



No one should live hungry and homeless

Light at the End of the Tunnel

A FRIEND TOLD ROSALIA OSCEOLA about the Mission’s Family Ministry Center (FMC), and she came for the first time this spring. She remarked, “It’s a blessing that the FMC is willing to help us provide some meals for our family.” Her and her husband’s faith brought them through difficult seasons, and she is “grateful to get food on the table.”

Family Without a Home

Rosalia was born in Mexico, immigrated to the United States when she was 15 and lived in Virginia for her adult life. During the 2008 recession, she and her husband lost two properties they owned. Then, in 2011, her husband, who had a law enforcement career, lost his license and his job, and the family became homeless. “We were worried and doing everything we could to survive—but with God you know there is always light at the end of the tunnel,” she remem-

bers. Her husband started working with a moving company, and the family (with children ages 11, 8, 6, 3 and a baby on the way) lived with his mother in her one-bedroom apartment.



The Osceola family. Rosalia says, “We are where we are by the grace of God. I believe that a leaf doesn’t fall from the tree if it is not God’s will.”

After nine months, a friend allowed them to move into his house—with no heat or running water—but first they had to clean up after his hoarding. It was winter and very cold. The friend tried to use the Osceolas’ predicament to get free house repairs through a housing charity, but instead the charity, Christmas in April, opted to help the Osceolas find their own apartment. “That was a big step to keep moving forward,” Rosalia commented. Now that the family is more stable, Rosalia returned to school on weekday mornings studying for her GED. She said, “I’ll take the test when I’m sure that I can pass. I don’t want to fail.”

Part of the Community

After receiving food from the FMC, Rosalia decided to give back to the community. She was first in line when the FMC opened to on-site volunteers after the pan-

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Your generosity impacts many lives—including yours! Thank you for your compassion.



*“Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward them for what they have done.”
Proverbs 19:17, NIV*

Strength Through the Storm

WHEN AN EF-2 TORNADO hit a small town outside Omaha, the 120-mile-per-hour winds destroyed the home of Mr. Robin Stoll. He recalls the tornado “picked me up and threw me against the tree, so I just held on.” And that tree helped save his life.

As you reflect over the past year, you can probably name many unexpected things that blew into your life. When times of crisis and uncertainty hit, it’s important to know we have something strong to hold onto, to protect ourselves and those we love. Psalm 46 says “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” He

can be trusted to protect and provide, no matter the stakes. We can also take steps to ensure we’re building a legacy that will last.

An up-to-date will or estate plan is a simple way to create protection and future provision for your loved ones. Plus, when you create a will that aligns with your personal values, you can communicate a legacy of faith, and support the charities you care about like Central Union Mission.

Your will:

- Allows you to decide how your estate will be distributed.
- Reduces stress and heartache for loved ones.
- Minimizes estate taxes.
- Allows you to make gifts and donations to the people, causes and organizations close to your heart.

Even though we can’t see what is ahead, the promise of God’s unwavering love stands firm. Uncertainty never takes Him by surprise. ■

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of *God’s Provision for Uncertain Times* by contacting Deborah Chambers at 202-827-3078 or dchambers@missiondc.org, or bless your family today with a God-honoring will at christianwill.org/missiondc.

From the President Summer Needs Remain Critical



BY GOD’S GOODNESS and grace, we were successful in keeping our guests, students and families we serve fully supported and safe from COVID-19, but, like everyone else, it required a lot of hard work and sacrifice. We’re so excited that friends are now able to join us at our Mission facilities. This summer

will bring social events, weeks of summer camp in the Maryland woods and popsicles for children at the Family Ministry Center—all signs of summer with a special sweetness this year.

Another sign of summer is not so sweet, however. This time of year is the bleakest for people relying on the Mission’s

care because typical donations dry up in the summertime. When many peoples’ thoughts turn to summer vacation, those living in poverty are still struggling to put food on the table.

Thank you for your constant care and continued support even through the summer. We are grateful for both your “fair-” and “foul-weather” friendship! ■

Sincerely,

Joe Mettimano, President & CEO

Following God's Heart



Mission Board member David Hazelton

CENTRAL UNION MISSION Board Member David Hazelton and his wife Beky bring complementary gifts and passions to the Mission. Dave has practiced with the D.C. office of Latham & Watkins, one of the world's largest law firms, for over 30 years. He leads the firm's government contracts practice and specializes in government contract litigation, investigations, transactions and counseling. Beky is a social

worker by training with a caring heart for those in need. Sharing a love for Jesus and God's work among His people, Dave and Beky take a team approach focusing on diverse aspects of ministry.

When to Say "Yes"

They believe that God has a heart of compassion for people living in poverty and those who are exploited. "As we draw close to the Lord, naturally, we need to reach out to those who are close to His heart," a fundamental proposition for all of their community involvement. Dave continued, "We say, 'Yes' to a love of Scripture, 'Yes' to a love of God's people, 'Yes' to speaking the truth of the Gospel—and especially 'Yes' when it comes to doing all those things in the context of caring for the poor and needy."

Dave's other concerns also reflect this priority. He is an elder, Sunday school teacher and Bible study group leader at Cornerstone Church in Annandale, Virginia. Weekly, his

family hosts international students from Northern Virginia Community College. He serves as vice chair of the board of trustees of Denver Seminary. He and his firm work *pro bono* for International Justice Mission on cases of human trafficking and exploitation of poor people in Central America. Together, Dave and Beky support international missions, children's homes and schools in South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya and Zambia. He also authored *The Simplified Guide: Paul's Letters to the Churches* (Deep River Books) and is at work on other books on the minor prophets and creation truths for marriage.

Toward a Complete Ministry

What sets Central Union Mission apart? "To me, the Mission is a leading light. There are a lot of great local organizations that care for the poor and needy, but very few care for the whole person. I think it's incomplete to care for physical needs without caring for deeper spiritual needs. But it's also not enough to care for spiritual needs without also providing for physical needs," Dave responded. He cited Christ's examples of being "Living Water" to the woman at the well and the "Bread of Life" when He fed the five thousand. "What impressed me is that the Mission is fully committed to both

When we draw close to those who are close to God's heart, we find ourselves blessed by God.

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LEAVE A
LASTING LEGACY

Your compassion for the Lord's "least of these" can endure by including a bequest in your estate plan. For more details, please contact Deborah Chambers, vice president for development & partnerships, at dchambers@missiondc.org or 202-827-3078.

*God bless
you for
caring!*

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demographic restrictions eased; Rosalia said, "I don't take no for an answer!" She has been answering phones, managing the clothing and housewares appointment hotline and helping with FMC mailings.

Rosalia reflected, "I think God let us go through our situation so we could appreciate what we have every single day and know that we have lived through this for a reason." She is grateful for everything that donors and FMC staff do for people in need and affirms that their efforts "will come back to them as a blessing." ■

For information on donating to and volunteering for the FMC, please visit: missiondc.org/get-involved/volunteer.

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the physical and spiritual needs of the poorest in our community, and that inspired me to support the Mission financially, to be involved with its activities and to serve joyfully on its Board."

Why be involved at the Mission? Dave explains, "It goes back to following God's heart. And God changes

our hearts so that we want to use our resources for people experiencing poverty. Opportunities to serve and to pray for people experiencing poverty, for Mission staff and the Mission's efforts should be an important part of our lives. When we give, we receive. When we draw close to those who are close to God's heart, we find ourselves blessed by God." ■



Missionary

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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.



Needs Rise With Summer Heat

Individuals and families experiencing homelessness and hunger on the hot streets of Washington, DC, need your help. Your gift today can equip and encourage people facing poverty this summer. Thank you for caring.

Please use my donation of:

- \$20.90 to feed and care for 10 guests
- \$52.25 for 25 guests
- \$104.50 for 50 guests
- \$156.75 for 75 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."

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