

Paul's Ponderings

Longevity is more than just living a long life—it is a spiritual concept rooted deeply in the biblical narrative. Scripture reveals that a long life is often a sign of God's blessing, closely tied to righteousness, wisdom, and obedience. It is a testament to God's enduring faithfulness and a life lived in alignment with His will.



Paul Stasi
Executive Director

In the Old Testament, longevity is portrayed as a reward from God. *Proverbs 3:16* says, "Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor." This verse, among many others, links long life to wisdom and righteousness. *Exodus 20:12* commands, "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you." These are not just promises; they are spiritual principles that point us toward the kind of life God desires for us—one of honor, obedience, and faith.

LONGEVITY

The New Testament shifts our focus to something even greater—eternal life through Jesus Christ. In *John 3:16*, we are reminded, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that everyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." Here, longevity becomes not just about time on earth but about the quality of eternal fellowship with God.

Our ministry works with people who often lack hope for the future. Many have come to believe they won't live long or that their choices don't matter. But Scripture tells us otherwise. Through Christ, there is a future, a hope, and a purpose.

Thanks to your support, we are able to speak life into these hearts. We help them see their lives as valuable and filled with promise. Please consider becoming a monthly donor—your faithful giving sustains this vital work and brings the hope of both long and eternal life to those who need it most.

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 generosity.
- **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

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



CRMjax.org

Follow Us on Social Media



Board of Directors

Craig Henderson, *Chair* Chad Perce, *Vice-Chair*
Kendall Spencer, *Finance* Doug Milne, *Secretary/Parliamentarian*

Shontrell Anderson
Brian Andrew
Carrie Chupp

Alan Cottrill
Tina Daniels
Steve DeSorbo

David Eure
Lee Nimnicht
Ed Perez



New Life NEWS

JULY 2025



VANESSA WINNING THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE

Vanessa was born into a spiritual battleground. Her parents abandoned her at the hospital as a newborn. So she grew up believing her life didn't matter. To ease her pain, she turned to drugs and alcohol, but they eventually led her to homelessness. Today, she's been given the tools to fight life's spiritual battles. And she lives in the grace of God's love. She's looking forward to sharing hope with others through her story – made possible by your gifts.

VANESSA'S STORY

17TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

PAUL'S PONDERINGS
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Page 2

Page 3

Page 4

VANESSA'S STORY

WINNING THE SPRITUAL BATTLE

Imagine waking up frightened, cold and hungry – fleeing an abusive relationship and not knowing where your next meal will come from. This was the reality for Vanessa before she came to the Mission and found the tools to overcome her challenges.

“The Mission is giving me the tools I need so when I get out into the real world, I’ll know exactly what to do when I face a big giant in my life.”

Before coming to the Mission, Vanessa never knew what it was like to be loved and wanted.

Her parents abandoned her at the hospital to be raised by her grandmother. But Vanessa was made to feel she was a burden, and that the older woman only cared for her out of a sense of obligation.

Sadly, as she grew older, Vanessa’s lack of self-worth became a void she tried to fill with substances. Although she held a deep passion for the Gospel, she lacked the tools to put God’s Word to work in her life. Earthly temptations led her into an abusive relationship and eventually to homelessness. She felt she was losing a spiritual battle.

“I ended up going house to house of family members – then from shelter to shelter. I just couldn’t get myself together.”

The turning point came when Vanessa experienced a medical emergency. After being released from the ICU, her body was healing physically, but her soul still needed revival. With nowhere to go, the medical staff brought her to the Mission.

The comforts we often take for granted, like clean sheets, a warm blanket and wholesome food made Vanessa feel safe – and valued for perhaps the very first time. Although she’d stayed in shelters before, Vanessa could tell our holistic approach to life transformation was different.

In our LifeBuilders Program, Vanessa learned to put on the full armor of God, as the Bible teaches in Ephesians 6.

She donned the belt of truth with guidance from staff and mentors who encouraged her to accept God’s forgiveness, grace and love. The breastplate of righteousness was formed through fellowship with other Christians who modeled dedication and accountability.

Life-skills and workforce development classes provided shoes of the gospel, which prepared her to walk with confidence, wherever the Lord leads.

The shield of faith was added as she learned to rely on her heavenly Father, and the helmet of salvation strengthened her faith and empowered her to recognize and resist earthly temptations.

Finally, the sword of the spirit – God’s Word – which protects us, brings us hope and provides a foundation for a faith-driven life, was sharpened through Bible study, worship and spiritual counseling.

“The Mission has helped me to know that I am wonderfully and fearfully made and that God accepts me for who I am.”

As she learns and grows, Vanessa is also giving back to the Mission by working at the front desk and lobby. She strives to create a clean, comforting and welcoming environment for everyone who enters.

With renewed confidence and self-worth, Vanessa is looking forward to being a better woman of God and Christian role model for her eight grandchildren. She plans to continue Bible classes, nurture her relationship with the Lord and share her story with others who also need help winning their spiritual battles.



ONGOING NEEDS

- Laundry bags
- Men’s flip-flop sandals
- Women flip-flop sandals
- Ballpoint pens
- Post-it notes
- Men’s briefs
- Women’s briefs
- Sheet protectors
- Binder dividers
- Dry erase markers
- Index cards
- Large print study Bibles
- Food container boxes
- Disinfecting wipes
- All-purpose cleaner



CRM NEEDS LIST: YOU PROVIDE HOPE!

ITEMS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT
426 S. McDuff Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32254



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

KENNY MILLS, CASE MANAGER



Kenny Mills has spent the last 28 and a half years transforming lives—and his own—at City Rescue Mission. Now preparing for retirement, Kenny reflects on his remarkable journey from addiction and homelessness to case manager, mentor, and college graduate.

His path to the Mission began unexpectedly. “I robbed a drug dealer,” Kenny admits candidly. “I was running, cold, and homeless. Someone pointed me toward City Rescue Mission, and I walked through the doors on October 9, 1995. That moment changed everything.”

Once a client himself, Kenny quickly became a leader. Encouraged by staff who saw his potential, he went back to school, eventually earning two degrees and working on a third. Along the way, he became a trusted case manager, guiding others through the same doors he once walked through in desperation. He has insisted on remaining on the front lines to greet the people in the shoes he once was in. And this is the reason people ask for Kenny by name - he understands the journey.

Kenny’s retirement party at City Rescue Mission was a testament to the legacy he has built not just on our campuses, but in Jacksonville at large. He is described as having the “heart of Jesus” and as “slow to anger.” Countless admire him; many are inspired by him; and lives have been forever changed by him.

As he approaches retirement, Kenny looks forward to fishing, traveling, and spending long-overdue time with family. “I want to enjoy the time I didn’t give them before,” he says. “Just sit down and be me.”

Turning 69 this year, Kenny’s life has been one of resilience, faith, and service. City Rescue Mission and the many lives he’s touched will feel his impact for years to come.



17th Annual Champions Challenge Golf Tournament

TPC SAWGRASS

AUGUST 25, 2025

CONTACT

ANGELA WASHINGTON
(904) 421-5147
crmdevelopment@crmjax.org



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