

Mission News

What God is Doing Through You

Easter 2017

A CHANCE FOR NEW LIFE

WHEN SHE ENTERED DETOX FOR THE FIFTH TIME, AUDRA KNEW SOMETHING IN HER LIFE NEEDED TO CHANGE. "I HAD LOST SO MUCH, I HAD NOTHING ELSE LEFT."

THROUGH YOUR SUPPORT, you give people like Audra the chance for a better life!



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

Don't Miss... **2** | Sharing Hope Starts Here

3 | "I didn't want to let go."

4 | Join our Easter Celebration

PRAYER & PRAISE

- **PRAISE** God for the countless number of people who helped the Mission in all sorts of ways during the holiday season and the winter, including volunteering, serving, and donating needed items.
- **PRAISE** the Lord for continuing to meet the needs of the Mission, especially during the winter season.
- Please **PRAY** for our staff as they minister to large numbers of people during the Easter season. Pray for physical and spiritual protection over our staff and clients.
- **PRAY** that the Lord will bless our annual Easter season activities, including our Easter Sunday service.
- **PRAY** that the men, women, and families in our recovery programs will experience true transformation through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- **PRAY** for the upcoming Inner City Outreach, to be held in May. Pray that the preparation will go smoothly and that the Lord will draw many people to this event that they might find a relationship with Christ.
- **PRAY** for the Lord's continued favor over the ministry as we work toward expanding the Mission's services in the community.

A Message from D. Scott Bjork

SHARING HOPE STARTS HERE

What does it look like to share hope?

Compared to a plate of nourishing food or a warm blanket, it's often hard to visualize how hope changes lives.

But for the homeless and hurting people you're helping through your gifts, hope is transforming their lives in very tangible ways.

Take Audra, who's featured in this issue – at her lowest point, she turned to us. She didn't know if a new life was even possible.

Meals, shelter and care demonstrated God's love to Audra, and that love changed her life from the inside out. She began believing in a better future - and began living that life every day!

When you see Audra today, you see hope... made real in her life through your generosity.

Just as Christ shared hope with you and me through His glorious resurrection on Easter, you share His hope with men and women through your prayers, your acts of service and your generous financial support of this ministry.

Thank you for caring for our community's neediest people – and for making Memphis Union Mission a refuge of encouragement and hope.

Yours in gratitude,



D. Scott Bjork
President & CEO

SAVE
THE
DATE!

12th Annual Heritage Golf Classic

Make plans now to join us at the Memphis National Golf Club Friday, May 19 for the 12th Annual Memphis Union Mission Heritage Golf Classic.

The tournament will include a \$5,000 putting contest, a hole-in-one contest and lots of great prizes! All proceeds will be used to provide meals, shelter and care for the neediest people in our community.

Registration and sponsorship forms are available online at **MemphisUnionMission.org**. Or call Steve Carpenter at **(901) 526-8403** for more information.

I DIDN'T WANT TO LET GO.

I had to hand everything to GOD and trust Him.

Even though she attended a Christian high school, Audra started drinking when she was 16. “When I drank, I was more fun and more spontaneous and I seemed more likable to myself.”

She continued to drink for 15 years... through nursing school and eventually, her job as a nurse. “I was able to manage my drinking for awhile,” she says. **“But it reached a point where it became unmanageable.”**

Audra was 35 before she realized that she was addicted to alcohol. “If I tried to quit on my own, I had shakes, tremors, hallucinations – all the symptoms of withdrawal. So I entered a detox program and **stayed sober for a few weeks.**”

“ I was hesitant. But I knew something in MY LIFE HAD TO CHANGE.”

Her second detox lasted longer – four and a half years. Audra married. She and her husband bought a house. Then they divorced, and the drinking started again.

It was a counselor at church who suggested Memphis Union Mission’s Moriah House.

Once she came to the Mission, Audra realized what her main problem had been: “I didn’t have a relationship with God!”

In our recovery program, **Audra was finally able to let God take control.** “I lifted my hands and let go. I said, ‘God, I give it all to you.’”

In the program, Audra’s eyes and heart began to open. “We learn how to set boundaries for ourselves – something I was lacking and still struggle with. We study women in the Bible, and see how God used women who were flawed, and

He made them outstanding examples to others.”

One part of the program that had a major impact on Audra’s transformation was the volunteer involvement! “They come here and spend time with us and teach lessons. It’s great being around Christian women and knowing that I can laugh, cry and be with others who are sober!”

Audra has since graduated from Moriah House. She has a job she enjoys and helps out part time at Moriah House.

“Today, I have real joy, and the peace and security that comes from knowing that **God loves me, no matter what.**”



Join our EASTER CELEBRATION

EASTER SERVICE & MEAL SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 10 A.M.

Christ's resurrection will be celebrated with a very special Easter service and lunch on Sunday, April 16 at 10 a.m., in our Men's Emergency Shelter. Join us!

VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are needed to help serve the meal and clean up. For more information, please contact Randy Daniels at **(901) 526-8403, ext. 1008**.

EASTER SHOPPING LIST

Your donation of one or more of these items would be a real blessing:

- Hams
- Yams
- Potatoes
- Canned fruit
- Canned vegetables
- Juice
- Milk
- Coffee
- Creamer
- Individually wrapped Easter candy

Donations can be dropped off at the Men's Emergency Shelter at 383 Poplar Ave., 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

CARE & SHARE this Easter

Operation Care is the Mission's annual drive to provide hygiene packages for our guests and the men and women in our recovery programs. Here's how you, your family, office, church or civic group can take part. Collect these regular or travel-sized items and place one of each in a Ziploc bag:

- Shampoo
- Soap
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- Shaving cream
- Razor
- Lotion
- Deodorant

Bring your filled bags to 383 Poplar Ave. before Easter. For more information, call **(901) 526-8403** or visit **MemphisUnionMission.org** and click on "News & Events," then "Operation: Care."

2017
Easter
C • A • M • P • A • I • G • N



53,833
meals



20,166
nights of shelter

VISIT US ONLINE to read more stories, volunteer or make a secure donation.

 MemphisUnionMission.org

