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.

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 Paul Stasi honor." This verse, among many others, links long Executive Director 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.

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.





City Rescue Mission joyfully celebrates 80 years of Christ-centered service! Our theme, Deep Roots - Bold Tomorrow, honors our enduring mission to transform lives through the power of Jesus. With your faithful support, we continue to serve Northeast Florida, helping individuals flourish beyond our care. Join us in a year-long celebration of God's grace and your impact.

3 Meaningful Gifts to Give Your Family

Did you know you have meaningful gifts to share with your loved ones when you create or update your will? Those gifts include:

- The gift of clarity. Having a will in place means your family won't have to guess at (or worse, disagree about) your wishes after you're gone. Instead, they'll have clear direction about your desires, from how you'd like your assets distributed to the quardian who will care for your children.
- The gift of simplicity. A will maintains your instructions in one central location so your loved ones can easily find what they need and understand their next steps.
- The gift of love. Psalm 145:4 reads, "Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts; let them proclaim your power" (NLT). Your will is an opportunity to communicate about your faith and the values that have shaped your life. And when you make a gift in your will to ministries you care about like City Rescue Mission, you share that legacy of love with your family and the people who will be impacted by your gift.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "3 Gifts Your Family Will Always Treasure" by contacting Paul Stasi at (904) 421-5192 or pstasi@crmjax.org. Visit crmjax.legacywill.org to bless your family will an up-to-date will.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

City Rescue Mission is in need of the following:

- Bus Passes: Weekly \$20 each, Monthly \$65 each
- Bedding Bundle (200) \$60 each
- Graduation cap and gown \$25 each set (Need by Sept 1)
- Volunteers in reading, math, and English to help our students
- Clothing, shoes, and accessories for men, women, and children for Thrift Store CRM
- Women and children garden:
 - » Two-Bay Post Swing Set \$5,500
 - » Pavillion \$800
 - »(1) Pavilion table \$1,250
 - » (12) Pavilion chairs \$1,500
 - » (3) Pavilion side tables \$750
 - » Fence \$2,500
 - » Arbor \$500

CITY RESCUE MISSION

CRMjax.org

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ROBERT'S STORY

I BELONG TO THE LORD



Robert grew up surrounded by the beauty of the St. Mary's River, fishing and camping with his family. His stepfather was a steady influence, but when his parents separated, Robert's life slowly unraveled. "My stepdad was the backbone of my schooling," he says. "After he left, I just didn't care anymore."

"Knowing that I am a child of God now - it's a beautiful thing. I already had that identity. I just didn't know it."

After his parents divorced, Robert dropped out of school and

started working at age 14. The destructive and toxic pull of the streets began shaping his decisions. Over time, the desire to feel valued led him down a dangerous path.

"I started selling drugs because it made me feel that people needed me," Robert says. "It gave me a purpose. Eventually, though, I wasn't just selling. I was using, too."

For years, Robert cycled in and out of jail, caught in a pattern he couldn't break. But even in the darkest places, God was planting

"I had a praying grandmother. She'd tell me, 'You're going to lose everything if you keep going like this.' And every time I landed behind bars, I ended up among a group of people doing Bible studies."

Despite the chaos of his life, something deeper was stirring. He began feeling a longing he couldn't explain. "I didn't even realize that reading the Bible was filling that void," Robert says. "Every time I opened it, I felt a little better.'

In 2023, just four months after his latest release from incarceration, Robert found himself back where he started – unemployed and selling drugs to stay afloat. One night, reality took hold. He sat on the floor with his head in his hands and said, "I'm done. I know there's more to life than this."

That's when his life began to change.

Robert was rearrested on a previous charge, and once again found himself in jail, surrounded by men seeking God and studying His Word. This time, he asked for help. He was offered three options: prison, a treatment facility or a bed at the faith-based City Rescue Mission. Robert chose the Mission. "When they said 'faith-based,' I knew that was what I needed."

Robert arrived at our doors with nothing but the clothes on his back. But what he found was far more than his physical necessities. He found a community... and a calling.

"The people here loved on me from the very beginning," he says. "They gave me encouragement and the support I needed to pursue

Robert joined the Mission's LifeBuilders program – which consists of Christ-centered counseling, life-skills development, work readiness and more. He began to heal from the anger and pain that had ruled his life. He found purpose in maintenance work and community service. And he even became a Downtown Ambassador for the city of

Spiritually, his transformation has been even greater.

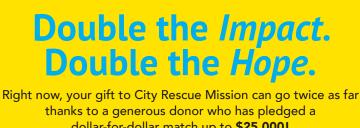
"Now, I talk to God about everything. I ask Him before I make decisions. I wait. I listen. I know He's in control, and that brings me

Today, Robert is living a life rooted in faith and filled with gratitude. He serves with a local church and volunteers for food distributions. He looks forward to the many ways he can be a positive example of what God's grace can do.









dollar-for-dollar match up to \$25,000!

That means every \$25 you give becomes \$50. Every \$100 becomes \$200.

And every meal, shelter night, or moment of hope you provide gets multiplied. But this opportunity won't last forever. Your matching gift can transform twice as many lives, helping men, women, and children break the cycle of homelessness, addiction, and despair.

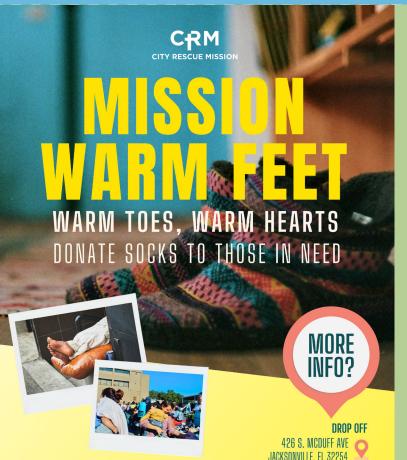
Give today. Double your dollar. Double your difference.

\$25,000





SCAN THE QR CODE TO MAKE



SEPTEMBER 2ND - NOVEMBER 7TH

HANKSGIVING **TURKEY + HAM**





GET INVOLVED!

City Rescue Mission is asking for your help to collect turkey & ham to feed our neighbors in need this Thanksgiving!



MONDAY - FRIDAY FROM 9AM - 5PM

New Life Inn 234 W. State Street or

McDuff Campus 426 S. McDuff Avenue

TURKEY & HAM GIFT CARD DONATIONS ARE ACCEPTED!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CONTACT SHERRIE MACK

SHMACK@CRMJAX.ORG 904-387-4357 ext. 224



UPCOMING EVENTS



LIFEBUILDERS GRADUATION SEPTEMBER 26

THANKSGIVING

PUBLIC MEAL

NOVEMBER 26



CHRISTMAS PUBLIC MEAL DECEMBER 22



Angela Washington, Director of Philanthropy **FAREWELL**

Angela Washington, our beloved Director of Philanthropy, is stepping down after nearly eight years of visionary service. She will relocate to South Carolina to care for her aging parents.



We are deeply grateful for her compassionate leadership and the lasting impact she's made at City Rescue Mission. She will be missed!

volunteers@crmjax.org

(904) 387-4357 ext. 224 (9)

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