

Paul's Ponderings

Gratitude is a quiet strength, often overlooked, yet profoundly transformative. It is more than a polite response or fleeting emotion; it's the recognition that what we have received carries value beyond measure. In a world that constantly urges us to want more, gratitude gently calls us to see what is already present, and to recognize it as a gift.

At its core, gratitude is an acknowledgment that we are not self-sufficient. It reminds us that behind every step forward, every moment of hope, there is a provision that is often unseen, always meaningful. Scripture invites us into this posture, calling us to "give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Not because every circumstance is easy, but because God remains faithful in each one.

Gratitude

Within the life of the Mission, we witness gratitude in its most authentic form. It does not emerge from comfort or abundance, but from transformation. In chapel, as voices rise in worship, we often sing, "All my words fall short... how could I express all my gratitude?" And yet, hands are lifted, and hearts respond, often with tears. Not because life is perfect, but because grace has become real.

When someone who once felt forgotten whispers 'hallelujah,' you feel it in the room. It's gratitude born from redemption, a recognition that God is at work, restoring what was once broken. And this is where your role is so deeply felt. Your generosity creates the space where these moments happen. It makes room for hope, for healing, for lives to be changed. So today, we pause and give thanks not only for what God is doing but also for you. Thank you for being part of these stories. Thank you for helping turn despair into gratitude.

All we have is a hallelujah—and by God's grace, it is enough.



When Life Changes, Your Will Should Too

Surveys show many people created wills for the first time during the COVID-19 pandemic. If you were one of them, now is the time to update it.

Experts recommend revisiting your will about every five years. Other reasons to make an update include:

- A change in your marital status
- The addition of a child or grandchild through birth or adoption
- A move to a different state or country
- A change to your financial situation
- Updates to state and federal estate tax laws
- You've changed your mind about something

As your life has changed, your thoughts on the legacy you want to leave your loved ones might have changed, too. Some questions to prayerfully consider:

- Does my will reflect the beliefs and values I want to pass on to the next generation?
- Do my plans align with my family, faith, and charitable goals?
- Does my will reflect my love for my church and favorite ministry organizations?

Including a gift to City Rescue Mission when you update your will is a meaningful way to communicate your faith and beliefs while impacting the work we do for years to come.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "Has Your Will Kept Up with Your Life?" by contacting Katie Barger at (904) 421-5183 or kbarger@crmjax.org - Visit crmjax.legacywill.org to create a will that honors your faith and family.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

City Rescue Mission is in need of the following:

- » Clothing, shoes, and accessories for men, women, and children for the Thrift Store
- » Twin sized blankets (400)
- » Twin sized white sheet sets (400)
- » Bus Passes: Weekly - \$20 each, Monthly - \$65 each
- » White towels (1,000) and white wash clothes (2,000)

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

Thank you to everyone who supported The Women and Children's Garden. This project is now fully funded. Pictures to come soon!

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SOCIAL MEDIA



3 WAYS TO GIVE

Phone



(904)-421-5161

Mail



426 McDuff Ave. S
Jacksonville, FL 32254

Online



	Craig Henderson, <i>Chair</i> Lee Nimnicht, <i>Vice-Chair</i>			
	Kendall Spencer, <i>Finance</i> Doug Milne, <i>Secretary/Parliamentarian</i>			
	Shontrell Anderson	Carrie Chupp	Steve DeSorbo	Brad Sykes
	Mark Anderson	Alan Cottrill	David Eure	Clay Yarborough
	Brian Andrew	Tina Daniels	Ed Perez	



New Life

News

JULY 2026



Kristen

A Second Chance at Life

Kristin felt trapped in a dangerous, abusive relationship. To cope with her traumatic home environment, Kristin started abusing substances... but when she lost custody of her kids, she knew something had to change. Coming to the Mission, she learned that her real addiction wasn't to substances, but an unhealthy attachment to her boyfriend. Here, she found encouragement to become independent, a faith-based support system and the chance to start over. Inside, read how your prayers and ongoing support continue to transform lives

KRISTIN'S STORY & REGGIE'S 20TH CRM ANNIVERSARY
Page 2

18TH ANNUAL CHAMPION'S CHALLENGE GOLF TOURNAMENT & 4TH OF JULY PARTY
Page 3

PAUL'S PONDERINGS MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Page 4

KRISTIN'S STORY

A Second Chance at Life

For most of her childhood, Kristin's life looked promising. Raised by loving parents, she excelled in school, graduated with honors and discovered an early passion for working with animals. But everything changed when she entered a relationship that would gradually take control of her life...

What began as a loving relationship slowly became a cycle of manipulation, isolation and abuse. "My ex would get drunk every night and become volatile... I felt insignificant and belittled. I didn't think I was worthy of love."

Over the next 12 years, Kristin lost more than her independence – she lost her confidence, sense of self-worth and eventually the belief that she could survive on her own. "I was up under his thumb financially, emotionally, physically... and it was not healthy at all."

One night, while she was four months pregnant with her daughter, Kristin suffered another abusive episode that nearly threatened her life. Moreover, Kristin's boyfriend coerced her to try fentanyl for the first time. She slowly found herself slipping into unhealthy habits with him.

Sadly, her boyfriend's choices eventually led the couple to lose custody of their children. "Being without my kids was truly rock bottom... but I had to go through that to get where I'm at now." At last determined to be free of her boyfriend's abuse and destructive influence, she entered City Rescue Mission's Crossroads recovery program, where she found a sense of self-worth she hadn't experienced in years. "Entering the program was the best step I ever took."

For the first time, she was able to see that she could be on her own – instead of depending on her relationship, she learned to depend on God. Through counseling, recovery classes and a support system, Kristin began rebuilding herself from the inside

out. She dove into Scripture and Bible study, allowing God to lead her next steps. "The most important thing I have learned at the Mission is to not try to control every situation." As she healed, opportunities began opening. She found a job caring for animals, reconnecting her with a lifelong passion she had lost. Upon completing Crossroads, she moved into CRM's sober-living transitional housing called Homes of Hope. But most importantly, she began rebuilding her relationship with her children. With the support of the Mission and a growing faith, Kristin is working step by step toward reunification. She is grateful to not just have a second chance at life, but also a second chance with her children, through regaining custody. "I've done nothing but blossomed since being here," she says. "I'm a better mother and a brighter soul." Today, Kristin sees a future for herself. Rather than feeling insignificant, she sees herself through God's eyes – worthy, loved and safe. Kristin believes the hardest moments of her life became the foundation for her greatest transformation. What once seemed like the end of her story became the beginning of a new one – one defined not by addiction or abuse, but by healing, faith and hope: "All glory goes to God, but the Mission is the support system that He sent me to help continue this journey."



TO VIEW KRISTIN'S STORY
IN VIDEO,
PLEASE SCAN THE
QR CODE



HOPE YOU HAD A HAPPY
4TH OF JULY

THE FIREWORKS MAY BE OVER, BUT THERE'S
STILL SOMETHING EXCITING ON THE HORIZON...

CITY RESCUE MISSION'S 18TH ANNUAL CHAMPIONS CHALLENGE GOLF TOURNAMENT

MONDAY, AUGUST 31ST
TPC SAWGRASS

CHECK-IN AT 9:30
SHOTGUN START AT 11:30

SCAN TO
REGISTER ONLINE

SPONSORSHIPS

ISLAND GREEN TITLE SPONSOR- \$25,000
EAGLE SPONSOR- \$15,000
AWARD SPONSOR- \$12,500
BIRDIE SPONSOR- \$10,000
PAR SPONSOR- \$6,000
TROPHY SPONSOR- \$2,500
HOLE SPONSOR- \$1,000

TEAM REGISTRATION (4 GOLFERS)- \$4,500

CONTACT KELLY HIGHT
FOR MORE INFORMATION
904.421.5141

REGGIE BRIDGES
Counselor, Choir Director, and Alumni Staff Liaison

Thank you for 20 years of faithful service to City Rescue Mission. Your dedication has made a lasting impact on countless lives.

20 YEARS

LET'S SOCIAL

get SOCIAL

SCAN TO CONNECT

LET'S SOCIAL

growing Together

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4th of July Celebration

Program participants celebrated Independence Day with food, fellowship, and fun as they enjoy time together and build community.