

THE MISSIONARY

Central Union Mission

October 2006



Celebrating a Sharing Community

DONALD'S STORY

"You Did It without Me; Now Do It with Me"

Central Union Mission brims over with stories of lives changed by the grace of God. Donald, 45, bears witness to one such story. Today, Donald is a Spiritual Transformation Program (STP) graduate and Mission intern. But when he came to the Mission, he was homeless, lonely, and caught in unhealthy cycles.

After working in the DC area at a furniture store, funeral home, and cleaning company, Donald was laid off. Without a high school diploma, he found it difficult to secure a job.

"I couldn't pay my rent, so I was evicted. That's what brought me to the Mission," explained Donald. He had quickly learned how tough it is on the street. He speaks from both experience and pain when he says: "Being homeless ain't no joke!"

After visiting the Mission many times for a place to sleep, he decided to enter the Spiritual Transformation Program. He found the STP challenging, but as he saw his faith in Jesus bear fruit, he persevered. When asked what helped him the most, Donald immediately testifies, "My Lord and Savior, because He is the one who brought me through this program."

At one point, Donald seriously considered quitting the STP, but he and others prayed for God's help. He asked God to send somebody to help him. The same day, God answered his prayer when news arrived that a tutor had volunteered to help him learn to read. Now Donald sees tutors four days a week for literacy training. His personal struggles to continued on page 2



Donald is today a changed man after a long journey toward wholeness.



Mrs. Grace Calloway manages Heaven's Grocery Store: The Only Grocery Store without a Cash Register.

Heaven's Grocery Store Takes Distribution to the Next Level!

As the 2005-2006 Fiscal Year came to a close, Central Union Mission was delighted that major improvements were made to the Distribution Center. Now called Heaven's Grocery Store, this facility underwent vast improvements when Mrs. Grace Calloway, formerly of the Calvary Food Bank, came on board to manage "The Only Grocery Store without a Cash Register." Through Mrs. Calloway's hard work and organization, Central Union Mission is now able to provide food, clothes, furniture, and other household items at no cost to those whom we serve. We look forward to even more fruitful ministry through this vital service to the community!



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DC Christian Legal Aid provides vital services.



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Providing for Those in need.

From the Director



Serving for Today, Planning for Tomorrow

By now, most of our Mission friends are aware of our plans to embark on a new era of

ministry with a new, long term home for Central Union Mission. Since leaving our 60-year Pennsylvania Avenue home via eminent domain in the early 80's, we have longed for a facility designed as a Rescue mission, where we can properly meet the needs of those we serve in creative and state-of-the-art ways. And at last, plans for this dream facility are unfolding.

Yet even as we look toward the future with great expectations, we are committed to maintaining consistent services to those who rely on us. One of the key factors in our desire to relocate rather than continue to repair our current headquarters is the advantage of uninterrupted operations through the relocation from our current location while the new facility is being constructed. There is also

a major cost savings as we will not need to lease temporary space or close our doors for many months during the construction of our new facility.

As this annual report edition of our newsletter reveals, thousands of people come to us throughout the year for the wide variety of services we provide in a caring, Christian environment. Our elderly guests at our Seniors Luncheon, the struggling moms who depend on Food Depot, our 82 overnight guests, the veterans awaiting treatment, and participants in our Spiritual Transformation Program will continue to receive our support and ministry uninterrupted through this relocation.

We are blessed and excited by this opportunity and ask that you hold us up in prayer as the Lord leads us through this process. While we are building relationships with our new neighbors, raising funds, and selecting a construction team, we ask you to continue to pray for everyone at the Mission—guests, staff, volunteers, and community members. Enjoy this edition of The Missionary as we look at the many ways we were blessed to serve during the 2005-2006 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2005—June 30, 2006).

Thank you for your continued support!

Blessings,

continued from page 1

complete the STP and focus on his reading have taught Donald a valuable lesson about patience.

“God is good, but you have to give Him your time and patience,” says Donald. “God calls us by saying: ‘Let Me guide your life. You did it without Me, now do it with Me. You’ll see a difference.’”

By following God’s guidance through the STP, Donald has also become free from his chain-smoking addiction and reconnected with his family, who attended his graduation from the STP in December 2005.

Although Donald has come a long way, he still has high hopes for the future. His current goals include reading at a 12th grade level and obtaining his General Equivalence Degree (GED). One day, he hopes to get a drivers license, a permanent job and home, and perhaps marry and start a family. As he pursues his goals, Donald is interning in the Mission’s Maintenance Department. He takes great pride in

the many projects he has helped complete around the facilities.

Like all of us, Donald is a work in progress. But his experience at Central Union Mission has given him every reason to continue to trust God to heal and restore his life. From that first safe place to sleep and hot meal, to reconnecting with his family and graduating from the STP, to his ongoing literacy and vocational training, Donald can point to many ways God helped him at the Mission.



Donald learns life skills while giving back to the Mission in the Maintenance Department.

Legal Aid Re-Launches Mission Services

In the past year, Central Union Mission's Legal Aid services have undergone significant changes. With recent developments, local lawyers are able to help their neighbors at the Mission find justice when it seems like a far off dream.

"As Christians, we are called to do justice," said DCCLA participant and lawyer Sam Logan. "As lawyers, we have been given the keys to the justice system through our education, experience, and membership in the legal community. As Christian lawyers, then, we are called to put these legal assets to work to promote justice, especially for those who wouldn't otherwise have access to the legal system."

This past summer, thanks to the partnership of DC Christian Legal Aid (DCCLA), the Mission hosted three monthly sessions to serve the legal needs of participants in the Mission's Spiritual Transformation Program and Overnight Guest program. DCCLA is a ministry of Christian law professionals in the Washington area, which serves the legal needs of underprivileged people in the Washington Metropolitan area.

During the sessions, clients receive one-on-one consultation with legal professionals regarding issues relating to civil rights, immigration, criminal history, disability insurance, and more. Lawyers provide general counsel, make phone calls on behalf of clients, and provide referrals.

"Many of the people we met with just needed to talk their problems through with someone. For those people, our job was to listen. Others have genuine legal problems that we can address right there in the meeting or by a simple phone call the next day," said Logan.

The Mission looks forward to continuing to provide these vital services to those we serve through the DCCLA. Monthly events are continuing through the fall with hopes of strategically expanding services soon.

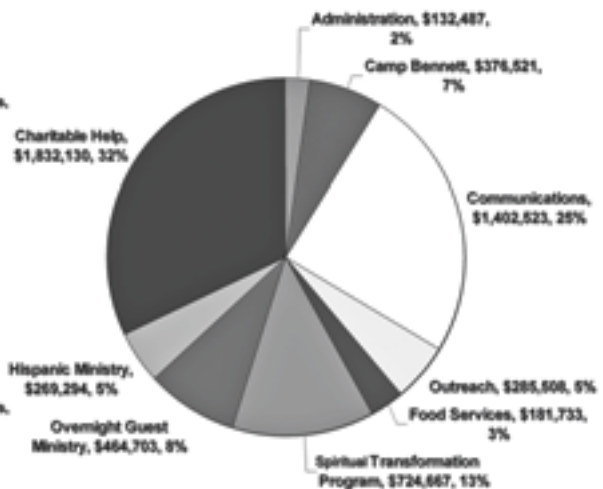
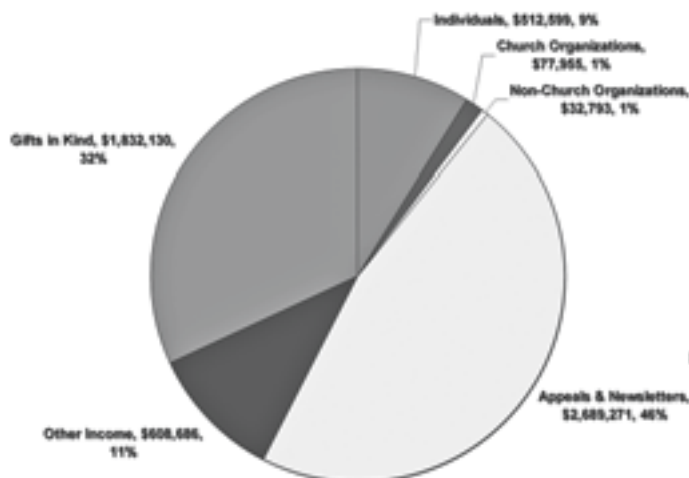


By offering personal consultations with lawyers such as Sam Logan, Christian Legal Aid helps individuals address a wide array of legal matters.

Central Union Mission Operations FY 2005 - 2006

Total Income: \$5,753,433

Total Expenses: \$5,669,568



Overnight Guest Ministry: Grace in Time of Need

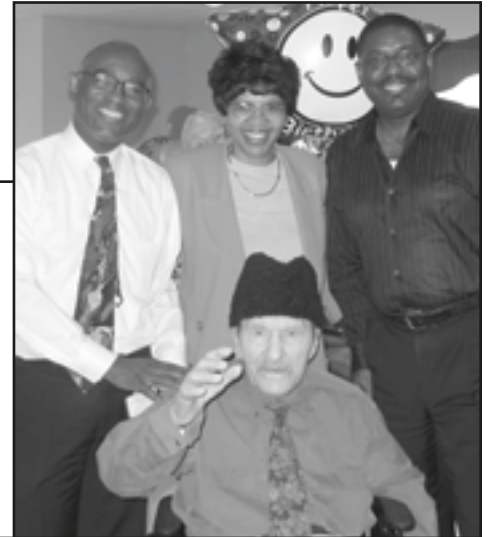
When Emmett first came to the Mission this year, he was in poor health and soon discovered that he needed surgery. Through the Overnight Guest Ministry, Emmett accepted Jesus Christ for the first time, and came to believe that God would provide him a home. According to Pastor James Lewis, Director of Overnight Guests, Emmett was “just on fire!” Through his time with the Overnight Guest Ministry and God’s saving grace, Emmett was able to move into his own apartment. He finally underwent his much-needed surgery and was able to spend two full weeks recovering in his new home.

Every evening the Overnight Guest Ministry welcomes over 80 men for a hot meal, warm shower, clean clothes, and a safe place to sleep for the night. Along with the immediate physical needs that are met, the men are offered counseling, clinical care, legal counsel, and the opportunity to consult with an in-house social worker.

Most importantly, however, they receive the Word of God and the chance to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. There is nightly worship, led by Washington area churches, Bible study, and pastoral counseling for those in need. “It’s the Gospel,” said Pastor Lewis in response to why the program works.

In September the Mission held a three-day revival in partnership with First Baptist Church of Glenarden. Over 300 men gathered in the Mission chapel for worship, testimonies, speakers, and thanksgiving. Over 20 men accepted Christ. The revival was followed by a weekend retreat at Camp Bennett, where 30 men from the ministry were able to escape the city to

We were able to help our dear friend John move into permanent, long-term care this year. Chaplain Ted Ross, Social Work Director Shirley Johnson, and Receptionist Phillip Ford were pleased to visit John for his 102nd birthday party in April.



February’s Overnight Guest Birthday Party was a fun evening of celebration for our guests. Aside from offering physical assistance, the Overnight Guest Ministry tries to restore dignity to lives broken through homelessness.

enjoy the beautiful fall weather, outdoor recreation, and worship services. In early May, the Overnight Guest Ministry paired up with McLean Bible Church and held a retreat at the Rocky Gap Conference Center in Cumberland, Maryland.

Social Work Department: Making Connections

This year the Social Work Department gained a new addition in social worker Jermaine Wyatt, and since his arrival, the Mission has been able to provide more individualized case management to participants in our Men’s Ministry.

For example, the Social Work Department opened a case with David who was incarcerated for most of his life, and struggled for many years with substance abuse. Over time, many of his fam-

ily relationships were torn to pieces. He arrived at the Mission after being released from prison, and came to the Social Work Department with hopes of starting over. The Social Work Department provided David with counseling, independent housing, food assistance, and linkage to various other services through networking. We were also able to reunite him with his brother after six years of estrangement. David now lives independently as a productive citizen in society.

Spiritual Transformation Program: Strength for the Journey

During the past year, Central Union Mission's Spiritual Transformation Program was re-evaluated and reorganized to more effectively serve the men to whom it ministers. The most important shift in the program was the move from a time-driven curriculum approach to an individualized developmental approach. The five phases of the STP have been restructured into a three-tiered program comprised of Pre-Camp, Camp Bennett, and Post-Camp. These three phases are intended to focus on addiction recovery, spiritual guidance, and life-skills training, respectively.

"We're very excited about the recent changes in the STP Program," says Pastor Gregory Strong, Director of the STP. "Under the current restructuring we believe we will be better equipped to minister to the men holistically versus just providing biblical instruction. Our goal is always to make a good program better."

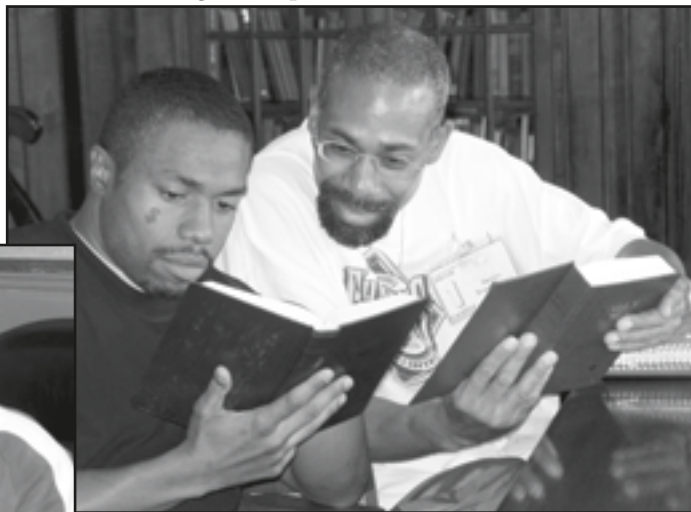
From July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006, the STP graduated 16 men. Michael is a wonderful example of what the STP strives to accomplish in the lives of its participants. A native Washingtonian, Michael came into the STP in July 2004 after suffering from addictions. He was determined to change his life and completed the program in April 2005. Michael was subsequently accepted into the Excel Institute for Automotive Technology Training to receive his



Automotive Service Excellence Certification. Michael is doing well in the program and works part-time as a custodian cleaning government offices and as a supervisor at the Mission.

God has blessed Michael with the opportunity to restore his life and move toward self sufficiency. He sets an example for the men he continues to work with at the Mission. Stories like Michael's reflect the heart of the STP's work and encourage us to continue loving, serving, and assisting men to become more whole in Christ—spiritually, physically, emotionally, and mentally.

New arrivals to the STP are taught the basics of life in Christ and fleeing the temptations of the streets.



Left: Bombo is learning important skills by assisting the Supervisors with Front Desk responsibilities as part of his work therapy in the Spiritual Transformation Program.

During the last year, the Social Work Department moved 36 men from homelessness to housing, reunited 5 families, provided 418 counseling sessions, with ongoing group counseling and employment assistance for 15 men. The Social Work Department assists with goal setting, problem identification, resource development, mental/health referrals, counseling, family interventions, and advocacy.

All members of the Social Work Department are members of The National Association of Social Workers. The Department is small, but mighty in promoting the human welfare and leading people to Christ. The department is currently following up with Spiritual Transformation Program men who have transitioned out of the Mission into society. The Mission is excited to hear the great news about these men and their success.



David is just one of many men who have been assisted in finding permanent housing by the newly-expanded Social Work Department. Congratulations, David!

Outreach Ministry: *Sharing God's Love in Word & Deed*

During the 2005-2006 Fiscal Year, our Outreach Ministry touched thousands of lives. While the Outreach Ministry serves families and seniors regularly through Food Depot, and Seniors Luncheon, special events are often the highlight of our ministry. At Christ on the Mall on July 4th, Central Union Mission staff, volunteers, and STP participants distributed thousands of bottles of water to thirsty tourists on the National Mall.

Operation Backpack kicked off during the summer, and thanks to our generous donors and volunteers, in August we were able to provide 467 children with backpacks full of school supplies.

At the Veteran's Day Luncheon in November, more than one hundred veterans were served a meal and participated in a service of honor by veterans from the national service organization, AmeriCorps. On November 19th, Mission staff members and STP participants walked to raise money for the Mission in the Fannie Mae Foundation Help the Homeless Walkathon.

And of course, every year we try to make the holidays a little brighter for those in need. Last year our annual turkey distribution program provided over 500 turkeys through Food Depot, Seniors Luncheon, and Hispanic Ministry. We also provided Thanksgiving dinner to over 200 people in the community. In December, our Christmas Bag program provided almost 1,400 bags of clothes and toys to children. On distribution day, the



Every month, 50-70 senior citizens receive true fellowship and fun along with a nutritious meal at the Seniors Luncheon.



At our special holiday events, we are privileged to share the joy of holidays and special occasions with community members who might not be able to celebrate otherwise.

Mission was crowded with the children, their families, over 50 volunteers, and even a group of Christmas carolers. The Mission also celebrated the glory of the Easter season with a community luncheon, which had over 200 people in attendance.

God was truly good to us in our 2005-2006 Fiscal Year, and we are blessed to continue to reach out to hurting, lonely, hungry, and needy people through our ongoing services and special events.

Hispanic Ministry: ¡Gloria al Dios!

Since its move during the 2004-2005 Fiscal Year from the Central Union Mission main facility to Freedom Baptist Church, the Hispanic Ministry has experienced tremendous growth due to new proximity to those it serves and a fantastic relationship with Freedom Baptist Church. In 2005-2006,



Families at the Hispanic Ministry have much to be thankful for at the Great Thanksgiving Banquet in November.

twelve new volunteers joined our team to fill critical functions on a weekly basis. Many of these volunteers come from the Hispanic community itself, and others simply walked by the building and were drawn toward the flurry of activity. Our

volunteers make translation, clothing distribution, ESL classes, and literacy instruction possible for those we serve through the Hispanic Ministry.

The Hispanic Ministry continues to reach out to various churches and organizations in the area to share the work that the ministry is doing and invite others to join us. Highlights from the 2005-2006 Fiscal Year at the Hispanic Ministry include three successful community health fairs and an Easter Picnic at Camp Bennett for 150 families. Overall, the Hispanic Ministry has had a tremendous year, and looks forward to improving the quality and quantity of services available to the Hispanic community in the coming year.



Hispanic Ministry Director, Pastor Jorge DeCasanova, towers over some of the smallest members of the ministry!

Camp Bennett: A Time to Play, A Time to Rest



Pool time is one of the most popular activities at Camp!

Every summer, Camp Bennett comes to life with the arrival of hundreds of campers aged eight to twelve, eager to play hard and learn much. During the 2005-2006 Fiscal Year, Camp Bennett welcomed 228 Washington area children who might not have otherwise been able to leave the city for a week of camp. These children treasure the nature hikes, ropes course, Bible studies, pool time, worship services, cabin activities, crafts, and good food that fill their week at Camp Bennett.

Many ask to come back time and time again! The positive experiences of several of our campers, such as 13-year-old Paulo Sosa, have lead to the establishment of the Counselor-in-Training program for children who have outgrown Camp but are interested in preparing to give back as junior counselors once they turn sixteen.

Throughout the year, local churches, sports teams, schools, and scouting troops continued to utilize the Camp facilities. Also, now that the Spiritual Transformation Program has increased the emphasis of its Camp phase, the year-round use of the Camp facilities will continue to expand.



One of our younger campers listens to instructions after dinner.



Through teaching, group discussions, and creative presentations, children learn important lessons about Jesus' love for them.

Upcoming Events

Metro Area Multi-Church Prayer and Praise Meeting

Friday, November 3 7:30-9:00 pm
Alexandria Presbyterian Church

Join Central Union Mission and area congregations of all denominations and cultures to share the truth of God's Word and to pray for our Lord and Savior to transform our lives, churches, communities and nation. Hosted by Alexandria Presbyterian Church (2405 Russell Road in Alexandria, Virginia) & Del Ray Baptist Church.

Veterans' Day Service of Honor

Friday, November 10 11:00 a.m. Central Union Mission

Every day, Central Union Mission serves men who have served our nation in the military, and on Veterans Day we look forward to honoring them with a special service and luncheon. All are welcome to join us. To participate or volunteer, please call Shelah Wilcox at 202-MISSION.

Annual Hunger to Hope Radiothon

Thursday, November 16 3:00-7:00 p.m. WAVA/105.1FM

Tune in to the Don Kroah Show on WAVA—105.1FM to hear David Treadwell share stories of hope and transformation from those who have been served by Central Union Mission. Learn more about the services provided at the Mission and opportunities for partnership. Tell a friend and share the joy of partnering in turning hungry people into hope-filled people!



Help the Homeless Walkathon

Saturday, November 18 8:00 a.m.
The National Mall

Join tens of thousands of Washingtonians on the National Mall and walk in support of Central Union Mission's service to our homeless neighbors. To register or learn more, visit www.helpthehomelessdc.org. Be sure to select Central Union Mission (Code: CNUM) as your beneficiary organization. We'll see you on the Mall!

Great Thanksgiving Banquet

Thursday, November 23 5:00 p.m. Central Union Mission

Give thanks by giving back to those in need! All are welcome to join people from every ministry of Central Union Mission for our annual Thanksgiving feast. We are in need of table hosts and servers. For information or to volunteer, call Shelah at 202-MISSION.



Paths of Faithfulness: Join Central Union Mission Walking with Others

In Isaiah 42, we read about our God who “will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth” (verse 5). He also tells us that “a bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out” (verse 4). As this annual report edition shows us, God has truly enabled Central Union Mission to bring about His justice and hope in the lives of men, women, and children with all kinds of needs in Washington, DC. He has shown Himself faithful!

During the past year, Central Union Mission has also come to know well God’s promise in verse 16: “I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them...I will not forsake them.” As we serve, we are looking toward the future with humble anticipation of what God will bring about in our new facility on Georgia Avenue. Although the way is not always clear or easy, we trust that God will use the Mission’s rich heritage and faithful community of supporters to sustain this future work.

We rely on our network of donors, volunteers, and prayer warriors who support the Mission’s daily work and provision for the future. Please continue to uphold this work by partnering with us. To take part in the work God is doing at Central Union Mission by giving or learning more, visit www.missiondc.org or give us a call at 202-MISSION.

Thank you for your support during our 2005-2006 Fiscal Year. May this next year yield even more fruit in the lives of those we serve! And may we truly hear the prophet Isaiah’s words in verse 10: “Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise from the ends of the earth.”

You Provided!

During the 2005-2006 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2005–
June 30, 2006), Mission supporters
touched the lives of struggling people in DC with...

- 43,429 safe places to sleep
- 120,078 nutritious meals
- 3,767 individuals receiving articles of clothing
- 47 individuals receiving furniture
- 1,416 Christmas bags
- 467 Back-to-School bags
- 2,953 Bible study opportunities
- 41,214 people hosted in chapel
- 2,027 counseling sessions
- 4,815 devotional sessions
- 2,571 STP classes
- 281 English-as-a-Second-Language sessions
- 79 literacy/GED classes
- 69 tutoring sessions
- 185 health orientations
- 210 consultations at the medical clinic
- 33 eye exams
- 25 pairs of glasses
- 142 legal aid consultations



Generous donations of clothing, furniture, and food are blessing those in need this fall through Heaven’s Grocery Store. Please consider supporting us as we continue to meet our neighbors needs!

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