

THE central union MISSION Missionary

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No one should live hungry and homeless

“There’s Much Work I Want You To Do”

By Christopher Chapman

MY CHOICES HAD TAKEN ME on some wrong turns after I left the Navy in 2004, where I served as a journalist on the USS Enterprise. But in November 2015 I was with my mom when she took her last breath, and it was then that my anger took over. After years of involvement in organized crime, I wanted the streets to feel my pain. I started extorting more strip clubs, selling more drugs and robbing more drug dealers. I made up my mind that the only way out of this lifestyle was for somebody to kill me.

I was recruited into Black Mafia Family, one of the most notorious underground organizations. I felt untouchable, but that wasn’t true. In November 2017 I was set up and robbed in a drug deal gone bad—and left for dead. The day I left the hospital, I asked the Lord, “After all the wrong I’ve done throughout these many years, why didn’t the robbers kill me when they had the chance?” In a still, small voice I heard Him say, “Because I saved you. There’s much work I want you to do.”

A Change of Scenery

Instead of retaliating against those who robbed me, I returned to Birmingham, AL, my hometown, where a Veteran’s Administration (VA) hospital case manager helped me decide to come Washington, DC—initially because of the area’s VA medical facilities. Since I was still recovering from the robbery and the 60 stitches in my head, I thought DC would be a good place to start over.



STP student **Christopher Chapman** (top) shared his story at our fall Taste of the Mission event and, along with **James Watkins** (bottom), helped Home Depot Foundation renovate the Hanlon House at Camp Bennett.

When I arrived in DC on March 20, 2018, my VA representative couldn’t get me a ride to a veteran transition house and suggested I go to Central Union Mission nearby. That same day I heard a word from Chaplain Garrison at the chapel service, and I knew in my spirit that this was where the Lord wanted me. Joining the Spiritual Transformation Program (STP) is one of the best decisions I’ve ever made in all my 37 years.

Life-Impacting Lessons

Through the STP, I’m able to learn life-impacting lessons from godly chaplains. The teachers are giving me another chance to learn what I missed in school. I received first aid, CPR and AED training and certification, too.

I’m also having fellowship with my STP brothers; I like that we can build each other up. I’ve also shared amazing experiences with them: some of the best churches that I’ve ever been to, my first ever Major League baseball game, inspiring concerts and conferences and the National Alliance To End Homelessness and Capitol Hill Day where I met Senator Corey Booker and had lunch with DC Mayor Muriel Bowser. We even visited the National Portrait Gallery and the National Air and Space Museum.

I thank the Lord for saving my life and leading me here to Central Union Mission. On behalf of all the guys, I want to thank you for your support. I know it wouldn’t

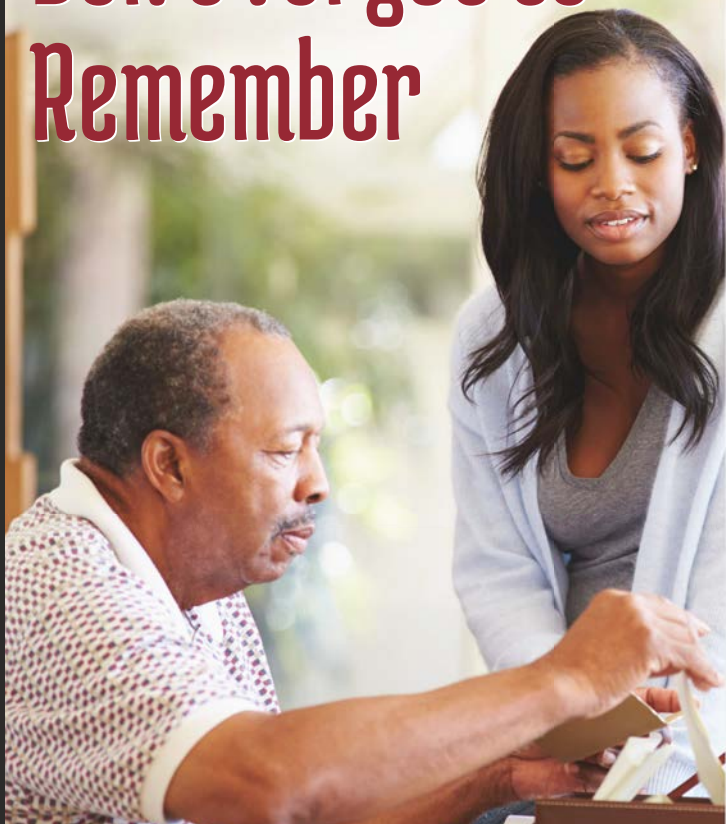
be possible without the Lord putting it on your heart to bless us. I thank you that you gave me a second chance to change my life. ■

More Good News Inside!

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Don't Forget to Remember



A STUDY CONDUCTED IN THE UK found the average adult forgets three key things each day, like:

- Charging a mobile device;
- What you meant to buy at the store;
- Where you left your keys;
- Where you parked your car.

While we're all guilty of this, there's a list of things you would never think of forgetting. For instance, a good parent would never omit teaching their child to look before crossing the street. But every day baby boomer parents neglect to share equally vital information with their loved ones—by not communicating details only they know.

Individuals who prepare for unanticipated life events exercise a unique form of love for their family. One of the best ways to do this is with an up-to-date Estate Plan.

Another is by sharing:

- Passwords for their accounts;
- Investments and insurance policies;
- Charities they support;
- Their values.

Remembering to care for your loved ones during and after your life is a beautiful gift. So is remembering a ministry like Central Union Mission in your Will. ■

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of **Are You Forgetting the Most Important Thing?** by contacting Rev. Deborah Chambers at 202-827-3078, or dchambers@missiondc.org. Bless your family today with a God-honoring Will at www.christianwill.org/missiondc.

From the Executive Director No Place Like It

THE WORD

With my mouth I will greatly extol the Lord; in the great throng of worshipers I will praise him. For he stands at the right hand of the needy, to save their lives from those who would condemn them. — *Psalm 109:30-31*

SOME PEOPLE THINK OF THE MISSION shelter as a resource, or a training ground or a safe resting place. It is all that, but it's also something more: home. Beyond the clean beds and hot meals, our guests and students



experience the sense of belonging that Christ followers can offer. Some may never have had a good home life, so they are surprised by the depth of the staff's care for them.

One of my favorite things I see around the Mission is the guys hanging out together, laughing, helping each other or working on a Bible study.

That personal bond is what helps our participants succeed. After they have moved on to their own homes and jobs, the men participate in structured alumni activities and are invited to serve as mentors to those who are new in the program. The daily email devotions, monthly meetings and safety net of accountability help keep men focused on their goals: staying sober, employed, reconciled with others and close to Christ.

Only through your compassion can the Mission offers guests that special grace that turns a shelter—like a house—into a home. Thank you so much for your generosity. ■

Joe **Joe Mettimano**
executive director

Do You Care?

SHOW SOME LOVE is an evening of purposeful love bestowed upon our men—to include them warmly in the spirit of Christmas.

The shelter becomes a festive wonderland with elegant food, entertainment and gift bags filled with meaningful gifts. While we're transforming the floors below, the men are treated to hair-cuts, manicures and other comforts that they may have never experienced on the floors above.

You or your group can be an Event Sponsor, or you can partner with us to host tables, decorate, provide gifts or help with many other opportunities. Please visit missiondc.org/showsomelove for more information. 'Tis the season! ■



Show Some Love!

Recognizing 135 Years of Service



The Historical Society of Washington, DC, honored Central Union Mission with the "Making D.C. History Award" in recognition of our contributions in the area of Social Services. **Joseph Mettimano** (left) and **David Treadwell** (second from left), current and previous executive directors, received the award on behalf of the Mission with fellow honorees HITT Contracting, Drew Jarvis Family and Akridge.

K2 DRUG THREATENS COMMUNITY

K2 is a DANGEROUS, unregulated street drug that offers a potentially fatal high. Because of its low price, people experiencing poverty and homelessness, as well as high school students, are common victims. Visit our K2 Resource page at:

missiondc.org/learn/k2-resource-page

to learn how the Mission is protecting our neighborhood and to inform your family with the warning flyer our men are distributing on the streets.

Thanks (for) giving!

IMAGINE YOU HAVE NO MONEY for food or rent; you haven't eaten in two days. Suddenly you hear someone call, "Come to the Mission for Thanksgiving dinner!" The enticing fragrances and the warm welcome of turkey with all the trimmings draws you out of your depression. Someone cares after all.

You can be the "someone" who cares this Thanksgiving. Your financial gift will encourage a struggling man and set him on the path to renovating his life. Thanks for giving hope and help this Thanksgiving. ■



central union
MISSION

Taste of the Mission

November 2, 2018
12:00 PM to 2:00 PM and
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

An opportunity to meet our new executive director, as well as to enjoy a meal, hear stories of transformation and get a special behind-the-scenes shelter tour. Please RSVP at tasteandsee@missiondc.org.

Veteran's Day Program

November 12, 2018
11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Join Mission program participants and veterans experiencing homelessness at a special program commemorating Veteran's Day. Please RSVP at www.missiondc.org/vets.

Thanksgiving Day

November 22, 2018
11:00 PM

Help serve and fellowship with our guests; other holiday tasks are also available. RSVP at thanksgiving2018@missiondc.org.

Join Us!

Senior Fellowships

November 23 and
December 21, 2018
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
November 30 and
December 28, 2018, in Spanish
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Volunteer to help us distribute grocery bags and visit with our seniors. Register with showard@missiondc.org.

Show Some Love

December 14, 2018
3:00 - 8:00 PM

Show your compassion for our guests by helping with this event, starting with an afternoon of haircuts, grooming and fresh clothing and concluding with a Christmas party. Register with dchambers@missiondc.org.

Unless otherwise noted, please register at

missiondc.org/get-involved/volunteer to volunteer for these and more events.

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Unless otherwise noted, photos are from Adobe Stock. A copy of Central Union Mission's current financial report is available upon request by writing to 6811 Kenilworth Ave, 600-B, Riverdale, MD 20737 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, 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, 804-786-1343.



CHRISTIAN CAMP & CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION



Empowering Ministries To Transform Communities



Please Recycle

Yes, I want to bring hope with a Thanksgiving meal.

Please use my donation of:

- \$20.90 to care for one table of ten guests
- \$62.70 for three tables or 30 guests
- \$104.50 for five tables or 40 guests
- \$146.30 for seven tables or 70 guests
- \$ _____ to help as many as possible

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

Central Union Mission
P.O. Box 96763
Washington, DC 20090-6763
missiondc.org • 202-745-7118

God bless you for caring!



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Name _____

Address _____