

## Donations needed for Christmas

Throughout the holiday season, we expect to serve hundreds of individuals and families. Many will need items that we all take for granted:

-  **Winter coats**
-  **Warm scarves**
-  **Hats and caps**
-  **Gloves and mittens**
-  **New socks**
-  **New underwear**
-  **Hand warmers**
-  **Jeans**
-  **Travel-sized toothpaste**

Donations accepted Monday – Friday, 9 am to 3:30 pm, at 3194 Bladensburg Rd. NE, Suite B, Washington, DC. The Family Ministry Center is located down the driveway between the Popeye's and the collision center. We're closed on Christmas Eve, New Years Eve and federal holidays.

## Give a special holiday meal AND hope — for just \$2.09!

When you're struggling just to get through each day, you don't look forward to Christmas. For many in our community, it will likely bring only sadness — a reminder of all they've lost.

Your generous gift today can offer hope to those who need it most in our community. This year, we're expecting to serve as many as 351,000 meals to people who are trapped in hunger and homelessness and don't know how to put their lives on a better path.

Central Union Mission is a special place where men, veterans who have served our nation, and families facing hard times can find food, shelter and a kind word of encouragement. For those who are looking for more, the Mission offers an amazing array of life-transforming services proven to put people back on track.

Please give now with a generous heart to make Christmas a blessing for someone in need. Thank you!



### 3 WAYS TO GIVE



#### GIVE BY MAIL

Central Union Mission  
PO Box 96763  
Washington, DC 20090-6763



#### GIVE BY PHONE

Call and use your credit card:  
202-745-7118



#### GIVE ONLINE

[missiondc.org/ChristmasMeals](https://missiondc.org/ChristmasMeals)

#### UPDATING YOUR ESTATE PLAN



### The Nativity you never knew

Each December, we display nativities that include the "three wise men." Here are two surprises you may not know about them:

**1. There may have been only two.** Because the magi brought three gifts, it's assumed there were three. But the Bible doesn't say for sure.

**2. They didn't arrive the night Jesus was born.** Matthew says the men arrived "after Jesus was born" at the "house" where Jesus was. It's believed Mary and Joseph were in another location, at a later time.

We follow in their footsteps, giving gifts and worshiping the King. One way we can do both is through the practice of biblical stewardship.

We can donate our time or update our estate plan to include a trusted charity, like Central Union Mission, that is impacting peoples' lives.

*For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "The Nativity You Never Knew" by contacting Rev. Deborah Chambers at (202) 745-7118, ext. 227 or [dchambers@missiondc.org](mailto:dchambers@missiondc.org). OR bless your family today with a God-honoring will at [christianwill.org/missiondc](https://christianwill.org/missiondc).*

# the missionary

NOVEMBER 2021

## "One more chance at life"

James prayed for a transformed life. Today, he's on the path to stability and success — thanks to YOU!

New Year's Eve was anything but a party for James, when he found himself being rushed to the emergency room.

His throat began to swell earlier that evening, making it difficult for him to breathe. After hours of uncertainty and agony, he was strapped to a hospital bed, unable to move, with only his thoughts moving freely.

This was not the way James wanted to go into the new year. But as he lay there, he began to reflect on his past. "I thought about every mistake I'd made, and I promised God that if He'd bless me with one more chance at life, I'd take advantage of any and every opportunity given to me."

Those mistakes were the result of his 20-year battle with drugs and alcohol. Addiction cost him relationships, his marriage and countless jobs.

The next morning, the doctors told James

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central union  
MISSION

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The Nativity you never knew

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The Mission is standing by to serve our community this Christmas. Please join us!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

## Christmas Connections



JOE METTIMANO  
President & CEO

The holiday season can be an especially difficult time for people who struggle with hunger or homelessness.

What's more, for many who come to the Mission this Christmas, their hunger will be not only physical but emotional, psychological and spiritual.

They're lonely, isolated and fearful, making it unlikely they'll immediately trust us.

But your support makes it possible to earn their trust as we create an environment that is warm and welcoming.

Often, Christmas connections begin with a nourishing holiday meal served with a kind word and genuine smile. We try to let each person know how much we care.

James, featured in our cover story, is a great example of the difference you'll make by not just providing meals and shelter — but also by enabling an outreach of acceptance, understanding and practical help.

We're here to meet these important needs because you and other compassionate partners give faithfully. Thank you.

I'm so grateful for you.

May you and your family have a holiday season filled with God's hope, joy and peace.

## At Christmas, especially, your generosity makes the Mission a blessing in so many lives!

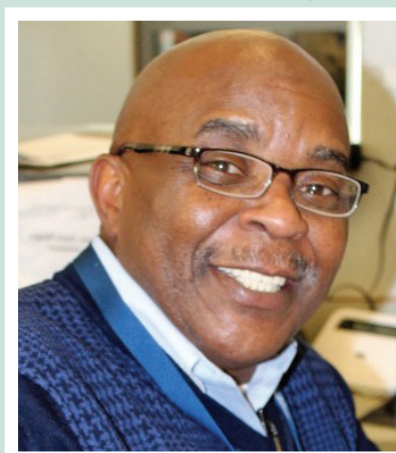
More people in the D.C. metro area than we'd like to believe are battling poverty, hunger, homelessness or addiction. But through your prayers and financial gifts, you make special ministry like our annual December "Show Some Love" event possible. It's an opportunity to show the men in our restoration program how much we — and you — care about them. Your generosity and God's grace will be the difference between despair and hope . . .



"Last Christmas, the kids and I just sat around and had scraps for food. I started thinking that if it wasn't going to get better, then why continue?" — Mission guest



"When you're homeless, it's easy to lose hope during the Christmas season. That's what happened to me. When I got to Central Union Mission, having a good meal again was the best thing in the world. And the people at the Mission, they're family." — Mission guest



"I knew Central Union Mission was a place where I could get cleaned up and I could get closer to Christ. I had a lot of bitterness in my heart, and the Mission just kind of turned me totally around. I was taught how to live." — Mission guest



"Central Union Mission allowed me to take advantage of some things I really needed: grief counseling, AA meetings and the Spiritual Transformation Program. God is certainly working behind the scenes. I'm so grateful and thankful. This is a place that I'll have a connection to for the rest of my life." — Mission guest



Just \$2.09  
will provide  
a meal and  
more this  
Christmas!

One more chance . . . (Continued from pg. 1)

he no longer showed any symptoms. "They were all shocked," he says. "They didn't understand it. But I knew it was God. I knew He had answered my prayer."

Now it was time for James to hold up his end of the deal. "I was spiritually bankrupt," he admits. "There was a void in my life, and I needed help. But more importantly, I knew where I needed to go."

Familiar with the Mission and our Restoration Transformation Program, James called and asked if there were any available spots. It wasn't long before he was enrolled in the program. "I can't explain how grateful I am for this program," he says.

The Mission helped James rekindle broken

relationships with his family. He says, "My brother and sister are so happy for me. And for the first time in my life, my mother told me she was proud of me. This is what that program can do."

James is currently taking classes at Catholic University and enrolled in the Mission's Workforce Development Program. This provides him with work in our kitchen, preparing and serving meals to other shelter residents.

"I realized that I became a better person once I was exposed to better situations," he says. "This program truly changed my life."

**"I appreciate being surrounded by brothers who have the same goals in mind."**  
— James

*Please stand with Central Union Mission at this opportune time to help someone else like James experience new life.*