

# Paul's Ponderings

As children, many of us were captivated by stories that sparked our imagination and quietly shaped our character. One such story is *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel*—a tale of grit, determination, and the power of never giving up. Mike and his trusty steam shovel, Mary Anne, exemplified perseverance as they faced challenges and opposition but chose to press on. Their journey reminds us of a deeper spiritual truth: perseverance is not just a virtue; it is a command and a calling for believers.



Paul Stasi  
Executive Director

Scripture is rich with encouragement for those who feel weary or tempted to give up. James 1:2–4 urges us, “Consider it pure joy...when you encounter trials... because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.” Our trials are not wasted. They are the soil in which God cultivates endurance, maturity, and wholeness.

## PERSEVERANCE

The Christian life is often likened to a race. Hebrews 12:1 tells us to “run with endurance the race set before us,” casting off everything that hinders us. We are not alone on the track—there is a great cloud of witnesses cheering us on.

Paul reminds us in Philippians 3:13–14 to forget what is behind and press forward. Setbacks may delay us, but they do not disqualify us. Psalm 27:14 assures us that waiting on the Lord is not passive—it is an act of courage and strength.

For those we serve, perseverance is often a daily challenge. But 1 Peter 5:10 promises restoration, strength, and security for those who endure. Jesus Himself said in Matthew 24:13, “He who perseveres to the end will be saved.”

### 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 guardian 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](mailto:pstasi@crmjax.org). Visit [crmjax.legacywill.org](http://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:

- 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
- Bus Passes: Weekly - \$20 each, Monthly - \$65 each
- Bedding Bundle (200) - \$60 each
- Graduation cap and gown - \$25 each set (Need by Sept 20)
- Volunteers in reading, math, and English to help our students
- Clothing, shoes, and accessories for men, women, and children for Thrift Store

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# New Life NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2025



## TANYA “I WANTED TO LIVE AGAIN”

Tanya was doing her best to raise six children on her own. But anxiety opened the door to substance abuse. For years, despite her love of family and a heart that longed for change, she struggled to stay clean. Today, Tanya is finding freedom from substance abuse at City Rescue Mission and reclaiming her life with God’s help.

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CHAMPION’S  
CHALLENGE GOLF  
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THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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# TANYA'S STORY

I WANTED TO LIVE AGAIN



Food and clothing. Guidance and direction. A roof overhead. Raising six children carries a lot of responsibility, especially for single parents like Tanya.

Tanya's life unraveled when her husband went to prison. Left to raise her six children all alone, she struggled to stay afloat – financially and emotionally. Finally, the weight of it all became too much to bear. Desperate to ease her stress, she made some poor choices.

"I was always a drinker," she admits, "but then came the drugs. It started as a weekend thing. Then it became every day."

To support her substance abuse, she baked and sold cakes – something she once enjoyed. But now it only reminded her of what her life had become.

In 2022, she had a terrifying experience. While visiting a friend she considered family, she was poisoned with an unknown substance. She woke up in a hospital, intubated and hanging on to life by a thread. "You'd think that would've been my rock bottom," she says.

But she still struggled to break free of substance abuse's hold. Finally, two years later, Tanya did reach a turning point. "One day I looked into the mirror and said, 'Who is this woman? I don't recognize her.'" As she recalled the pain and heartache she'd brought on to herself and her family, she said, "I'm done – with being tired, with hurting, with losing." And she asked for our help. Today, Tanya is thriving in our LifeBuilders program. Through Bible study, life skills development, workforce development and faith-based counseling, we help individuals like Tanya learn to care for themselves and become productive members of society.

"The hospitality team, the classes, the other women – it's all been so healing. This place gave me something I hadn't had in a long time: hope."

Tanya is rebuilding her relationship with God. She's also reconnecting with her children and grandchildren and hopes to become a Christian role model for them. She credits the faith-based foundation of the program with helping her rediscover who she really is. "I learned that Jesus Christ loves me," she says. "God forgave me. But I had to forgive myself. That was the hardest part."

She now serves on our hospitality team and continues to dream of a future filled with purpose. "I want to get my own place again, join a church and bake cakes – not to support substance abuse, but because I love it."

"This time it's different," Tanya smiles. "This time I'm doing it with God."

Tanya hopes her story will inspire others to seek help and embrace God's grace.

"If I hadn't come to the City Rescue Mission, I'd be dead. But today? I feel like an 8.5 out of 10. And I'm climbing."



# A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2025 GOLF SPONSORS!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 17th Annual Champion's Challenge at TPC Sawgrass!













# MISSION WARM FEET

WARM TOES, WARM HEARTS  
DONATE SOCKS TO THOSE IN NEED





**SEPTEMBER 2 - NOVEMBER 7**

**MORE INFO?**

**DROP OFF**  
MONDAY - FRIDAY 9-5PM  
426 S. MCDUFF AVE  
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32254

**CONTACT**  
volunteers@crmjax.org  
(904) 387-4357 ext. 224  
www.crmjax.org

# THANKSGIVING TURKEY + HAM DRIVE

**STARTS**  
**2**  
**SEPT**

**ENDS**  
**7**  
**NOV**

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

**DROP OFF**  
**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!**



**CRM**  
CITY RESCUE MISSION

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
**CONTACT SHERRIE MACK**  
SHMACK@CRMJAX.ORG  
904-387-4357 ext. 224

# Fall Ceremony LifeBuilders & Crossroads Graduation

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 at 7:00PM**  
**426 S. MCDUFF AVE.**  
*Reception immediately following the ceremony!*



**CLASS OF FALL 2025**

# THANK YOU, ST. FRANCIS SOUP KITCHEN!



## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep CRM in your prayers for:

- Recovery from July storm damage
- Men, women, and families in our programs
- Resources and finances needed for the Mission
- Staff and their families

PROVIDING HOPE, HEALING AND CHANGE SINCE 1946

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