

Mission News

What God is Doing Through You | Volume 20, Number 5 | Thanksgiving 2014

A Message From D. Scott Bjork

Healing broken lives is like baking a very complicated cake. You need exactly the right ingredients. You must mix them in a very specific order. Then, you have to allow time for them to bake at the proper temperature.

Miss a step or omit a vital ingredient and you're risking disaster.

Here at the Mission, we're not just healing lives: we're healing minds and bodies destroyed by alcohol, addiction and neglect. We're restoring souls wounded by abuse and abandonment. The ingredients are not complicated: food, shelter, time, encouragement, counseling, care and a huge helping of God's love.

But there are no short cuts, no substitutions.

This Thanksgiving season, many broken bodies and souls will come here to the Mission. Whether you volunteer your time, take part in a special event, donate food or send a gift, you play a vital role in making them whole again.

Let the healing begin!



D. Scott Bjork
President & CEO

Caught in a vicious cycle

Darryl spent his days drinking and doing drugs, but he knew in the back of his mind that this wasn't the life he wanted.

"I was raised in the church as a little boy," he says. "There was always something within my soul that didn't agree with the lifestyle I was living."

Darryl knew he needed to make a change. With \$300 in his pocket, he moved from New Orleans to Mississippi, where his family was from. But even though he found good work, his addiction traveled with him. "I had a full-time job. I was making \$500 a week and I had my own apartment." There were only two problems – a drug dealer lived next door and the liquor store was only two minutes away!

The situation went from bad to worse, and Darryl knew he had to leave. "I prayed. **I prayed to God to protect me, to show me the way and to deliver me.**"

God heard Darryl's prayers. The next time he was paid, Darryl went to the bus station and got a ticket on the next bus out...it took him straight to Memphis!



Darryl knew that simply finding another job wouldn't solve his problem. "I was addicted. It was a vicious cycle and I needed to change." Thankfully, Darryl found the change he was seeking in the Iron-On-Iron recovery and discipleship program here at the Mission.

"The Mission gave me time away from the drugs. It gave me a place where I could sober up, **a place where I could start to get strong...mentally, physically and spiritually.** I could put my faith in God and make Jesus Christ a priority in my life!"

Giving through United Way?

Even though Memphis Union Mission is not a United Way agency, you can still give to the Mission through this great organization. Simply designate the Mission as the recipient of your gift during the annual United Way Campaign.

"A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor." Proverbs 22:9

Thank you!

Did you know that so far in 2014, your support has helped to provide:

- More than 231,000 meals
- Over 85,000 nights of shelter
- Over 20 graduates from our residential recovery program

Thank you for providing food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless and the opportunity to rebuild lives in Christ's name!

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You shop. Amazon gives.

When you buy through **Amazon.com**, a portion of your purchase can go to the Mission!

Visit **smile.amazon.com** and log in to your Amazon account (or create a new account). Once you've logged in, select Memphis Union Mission as the charity you wish to support. Any time you make a purchase at Amazon, a portion will go to our ministry. It's that easy!

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Help at Thanksgiving

Help Serve

Get together with friends, family, your church or civic group, school mates or business associates and help serve a lunch or dinner at the Mission.

Servers are not only a blessing to our guests, but they receive a blessing in return!

Opportunities to serve during our Great Thanksgiving Banquet on Wednesday, Nov. 26 are filling up quickly, so contact Randy Daniels today at **(901) 526-8434, ext. 1008** or at **RDaniels@MemphisUnionMission.org**.

Donate food & clothing

See the list below for the items we need most here at the Mission. (Right now, socks, underwear, toothbrushes and toothpaste are at the top of the list.) Organize a food or clothing drive at your church, school or at work.

Donations can be dropped off any time at 383 Poplar Avenue.

Pray

Your prayers for the Mission, our staff and the men, women and children we serve are greatly appreciated. Pray for changed lives for those who are homeless or in any kind of need. Pray during our busiest time of the year. Pray for God's continued blessing and protection over the ministry.

Thank you!



Thanksgiving Shopping List

Kitchen

- Canned vegetables
- Pasta
- Rice
- Tuna
- Peanut butter
- Canned soup
- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Coffee
- Fruit juice
- Sugar

- Flour
- Cooking oil

Men's Ministries

- Socks
- Underwear
- Toothbrushes
- Coats
- Sweaters
- Outdoor work clothing
- Blankets
- Towels
- Shoes & work boots

Women's Ministry (Moriah House)

- Phone cards
- Stamps
- Writing tablets

Medical Items

- Pain relievers
- Bandages
- Rubbing alcohol
- Antibacterial ointment
- Cold & flu medication

Donated items can be dropped off at our Men's Emergency Shelter at 383 Poplar Ave. For more information, please call **(901) 526-8403**, or visit **MemphisUnionMission.org**.

Breakfast, Lunch or Thanksgiving Dinner – Still Just \$1.67!

Some of us still remember when a soda was 5¢. Or a time when you could get a burger for a quarter. These days, a plain cup of coffee can set you back \$2 or more!

But here at Memphis Union Mission, your support still provides a hot, wholesome meal for just \$1.67.

Thanks to faithful partners like you, we'll be serving a lot of those great meals this Thanksgiving season, including hundreds of festive Thanksgiving Dinners with turkey and all the trimmings!

\$1.67 provides a meal that can be a turning point in the life of a person who's lost all hope, along with the care and counseling that helps end homelessness and addiction.



That's pretty amazing for such a small amount! So as you can see, your support for this ministry – no matter the size – goes a long

way in making a difference in people's lives.

Thank you so much for partnering with us in sharing Christ's love with those in need. God bless you!