



THE

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Missionary

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“God’s Grace Has Been Holding Us”

We last checked in with Shawn Chinn in 2009, when he was a Spiritual Transformation Student graduate and an A+ student at Lincoln College of Technology. Here’s an update on what’s happened since:

When Shawn was honorably discharged from the Army in 1992, after serving four years with the 82nd Airborne in Panama and Korea, he moved back to Columbia, MD, without much of a plan. He was living with his aunt and working at a fast food restaurant. Frustration and boredom led him to experiment with drugs, and before long he was “stealing, robbing and running around on the streets. Drugs didn’t help my climb. They just gave me a shovel, and I kept digging,” he explains. Soon he was arrested and awaiting sentencing.

He listened hard when an inmate Dwayne witnessed to him; Dwayne impressed Shawn with his peaceful acceptance when Dwayne received his 25-year sentence. Shawn’s belief in Jesus got a big boost when Shawn himself received less time than he expected. Then he had a dream where he was standing in line in a place surrounded by fire; he was going to hell. Luckily, he got out of line to use the bathroom. Scary (and funny) as this was, the dream encouraged him to pray to accept Christ as his Savior.

“This time I really was fed up. I was tired of how I was wasting my life.” —Shawn Chinn

He was sincere but immature. “I had no guidance and was expecting the wrong things from God.” After just 90 days back home, he returned to drugs. Months passed, and after another incarceration, Shawn moved in with his mother back in DC. Feeling like a burden to her, he went to the Veterans Administration to see if he could get into a shelter or a rehab



God and Central Union Mission brought Shawn a new life and a family.

program. “This time I really was fed up. I was tired of how I was wasting my life.” He picked Central Union Mission from a list of shelters because he was told it was one of the cleanest.

That first night, he slept in his car because he hesitated to come in; his idea of a homeless shelter—dirt, violence, drugs— came from TV shows. When he dared to visit Central Union Mission the next day, he found it wasn’t at all like TV. When he was eating his first meal there, Charles told him about the Spiritual Transformation Program (STP). Shawn was intrigued, but when he told his VA counselor

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HeART TUESDAY OCTOBER 27 7PM
 &
SOLE
 AN EVENING WITH CHEF ROCK HARPER & FRIENDS
 DOCK 5 AT UNION MARKET • 1309 5TH ST NE, WASHINGTON, DC 20002
 Join us for this amazing event! Details on page 3

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

No Time to Rest

This has been the busiest fall we've had for a while around here, and that's really saying something. We've got our usual classes, meals and programs, but we also had a Hearts of Hope Baby Shower and a Community Health Fair. Veteran's Day, HeArt & Sole (October 27), Thanksgiving and Show Some Love (December 12) are coming up soon. We're grateful for so many new volunteers who have helped to create and run these exciting events.

Sadly, another aspect of the Mission is also busy: the number of people coming here for food, clothes, furniture and other help. The newspapers may say our economy is healthy, but you can't tell that to our new guests and friends.

Thanks to your donations, we've been able to manage their needs up to this point, but the colder weather is on its way. Then, even the hardiest of street people needs an extra hand. Please

keep Central Union Mission's guests and family in your prayers as you continue to bless your community and serve God with your generous support.

Blessings,



God's Grace

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about it, the counselor said, "You don't need church, right?"

Moment of Truth

"That was the defining moment for me. I ran to drugs because I didn't want to deal with my life, so I knew I couldn't recover on my own. I realized I needed Jesus; I knew He could help me." He returned to Central Union Mission. What was different this time? He had a mentor: his STP Bible study teacher, who was a Howard Divinity School student. His mentor's sincerity and directness influenced Shawn. After he completed the STP, Shawn started at Lincoln College of Technology.

While he was going to school and living at the Mission, he noticed a Mission staff member he thought he recognized. After he introduced himself, he was embarrassed to find out he hadn't met her before, but he soon realized he'd like to get to know her.

Dené Mitchell had been working at the Mission for one year when she met

Shawn. She started as a seasonal employee doing gift processing. She learned about the Mission from a friend at her church and was impressed with its ministry's scope: "I'd had family members on drugs, so I could tell that this was a good place to start over with Christ as the foundation." Her temp job turned into a permanent position as data base and donor relations manager.

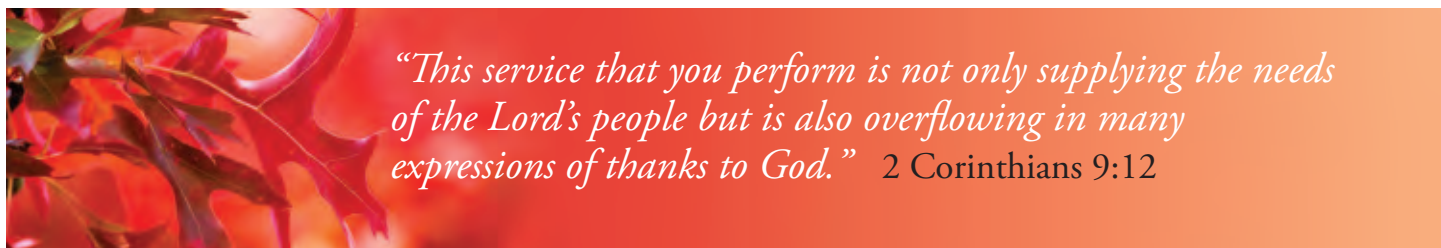
Dené was praying about Shawn but decided they would just be friends: "He talked about God too much," she now laughs. A few months later, they reconnected, and Dené's opinion shifted. While she was mindful of all he had been through, he had a good reputation and a job working part time as a Mission driver. Her family and Mission staff were supportive; their relationship developed. Shawn proposed two years later, and after premarital counseling at their church, Shawn and Dené were married in May 2012.

The Rest is History

Today, Dené works at the Mission as assistant director of strategic partnerships and community outreach,

and Shawn has started a new job with Ecolab repairing and installing commercial kitchen equipment. Their daughter Moriah will be one year old at the end of October, and they are planning to move out of their DC condo into a house in MD. Shawn is a deacon and Dené is part of the follow-up ministry at their church, Shechem Covenant Outreach Ministries in Forestville, MD. They enjoy a close relationship with their family nearby. "God's grace has been holding us and teaching us," Shawn remarks.

What their lives have become is not what Shawn had expected for himself: "I thought I would die on the streets; I was coming from a place of hurt. Now I'm about life—and giving opportunities to others." He calls the Mission "a great launching pad." "You can come let the Spirit of God work on you and be watched over because the Mission takes care of necessities that support life. You have time to hear what God is saying. It's a great place; God's hand is on this place."



"This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God." 2 Corinthians 9:12

HeART & SOLE

TUESDAY OCTOBER 27 7PM

AN EVENING WITH CHEF ROCK HARPER & FRIENDS

DOCK 5 AT UNION MARKET • 1309 5TH ST NE, WASHINGTON, DC 20002

Help fight poverty by enjoying tastes of local chefs' specialties inspired by their favorite shoe—that's where the "sole" comes in! Instead of our regular fall banquet, we invite you to join Chef Rock Harper and friends for a fun night of deliciousness that helps our homeless neighbors.

Register for the VIP Experience to see Chef Warren Brown, Food Network host and CakeLove founder, for a special cooking demonstration and a swag bag. The VIP Experience begins at 6:00 pm.

We'll also feature a gallery of Mission men's artwork, live entertainment and a silent auction offering experiences and gifts from exclusive businesses—all to benefit Central Union Mission and our needy community. Who says doing good can't be fun?

\$95 per person
\$150 per person for VIP Experience at 6PM

Check out our website and register at missiondc.org/heartandsole.



Iron Chef Rock Harper



CakeLove's Warren Brown



WPGC's Sunni



Redskin Clinton Portis



Presenting chefs from Willie's Brew N Que, None Sweeter Personal Chef Services, CakeLove, International Gourmet Foods, Capitol Hill Crabcakes, Chef RedBeard/ Fraiche, Mitsitam Café, Tam's Kitchen, SpyceCo, Todd Gray's Watershed, Tasty Pastries, SugaChef Desserts, Kitchen Cray, Terrence Tomlin: The Upscale Dining Experience, Popcorn Queens, Dyvine BBQ In Motion, Cook Pray Love, It's a CupCake and our very own Central Union Mission!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

To Bless and Be Blessed

I can honestly say when we started volunteering it was to help our community, but it became so much more...

Every Wednesday night for over a year, my daughter Lauren and I helped serve dinner at Central Union Mission, as well as helping with special events like Christmas, the “Souper Bowl” Party and the Everyman’s Birthday Party. The friends we made opened up their hearts to us and shared how God had worked in their lives and changed them. They encouraged us week after week with their love for God and desire to help the men in their community.

Before my daughter left for college, several men surrounded her in the kitchen and prayed over her, and then when we left to go to our car, another group stopped and asked to pray for her outside the Mission. We stood on the street with men placing hands on her and praying for her protection in college. We both left in tears knowing we had been touched forever by the love of these men. In fact, Lauren was so impressed that she decided to study social work at James Madison University.

We came to realize it is only by the grace of God that any of us have what we do. Jesus’ meaning in Matthew 25:40—“Whatever you did for the least of these, you did unto me”—became more clear to us as a result of our volunteering. We saw men who were humble and so thankful for the Mission and for what little we were able to do to help. I am so thankful, too, for the time we had there and how God used so many to bless and encourage us.—Paula Sloan



Paula Sloan and her daughter Lauren volunteered by serving meals, but the men’s loving spirits served them instead.

You can be a hands-on part of Central Union Mission’s ministry, too. Register at missiondc.org/volunteer today.



Our September Hearts of Hope Baby Shower was a delight for our expectant and new mothers. They enjoyed a light lunch with baby shower games and favors, as well as sage advice from experienced moms. Our generous friends supplied so many presents that the chapel stage was full. We distributed the gifts among families participating in our Family Ministries program and Food PLUS Center.

Cleans Up Nicely...

You can change a man’s life



through our new Christmas event Show Some Love.

On December 12, 2015, Overnight Guests and men in our recovery and work programs will get the first-class treatment. You can sponsor a man to enjoy a festive meal served on china with a tablecloth—after receiving a haircut, manicure and fresh, clean clothes. Wait-staff from Hard Rock Café have offered to serve our men, and barbers and manicurists are volunteering to make them look fine. With a confidence boost like this, each guest will learn how much God loves him and be closer to a productive, independent life. See missiondc.org/showsomelove for sponsorship information.

Join Us!

To register for these volunteer activities, please visit missiondc.org/volunteer.

Executive Luncheons and Dinners

October 15 and November 19, 2015
6:30 pm
November 6 and December 4, 2015
11:30 am

You are invited to come enjoy a delicious meal, tour the shelter and meet some men involved in the Mission's STP and work programs. More Executive Meals are coming in 2016. RSVP at missiondc.org/dinners.

Food PLUS Center Grocery Distribution

November 2 and 5, 2015;
December 7 and 10, 2015
Anytime between 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Register at missiondc.org/volunteer to help prepare food bags for our community.

Seniors Luncheon

October 16 and November 20, 2015
October 29, 2015, in Spanish
9:30 am

You can help serve our seniors as they enjoy fellowship and a delicious meal.

Veteran's Day Celebration

November 11, 2015
12:00 noon

You can help serve those who served our country at this luncheon and program.

Turkey Distribution

November 23 and 24, 2015
10:00 am

Please bring turkeys to our Gales School or Food PLUS Center to feed our needy neighbors.

HeArt & Sole

October 27, 2015
7:00 pm
6:00 pm VIP Experience

Don't miss this evening of food-tasting, live entertainment, art displays and a silent auction—all to help homeless people. RSVP at missiondc.org/heartandsoul.

Thanksgiving Banquet

November 26, 2015
12:00 noon

Help serve turkey with all the trimmings to our thankful guests and students.

Show Some Love

December 12, 2015
5:30 pm

You and your church, youth or office group can support a guest for this event, providing dignity that can change his life. See missiondc.org/showsomelove for details.

Operation Christmas Miracle deadline

December 4, 2015

Please drop off your contributions at area locations by today. See missiondc.org/Christmas for details.



Christmas Cheer on Its Way

You know children are already thinking about Christmas, but many of our young neighbors can't anticipate any presents from their un- or underemployed parents. You can make their Christmas bright with a gift from Operation Christmas Miracle. Your gifts go even further since we share any extras with the Metropolitan Police Department and the US Coast Guard's charity programs. Visit missiondc.org/Christmas for more information.



When you do the caring, Santa can do the sharing!

Not what we say about our blessings but how we use them is the true measure of our thanksgiving. —WT Perkiser

Your Help Brings Hope

November is not much to be thankful for if you are homeless or underemployed. Days are darker and shorter, food is scarce and sleeping on the below-freezing streets can be deadly.

That's why your gift to Central Union Mission is so important. Besides providing safety and nourishment, we offer hope—hope for substance-abuse recovery, family reconciliation, spiritual awakening and a productive return to society.

Every \$2.09 you send to the Mission gives one needy person a nutritious meal and access to a new life. We are thankful for you. Thank you so much for your support.



Be Our Guest!

We're so proud of your faithfulness that we've just got to show off a little. Please come to one of our complimentary Executive Lunches or Dinners for an insiders' tour, a special program and a delicious meal. At the Executive Dinners, you'll enjoy music from our talented Men of Valor. Seeing your Mission in action will encourage and inspire you. Our Fall Executive Lunches are October 6 and December 4; our next Dinner is November 19, 2015. Please rsvp today at missiondc.org/dinners.



Executive Director David Treadwell (left) greets our friends at our September Executive Lunch.



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2600 12TH ST., NE, WASHINGTON, DC 20018 | MISSIONDC.ORG | (202) 745-7118



A copy of Central Union Mission's current financial report is available upon request by writing to 2600 12th St., NE, Washington, DC 20018 or by calling (202) 745-7118. In Maryland, copies of documents and information submitted by Central Union Mission are available for the cost of copies and postage from the Secretary of State, Statehouse, Annapolis, MD 21410, 1-401-974-5534. In Virginia, a financial statement for the most recent fiscal year is available upon request from the State Division of Consumer Affairs, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23209, 1-804-786-1343.

Let Me Share My Blessings

I can give a man, woman or child hope for a new life. Please use my donation of:

- \$41.80 to serve a nutritious meal to 20 guests at \$2.09 per meal
- \$62.70 to serve 30 guests
- \$94.05 to serve 45 guests
- \$_____ to serve as many guests as possible

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.*