

Paul's Ponderings

It was so exciting celebrating our 75th anniversary last year! It was a year of reminiscing on the past, honoring all who made CRM what it has become, and remembering the thousands of individuals who came to have a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and changed their lives thanks to the Mission. It's simply amazing when you think about it! All I can say is, "Praise God and thank you for your faithful support!"



I love Anthony's story because it tells our story. He came to CRM just for a meal, took shelter from the storms of life, entered LifeBuilders for recovery, received the care, love and services he needed to get back on his feet. He was able to reconnect with God, and now that he has graduated, he is employed by CRM and runs that very same kitchen at his entry point...New Life Inn. That is what we are about, helping people down the pathway to victorious living!

Now, moving into 2022, our focus shifts from "look what the Lord has done" to "what does the Lord want to do." That breeds some questions: What should CRM look like in 2046 on our 100-year anniversary. What will Jacksonville look like in twenty-five years? What will be the needs of those we serve and how can we best meet them? Our board, leadership team, and I will be grappling with these issues as we complete Vision 46. We all have been through a lot with COVID. I know that many of you keep CRM on your prayer list, and for that, I thank you! I also know that some of our faithful intercessors have gone to be with the Lord due to COVID. So, we need to build our intercessor team. Would you join with us? Please pray that we have clear discerning of God's will for City Rescue Mission. Please pray for those we serve who are hurting, hopeless, hungry, homeless, and addicted. Please pray for God's continued provision. Please pray that our staff doesn't get tired in doing God's good work. Galatians 6:9; "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

Watch for the new Facebook page, CRM Prayer Team.

THE OPPOSITE OF HOGWASH

During the 1600s, potters used a clay called "pygg" to create jars that held spare change (known as "pygg pots"). By the 19th century, these were shaped like pigs and the "piggy bank" was born. Donor-Advised Funds (DAF) are special piggy banks that securely hold your money until you are ready to grant funds as a charitable gift. People love DAFs because they are simple, flexible, and generational. To bless a charity like CRM, you simply contribute to your DAF and distribute gifts when you are ready to give. While DAFs are irrevocable, the actual account can be easily transferred to your children, carrying on a legacy of generosity.



For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "The Piggy Bank that Changes Lives" by contacting Angela Washington at (904) 421-5147 or awashington@crmjax.org. Bless your family today with a God-honoring Will at christianwill.org/crm.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

City Rescue Mission is in need of the following items:

- New roof and steeple repair on chapel - \$55,000
- Upgraded flooring in classrooms and offices at McDuff Campus - \$20,000
- Spray foam insulation for women's emergency services - \$10,000
- Spray foam insulation for chapel - \$10,000
- Riding lawn mower - \$3500
- White twin sheet sets and pillows
- White towels and washcloths
- Travel size shampoo, conditioner, and body wash
- Bus passes - 3 day passes - \$12/ 7 day passes - \$20
- Utility wagons for office and event use (5)
- Storage bins - 16 qt/4 gallon
- Booster seats (5)
- White, large drawstring laundry bags for student use (120)

Please contact Angela Washington for more information at (904) 421-4147 or awashington@crmjax.org.

STAY CONNECTED



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New Life NEWS

JANUARY 2022

NO MORE ANGER

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No More Anger - Anthony's Story

My struggle with drugs and alcohol has always been connected to anger. As a child, I was angry at my mother for returning to an abusive relationship. As a teenager, that anger led me to a life of violence. I started with drinking and smoking weed as a teenager, but my drug and alcohol use increased when I joined the military.

In the Navy, I became a full-blown addict. I left my wife because I was out of control and didn't want to drag her down. I was kicked out of the Navy five days before I was supposed to get out for testing positive for cocaine. Moving back home, my addiction led to jail time, which opened my eyes to my future. After completing rehab, I met my second wife. Our relationship began to be rocky, but she had a daughter that I cared about and developed a bond with even after our divorce.

I stayed clean until January 1, 2009, when I learned of the death of my little sister. I didn't care about anything after that and went back to drugs. I went through another program to get clean. I was in a relationship with my son's mother. During this time, our relationship began to have problems. I began using again to punish her and my son was suffering in the process. I haven't been in his life, as I left them to bounce all over the country, running with my addiction.

In April 2021, I was hanging out at a drop-in center in Jacksonville and heard that City Rescue Mission was hosting a public Easter meal. I attended just for the meal, but as I was leaving, I met a counselor that asked about my struggles with drinking and drugs. I knew about the LifeBuilders Program, but I had never thought about joining. The counselor told me that I could enter the program that day, so I decided to join because of my son. I have tried to reach out to him, but I am afraid of rejection. After my graduation, Laurie Stasi (wife of Executive Director, Paul Stasi) and I were talking about my fear of reaching out and she said, "You have to do it. Whether the outcome is good or bad, you've got to do it anyway." That made so much sense to me. I have reached out to my son's mother. God sees what I'm doing and he is going to work it out.

Before I came to City Rescue Mission, I was angry, addicted, and hopeless. Now, I am positive, reinforced, and smiling every day. I am thankful to CRM for giving me a chance. God has always been there for me, but I'm willing to stay and let God do his work now.



CITY RESCUE MISSION STUDENT CHRISTMAS PARTY

The holiday season, especially Christmas, can be a really hard time for our LifeBuilders and Crossroads students. CRM staff held the annual Student Christmas Party in December to treat them to a Christmas feast, laughter, and LOVE!



NOW OPEN!



CHARIS CAFE
CITY RESCUE MISSION

**7200 Normandy Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32205**

**Hours: Monday - Saturday,
7 am - 4 pm
Closed Sunday**

**Featuring:
Bagels, Sandwiches, Eclairs,
Charis Chocolates and Brownies!**

**Plenty of space for gathering with friends, hosting
bible studies, or holding business meetings!**

Prayers and Praise

Praise:

Praise God for His many blessings this year in providing help to every person that comes through our doors. We are grateful for our donors, volunteers, staff and every item that has been donated to the mission!

Praise God for allowing the Mission to celebrate 75 years of transforming lives through the power of Jesus Christ!

Pray:

Pray for physical and spiritual protection over the students in our programs and over daily services we provide our neighbors in need.

Pray that God will continue to order the steps and direct the path of all of the staff and to protect our facilities.

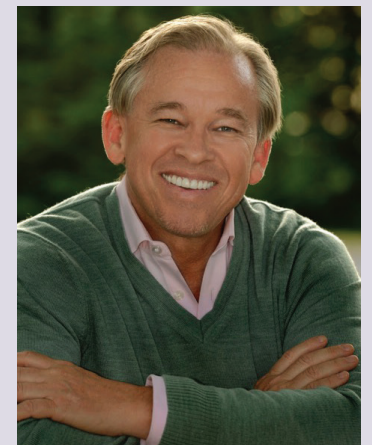
NEXT MONTH!

**City Rescue Mission's 7th Annual Difference Makers Banquet
Featuring Gordon Pennington, Former Director of Marketing for
Tommy Hilfiger**

February 17, 2022 at the Southbank Hotel Jacksonville Riverwalk

City Rescue Mission's 7th Annual Difference Makers Banquet is next month! CRM is honored that Gordon Pennington, former Director of Marketing for Tommy Hilfiger, will be joining us as our featured speaker for the evening. Gordon is the Founder and Managing Director of Burning Fire Media. Come enjoy a nice dinner with us to support the great work of the Mission!

Tables are filling up fast! Reserve your seat today.
Contact Christa Martin at (904) 421-5141 or crmdevelopment@crmjax.org.



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