

Paul's Ponderings

When God said to Solomon, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you," Solomon asked for "a discerning heart and to distinguish between right and wrong." God responded, "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. But God also blessed him with both wealth and honor and a long life (1 Kings 3). And, in James it says if anyone lacks wisdom, let him ask God who gives generously and without reproach. But what is wisdom?



Paul Stasi
Executive Director

WISDOM

The dictionary defines wisdom as *the ability to discern inner qualities and relationships, or insight; as good sense or judgement; and even, scientific learning, or knowledge.* Wisdom has even been watered down to simply a generally accepted belief.

True wisdom is a foreign concept to the natural man. Wisdom is a divine gift that is granted by God whenever any believer asks.

At the same time, we must know that we use wisdom for the glory of God and the good of others. Wisdom must be exercised, or it will cease. The very nature of wisdom instructs our hearts to use our insights, discernment, and vision to fulfill God's will and demonstrate love for our neighbors.

Please keep us in your prayers that the Lord will continue to give us wisdom and knowledge to do all that we do everyday as we meet the needs of a troubled world, and for those we serve to have that wisdom for the future. We can feel your prayers and we thank you for them and for your loving offerings. We could not continue to do what God has called us to without you.

Thank you.

WE'RE MOVING!

Same Mission, New Page!

Follow our new Instagram

@cityrescuemissionjax

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Expanding Your Family Circle

Social worker Alan Naiman worked with families in crisis, served as a foster parent, and was the main caregiver for his developmentally disabled brother. When he died in 2018, Alan left \$11 million to charities that directly meet children's needs.*



Music teacher Jane Kesson left a gift in her will to the Philadelphia Orchestra, an organization she supported for many years. They use that gift to fund teacher workshops and concerts for school children in honor of Jane.**

Neither Alan nor Jane ever married or had children of their own, which affected the way they approached their estate plans. Without spouses or heirs, they expanded the definition of family to include causes that were important to them—and left legacies that are impacting many beyond their lifetimes.

Married or single, parent or not, you can leave a lasting inheritance through a simple concept known as "Child Called Charity" — adding a charitable organization you're deeply connected with to your estate plan as one of your heirs. Expand your family circle to make a difference for years to come.

*Source: CNN

**Source: Associated Press

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "Is it Time to Expand Your Family Circle?" by contacting Angela 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:

- (4) Full size mattress and boxspring set \$1,000 each
- (38) Blinds \$75 each
- (2) Hally Stainless Steel tables for prep 30"x48" \$162 each
- (12) Spanish Bibles \$22 each
- Bus passes for 1 week \$40.60 each
- Adopt a dorm room
- Clothing, shoes, and accessories for men, women, and children for Thrift Store

Contact: Angela Washington
awashington@crmjax.org
(904) 421-5147

Follow Us on Social Media



CRM
CITY RESCUE MISSION

New Life NEWS

MARCH 2025

CHRISTOPHER
PAVING THE WAY FOR A WALK WITH GOD

After a long road battling addiction, Christopher reached a dead end as he experienced homelessness and hopelessness. At the Mission, with the loving guidance of the Gospel, practical life-building skills and the encouragement of community support, he's now walking with God on a journey to a better life. He's looking forward to giving back and sharing hope with others through his story – made possible by gifts from friends like you.

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CHRISTOPHER'S STORY

PAVING THE WAY FOR A WALK WITH GOD

The unfortunate series of events unfolded when Christopher was 13 years old. He was sent away from his mother to spend the rest of his adolescence with his grandmother. Being separated from the person he loved most tore at his heart. In his vulnerable state, he bought into the lie that addictive substances could ease his pain and offer relief from his loneliness and despair. As his dependence grew, he spiraled slowly downhill and walked a rough and rocky road for more than 15 years. Then one day he stepped into the Mission and allowed the Lord to pave the way to a brighter future.

Like many people battling addiction, Christopher felt stuck in a loop of misguided choices and toxic behaviors that led to homelessness and hopelessness – preventing him from leading a stable life. “Every day it seemed like I was working but wasn’t accomplishing anything.”

Finally, feeling he had nothing to lose, he took a leap of faith and joined the Mission’s LifeBuilders Program.

At first, Christopher doubted he had the strength and fortitude to make it through. “I thought every day about leaving, but something told me to stay and stick it out.”

And once he surrendered to that still small voice, he could feel himself making progress.

The goal of our faith-based LifeBuilders Program is to teach participants like Christopher how to replace destructive habits

with healthy practices. He learned to recognize the stages of addiction and to overcome triggers that often lead to adverse actions and poor decisions. Most importantly, he allowed God’s love to heal his heart and His teachings to steer him back onto the right path.



“All my brothers and sisters in the program, I feel like we have a relationship because we’ve all been through much of the same and we got past it and we graduated.”

“The Bible studies and classes made me stronger, and I wanted to have a relationship with God. So I started to pray every day and I wanted God more in my life.”

In our holistic curriculum – which addresses the needs of our students spiritually, emotionally, educationally and socially – Christopher also gained skills necessary to secure employment through a ministry assignment at the Mission thrift store. Then he went on to a full-time job as an Ambassador. In this role, Christopher is now helping keep streets clean in his neighborhood – a representation of how he’s keeping his own path free of bumps and detours so he can walk the straight and narrow with God.

Also important to his healing is building community relationships, which will help Christopher maintain a healthy and productive lifestyle when he leaves our care. The tight-knit “family” at the Mission is an important element toward

this goal that supports our graduates as they transition back into society.

Looking toward the future, Christopher says, “I see myself just going forward.”

As an alumnus of the LifeBuilders Program, he plans to stay connected with the Mission by attending weekly Bible classes. He is devoted to his sobriety, passionate about continuing his employment through the CRM family, and excited to walk the road God has paved for him.

SAVE THE DATE!

Join City Rescue Mission in Celebrating our

10th Annual Difference Makers Gala

“A Night at the Opera”

FEATURING

Katherine Kincaid

Mezza-Soprano, Singer/Songwriter

Debuting “Place of Grace,” a commissioned contemporary CRM song

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025

SEATING AT 6 PM

GALA BEGINS AT 6:30 PM

SOUTHBANK HOTEL | JACKSONVILLE RIVERWALK

1515 PRUDENTIAL DRIVE
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32207

RECOGNIZING DIFFERENCE MAKERS

Lighthouse Christian School
Jeff and Laura Jacqmein

CONTACT

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awashington@crmjax.org

Sponsorship Opportunities

- ♦ Title Sponsor \$25,000
- ♦ Diamond Sponsor \$10,000
- ♦ Emerald Sponsor \$5,000
- ♦ Sapphire Sponsor \$3,000
- ♦ Ruby Sponsor \$2,000
- ♦ Individual Tickets \$200

SAVE THE DATE

17th Annual Champions Challenge

TPC SAWGRASS
AUGUST 25, 2025

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS:

Title Sponsor	\$25,000
Eagle Sponsor	\$15,000
Award Sponsor	\$12,500
Birdie Sponsor	\$10,000
Par Sponsor	\$6,000
Team Sponsor	\$4,000
Beverage Cart Sponsor	\$3,500
Trophy Sponsor	\$2,500
Hole Sponsor	\$800

CONTACT

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CRM CITY RESCUE MISSION THRIFT STORE

Sales!

March 17 - 22

Formal Dresses 15% OFF

April 14-19

Easter: All Dresses | 20% OFF

May 5-10

Mother's Day | 20% OFF
Women's Clothes, Shoes, Accessories

June 9 - 14

Father's Day | 20% OFF
Men's Clothes, Shoes, Accessories