

MEMPHIS UNION MISSION NEWS

What God is Doing Through You

Volume 16, Number 2 | Summer 2010

A PERSONAL WORD

From the President & CEO

Dear Donor Name,

You give the most valuable gift in the world – the gift of life – when you support Memphis Union Mission. People arrive here looking “like death warmed over.” Thanks to you, they find new life.

But giving life, helping the needy, also means receiving life.

James 2:17 urges us to help people in need: “Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.” The flip side? Faith in action is alive!

When you reach out to share God’s love, through the Mission, your faith comes to life. You’re not just “talking the talk;” you’re truly “walking the walk.”

And I can hardly describe the incredible impact of your faith – your very-much-alive faith – on the lives of the folks in our care here at the Mission. All I can do is thank you, and thank God for you.

May your summer be blessed. May your faith be beautifully alive!



D. Scott Bjork
President & CEO



LIFE CHANGE, STEP BY STEP

“Stop Being a Quitter”

Grew up right here in Memphis. Played high school sports. Graduated....

But Larry had no spiritual foundation, no framework for decision-making.

So he acquired a wife, and children, and friends – but also an alcohol and drug problem.

Eventually, his addictions stole it all.

Suffering, he knew he needed help – but he also knew he didn’t want to come to Memphis Union Mission. Sure, he’d heard good things about the program. But he also knew our program is long-term. Too scary. Larry was, in his own words, “a quitter.”

“I didn’t think that I could finish,” Larry says today.

He applied at a 30-day program – but they turned him down. Bewildered, Larry came to Memphis Union Mission – “just for lunch,” he told himself, “or maybe just for a few days,” till he calculated his next step.

Larry was on God’s timetable.

That very day, we announced openings in our long-term recovery program.

“This is your opportunity,” Larry recalls thinking, “most of all, to *stop being a quitter.*”

The next year, in our step-by-step



program, was life-changing for Larry. He dealt with the “garbage” inside; he was reconciled to God; he learned to listen; he grew.

“I became more willing and eager to be a finisher of this program,” He did finish, in fact. Afterward, he joined our staff and now works as a supervisor at our shelter. He does an outstanding job, too.

Today, Larry trusts God, not drugs and alcohol, with his problems. He’s regaining the respect of his family and he’s sharing his story. Thanks for helping make a difference in his life!

Prayer & Praise

Praise God for the opening of the new Opportunity Center. Pray that the Lord will use it to bring the light of the gospel to even more.

Praise God for the many outreach events we held this past spring.

Praise the Lord for the many volunteers and churches that came alongside us.

More people come to the Mission for help during the summer; please **pray** that we will be able to effectively minister to them.

Hot weather can be miserable and dangerous for the homeless. **Pray** for the Lord's protection over them.

Pray for the clients in our recovery programs. Please **pray** that the Lord will give them new hearts and new beginnings and that they will not be discouraged that the programs are filled to capacity.

Pray for God's continued protection over our staff and volunteers.

MissionNeeds:

For more information call **(901) 526-8403** or visit **MemphisUnionMission.org**.

T-shirts (size XL and above)
Men's pants (size 38 and above)
Men's shorts (size 38 and above)
Shoes and work boots (size 11 and above)
Towels
Washcloths
Socks

Underwear
Sheet sets (twin size)
Deodorant
Soap
Toothbrushes
Toothpaste
Disposable razors
Shaving cream

Opportunity Center Opens

Last year, as you may remember, Memphis Union Mission was blessed to receive a donation of a 12,000-square-foot facility at 600 Poplar Ave.

Thanks to your support, we were able to renovate the facility, including replacing the roof and HVAC systems, and give the building a thorough cleaning.

Your support also helped us purchase a small plot of land to build an enclosed parking lot and landscape it.



The final result is the new Opportunity Center, which opened last month at 600 Poplar Ave.

We are blessed to have the extra space, as it will allow us to increase the number of beds available to our guests. This will be especially helpful in the winter months.

With more space, we can also provide new services including services to mentally ill clients, and an aftercare program for recovery program graduates.

Thank you so much for your support. You helped make it possible for us to increase our outreach to the needy at a critical time. God bless you!

Call **(901) 526-8403** to arrange a tour of our newest facility!

Spring Outreach

This spring was a busy time, thanks to your prayers and support.

March: 2nd Annual St. Patrick's Day Festival

The youth choir from Pinelake Church in Jackson, MS performed for our guests and helped us serve over 700 meals.



April: Annual Easter Sunday Service

Over 200 men, women, and children attended, and volunteers served a traditional Easter lunch.

May: 9th Annual Inner City Outreach

It was another great time of outreach to the needy in our community. Each night during the week of May 23, we ministered to over 500 needy men, women, and children. Church partners served dinner to our guests and provided the worship, preaching, and counseling.

Please join us in thanking Highpoint Church, Fellowship Memphis, Crosspointe Baptist

Church, Providence Baptist Church, Collierville First Baptist Church, and Faith Baptist Church for helping to make this event possible.

For more information on these annual events, visit **MemphisUnionMission.org**.

FOR YOUR SUMMER AGENDA:

Christmas in July!

You've probably got your summer planned out... Maybe your family's fun is already under way.

Great!

I hope you have a wonderful summer, regardless of whether you go on vacation or just hang out at home. I simply want to let you know how much we appreciate what you do for this ministry.

As you know, homelessness doesn't take a vacation. But through

your partnership with our ministry, you can know that your support is helping to minister to some of the neediest



people in our city even when the temperatures soar.

Thanks to friends like you, we are able to provide cool shelter,

nourishing food, and a cold cup of water to the people who come to us for help.

Even better, you are helping to provide programs that help make possible stories like Larry's. So in a real sense, you are helping to provide Christmas in July through your prayers and support.

Thank you again for all you do on behalf of this ministry. God bless you!