

# MEMPHIS UNION MISSION NEWS

What God is Doing Through You

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## CRACK WOULDN'T LET HER GO

### “I Knew I Was Going to Die”

Kids made fun of Tricia as she was growing up in the Binghampton section of Memphis. They jeered at her because her mother was an alcoholic who couldn't hold a job.

Tricia felt like an outcast in her own neighborhood. And money pressures were constant.

So when she was 18, and an acquaintance suggested prostitution as an easy way to make money, Tricia was willing. And when she began using drugs, she felt accepted among her peers for the first time in her life.

“We were all outcasts,” she says today, “and I fit in with them.”

Soon she was hooked. Crack wouldn't let her go.

“I went to six different rehab programs, but they never worked for me because I never went for the

right reasons,” she says. “I would go because I had to.”

But then came the Christians. Two started showing up in Binghampton, sharing God's love with people, helping those in need. They met Tricia one day, literally on the street. There was an instant connection. “We started a Bible study on Monday,” she remembers, “at my apartment.”

As she learned to love the Word, she grew more and more miserable in her addiction. She craved freedom!

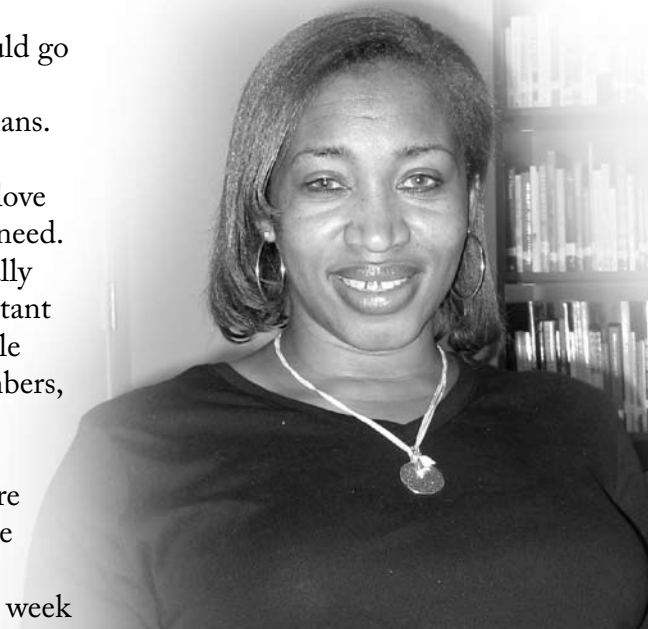
“I smoked crack six days a week for four years,” Tricia says. “It was so horrible.”

She began searching for a program that could help her recover. A neighborhood pastor suggested she consider Moriah House, here at Memphis Union Mission.

*“I knew I was going to die if I kept living the way I had been”*

At Moriah House, Tricia was instantly amazed.

“I just knew I was delivered when I came in here!” she



remembers. “I was like, ‘Wow, thank you, Jesus!’”

Jesus, in fact, is the One she credits with her transformation: “He's given me my life back.... It's awesome being here.”

Tricia's relationships with her mother and daughter are being restored. She's started a new job. She expects to graduate from the Moriah House program this fall.

“This program is all about Jesus. It has really changed my life,” she exclaims. “God has given me my life back through this place. I don't know of any other place like it.”

Your loving support has helped it happen! Thank you!



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## A PERSONAL WORD

From the  
President & CEO



Dear Friend of the Needy,

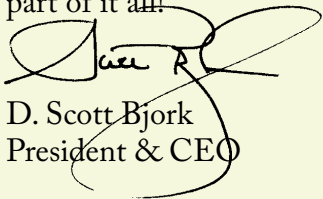
Step in through our doors, and you can sense it – you can feel it – it’s a kind of surge ... the ramp-up to our busiest season of the year. Thanksgiving ... Christmas ... holiday meals ... God’s love, expressed in tangible, life-changing ways!

We see it every fall: more people in need come to us for help. And with the help of friends like you, we’re ready. Ready to open our arms to them. Ready to pull out a chair and seat them at our table.

And ready to introduce them to a friend for life.

Based on what we’ve seen God accomplish in people’s lives in autumns past, I can say with confidence that lives will be touched and transformed as a result of what happens here in the weeks ahead.

I’m looking forward to it ... and I’m grateful that you’re a part of it all!



D. Scott Bjork  
President & CEO

# Thank You for Partnering With Us This Summer!

This summer was a busy but rewarding time at Memphis Union Mission! The hot weather brought hundreds of people through our doors each day in need of help. Thanks to you, we were able to provide these guests with nourishing food, cool shelter, and plenty of cold water.

And our new Opportunity Center, which we opened early in the summer, serves as a drop-in center during the day. This provides our guests with a safe place to be off the streets as we minister to their spiritual needs and provide other supportive services.

Having this space was a real blessing during the hottest weather.

And finally, we enjoyed having student groups from across the country visit us to serve our guests. These young volunteers served meals, held concerts and chapel services, cleaned up neighboring properties, and held prayer walks around the area.

Thank you for helping to make all of it possible through your partnership!

If you are interested in helping out at the Mission or for more information, please contact Greg Pointer at (901) 526-8434, ext. 1008 or visit [MemphisUnionMission.org](http://MemphisUnionMission.org).



## BY THE NUMBERS

# Your Love is Amazing!

Even if you **never** saw one of their faces... Even if you **never** had the opportunity to meet the actual people being changed by the power of God’s love here at the Mission...

The numbers alone would be pretty amazing:

- 247,000 meals served to hungry people
- 99,000 nights of safe shelter provided for the homeless
- Every \$1.67 given ... welcomes another person in need!

All thanks to your compassion.

In the days ahead, through your support of Memphis Union Mission, someone feeling hopeless will get a glimmer of hope for the future ... someone who feels like life is over will get a fresh start ... someone who feels worthless and wasted will come to understand, maybe for the first time ever, that God loves them and has a special place for them!

Thank you for being our partner in ministry and helping us reach out to so many needy people of our community! God bless you!

# God Sent the Police

In a Chicago crack house, an addict suddenly suffers a stroke.

His “friends” throw his body out the door and leave him to die.

At that very moment, police raid the crack house.

They rush the dying man to the hospital.

He survives – and recovers. The man realizes: “If God hadn’t sent the police, I wouldn’t be here.”

From that day, he knows God has a purpose for his life.

That was Fren, a few years back.

But his marriage was still a tempest because of his addiction to crack. His wife Carmen “saw something better in him,” she says. But eventually Fren left for Memphis, where he had family.

## *God twisted the plot.*

It turned out to be impossible to land with his relatives. Somehow, Fren found himself stranded at the bus station downtown, clueless about where to go.

“I just started walking around downtown,” he recalls. “People told me I could get help at the Mission. I know God pointed me in the Mission’s direction.”

At first, he only turned to us for a meal and a place to sleep. But when he discovered we had a recovery program for men, he decided to enroll.

“Seeing the homeless people around downtown, God showed me where I could have been,” Fren says.

Hugely motivated, Fren progressed

quickly through the program. He came to Christ; he grew in faith. His deepening relationship with God made a powerful impact on his personality. He talked with Carmen each day on the phone – and she could sense the difference.

“The more I talked with him, I could tell he was getting better,” says Carmen. “His attitude changed; he was less angry. And God was dealing with me, too.”

As he progressed through the program, Fren’s broken relationships with his mother and sister were restored. In the transitional phase of the program, he got his driver’s license – after 20 years! He got a job. He got a vehicle.

With a mixture of trepidation and excitement, Carmen brought their eight-year-old son in February and moved with Fren into one of our small three-bedroom “Intact Family Ministry” homes. Reunion has been sweet – and a pleasant change of pace.

“I like how quiet it is,” Carmen says. “I’ve never heard so many birds in my life.”

The couple is saving money, working toward a place of their own. They attend Grace Church of Memphis, our church plant. Fren’s outlook on life is dramatically different these days.

“Every day I get blessed,” he says.

“God gives me what I need when I need it, not when I want it.

He’s brought me this far, I know he won’t let me down.”



# Prayer and Praise

**Praise** the Lord for allowing us to open the new Opportunity Center this summer, and that the opening went so smoothly.

**Praise** God for giving us a great summer of ministry!

**Praise** the Lord for continuing to meet the needs of the Mission in the midst of a turbulent economic environment.

**Pray** that the Lord will provide meaningful work for our guests and program clients. Lately, this has been more of a challenge in light of the economy.

**Pray** that God will help us get ready for the upcoming Thanksgiving season. Pray that the many activities will bring men and women to Christ and that they will be fed spiritually, as well as physically.

**Pray** that the men at the Emergency Shelter will experience the love of Christ and be completely transformed. Pray that the men in the recovery program will also experience the same transformation.

**Pray** for the families enrolled in our Intact Family Ministry, that they will experience a real transformation during their time with us.

**Pray** that God will continue to bless Moriah House in its ministry to hurting women and children. Continued praise for the new facility.

**Pray** for God’s continued blessing over Grace Church of Memphis, our church plant that worships at the shelter every Sunday morning.

## Send for Your 2011 Mission Calendar

Without the gifts, volunteer time and prayers of friends and neighbors like you, this ministry would not exist. As a token of our gratitude for all you do, please accept this 2011 Mission calendar as our way of saying "Thank you!"



To receive your **FREE 2011 Mission calendar**, please check the special box on your reply card and mail it today or call us at **(901) 526-8403**. *Your calendar will be mailed at the end of October. Calendars are available on a first-come, first-served basis.*

## Come and Visit!

We'd love to have you visit us online at **MemphisUnionMission.org**.

There's no need to call first; you can stop by anytime and read about your help in action, check out our volunteer needs and read about our upcoming events.



**MemphisUnionMission.org** is your online source for information about the Mission and how your help is changing lives!

## MissionNeeds



Socks  
Underwear  
Twin-size sheet sets  
Towels  
Blankets  
Deodorant  
Soap  
Toothbrushes

Toothpaste  
Disposable razors  
Shaving cream  
Over-the-counter medical items: pain relievers, cold medicine (non-alcoholic), bandages, rubbing alcohol, and anti-bacterial ointment

Donations can be dropped off at the Mission's office at 383 Poplar Ave. For more information, call **(901) 526-8403** or visit **www.MemphisUnionMission.org**.

## Workplace Giving Made Easy

Did you know that you may be able to help care for homeless Memphians through various workplace programs? Here are some options to keep in mind:

**United Way** Although Memphis Union Mission is not a United Way agency, you can still give to the Mission through the Donor's Choice Program. Our ID number is 5111. Keep this in mind if your employer

participates in the United Way's annual campaign.

**Matching Gifts** Your employer may match or even double your gifts to Memphis Union Mission. Many local employers have these matching gifts programs in place to encourage charitable giving. See your Human Resources department to learn more.

Call the Mission at **(901) 525-8403** or visit **MemphisUnionMission.org** for more giving ideas.