

Paul's Ponderings

It is unfortunate that in today's culture, there is such a striving for information, but I fear that wisdom is getting lost. According to Forbes, 90% of the world's data was generated in the last two years with 2.5 quintillion bytes of data being created each day. This is mind boggling! On top of this, we now even have AI, or artificial intelligence.



Paul Stasi
Executive Director

So, what is biblical wisdom? It is distinguished from knowledge. **WISDOM**

I find it interesting that as Solomon thinks about wisdom in both Proverbs 6 & 30, he reflects about ants, of all things, as creatures that use wisdom. They have no commander or outside accountability, yet they are proactive, industrious, never quit and plan ahead. Do we?

Revivalist Vance Havner said, "If you lack knowledge, go to school. If you lack wisdom, get on your knees! Knowledge is not wisdom. Wisdom is proper use of knowledge." So, wisdom is the ability to see something from God's viewpoint.

Proverbs 9:10 says, "**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.**" It could also be said that knowledge is understanding who God is, but wisdom is putting our fear and trust in God. Knowledge is to have an understanding of the Word of God. And wisdom is to walk in those truths each day.

Too often those who come to us for help are impulsive, with no self-control and live with only human understanding. One of our roles here at the Mission is to help them gain wisdom.

It is only through your support and prayers that we can do the work we do every day to help people transition from human suffering and degradation to making wise choices and living a victorious life in Christ. Thank you for making that possible!

The Lifeline for Your Estate Plan

The hit show *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* featured 15 increasingly difficult trivia questions, with the goal of winning one million dollars. If you've said, "Is that your final answer?" in the last 20 years, you probably have this show to thank. Contestants could take advantage of "lifelines" to help if they got stuck, one of which was to phone a friend. When it comes to updating your estate plan, you too might find it helpful to "phone a friend"; doing something that seems daunting is made easier with a friend or two. Here's what that could look like:



Get your priorities on paper. Meet some friends for coffee to talk through what's most important to you—and then write it down. Our free Wills Guide can be a helpful resource to move you from conversation to action.

Hold each other accountable. Starting can be the toughest part of any goal. Pick a date to begin your updates, tell some friends, and then ask them to follow up with you — and cheer you on. The best part? You can do the same for them.

Share ideas and insights.

Inviting others to join you in the process gives you access to their knowledge and experience, and vice versa. Plus, good friends know your heart. Their wisdom can help ensure your plan reflects what's most important to you. Use that lifeline and find some friends to help you take your estate plan to the finish line.

For more information, please contact Angela Washington at (904) 421-5147 or awashington@crmjax.org.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

City Rescue Mission is in need of the following:

- Upgraded flooring in classrooms and offices at McDuff Campus - \$40,000
- Chapel roof \$30,000
- Kitchen exit doors for New Life Inn \$10,000 and McDuff exit doors \$22,000
- 50 Large Totes/storage bins \$25 each or \$1250 for all.
- White twin sheet sets and pillows
- White towels and washcloths
- Six shower chairs \$360
- 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



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New Life NEWS

AUGUST 2023



MIKEL

A POOR DECISION LED MIKEL TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE, SEPARATION FROM HIS LOVED ONES AND A LIFESTYLE OF HOMELESSNESS AND SHAME. NOW HE'S GAINED WISDOM TO MAKE SOUND DECISIONS AND REBUILD HIS LIFE IN CHRIST.

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MIKEL'S STORY: THEY BELIEVED IN ME MORE THAN I BELIEVED IN MYSELF



It began with a poor decision. "I didn't know anything about using drugs," Mikel says, "how it affects you... how it makes you act." So, in an effort to be open-minded with a friend who was experimenting, he accepted an offer to try it himself. "I thought I'd just see what it's like," he says. But he continued to use and addiction took hold. "I spent a lifetime trying to get rid of it."

Mikel invited God into his heart and asked for His forgiveness. "I had stopped letting go and letting God," he says. "Now my faith is stronger, I believe in myself, and every morning when my feet hit the floor, I ask Him to bless me."

With the guidance of our caring staff, he experienced victory over substance abuse and other life-destructive behaviors, and he learned to replace poor choices with sound decisions. While driving for our warehouse, he displayed a strong work ethic and accountability and accepted the offer of a full-time position after graduation.



Just as important to his healing and new beginning, God is restoring Mikel's relationships with his children and grandchildren. Today, Mikel is grateful to CRM for giving him a second chance.

"They believed in me more than I believed in myself and taught me to never give up. I'm a positive individual and I will always strive for excellence. Regardless of what I'm going through, I can always ask the Lord to bless me and forgive me."

For years, feeding his destructive habit became the purpose of Mikel's existence, leaving him separated from loved ones and often unable to afford food or shelter. "It was hard for me to hold on to money and satisfy my need at the same time."

Finally, tired and broken by the challenges of living on the street or finding someone to take him in, he came to City Rescue Mission. He joined our LifeBuilders Program, but found he wasn't ready to accept its faith-based foundation.

"I was mixed up – confused because of drugs. I knew the Lord, but I just didn't apply it the way I should." He left the program, but still with nowhere to go, he stayed in our emergency shelter while taking the time he needed to consider where his life was headed, knowing he'd likely continue down the same aimless path.

"I decided I needed God's help."

Yet, while ready to accept the Lord's guidance, he was hesitant to return to the program he'd walked out on. "I was embarrassed... and I didn't know how to pick my feet up." He realized his fears were unfounded when we welcomed him back with encouragement and open arms.

"They were like, 'Hey man, get your head up. You can do this!'" And he did.

DID YOU KNOW?



CHARIS CHOCOLATES makes custom chocolate bars for businesses or churches with your logo. This is a great thank-you gift for associates and customers. If you are interested in information email CharisChocolates@crmjax.org.



CHARIS CHOCOLATES also makes brownies! We have wonderful partners who carry them at The Loop restaurants, at Cross Creek Steakhouse and Charis Cafe! We appreciate their support of the mission and encourage you to visit them and buy a brownie!



THANKSGIVING TURKEY AND HAM DRIVE

CRM is asking for your help to collect turkeys and hams to feed our neighbors in need this Thanksgiving. Donations can be dropped off between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday- Friday at either:
New Life Inn, 234 W. State Street or
CRM's McDuff Campus
426 S. McDuff Avenue.



For more information contact:
Angela Washington:
(904) 635-3515 or
volunteers@crmjax.org

***Drive ends November 17

CRM CALENDAR

LIFEBUILDER'S GRADUATION

Class of Fall 2023



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2023 at 7 p.m.
CRM McDuff Campus,
Wayne M. Densch Chapel
426 McDuff Avenue S., Jacksonville, FL 32254

All are invited. Reception immediately following the ceremony.

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Tuesday, August 15th 6:00 - 7:00 pm on McDuff Campus
If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at City Rescue Mission join us for a brief volunteer orientation to learn all you need to know to be a great addition to the CRM team! CONTACT: Sherrie Mack (904) 387-4357 or volunteers@crmjax.org.

CHAPEL SPEAKERS NEEDED

Pastors, Chaplains, and Lay Ministers: We have nightly chapel services at 234 State Street, CRM's downtown location, and at the McDuff Campus. We need to fill the schedule with sound Biblical instruction, sharing the love of Jesus, as we serve those struggling with addiction and homelessness. The first step is the general volunteer orientation, listed above, to acquaint you with our organization. The second step is Chapel Speaker Orientation: Wednesday, September 27th 6:00 pm at 426 S. McDuff Avenue in our hospitality suite. We would be honored if you would join our spiritual team.

PLEASE CONTACT: Kimberly Crockett, Manager of Client Services (904) 421-5208, KCrockett@crmjax.org.

WHITE SALE

15% OFF
Bedding, Curtains, Pillows

8/28/23 - 9/9/23

CRM THRIFT STORE

7200 Normandy Blvd.,
Jacksonville, FL 32205

Store Hours:
Monday - Saturday
10 am - 7 pm

Donation Hours:
Monday - Saturday
10 am - 5 pm

All proceeds go directly to help fund our mission and transform the lives of the homeless, needy, and addicted here in Northeast Florida.



CHARIS CAFE



We are excited that we are now recommended on Restaurant Guru!

Come visit us for a tasty breakfast, lunch, coffee and dessert!
Cafe Hours: Mon. - Sat.
7 am - 2 pm
7200 Normandy Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32205

