

Mission News

What God Is Doing Through You

Summer 2018



A GOD-SIZED CHALLENGE

JAMIE'S CHALLENGES LED TO
A MOMENT OF NEW HOPE.

BECAUSE OF YOU, CHALLENGES BECOME
CHANGED LIVES THROUGH GOD'S LOVE.

383 Poplar Avenue | P.O. Box 330 | Memphis, TN 38101-0330 | (901) 526-8403 | MemphisUnionMission.org

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D. Scott Bjork

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“I see God’s hand in everything.”

Jamie opened the letter from his daughter and pulled out \$30, wrapped in a note. It read:

It’s too late for you to try to be my dad, but I want you to know that God’s arm is not too short to reach you. You can still be the man He wants you to be. He doesn’t have you here for nothing. The \$30 is traveling money to get to rehab.

Tears filled Jamie’s eyes as he read the words. “I’d never done anything for her a day in her life, except pay child support. **My life was about my addiction,**” he says. “Maybe if I’d had what a child needs growing up, my life would have been different.”

Jamie grew up with an alcoholic stepfather who abused him and his mother. “She died when I was seven. Then I dealt with his mental and physical abuse alone,” he says.

“I didn’t have any peace.”

He started smoking pot when he was nine and, by the time he was 17, Jamie was addicted to heroin – the beginning of

a nearly 30-year addiction that destroyed his relationships, landed him in prison and finally left him homeless.

Then his daughter’s letter arrived, and Jamie took the \$30 and made his way to Memphis Union Mission, where he enrolled in our Iron-on-Iron men’s recovery program and gave his life to Christ. “I began to see His hand in everything. Now, I look back on my life and see He’s been faithful even at times when I thought He wasn’t there,” Jamie says. **“He’s given me joy and peace that surpass all understanding.”**

Jamie has graduated from the program and is staying at our Wright Transitional House. He’s working now and saving money to get a place of his own. He wants to show his daughter what God’s done in her father’s life.

Because of your generous support, men like Jamie are facing their challenges and being transformed by God’s love here at the Mission. “My life is not my own now. I’m completely sold out for Him.”





RISING to the Challenge

Relaxing vacations and long days by the pool. Soaking up the sunshine with your toes in the sand. **Summer promises many of us a time to finally rest.**

But at the Mission, summer means rising up rather than resting... Right now, we're rallying together to make sure our homeless and hurting neighbors' most pressing needs are met.

Donations tend to drop off over the summer months. At the same time, the urgent needs of our homeless neighbors don't take a break in the summer, even though many of us do.

That's why I'm thankful for people like you, who see summer as a time to **give where you live** – a chance to show your compassion for people struggling right here in our own backyard.

Your gifts make it possible to feed them, shelter them and minister to their immediate and long-term needs. And as we share Christ's love with them, a bright light often starts to radiate in and through their lives.

I hope when you read Jamie's story (on page 3), you'll see how your generosity makes the Mission a refuge in our community for him and so many others like him.

Thank you for giving to people struggling so close to home. Your faithful support lights the way to brighter futures for all who come to us for help. God bless you!

Yours in gratitude,

D. Scott Bjork
President & CEO



Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

– Hebrews 13:16

Volunteering at Memphis Union Mission provides many ways for your family, church group or coworkers to share Christ's love.

Whether it's preparing and serving a meal, teaching a class, helping maintain our facilities or leading a chapel, the gifts of your time, talent and love will touch the lives of men, women and children in need, and bless you in the process!

For more information on how to volunteer, contact Randy Daniels:

☎ (901) 526-8434, ext. 1008

✉ RDaniels@MemphisUnionMission.org

Help our guests with your donations!

Have you wondered how you can best support us as we care for the men, women and children here at the Mission? One of those ways is to donate the supplies they most urgently need.

Just select one or more items from the list and drop them off at our Men's Emergency Shelter, 383 Poplar Ave., or schedule a pickup by contacting Ruth Malone ☎ (901) 526-8403.

Your donations will help us continue ministering to the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of our guests.

Thank you for your generosity!

Men's Needs

- Coats
- Caps
- Gloves
- Sweaters
- Socks
- Underwear
- Shirts
- Pants
- Shoes & Belts
- Deodorant
- Soap
- Towels & Washcloths
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Disposable Razors
- Shaving Cream
- Pillows
- Blankets
- Sheets (Twin)
- Bibles (preferably NIV large print)
- Notebooks
- Hi-lighter Pens
- Pens
- *The Heart of the Problem* by Henry Brandt and Kerry L. Skinner
- *The Anger Workbook* by Les Carter and Frank Minirth
- *Boundaries* by Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend

Women's & Children's Needs

- Medical Items (pain relievers, bandages, rubbing alcohol, bacterial ointment)
- Napkins
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Diapers
- Baby Wipes
- Clock Radios

Announcing: Our New Educational Program!



Did you know that approximately a quarter of the men and women who enter our recovery programs do not have a high school education?

For these clients, finding quality employment after graduating from our programs is challenging to say the least. In the past we've partnered with other local organizations to help these clients earn their GEDs. However, this often posed transportation and logistical challenges.

That's why we are so excited to announce that an anonymous foundation has provided the funding for the Mission to launch our own educational program to help individuals in our recovery programs earn their GEDs. This grant has allowed us to create educational labs for the men in the Iron-on-Iron program and the women at Moriah House. It's also allowed us to hire Faye, a retired educator who will administer the program. Now we can better ensure that all of our clients get the educational support they need. Please keep this exciting new program in your prayers!

Summer
2018



80,000
meals served



30,000
nights of shelter

PRAYER & PRAISE

PRAISE God for the way he changes lives, continuing to meet the needs of the ministry through ministry partners like you! We're grateful for his providing the funds to start a new educational program for our clients (see left).

Many more people come to the Mission for help during the hot summer months; please **PRAY** for God's blessing on our ministry efforts as we care for those who will come through our doors.

During the summer, we get volunteers from all over the Mid-South. **PRAY** that God will bless them and their efforts during their time at the Mission.

Hot weather can be miserable and even dangerous for the homeless. **PRAY** for the Lord's protection over them during this time of year.

PRAY for the clients in our various recovery programs. Please pray that the Lord will give them new hearts and new beginnings.

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

PRAY for the Lord's blessing as we work toward expanding the Mission's ministry to the homeless.