Paul's Ponderings

In a world where promises are easily broken and loyalty often fades, faithfulness stands as a rare and precious treasure. Yet for the believer, faithfulness is not only a virtue—it is a reflection of the very heart of God.

Scripture declares again and again that God is faithful. His promises never fail. When He speaks, it is done. "Not one word has failed of all the good promises He gave" (1 Kings 8:56). He forgives, protects, strengthens, and sanctifies not because He tries to be faithful, but because He is faithful. It is His nature (Psalm 89:8; Hebrews 13:8).



Executive Director

FAITHFULLNESS

As followers of Christ, we are called to mirror that faithfulness in our lives. Whether it's through our relationships, our work, or our quiet devotion, consistency in walking with God shapes us into trustworthy and steadfast servants. Faithfulness, even in the smallest of tasks, does not go unnoticed by our Heavenly Father (Luke 19:17).

At City Rescue Mission, we see how transformative a faithful life can be. Each person who walks through our doors carries a story of struggle, but also hope. And that hope is kindled when they experience God's unwavering love through our work and your support.

It is your faithfulness as friends and supporters that makes a lifechanging transformation possible. Because of you, men and women are learning to live faithfully—to keep their word, to serve with integrity, and to walk humbly with God.

By becoming monthly partners in the Hope Builders' Circle, you can be faithful with your support of those in need. As we continue this journey together, may we all be encouraged to remain faithful. For one day, by God's grace, we long to hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" (Matthew 25:23).

God bless you, and thank you for walking this path with us.

Directors

Call 904-421-5147 to join Hope Builders' Circle or scan the QR code.





How to Give Now, Give Later, and Get Peace of Mind

Bill gave annual gifts toward various projects at his retirement community but wanted to support the organization in an even more meaningful way. A Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) was the perfect fit. In fact, Bill called it "a triple blessing."

A CGA also helps you multiply the impact of your giving through its:

- **Certainty.** Your giving is assured, as is the income you and up to one additional beneficiary receive. You also have the option to set up CGAs for loved ones to ensure they're financially supported for the rest of their lives.
- Practicality. CGAs are tax-smart. You'll receive an immediate tax deduction for a portion of the amount you give to your CGA, plus a percentage of the fixed income is tax-free for the duration of your life expectancy. This can free you up to bless other ministries with your
- **Simplicity.** CGAs are a single giving tool that gives you the opportunity to make a lasting difference both now and after your lifetime. What a wonderful legacy to pass on to your family and the organizations you love, like City Rescue Mission.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "How to Multiply Your Generosity and Your Peace of Mind" by contacting Angela A. Washington at (904) 421-5147 or awashington@crmjax.org - Visit crmjax.legacywill.org to bless your family with an up-to-date will.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

City Rescue Mission is in need of the following:

- Women and children garden:
 - (6) Benches \$300 each
 - (3) Picnic Tables \$450 each
- (38) Blinds \$75 each
- Clothing, shoes, and accessories for men, women, and children for Thrift Store
- Volunteers in reading, math, and English to help our students

CRMjax.org

Contact: Angela Washington awashington@crmjax.org

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IRIS' STORY

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO START OVER

"The Mission is just like Heaven to me. I didn't know love, understanding and happiness until I came here."

When Iris was just 3 years old, her mother died. Growing up, she didn't have a loving role model to guide her or remind her of God's love. When she had children of her own, she says, "I didn't really know how to be a mom."

Iris struggled with poor choices and destructive habits for over 32 years. During her darkest times, she hid from her loved ones out of shame, often

sleeping on the streets. Despite her perilous lifestyle, her siblings and children believed in her potential and wanted her back in their lives. Iris wanted the same thing... but she didn't know how to change.

Inspired by her brother, who after battling addiction remained sober for 25 years, Iris took a chance on herself. At age 64, she came to the Mission, where she finally met her heavenly Father. In addition to

rebuilding her life here on earth, she hoped to prepare for a life after death. She longed for a reunion with loved ones – especially her mother, who passed when Iris was a child.



When Iris arrived at the Mission, she was welcomed with open arms. And while she knew learning to walk a new path would not be easy, her children and grandchildren became the inspiration and motivation she needed.

"I wanted all of us to be together in Heaven."

"The thing about grandkids is that they want their grandma all the time. So I came into the program to try to better my relationship with my kids. I wasn't a good mom, but I want to be the best grandma."

Like all who enter our LifeBuilders program, Iris is gaining the tools she needs to care for herself and become a productive and contributing member of her family and community. Our faith-based curriculum consists of Bible Study, counseling, life-skills development and adult education. Through our holistic ministry, she's also learning to overcome destructive habits and maintain a sober

lifestyle.

Most importantly, Iris has found the missing piece to happy and healthy living a relationship with her heavenly Father as a child of God.

'I know that no matter what I did or what I do, God forgives me because He's my Father and I'm his daughter."

In between classes, Iris enjoys giving back to the Mission by helping in the kitchen where she serves nourishing meals to those also working hard to transform their lives. After she graduates, she plans to get a job where she can interact with people

and share the new joy she has found in God's love.

She looks forward to spending time with her grandchildren and becoming a godly role model for them, a gift she longed for as a child. And she knows that one day she'll be reunited with her mother in heaven.



10th Annual Difference Makers Gala A Night at the Opera THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS: 3 Grains of Rico



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se the QR code to download Place of Grace" a CRM original ong by Katherine Kincaid



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