

## Paul's Ponderings

Psalm 37:4 says, **“Take delight in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.”** Sometimes the desires of our heart can be misdirected, or even sinful. Sin is a heart issue. So, the problem with desire is it cannot be trusted.



Paul Stasi  
Executive Director

If we look closely at this Psalm, it talks about what I like to call, an “if-then” of the Bible. In other words, **if** we take delight in the Lord, **then**, He will give us the desires of our heart. Or, when our desires line up with His desires, He has so much joy, He wants to give good gifts to His children. The Hebrew word used here for “delight” means to be soft and pliable, and the word for “desires” means petition. I think it interesting that earlier in the Psalms it says, **“trust in the Lord and do good,”** and later it says, **“commit to the Lord and trust.”**

So, as we trust God and allow our hearts to be pliable, or moldable to His desires, we naturally commit to His will resulting in our petitions being granted. This happens because we have connected to the heart of God.

*Delight*

As we reach out to those most in need in Jacksonville, and we help them to understand these principles, it is then they can truly see their desires fulfilled. They can go forward living out God’s plans for their lives.

An old hymn says, “trust and obey, for there’s no other way, to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.” Those words seem so simple, but it’s not easy to trust and obey, especially when someone has come off the street and out of “the world.” The interesting thing about this hymn is that its inspiration came from one of Dwight L. Moody’s revival meetings in 1886. A young man who had just given his life to the Lord was heard saying, ‘I am not quite sure – I am going to trust and obey,’ simple words to live by.

Please keep the people we serve in your prayers as they learn to **“take delight in the Lord,”** and **“trust in the Lord and do good.”**  
Blessings ~

### DO YOUR LOVED ONES SHARE YOUR VALUES?

If you’re holding this bulletin, you’re most likely someone who understands how to give generously and with purpose. Your connection with City Rescue Mission reveals you’ve taken the time to align your giving with your biblical values. Do your kids and grandkids know how to do the same? Here are two ways you can transfer your values to the next generation:



1. Write it down. We pick up messages through subtle or unspoken cues, but the clearest way to communicate one’s thoughts is to put them in writing. Compose letters for your loved ones that share personal stories, lessons you’ve learned, and loving words that explain how you feel about them. You could also draft an ethical will – a personal, heartfelt letter that accompanies your legacy plan. Be clear about what you want them to know.

2. Collaborate missionally. Do you volunteer time with a cause you’re passionate about? Invite them into an afternoon of service together. By demonstrating your personal values in action, they’ll have a roadmap to do the same.

Please contact Angela Washington at (904) 421-5147 or [awashington@crmjax.org](mailto:awashington@crmjax.org).

### WE NEED YOUR HELP

City Rescue Mission is in need of the following:

- ☑ White twin sheet sets and pillows ◀ **Urgent Need**
- ☑ White towels and washcloths
- ☑ Travel size shampoo, conditioner, and body wash
- ☑ Bus passes - 3 day passes - \$12/7 day passes - \$20
- ☑ White, large draw string laundry bags for student use (120)
- ☑ Gently used or new furniture, clothing, home goods, books and more for the CRM Thrift Store
- ☑ Five adult bicycles with wide seats
- ☑ Replacement of Dental Clinic flooring:  
Cost \$15,000. 1 gift of \$15,000,  
2 gifts of \$7,500, or 3 gifts of \$3,000
- ☑ Replacement of 4th floor flooring in offices and classrooms:  
Cost \$42,000 1 gift of \$42,000, or 2 gifts of \$21,000,  
or 4 gifts of \$10,500 or 8 gifts of \$5,250
- ☑ Loading dock ramp - \$15,000



Contact Angela A. Washington at (904) 421-5147 or [awashington@crmjax.org](mailto:awashington@crmjax.org)

*Please Follow Us on Social Media* ⇨



# New Life NEWS

MAY 2023



## SHERRIE

After a nervous breakdown, Sherrie faced substance abuse with prescription drugs and alcohol. Her life spiraled out of control as she endured years of homelessness, addiction and toxic relationships. She had no choice but to seek help. Now, because of friends like you who support City Rescue Mission, Sherrie has peace and hope for her future.

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## SHERRIE

**“For the First Time, I’ve Found True Inner Peace”**

Sherrie curled up on her cardboard mat to sleep. She didn't know how much longer she could live like this, experiencing homelessness, squatting under an abandoned house. But she didn't know where else to go. Substance abuse led her to this point, but her story started long before she was introduced to drugs and alcohol.

She had a happy childhood and went to church every Sunday with her grandparents. However, when her parents divorced, Sherrie's life started to unravel. She didn't see her dad much, and her mother worked all the time, which opened the door for Sherrie to be abused by an uncle.

“It was extremely traumatic. I never told anybody about it because I was so young. I didn't quite understand what was happening to me,” she explains. “My brother and I had very little supervision, so I started experimenting with drugs, alcohol, boys, and other things I shouldn't have been doing.”



along with alcohol.” Still overwhelmed and now struggling with substance abuse, Sherrie did the only other thing she could think of, she left. She thought her children would be better without her. “I wasn't thinking clearly because of the drug and alcohol abuse. I was very unstable. I felt out of control.”

The next several years were a blur of substance abuse and toxic relationships, until she reached rock bottom, sleeping under a house on a piece of cardboard. Fortunately, a security guard found her and took her to the hospital, where she was referred to the City Rescue Mission.

“That was the start of my new beginning,” she says. “I felt hopeless, but the Mission accepted me. It was instant relief. Everyone was so nice and welcoming. They just made me feel at home.”

Sherrie joined our LifeBuilders recovery program and started going to counseling, Bible studies and classes that empowered her to overcome substance abuse, and heal from her past. Most importantly, she learned that God is always there for her and has a plan for her life.

“I always felt like there was an emptiness inside of me. The harder I worked, the emptier I felt. It's because my focus was not on God,” she says. “I have inner peace for the first time in my life. It's indescribable – like an overwhelming feeling of love. I now understand that I can always talk to God and that He's going to love me and be there for me no matter what.”

Now a graduate of our program, Sherrie works on our staff. She continues to gain confidence in herself and is still learning to open up to others, and her future is bright. She wants to continue helping others who are less fortunate – as she once was.

“Before coming to the Mission, I had no direction. I used to talk down to myself ... but I no longer allow those negative thoughts into my brain,” she says. “The Mission taught me to believe in myself again and gave me the opportunity to rekindle my encouragement, that I can now share with others.”

Sherrie needed a change, so she moved to live with her dad again. It was a good decision. She turned her life around and graduated high school, then she attended a two-year college and earned an associate degree. She got a good job, got married and had children. However, balancing a busy home life with small children proved challenging. Sherrie was overwhelmed by the responsibilities of full-time work, housework and raising children.

“I was trying to juggle too much. I was sitting at my desk one day at work, and I couldn't stop shaking. I had a nervous breakdown. My doctor prescribed me medication, and I started to abuse it,

## COMMUNITY CLOSET

City Rescue Mission's Community Closet was created with the purpose of giving our neighbors who are less fortunate an opportunity to be able to receive clothing and shoes free of charge. Men, women and children in and outside of City Rescue Missions programs and services can shop for clothing every Thursday, and for shoes every 16 weeks.

“We do this because God is leading us to do it, we are excited to help and make our guests not only feel comfortable but loved as well,” said Denise Hyrne, Community Closet Organizer.

Those who are interested in donating to the community closet can drop off their donations every Thursday at our New Life Inn Campus located on 234 W State St, Jacksonville, FL 32202.



**Thank You To Our Community Closet Volunteers!**



# City Rescue Mission's 15th Annual Champion's Challenge Golf Tournament

**TPC SAWGRASS STADIUM COURSE**

**AUGUST 28, 2023**

**12:30 P.M. SHOTGUN START**

## PLAY GOLF FOR A CAUSE!

Enjoy a day of golf at the iconic TPC Sawgrass Stadium Course in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL and help transform the lives of those experiencing homelessness, hardship, and addiction right here on the First Coast.

Each registered player will enjoy a full afternoon of golf, complete with lunch, dinner, award ceremony, golfer swag bag, and silent and live auctions in the beautiful TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse.

Registration fees include on-course concessions, bag tags, and all of your forecaddie gratuities and golf fees!

Sign up as a team (4 players), an individual player or become a sponsor of this event!



### GOLF COMMITTEE

We are looking for those who would be willing to serve on our Golf Committee for this year's golf Champion's Challenge.



### WE NEED SILENT AUCTION ITEMS!

Do you own a business and could donate items for our Golf Silent Auction? We would greatly appreciate your help to make this year's golf outing a success.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Angela Washington at (904) 421-5147 or CRMDevelopment@crmjax.org.