

Paul's Ponderings

Many today are losing hope. It may be due to a lack of world peace, the economy, loss of loved ones, isolation, losing a job, confronting a major illness, or facing a financial crisis. People come to City Rescue Mission at the pinnacle of hopelessness and despair.



When someone is experiencing hopelessness, they don't believe they will ever feel positive emotions or an improvement in their condition. Hopelessness may be a symptom of a mental health issue such as depression or anxiety, or a symptom of addiction to drugs, alcohol, gambling, food, sex or other behavioral addictions. There are several forms of hopelessness. They include alienation, forsakenness, lack of inspiration, powerlessness, oppression, and limitedness.

The Bible confirms this in Proverbs 13:12, "Hope deferred makes the heart sick," and in Psalms 42:11, "Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me?" But the psalmist then goes on to say, "Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God." So, for the believer, we can be assured that as we put our hope in God, the situation is no longer ours to carry. God wants to deliver us from discouragement, gloom, anguish, and desperation so He can restore us spiritually, emotionally and physically. Thanks to your generous giving, as we assist those who come to us for help, they learn to let go and trust God. Hope is then restored.

HOPE

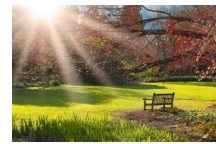
The amazing thing is that God knew us before we were even conceived (Jeremiah 1:5), and He has plans for us,

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11.

As we focus on Him this summer, let's keep that optimistic outlook with great expectation!

MAKE THIS SEASON OF LIFE YOUR BEST

In every season of life, we can be a blessing. God gives us three unique gifts we can share to make an impact in our world:



Time. Do you have capacity to volunteer or donate time to a cause you're passionate about?

Talent. You have special abilities that can bring advancement and attention to organizations you appreciate like City Rescue Mission.

Treasure. Financial gifts go a long way toward helping our mission - whether they're one time or in your legacy plan.

To learn more, request our free bulletin "3 Ways to Blossom in Every Season of Life." Reply with the enclosed envelope or contact Angela Washington at (904) 421-5147 or awashington@crmjax.org. To bless your family with a God-honoring will, go to christianwill.org/crm.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

City Rescue Mission is in need of the following items:

- New roof and steeple repair on chapel - \$50,000
- Upgraded flooring in classrooms and offices at McDuff Campus - \$20,000
- Loading dock ramp - \$15,000
- Spray foam insulation for chapel - \$10,000
- 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
- Storage bins - 16 qt/4 gallon
- White, large drawstring laundry bags for student use (120)
- Gently used or new furniture, clothing, home goods, books, and more for the CRM Thrift Store
- Queen size sheet sets



STAY CONNECTED

Please contact Angela Washington for more information at (904) 421-5147 or awashington@crmjax.org.



New Life NEWS

JUNE 2022



A FATHER'S HOPE

God rescued Kenny from pain and addiction . . . then gave him the courage and confidence to go back to school to help others. Today, Kenny serves as on staff as a Case Manager at the Mission!

A FATHER'S HOPE
KENNY'S STORY

Page 2

CRM'S
CHAMPION'S
CHALLENGE GOLF
TOURNAMENT

Page 3

PAUL'S
PONDERINGS

Page 4



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Kenny's Story

Kenny grew up with a father he could never please. His dad would frequently beat him for doing something wrong, but wasn't interested in teaching his son the right way to live.

"He would never spend time with me to show me how to live like a young man. So I learned how to survive outside



the house, and turned to drugs and alcohol." For years, despite his substance abuse, Kenny managed to keep a job. But as he got older, addiction took

root in his life and he made increasingly bad choices. He would often steal from other drug dealers to get his fix and get money to make ends meet.

The turning point came in February 1996, when Kenny went to the funeral of his 2-year-old grandson who died tragically. "As they were lowering him into the ground, my daughter looked at me and said, 'You're not going to leave me.' From that point on, I made the decision that drugs were no more and I was going to be back with my family."

Kenny came to City Rescue Mission determined to find a better life. The classes and counseling here helped him heal from the trauma of his childhood, and brought him back into the arms of a loving God.

He completed our program - which was called Mountain Movers all those years ago - and grabbed on to a Bible verse: "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength."

Then one day, one of the counselors looked at Kenny and said, "You'd make a good

counselor." Kenny's first response was that he could never do that... but then God began to work in his heart.

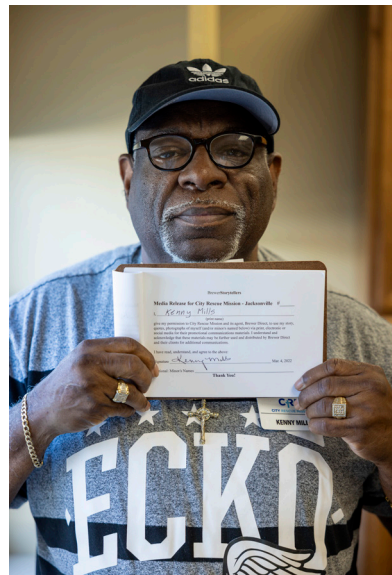
"I enrolled in college and started that journey of trying to make it. As I started understanding the field of addiction and the mind, I started understanding my purpose... God revealed to me that I can really do this." He first went to school for addiction counseling, then got his Master's degree in mental health counseling. Today, Kenny works on staff at the Mission in Case Management - serving as an advocate for guests in our care who want to live healthy and whole lives. "I thank God for helping me cross these mountains in my life. I could have gotten lost in the valley - but He says, 'Come out of that.' Every day I pray for the Mission and the donors, that they would see me and realize He's a good God because look where I came from and where I'm at right now."

Though Kenny has considered retiring as he gets closer to 70 (he turns 66 this year), he still feels like the Lord has work for him to do. He is thankful for his time at the Mission, and the wonderful relationships he has with his children, grandchildren and even great-grandchildren - he has one already and another on the way.

"I am thankful to the Mission because they put structure in my life, helped me gain trust, showed me how to believe in myself and to get my family back the way it needs to be. Now it gives me such joy to spend time with my family."

Kenny truly embodies the spirit and vision of our ministry - helping people discover freedom in Christ so they can lead a life filled with purpose, peace and joy.

"Before I was hellbound... completely dead. Now I am set free and a new creation. I'm so grateful to the Mission for what they did for me. I thank God every day."



Support City Rescue Mission through Amazon Wishlist!

You can view a list of City Rescue Mission's ongoing needs, as well as a list of CRM's special needs using Amazon Wishlist. Amazon Wishlist allows friends of the Mission to quickly and conveniently view and purchase selected items for donation to CRM! You can view the lists by visiting crmjax.org. Every gift helps us better serve the hungry, homeless and addicted in our community. THANK YOU!



OUR DIFFERENCE MAKERS FOR 2022:
Sue Turner, Jeannie Shouse and Amelia Plantation Chapel.



THANK YOU FOR CELEBRATING 76 YEARS OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE WITH US AT THE

7th Annual Difference Makers Banquet

Thank you everyone who attended City Rescue Mission's 7th Annual Difference Makers Banquet on May 5 at the Southbank Hotel Jacksonville Riverfront. The magical evening was filled with love, excitement and compassion. Because of you, we celebrated 76 years of making a difference and will continue our mission of helping those in need through the love and compassion of Jesus Christ.

If you were unable to attend the banquet, we ask for your prayerful consideration in supporting our mission. For more information on how you can help, contact Angela Washington at (904) 421-5147 or awashington@crmjax.org.

You are the key to making a difference!



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR BANQUET SPONSORS!



DR. & MRS. TRAVIS SMITH



CITY RESCUE MISSION'S 14TH ANNUAL CHAMPION'S CHALLENGE GOLF TOURNAMENT

TPC SAWGRASS STADIUM COURSE

AUGUST 29, 2022
12:30 P.M. SHOTGUN START

SAVE THE DATE!

You don't want to miss CRM's 14th Annual Champion's Challenge on Monday, August 29. Enjoy a beautiful, all-inclusive day on the prestigious Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass.

If you or your business is interested in becoming a sponsor or to register to participate, contact Angela Washington at CRMdevelopment@crmjax.org.