washington, DC 20009 or by calling (202) 745-7118. Documents and information submitted under the Maryland Solicitations Act are also available, for the cost of postage and copies, from the Maryland Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401, (410) 974-5532.

Hope for a New Life

I'd like to help transform the life of a homeless person in Washington, DC, this spring. I have enclosed my gift of:

- \$67.32 to feed 34 people
- \$85.14 to feed 43 people
- \$ _____ to help as many people as possible
- Please put my first name _____ on an Easter dinner place-card

Please make checks payable to "Central Union Mission." To donate by credit card, please see our website at www.missiondc.org.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Your gift is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. We'll send a receipt for your records. God bless you for caring.

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