

the

# missionary

AUGUST 2022

## Serious about getting his life together

**Dennis found the answers he'd been looking for his whole life — thanks to YOU!**

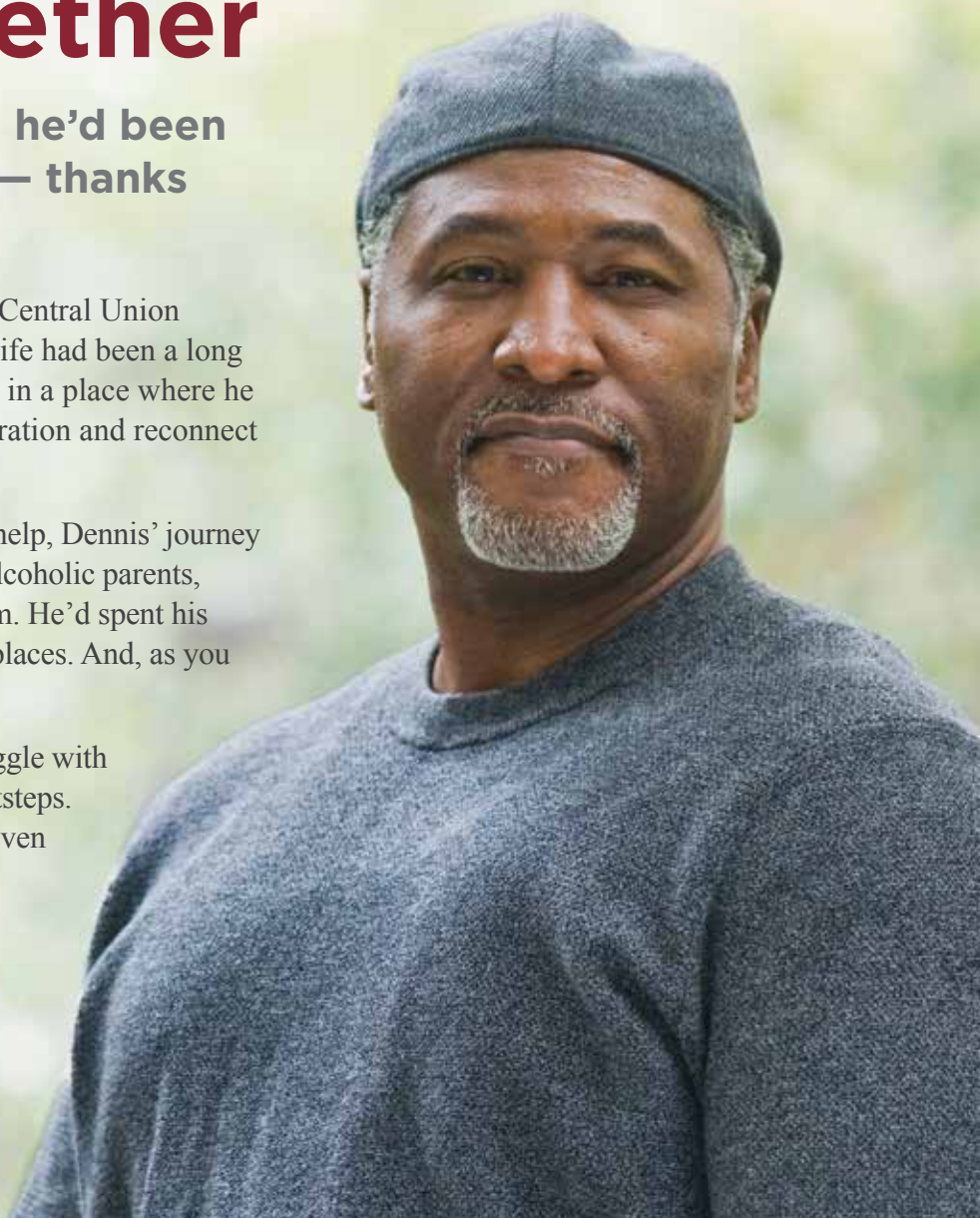
When Dennis walked through the doors of Central Union Mission in 2020, he was 56 years old. His life had been a long and treacherous journey. But finally he was in a place where he could find peace, experience personal restoration and reconnect with God.

Like so many who come to the Mission for help, Dennis' journey had started with a dysfunctional family — alcoholic parents, feelings of abandonment and low self-esteem. He'd spent his life looking for answers in all of the wrong places. And, as you might imagine, found few.

Although he watched his mom and dad struggle with drinking, he ended up following in their footsteps. "It was all I knew and all I saw," he says. "Even though I hated it, I became them."

As the years of failure, guilt and confusion piled up, Dennis found himself deeply depressed, estranged from his family and sickened by his "legacy." He was deeply stung by the imprisonment of a son.

**Continued inside ▶**



# Thank you for providing relief — and lasting

**Dennis' story . . .** (Continued from pg. 1)

The final straw: 30 days' notice to vacate his apartment in the wake of a job loss due to the COVID lockdown. Finally realizing that rock bottom was closer than it had ever been before, he came to Central Union Mission, hoping to rebuild his shattered life and reconnect with Jesus Christ.

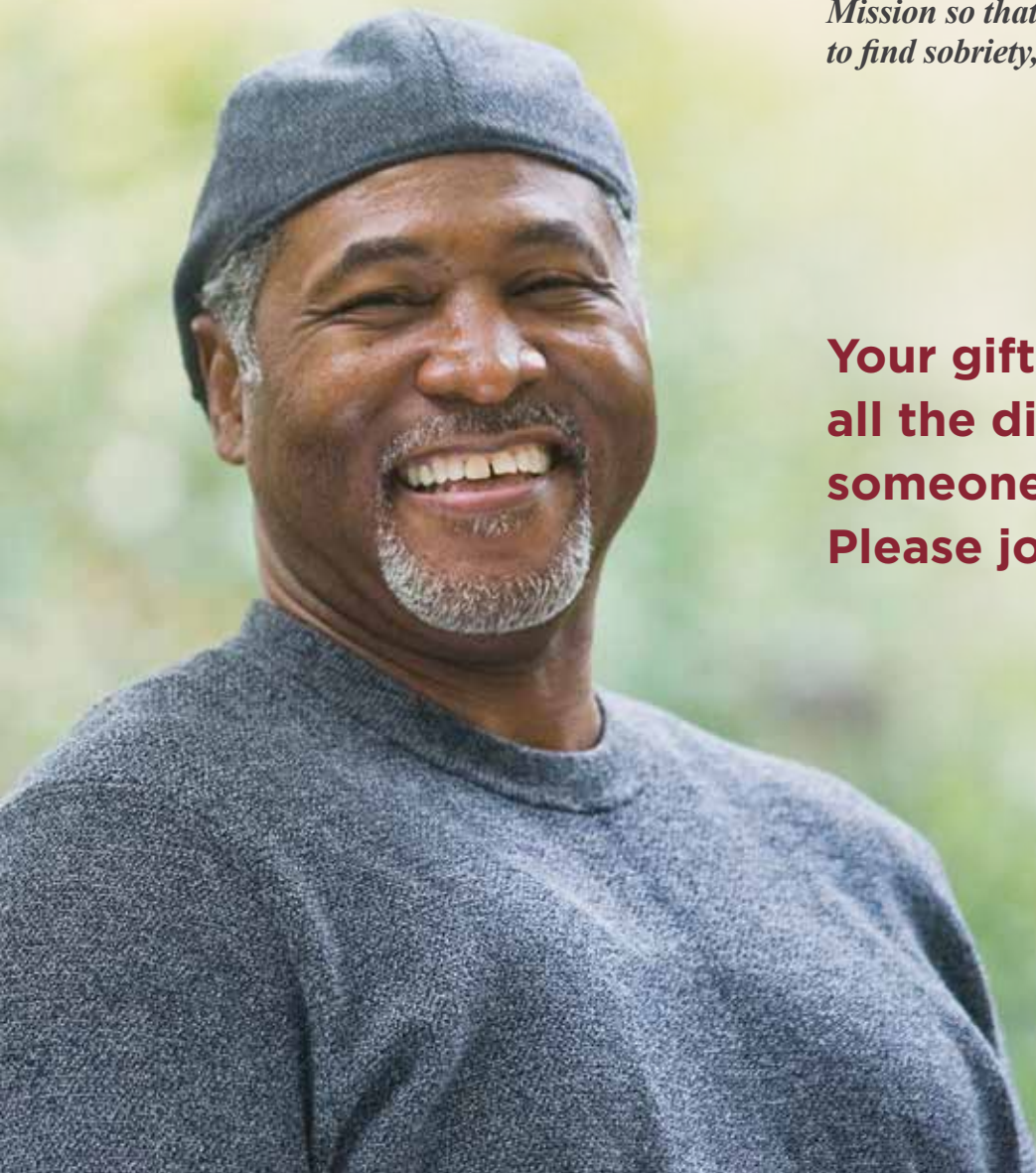
"After I got here, the foundation was laid," Dennis says. "I'll admit, I was still drinking when I first went, but they loved and prayed that out of me. I was able to find my true identity and also identify those triggers that would cause me to head back down the wrong path."

What's more, says Dennis, "It felt like home. I was just overwhelmed with how much they cared and how they took care of us."

Thanks to the Mission's successful Workforce Development Program, Dennis has earned his food handling certification and is taking online classes to further his culinary career. This will be absolutely crucial to his success. You can't move forward without work that pays a living wage that keeps a roof over your head and food in the cupboard.

Dennis has been clean for more than a year now and credits Central Union Mission for his sobriety. "If you're serious about getting your life together, Central Union Mission is where you need to be. They'll meet you where you are without any judgment. This is the happiest I've ever been in my life."

*Please continue to support the life- and community-transforming work of Central Union Mission so that others like Dennis might be able to find sobriety, stability and self-sufficiency.*



**Your gift today can make  
all the difference for  
someone like Dennis.  
Please join us now!**



## Help save lives this summer!

The hottest month of the year in D.C. is here. And that means many people who are homeless in our community face heat exhaustion or even heatstroke if they can't stay cool. Left unchecked, the heat is a real danger, especially to those who are already vulnerable. Here's how you can help save lives this summer . . .



### Provide cold water

Staying hydrated is the first line of defense in a heat emergency. Thanks to you, Central Union Mission will distribute thousands of bottles of water this month to those who can't escape the suffocating heat and humidity.



### Bring them inside

Spending hour after hour in the hot sun can be exhausting. You make it possible for them to rest in our air-conditioned shelter or take a cool shower, providing much needed relief to those overwhelmed by the sweltering conditions outside.



### Offer them a meal

Once someone is no longer hungry, they can think more clearly, helping them to make better choices. Choosing to get long-term help at the Mission means they're no longer facing the heat all alone.

*These are the best ways to bring hope and a changed life — good work you make possible when you support Central Union Mission. Thank you for not forgetting those who are struggling.*

## Meeting people where they are with meaningful help in Jesus' name



**JOE METTIMANO**  
President, CEO

Even five years ago, I'd have never imagined providing the variety and depth of services the Mission now offers men, women and families in need.

Here's just one example: Half of the people we now serve speak English as a second language. If our goal in the post-COVID economy is to help them recover what they've lost, then we must help them improve their English. How else will they find jobs that put a roof over their heads and food on their table?

That's exactly what we're doing as we roll out an array of "wrap-around" services that supplement the basics we've always provided and always will: food, shelter, clothing and, of course, gospel proclamation.

**The Mission is called to love people — to help them feel human. Thanks for believing in and supporting that clear and urgent call.**

The individuals and families who seek us out need a wide variety of help, including education; daycare; and life, parenting and job skills training. We need to understand that the lack of these fundamentals contributes directly to their poverty.

*The Lord is absolutely leading us in this direction. And your prayers and financial support make it all possible. Thank you!*

Joe Mettimano

PLEASE HELP NOW!

# Give help and hope with every \$23 you send

As August heat puts thousands at risk here in the D.C. metro area, your support has become truly critical.

Summer temperatures and humidity pose a real threat to people trapped on the streets in hunger and homelessness. Dehydration, and even heatstroke, can make August doubly dangerous, especially for someone sleeping in a car or in a tent.

**When you give today, every \$23 you send will provide a meal, a shower and a night of safe rest in our air-conditioned shelter** — plus the chance to take advantage of other Mission services that lead to sobriety, stability and self-sufficiency.

And, most important, they have the opportunity to know hope. Maybe for the first time ever.

## Won't you please give as generously as you can right now?

Please don't wait. Even one person trapped on the streets is one too many. You can make sure they're fed, safely sheltered and given the chance to experience genuine life-change.

Thank you!



## UPDATING YOUR ESTATE PLAN

### The treasure you should never bury

Treasure hunts can be exciting. But there's another form of sleuthing no family should ever have to do — sifting through an estate without a will.

Here's how you can avoid it:

**1. CREATE OR UPDATE YOUR WILL.** Many people put off creating their estate plans because they think the process will be complicated. But it's usually quite simple.

**2. CREATE A "LOVE DRAWER."** Leaving a legacy is about more than financial inheritance. It's about pulling together important documents, passwords and even letters into one place.

**3. COMMUNICATE YOUR PLANS.** No one likes to talk about mortality. But it's important to share your plans and intentions with loved ones.

Why not take steps now to clue your family into your investments, any gifts you've included to a charity like Central Union Mission and the personal values that have driven your decisions?

*For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "A Treasure You'll Never Want to Hunt" 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](http://christianwill.org/missiondc).*

## 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

[donate.missiondc.org](http://donate.missiondc.org)