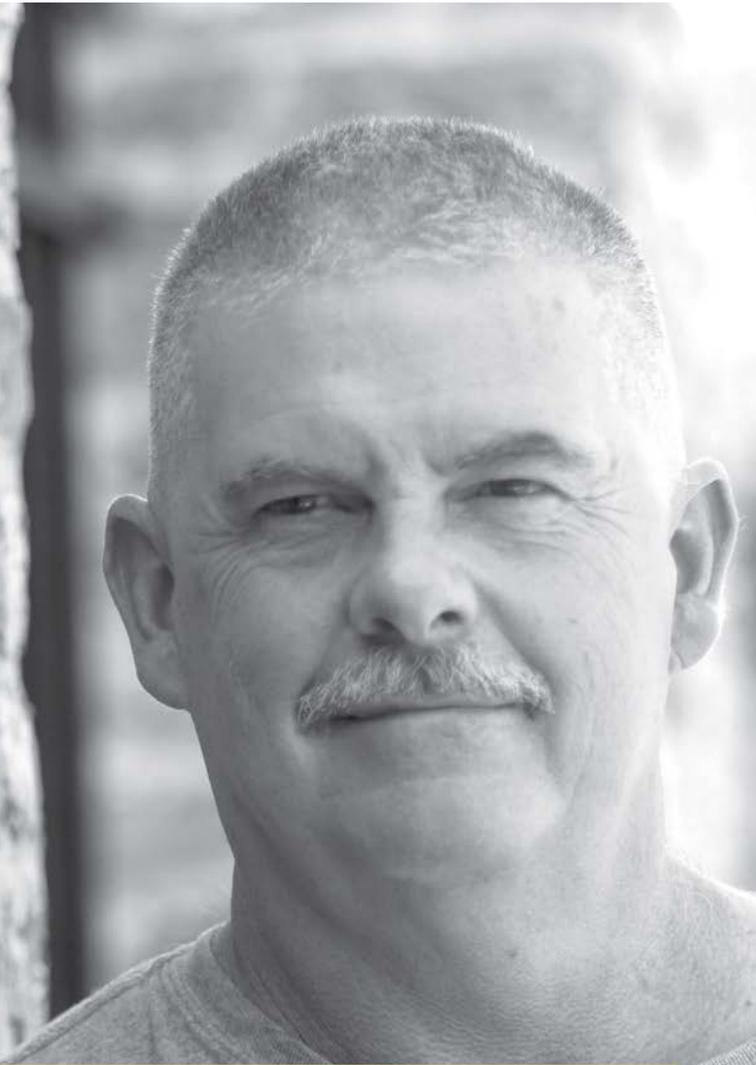


MISSION NEWS

What God is Doing Through You

Summer 2017

AFTER CHRIS LOST HIS WIFE IN A CAR ACCIDENT, HE WAS 'JUST EXISTING.' HE WANTED TO DIE, BUT AFTER ENCOUNTERING GOD'S LOVE AT MEMPHIS UNION MISSION, HE FOUND REASON TO LIVE AGAIN.



A LIFE TRANSFORMED

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

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3 | "I was an empty shell."

4 | Touching Lives on Memphis Streets!

I WAS AN EMPTY SHELL

"I HAD NO REASON TO LIVE."

When Chris lost his wife in a car accident three years ago, he lost himself too.

"My wife, Alison, was my purpose for living. When she died, I was lost and alone and alcohol addiction kicked in."

Chris first started drinking when he was 18, after the death of his father, but it wasn't until his wife passed away that he started drinking heavily. "I asked God, 'Why Alison? Why am I still alive?'"

Eventually, Chris lost his job, his car, and his apartment. "I checked into the hospital where I was diagnosed with depression and when I told them I was homeless, they recommended Memphis Union Mission," he says.

Chris entered our Iron-on-Iron Men's Recovery Program and found a reason to live once again when he found his way back to God. "After my father died, I left the Church. I left my faith. I didn't trust God," he says. **"At the Mission, I learned to have a thirst for God and**

His Word again. Now I want to know Him more and be closer to Him every day."

Chris, who is an electromechanical technician by trade, graduated from the program and has since moved into a place of his own. "When my wife died, I lost interest in my own career, but now **I have more drive, focus, and energy than I've ever had in my life,**" he says. "That's because it's not about me anymore. It's about giving glory to God."

Chris credits the Mission with changing the course of his life. "When I came here, I was just existing. There was nothing there. I was an empty shell," he says. "Now I have goals and a purpose. **The Mission has given me new life.**"

WITH YOUR HELP, Chris and others like him are finding that God's hope and healing are for everyone, regardless of their past or circumstances. Thank you for your generous support!

EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE

Have you ever asked yourself what it must be like to be really hungry and not know where you'll find your next meal? Or to be tired and not know where you'll find a safe place to sleep?

The people who come to Memphis Union Mission know these feelings and fears well. Often, when they arrive at the Mission, they're worn out and beaten down. We're their last resort.

And it's only because of you that we're able to help.

When they walk through our doors, we see their expressions change. We see their relief and gratitude in knowing a nourishing meal and a warm bed await them.

We saw that look on Chris' face. In this issue's cover story, you'll hear his testimony of how being part of Memphis Union Mission healed and transformed his life.

There are hundreds of people like Chris in the Mid-South still in need of help. Your support is what makes it possible for us to provide them with vital assistance.

That's why we are so grateful for all that you do!

This month alone, your ministry partnership will help provide 26,544 meals and 9,756 nights of shelter for struggling men, women and children in our community. **We can meet their needs because of you and your faithful support.** Thank you, and God bless you for giving to bring new hope to countless lives forever.



Yours in gratitude,

D. Scott Bjork
President & CEO

PRAYE God for continuing to meet the needs of the ministry through ministry partners like you!

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 a lot of 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.

MISSION NEEDS

- FOR MEN**
- Shirts
 - Pants
 - Socks
 - Underwear
 - Shoes and belts

- Deodorant
- Bath towels
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Disposable razors

- Shaving cream
- Blankets
- Pillows
- Sheets (twin size)

- FOR WOMEN**
- Napkins
 - Paper towels

- Toilet paper
- Diapers

- Baby wipes
- Writing pads

TOUCHING LIVES ON MEMPHIS STREETS!

Reaching souls for Christ is the foundation of all we do at Memphis Union Mission. This year, once again, we're taking our outreach to the streets of Memphis to minister to our hurting, hungry, and homeless neighbors through our **16th Annual Inner City Outreach**, May 22-27.

Hearts will be touched

and lives transformed under a big tent at 383 Poplar Ave., as our partner churches lead us in worship and help us serve more than 300 nutritious meals to all of our guests.

Please join us any night, or every night, beginning at 5:30, as we share the love of Christ with the lost and hurting in our community.



For more information, contact Jeff Patrick ☎ (901) 526-8434, ext. 1002 📧 JPatrick@MemphisUnionMission.org



VOLUNTEERING AT THE MISSION

Are you interested in volunteering at Memphis Union Mission? We would love to hear from you! Whether you want to come as an individual, a family, or a group, we have plenty of different opportunities.

For more information, contact

Randy Daniels at RDaniels@MemphisUnionMission.org or (901) 526-8434, ext.1008.

GIVE *where you* LIVE

97-DAY SUMMER CAMPAIGN



74,000
meals



30,250
nights of shelter

VISIT US ONLINE to learn more about our outreach, read stories of hope & securely donate anytime!

🌐 MemphisUnionMission.org

