

the missionary

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“The grace of God is real”

Barry left a life of addiction for a life of purpose—thanks to you!

Barry had seen the worst. No wonder he turned to drugs, desperate to forget the trauma he'd experienced.

Molested at 10 years old, he didn't know how to cope with the pain and confusion. “The abuse made me go inward and forced me toward drugs,” Barry says.

It started with marijuana when he was 13 but quickly led to alcohol and over-the-counter drugs. By the time he turned 17, Barry was addicted to cocaine.

He became stuck in an endless cycle of drug use, crime, imprisonment and rehab. Nothing seemed to break the pattern.

Eventually, he found himself sentenced to 25 years in prison—but this time with no parole.

When he was released in 2016, a friend of Barry's who spent time at the Mission told him it would be

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A second chance . . . (Continued from pg. 1)

the best place to start life over again. Barry took his advice and found what he had been missing.

At the Mission, God was faithful to turn Barry's life around and give him purpose. Not even the years he spent incarcerated were wasted.

"While in prison, God called me to preach the word," he says. "When I was released, God told me, 'You got your freedom on the outside, but now it's time for you to be fully free on the inside.'"

When asked what he's most thankful for, Barry



"While in prison, God called me to preach the word."

—Barry

overflows with gratitude for God's grace. "He's the one who pulled me up out of the miry clay. Even in my darkest hours, God was faithful," declares Barry.

This is the grace offered to everyone who walks through our doors. Your support introduces those who are struggling at rock bottom to Christ's love. And it changes their lives forever.

Knowing what true freedom feels like, Barry plans to go into prisons and minister to people. "I've seen people healed and delivered from demons," he says. "God is bringing people from the prisons, the missions and the streets to share His Word in a powerful way that transforms lives."

Your help leads people like Barry, who were once lost in sin, to repentance and a life of purpose. It is by God's mighty grace, and your generosity, that each transformed life will go on to change even more lives. Barry is proof.

"Your investment is not temporary. It's eternal for you and others," says Barry.

You have no better time than Easter to open the door to grace. Thank you for sharing the resurrection power that changes lives!



Expect God to do mighty works through your prayer!

Your prayers are powerful!

Partnering with us in prayer is just as important as your faithful giving. Will you pray over each of these needs for our staff, the people we serve and other supporters like you? You're part of a special group of prayer warriors!

STAFF

Pray our staff would be encouraged and strengthened as we seek effectiveness in all areas of ministry.

MINISTRY

Pray for protection from the enemy over our Comprehensive Family Resource Center, that we will have sufficient supplies to meet the growing need and that participants will take advantage of all the life-changing resources we provide.

SUPPORTERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Pray that the Lord will strengthen, encourage and protect all those who partner in the work of Central Union Mission.



Serious crisis calls for strategic help . . .

All of us have felt pressure and concern about the struggling economy in the aftermath of COVID.

But the most vulnerable in our community—many being women and children—are facing a serious crisis. We can't abandon them in this time of deepest need.

That's why the Mission—thanks to your generosity—is responding to this historical hardship with strategic help.

Solving homelessness . . . for good

With your help, we're focusing on offering services that help *prevent* homelessness, so people living at or below the poverty level don't end up struggling on the streets.

That means your generosity does so much more than just helping to meet physical needs.

Practical help making a long-term impact

Through the Mission's Comprehensive Family Resource Center (CFRC), men, women and children living in poverty can receive services that equip them to live self-sufficient lives.

Everything from parenting classes to continuing education to providing people with job coaching and placement is designed to make a long-term impact. And it's all possible because of you.

YOU make a difference

At the Comprehensive Family Resource Center, families find a bright future and resources to get back on their feet. Thank you for faithfully stepping up in these trying times to make transformation possible!



Light on the horizon



JOE METTIMANO
President & CEO

The past three years have been challenging for most of us. And I know the toll has been heavier for some more than others. It can often feel like there's no light on the horizon.

But there is a great "Light of the world." And His name is Jesus.

No matter what is happening in or around our lives, God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. Isn't it great to rest on the truth that He never changes?

The God of the universe loves us and wants to be in relationship with us. Easter celebrates that deep love. Like Barry's story on page 1, God remains faithful, even in our darkest hour.

In every storm we go through, let's choose to stay focused on Him and rejoice in His resurrection.

"The LORD replied, 'Look around at the nations; look and be amazed! For I am doing something in your own day, something you wouldn't believe even if someone told you about it.'" Hab. 1:5

This is what it means to trust that God is with us. He is active and has a perfect plan that will be completed—even if we can't see it.

Thank you for faithfully giving to those in deepest need during this special season. God bless you!

UPDATE YOUR ESTATE PLAN

Passing down values

It's clear that you know how to give with purpose.

Your support of Central Union Mission shows that biblical generosity is important to you. But is it important to your children and grandchildren?

Here are two ways you can pass your values on to the next generation and leave a lasting legacy:

Write it down. Compose letters to your loved ones that share personal stories, lessons you've learned and kind words. You'll pass down what matters most by including a heartfelt letter with your legacy plan.

Collaborate missionally. Invite your family members to volunteer with you for the cause you care about. You'll demonstrate your values in action and give them a roadmap to do the same.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "3 Ways to Transfer Your Values to the Next Generation" by contacting Rev. Deborah Chambers at (202) 745-7118 ext. 227 or dchambers@missiondc.org.

Or bless your family today with an up-to-date will at christianwill.org/missiondc

Hope for the hurting starts with YOU

No one is ever too far into darkness for Christ to come in and change their life. For people struggling on the streets, that life-change starts with a warm meal—provided by you.

Men, women and children are still suffering in the aftermath of the pandemic. They need help . . . and resurrection hope. A simple holiday meal can open the door to other practical services that will put them on the road to recovery.

Every \$2.09 Easter meal you give right now will satisfy not only physical hunger but also spiritual hunger. People who never thought they'd receive a second chance can be introduced to God's unfailing grace.

Your support today will make hope real for so many who have seen terrible circumstances. Watch what your compassion can accomplish!

3 SIMPLE STEPS to transform a life this Easter

1. Choose one or more of the meal tickets to send with your gift.



2. Write out your check for that amount or provide your credit card information.



3. Return your meal ticket(s), reply form and gift in the envelope provided.

