

Paul's Ponderings

There are seasons when life feels unsteady, when circumstances shift beneath our feet and the familiar no longer feels secure. In moments like these, Scripture offers us a truth both simple and profound: God Himself is our anchor. His calling on our lives, His presence with us, and His promises over us become the steady point that holds us when everything else seems to drift.



Paul Stasi
Executive Director

Hebrews 6:19 tells us, "We have this hope as an anchor holding our souls to God Himself." This isn't poetic language; it's spiritual reality. The hope we have in Christ is not wishful thinking. It is a tether, fixed to the unshakeable character of God. The writer goes on to say that this anchor, is fastened to the mercy seat (or found inside the innermost chamber) in the heavenly realm beyond the sacred threshold." In other words, our hope is anchored not on earth but in the very presence of God Himself. Jesus has gone ahead of us, securing our place, our peace, and our future.

In the early church, when believers faced persecution and uncertainty, they often carved the anchor symbol in hidden places.

At City Rescue Mission, we meet men and women who arrive in the midst of their own storms—loss, addiction, fear, or simply the exhaustion of trying to hold life together on their own. But again and again, we watch God do what only He can do: He anchors wandering hearts. He steadies trembling lives. He brings peace where there was turmoil and purpose where there was pain, and healing where there were wounds.

Helping people hold on to their anchor is a privilege only made possible with your gifts and support.

Thank you!

3 Ways to Give

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(904)-421-5161 426 McDuff Ave. S
Jacksonville, FL 32254

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Online



A LEGACY THAT BLOOMS

Every spring, millions of people attend the National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C. There's a rich history behind this event with the trees at its center, marked by values that span generations.



As you read, consider your story and the legacy you'd like to leave behind. We've included reflection questions to inspire your thoughts.

This story begins with Generosity. In 1912, Tokyo donated 3,020 trees to Washington, D.C., as a gesture of goodwill to honor the growing relationship between the United States and Japan. That generosity had its roots in a small group of people who worked to generate interest in Japanese cherry trees by raising money, giving away saplings, and advocating with government officials. What causes are important to you?

Relationships are central to this history. Friendship between Japan and the U.S. motivated the original donation, as well as our government's thank-you gift of flowering dogwood trees to the people of Japan in 1915. Over the years, the cherry trees have continued to be symbols of goodwill, including Japan's gift of 250 new trees in honor of America's 250th birthday. What relationships have shaped who you are?

With relationships often comes the need for Reconciliation. After World War II, the National Park Service sent budwood from the original trees to restore trees in Tokyo that had fallen into decline during the war. In turn, Japan gave the U.S. a stone lantern as a rededication of friendship. The National Cherry Blossom Festival opens each year with the lighting of that lantern. How has the reconciliation you have through Christ changed your life?

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "The Gift That Keeps on Blooming" by contacting Monica Baker at (904) 421-5147 or mbaker@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:

- I Women and Children Garden:
 - » Pavilion - \$8,000
 - » Two-Bay Post Swing Set - \$5,500
 - » (1) Pavilion table - \$1,250
 - » (12) Pavilion chairs - \$1,500
 - » (3) Pavilion side tables - \$750 social
 - » Fence - \$2,500
 - » Arbor - \$500
- I Twin sized blankets (400)
- I Twin sized white sheet sets (400)
- I Bus Passes: Weekly - \$20 each, Monthly - \$65 each
- I Clothing, shoes, and accessories for men, women, and children for the Thrift Store
- I Volunteers in Reading, Math, and English to help our students
- I White towels (1,000) and white wash cloths (2,000)

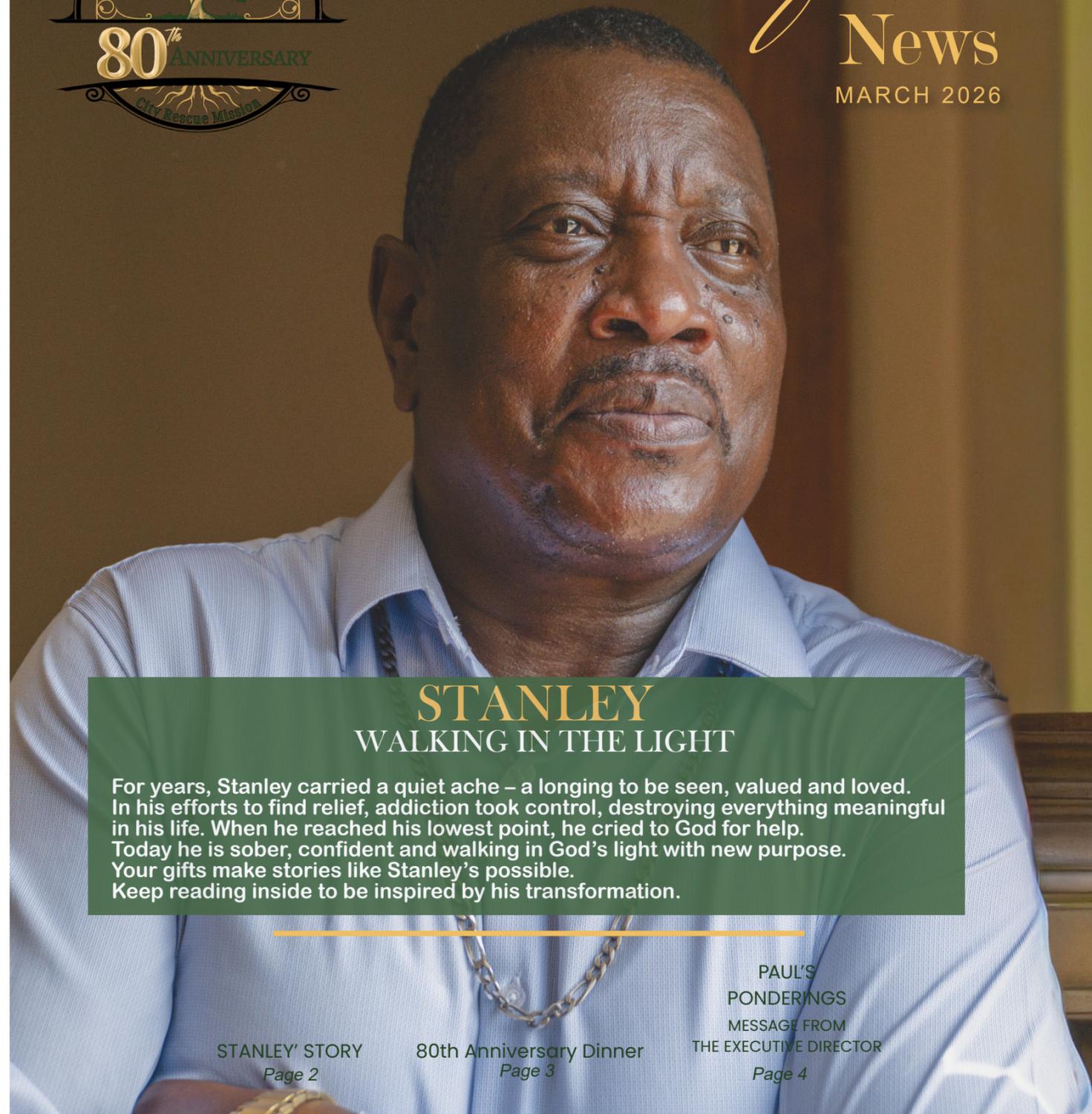
Contact: Sherrie Mack | shmack@crmjax.org | (904) 387-4357 ext. 224

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New Life News

MARCH 2026



STANLEY WALKING IN THE LIGHT

For years, Stanley carried a quiet ache – a longing to be seen, valued and loved. In his efforts to find relief, addiction took control, destroying everything meaningful in his life. When he reached his lowest point, he cried to God for help. Today he is sober, confident and walking in God's light with new purpose. Your gifts make stories like Stanley's possible. Keep reading inside to be inspired by his transformation.

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	Board of Directors		
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STANLEY'S STORY

WALKING IN THE LIGHT

Stanley grew up in a close-knit Christian family. In addition to church activities, he spent his boyhood fishing, hunting, camping and farming on the land surrounding his peaceful rural home.

"It was a beautiful childhood," he says. "I wouldn't trade it for anything."

But sadly, something was missing. As the sixth of 11 children, Stanley often felt invisible and overlooked, especially by his mother. The unresolved wound quietly shaped how he saw himself.

He excelled at sports – football, baseball, basketball, track and wrestling. He even dreamed of playing at the next level. Yet while he pushed himself physically, his self-esteem was fragile. Doubt crept in. He struggled to reach his full potential. "I wanted to be loved so badly. I never felt like I was good enough."

As he grew older, he began making choices that pulled him away from the foundation of his happy, faith-filled childhood. He battled substance abuse and other destructive behaviors, which damaged his confidence even more.

Still, for years, he managed to hold a steady job, even rising to leadership roles. From the outside, he looked successful. Inside, addiction was tightening its grip.

Eventually, the facade collapsed. Stanley lost his job... his relationship... his sense of purpose. He experienced homelessness, sleeping wherever he could, often among others who shared his harmful ways. One day, as he sought shelter from the wind and rain, the storm seemed to mimic what his life had become: Dark. Dreary. Chaotic. Exposed.

"I didn't want to live like that," he remembers. "I didn't want to die like that."

At the lowest point in his life, he cried out to the God he had known as a child.

When the weather improved, he packed his few belongings and began walking. He had no plan. He didn't know where he

was going. But he trusted God was taking him someplace better. Stanley ended up in Jacksonville. With no resources, he lived on the streets for several days. Then he was approached by two men from the Mission's outreach team, who welcomed him in for a meal. When he walked through our doors, he felt hope. "I knew I'd finally arrived. I was where God intended for me to be."

In addition to wholesome food and a safe, clean bed, Stanley also received an invitation to join our LifeBuilders Program. It was the opportunity he'd longed for.

Through the guidance of our spiritual counselors, Bible study, life skills development and adult education, Stanley regained his self-confidence and, most importantly, renewed his relationship with the Lord.

Stanley also began to heal. Not only from addiction, but from years of emotional pain. He embraced the power of forgiveness, especially toward his mother.

"I couldn't walk around angry and still receive the peace God had for me."

Grateful for the second chance he'd been given, Stanley poured himself into helping around the Mission – in security, maintenance, laundry – wherever needed. Now he's confident he can achieve his full potential through serving God and others.

Today, Stanley lives with an "attitude of gratitude." He is sober, active in church, saving toward a home of his own, and intentional about building a stable future.

Now feeling seen, valued and loved by God and those around him, he will continue to walk in the light of the Lord.



TO VIEW STANLEY'S STORY IN VIDEO, PLEASE USE THE QR CODE



WE LOVE OUR CRM VOLUNTEERS!

Our volunteers make it all possible!

From serving in the kitchen to helping the thrift store and supporting projects like our Women and Children's Garden.

Want to make a difference? Come volunteer with us!

CONTACT OUR VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR AT
(904) 387.4357 OR SHMACK@CRMJAX.ORG



80th ANNIVERSARY Dinner



CITY RESCUE MISSION

Southbank Hotel

SEATING AT 6PM

PROGRAM STARTS AT 6:30



CRM DRAMA TROUPE

Join us in celebration of City Rescue Mission's 80th year!

Experience a moving spoken word testimony, presented by current program residents, and the unveiling of CRM's new children's book *Destiny's Diary*.

For More Information

Contact the Director of Development
at (904) 421. 5147 or
crmdevelopment@crmjax.org



CELEBRATE HISTORY