

# Paul's Ponderings

The words "joy," "rejoice," or "joyful" appear a total of 430 times in the Bible, compared to "happy" or "happiness," which appear only ten times. Many think of these words synonymously, but they're not. Joy is an inner feeling. Happiness is an outward expression. Joy endures hardship and trials and connects with meaning and purpose. A person pursues happiness but chooses joy. Joy is lasting, and it satisfies the heart in a unique and wonderful way.



Paul Stasi  
Executive Director

"The joy of the Lord is my strength" is a familiar phrase. Many songs are based on it. It's often used for encouragement. But what does it really mean? What is this joy and how can we get it? Did you know it's from **Nehemiah 8:10**? I find this interesting because Nehemiah is known as the rebuilders of the walls, not so much as the joy guy. But he certainly needed that emotional and spiritual strength to lead this charge.

*JOY*

As people progress through our programs at CRM, they begin to understand this joy and how it is different from happiness. As they allow themselves to be engulfed in the Lord's joy, they get strength. Sometimes, it's just to make it through another day, but eventually days turn into weeks and the journey gets easier.

Your faithful support allows us to help people down this pathway to victorious living in Christ. They quickly learn that joy of the Lord is foundational in a relationship with God. As we remember God's gift of His son, Jesus, this time of the year, we can be thankful to truly know the joy that came to the world.

Have a blessed and Merry Christmas!

*Paul*

## NAVIGATE TAX CODES & CHANGE LIVES

Did you know the US tax code is more than 74,000 pages long? Sure, it's complicated, but there are a variety of unique and creative giving tools to help you bless a charity you love while reducing your tax burden. These tools make it easier to convert your passion for the work of CITY RESCUE MISSION into an effective, life-changing impact.



Request our free bulletin "Creative Giving Creates Greater Impact" to learn more.

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 **Urgent Need**
- White towels and washcloths
- White, large drawstring laundry bags for student use
- NIV Life Study Bibles - Large Print
- Travel size shampoo, conditioner, and body wash
- Bus passes - 3 day passes - \$12/ 7 day passes - \$20
- Gently used or new furniture, clothing, home goods, books, and more for the CRM Thrift Store at 7200 Normandy Blvd.



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# New Life NEWS

DECEMBER 2022

## A FRESH START

God demonstrated His great love to Iris and her family through the CRM Shelter staff, as they provided a helping hand during sickness and a new start in life.

### CROSS OF HOPE

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## IRIS GETS A FRESH START

I fled to Jacksonville with my 4 children looking for a haven after being a victim of domestic violence. I traveled to a state where I have no friends or family, just hoping for a fresh start and for a permanent feeling of safety. After being turned away from several shelters I came to City Rescue Mission and immediately felt a sense of security and comfortability because of the way they took me in, understood my immediate needs and cared for my children. The planning and resources that they have given not only me, but my babies have been a blessing. I was overwhelmed at first, but I have taken full advantage of them, and they have worked tremendously in my life.

I have Lupus, Diabetes and Chronic Kidney Disease and was recently hospitalized for a month because I caught covid and my lungs collapsed. Every day I spent in that hospital I missed my kids and missed being at the Mission but I never worried because the staff went above and beyond to make me feel comfortable. They made sure they included me in video calls for Bible Study, kept me encouraged as well as made sure my kids were loved and cared for. Before coming to the Mission, it would be nights I didn't sleep worrying about my health and safety but I'm at a point where I can finally say I go to sleep peacefully only thinking about what must get done that following day. City Rescue Mission has not only helped me



and my kids grow, but has brought us out of our shell because we are somewhere we finally feel secure and safe.

While being at CRM, I have started to create and accomplish goals I have set for myself with the help of my case manager and staff. I'm enrolled at FSCJ currently, with one year left in mortuary science. My health is my number one priority right now. Once I get that stabilized, I've been referred to a few funeral homes to start my apprenticeship. My passion in funeral services stem from me witnessing the type of comfort and peace those who work in this field can give to people who loved ones have passed. My long-term goal is to own my own funeral service and cemetery so that I will be able to provide comfort to others. Just being able to have a support system here and know that I am constantly being encouraged to follow my dreams has motivated me to tackle whatever I put my mind to.

Coming to Jacksonville, I was determined to create a better circumstance for me and my children, but I didn't know how I was going to make it happen. God led me to City Rescue Mission, and I knew exactly why when I entered the doors. After not having anywhere to go or anyone to turn to, the compassion I felt from the people who work here has been more than enough for us. I have been fed physically, spiritually, and emotionally while being here and that is because of all the positive people who are here.

When you feel positivity around you, it is easier to feel positive about yourself. I am truly grateful to have gained a family through City Rescue Mission.

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

### MR. POOLE

I was once like the people who walk through our doors everyday searching for my purpose. I let the loss of my mother and father, drugs, alcohol and keeping the wrong company consume my life for a very long time before realizing it was time for a drastic change. I went down a dark path of destruction until I spoke with a young man, I was going to buy drugs from. He told me how easy it would be for me to lose my life behind money and drugs. I sat down and talked to God that night asking what His purpose was in bringing me this far. I soon realized it was to change my life and grow closer to Him. God had worked miraculously and swiftly, and my life had done a complete 180.



Throughout my 12 almost 13 years at CRM, my life has changed in several different ways. I was prideful, arrogant, and rude. Being in this position has humbled me and made me more concerned for others. I now have a deep spirit of love and have grown to have a listening ear. **If it wasn't for City Rescue Mission and the opportunity to have this job, I don't know**

**where I would be.** I've tried many different jobs, but this is the only one that has not only helped share the gift that God gave me but helped me discover and mold it. I thank God for bringing me to City Rescue Mission and continuously healing me, he has opened my heart and directed every step to get me to this moment.

## THANK YOU JOY FM!

We would like to give a very special shout-out to The Joy FM and their listening family for making the City Rescue Mission the recipient of donations from their T-shirts for Turkey's event today.



Thank you for being a blessing to our neighbors!

**THANK YOU!!!** for the generous support of our **TURKEY AND HAM DRIVE, MISSION WARM FEET**, as well as our **SHOEBOXES OF LOVE**. Because of you, we are able to feed the needy and homeless throughout the holidays and give them gifts of compassion.

If you would like to find out about other ways that you can help CRM, contact Kimberly Crockett at [volunteers@crmjax.org](mailto:volunteers@crmjax.org) (904) 421-5149.

## CROSS OF HOPE

The Cross of Hope is a symbol of rededication that not only represents CRM's faith in God but gives hope to guests, students and residents that are ready to transition back into society with a new outlook on life because of God's grace. "I believe that seeing this cross every morning on the way to work or school, or on the way home after a tough day, could make the difference and give hope," said Paul Stasi, CRM Executive Director. A time capsule was also placed into the ground in the garden alongside the Cross containing a Bible, newsletters, and other memorabilia meant for future generations. The capsule commemorates CRM's Mission and Vision.



Mark Anderson on left, Paul Stasi on right, and three of the men from our LifeBuilders program who helped create and install the Cross of Hope and garden.

**CELEBRATE!**  
OUR ONE-YEAR  
ANNIVERSARY AT OUR  
7200 NORMANDY STORE



CRM ANNIVERSARY SALE COUPON

**20% OFF THE ENTIRE STORE!**

GOOD AT CRM THRIFT STORE  
7200 NORMANDY BLVD.  
THROUGH JANUARY 15, 2023



*Save The Date*

8th ANNUAL DIFFERENCE MAKERS BANQUET

Thursday May 4, 2023  
Seating begins at 6 p.m.  
Banquet begins at 6:30 p.m.

Southbank Hotel Jacksonville Riverwalk  
1515 Prudential Drive  
Jacksonville, FL 32207

Tickets: Individual \$130 Table (10 seats) \$1300  
CONTACT: Angela Washington  
(904) 421-5147 or [crmdevelopment@crmjax.org](mailto:crmdevelopment@crmjax.org)

## SHARING GOOD NEWS!

City Rescue Mission has received a \$20,000 grant for hunger relief from Publix Supermarkets Charities.

The money from this grant will provide much needed food assistance to those in need.



**THANK YOU PUBLIX!**

## SHARING GOOD NEWS!

City Rescue Mission has received \$50,000 grant for our Transitional Housing, Homes of Hope Sober Living Community.



**THANK YOU WELLS FARGO!**