Celebrating 90 Years of Bringing Hope

If These Walls Could Talk . . .

To Our Kansas City Community

The Light

Vol. 54, No. 5 - Fall 2014 Anniversary Issue

Chaplain Charles McField (pictured)
Dear Friends,

Nine decades ago, Rev. David and Beulah Bulkley were clearly led by God to open the doors of City Union Mission. They depended on His faithfulness in those early days when needs were great and funds were not. “Dave, the Mission worker” was a man of great faith, and he expressed that in his prayerful reliance on the Savior who cared for “human sparrows” as He did those tiny creatures that sometimes fell from their nests (Matthew 10:29).

Thankfully God’s faithfulness didn’t begin in 1924—He has been forever faithful. Through these 90 years there have been numerous times that were extremely challenging—both in the changing demands of caring for the needs of multiple thousands of men, women and children, as well as financially lean times. He, of course, remained faithful in meeting every need. For the next 90 years City Union Mission will continue to confidently depend on God’s faithfulness and remain faithful to Him and to His Word.

We are living in challenging times as a ministry that is Christ-centered and biblically-based. We are committed to meeting the needs of those struggling with homelessness, addiction, hopelessness and defeat by holding tightly to our faithful God and to His direction given in the Bible. And we’re grateful for your dedicated partnership.

For His glory,

Rev. Daniel J. Doty
Executive Director

Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

1 Corinthians 4:2 (NIV)
1924 to 2014 . . .
A Historical Perspective

The Mission’s story is one of evolution and change in order to offer Christ-centered services that empower people of our city to become contributing members of society.

In September 1924, through the Mission’s first outpost at 545 Main Street, our founders embraced the “drunkards and derelicts” of Skid Row with a hot meal and the message of God’s Word. The Mission purchased a 1,000-acre tract of land in the Ozarks near Warsaw, Missouri, in 1933 as a refuge for homeless and lonely men. A year later, Camp CUMCITO (City Union Mission Camp in the Ozarks) was added there to provide summer fun in a Christian environment for impoverished children.

In 1954, the Mission developed the Christian Life Program for men—the first long-term rehabilitation program of its kind. Then in the 1970s, as our city’s homeless population grew to include more and more faces of women and mothers with children, the Mission responded by opening a family shelter and enhancing services for this vulnerable group.

In recent years, as the faltering economy put more people at risk of losing their independence, we expanded our outreach to help men and women achieve the training they need to find gainful employment and succeed in the workforce. Currently, we welcome hundreds of individuals every year into our long-term life-changing programs for men, women and families.

But the need continues. Jesus said the poor will always be with us, and at the same time He blesses us with kindhearted individuals, churches, businesses and groups who share their time, talent and financial support to ensure our outreach continues.

Please see the back cover and prayerfully consider how God may be calling you to help in the years ahead. We’re so grateful for your partnership.

If These Walls Could Talk . . .

The Light magazine asked several former guests and residents to share their memories of the Mission. What surprised them, blessed them or touched their hearts the most? Their replies are candid and heartwarming.

“I didn’t even know where the Mission was for sure, but I knew it was where God wanted me to be.” —Tyrone

“I didn’t think I would be at the Mission very long, only a few days, and then I’d move on—but I stayed. I appreciated the strong relationship I had with the staff. I was able to say things and they would know what I meant, even if others didn’t.” —Dannie

“When I first came I felt scared and ashamed, like a failure. But that didn’t last for long as the staff made me feel so welcome and loved. When my son, who was afraid of water, felt confident enough to jump into the lake while we were at Camp CUMCITO, I knew he felt the same way.” —Annie

Scan the QR code to view a fascinating and informative motorcycle ride through the Mission’s 90-year history with Executive Director Rev. Daniel J. Doty.
A Legacy of Helping Hands

City Union Mission is pleased to share its 90th birthday with a woman who continues to bless us with her passion for caring and has passed it on to her family. Coleen Cobb was born in 1924, the same year we opened our doors, and as a girl, her youth group performed at the Mission. Her son, Glen, worked with the children at Camp CUMCITO years ago, and today Coleen volunteers at the Mission with her daughter, Beth Beckham (pictured center with Joyce Humphrey, Learning Center Supervisor, and Greg Gay, Christian Life Program Administrator), sewing and mending nightshirts for the men in our shelter. Beth’s husband, Ron, volunteers in our Maintenance Department one day a week. Beth also helps in the Learning Center, tutoring men in math, English or whatever subject they need assistance.

“It’s a blessing to be able to share Jesus anytime, anywhere, anyplace at the Mission and to be useful in His Kingdom,” Beth says. We’re grateful for this family who continues to bless us with their helping hands and caring hearts!

Luncheon Meal Provider, Inspired Occasions

For six years, Inspired Occasions, an award-winning catering and event management company, has provided meals for the Mission’s Awareness Luncheons. The Mission is grateful for their tasteful contribution, and President Lon Lane and his wife, Marcia, feel their company is blessed by the opportunity to give back to their community:

“Individually and as a Kansas City company, we truly believe in the vision of City Union Mission of feeding the spirit as well as the body. Being a food services provider, we determined we could best serve the Mission by providing quality lunches for their Awareness Luncheons to help in their effort to educate the community on the scope of the Mission.” —Lon Lane

Because of You... Our Ministry Continues

The heartfelt contributions of these Mission friends are true examples of the vital partnerships that have allowed us to be a place of hope for 90 years.

Working Together for God’s Purpose

Before he went home to glory in August 2010, Mission volunteer David Baldwin began a work that would bring ex-inmates to our doors where they would find transformation. Through his ministry—EverForward Ministries—and Christian Life School of Theology, David taught courses at Easterling Correctional Facility in Clio, Alabama. So when our Men’s Center Case Manager C.W. Rucker shared with David his call to reach out to the prisoners of Alabama, the idea to include them in our long-term life-recovery program took root.

Soon David and C.W. invited Anthony Askew, chaplain at the Easterling Correctional Facility, to send paroled inmates to our Christian Life Program to help them re-integrate into society. Thanks to David’s love for broken and hurting men, since then scores of ex-inmates have had the opportunity to build new lives in Christ.

“I look back on the ripple effect that happened as David answered the call to serve. As he taught at the prison in Alabama, inmates about to be released would hear about our program at the Mission and he encouraged them to come here. He believed that we are all in prison in some way, behind bars or not behind bars, and it is the Lord who sets us free.”

—Sandy Baldwin, Donor Connections Specialist and wife of David Baldwin

David Baldwin (left) shared his love of the Lord with men in our Christian Life Program like Arnold Lenzini.
Interns Assist Mission While Gaining Valuable Experience

City Union Mission has many opportunities for summer and year-round interns that help prepare students for careers in all facets of ministry. “They become valuable assets as they require only moderate training and are available for an extended length of time to carry out their tasks and improve the quality of service we are able to provide,” says Travis Bradburn, Camp Administrator, who welcomes the assistance of interns. “They also bring valuable feedback and suggestions regarding our programs and procedures.”

The interns themselves gain real-world and hands-on experience as they help our homeless neighbors rebuild their lives. Many have told us they feel blessed by the opportunity to make an impact and that their involvement with our ministry has helped direct their career paths. This past summer, interns working with the children in our camping programs were asked to share their thoughts . . .

“My time here has really stretched me and pushed me outside of my comfort zone, which has been wonderful. I have had to really rely on God and trust His plan for me here. I have grown in the way I express grace for people, as well, which has opened my heart.”

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“Since working here I’ve realized that I love kids and I saw kids change with my love. Their behaviors changed in good ways and the looks in their eyes changed when I showed them love. That’s the most amazing experience I’ve ever had!”

“Even though on the outside it may look like I do only one job (crew leader), I’m actually a part-time janitor, teacher, secretary, babysitter, basketball player, cook and artist. Exploring all of these positions has stretched me as a person and prepared me for many different roles in the workplace.”

“‘I came here thinking that I could do everything on my own—that I could solve the kids’ problems and my own too. I soon realized this was impossible. It taught me to ask for help and to recognize other people’s strengths. Most importantly, it taught me to rely fully on God’s strength.’

Interns are Needed . . . in these areas of our ministry!

Development: donor relations, volunteer management, website management, social media, corporate relations, church relations, data entry

Operations: network management, facilities and grounds maintenance, food service

Programs: counseling, nursing, tutoring

To learn more, contact Ben King at 816-474-9380, ext. 1469 or ben.king@cityunionmission.org.
When the Mission first opened nine decades ago, a “homeless person” was typically an older man, most likely a transient, and often suffering the effects of alcohol abuse. Today that term may just as easily describe a woman or person of any age who—due to a variety of circumstances—has no safe place to go. Sadly, homelessness among single women has been on the rise in our community. And of those who call the Mission’s Hotline for the Homeless, as many as 3,000 each year are turned away due to lack of bed space.

After earnest prayers about how to address this growing tragedy, the Mission identified an opportunity to respond. When we relocated our Community Assistance Department from our Family Shelter to our new warehouse location at 1700 E. 8th Street, it produced a domino effect that allowed us to open up more beds for single women.

We remodeled the available space to hold 12 beds and two bathrooms with showers. Each occupant has a locker and three drawers located on her bunk bed. Since the rooms were completed, they’ve been filled to capacity nearly every night.

The Mission is grateful for everyone who played a role in making this expansion possible, and especially to these individuals who so graciously assembled the new beds: Steve Small, Caleb Small, Roger Lindahl, Calvin Campbell and David Eikenberry.

An unstable childhood, poor decisions and destructive habits formed the foundation of Nicole’s adult life. In her 30s, she was struggling to support herself and her two teenage children when a car accident left her unable to work. “I lost everything all at once—my job and our home,” she shares. Her children stayed with friends, but she had no place to go. She called the Mission’s Hotline for the Homeless, and after waiting for several days, a bed for a single woman became available in our Family Shelter.

“I’m so happy to have a roof over my head,” she says. “I try to help out wherever I can. I love the staff and all the ways they’re helping me.” Through Bible study and spiritual guidance, Nicole is re-establishing her relationship with God. She has overcome her dependence on drugs and is learning how to manage her finances. And she enjoys fellowship with other women facing similar challenges. “I share my room with 11 other roommates. We are a tight-knit group and we comfort and support one another,” she says.

Nicole plans to join our long-term New Life Program and looks forward to having her children join her at the Mission. She’ll continue to follow God’s Word while she earns her GED and finds a stable job that will allow her to provide for her family. She remains grateful for the compassion she’s found here. “I feel like I’m loved and embraced. I feel at peace. I feel at home.”
Hold an Invisible Neighbors Bible Study

Endorsed by the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions (AGRM), “Invisible Neighbors” is a poignant study that delves into one of our most serious and growing social issues in North America, the plight of the poor. With a unique combination of printed word, videos, website, and social media, the study motivates believers to engage with the poor in a way that will impact their communities, their churches and their own lives.

Ideal for your church body or adult and youth groups of all kinds, study guides and materials can be ordered online at http://www.invisibleneighbors.org. After you’ve completed the study, representatives from the Mission would be pleased to speak with your group about ways to engage with the Mission to uplift our community’s poor and homeless. To schedule a speaker, contact Dennis Ellis at 816-474-9380, ext. 1466 or dennis.ellis@cityunionmission.org.

Visit Our City Thrift Stores

The Mission’s three City Thrift stores offer a variety of ways for compassionate friends to participate in caring for the people we serve. By donating new and gently used belongings of all kinds, you stock our shelves with inventory that can be sold to support our programs and services. Items such as clothing are given to the homeless in our shelters, and household goods are passed on to our residents as they begin their new lives. The stores also provide a training ground for residents of our Christian Life Program to learn work-place skills as they perform many retail functions. And our stores serve the community by offering a wide variety of merchandise at reasonable prices.

Visit www.cityunionmission.org for locations, hours and pickup and drop-off information.

Purchase Alexander Austin Royals Portraits

Collection now features new 2014 players!

The Mission is honored to offer one drawing of each member of the 2013 Royals roster—as well as new players for 2014—created by former Mission guest and Major League Baseball’s “2012 Hometown Heroes Artist” Alexander Austin and signed by the player himself.

The framed originals are being offered for $1,000 each, with the proceeds benefiting the Mission. For more information, contact Dennis Chapman, Chief Development Officer, at 816-474-9380, ext. 1476. Call now while the drawing of your favorite player is still available!

Drawing on Faith, Drawing on Hope

The Mission asked boys and girls in our Family Shelter, Vanderberg Youth Center and Camp CUMCITO to draw pictures and describe what homelessness or other personal circumstances look like and feel like to them. The result is a moving and inspiring compilation of words and art, direct from the hearts of children who are brave, thoughtful, sad, funny and filled with insight beyond their years.

This revealing book is available to Mission friends and partners for a donation of $29.95 (enough to provide 15 meals) plus shipping and handling. Order online at www.cityunionmission.org.

Visit www.cityunionmission.org to read about Alexander Austin’s journey from homelessness to hope and how he has become one of our city’s most beloved artists.
To Get Involved with the Mission

**More Ways . . .**

**Lynda Randle in Concert with Land & Hildebrand, September 19**

City Union Mission is excited to present the heartwarming music of southern Gospel artist Lynda Randle—with Land & Hildebrand—in a benefit concert called “Celebrating 90 Years: More Than a Soup Kitchen.” The event, which marks the Mission’s 90th anniversary, is Friday, September 19, at 7:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Raytown. Prices are $12 for general admission, $25 for Circle of Friends premium seating and $50 for Artist Circle seating, which includes a meet and greet opportunity. Tickets are on sale now at Mardel stores in Overland Park and Independence and on the Mission’s website at www.cityunionmission.org.

Don’t miss this evening of celebration and inspiration with this Dove Award-winning artist who has been a favorite on the Gaither Homecoming videos!

**Share the Power of Your Prayers**

At City Union Mission, we know God answers prayer because we see proof every day: Homeless guests whose lives seem shattered beyond repair are dramatically transformed. Scarce resources are multiplied. Potential crises are averted. *When the Mission and those we serve are remembered in the prayers of compassionate people, miracles happen!*

Would you include the Mission in your daily prayers? Beginning with this issue of *The Light*, we’ll feature a Chaplain’s Corner, which includes the greatest needs and concerns of the Mission and our guests. Please join us in prayer for God’s guidance and intervention. We’re blessed by every prayer you pray on our behalf.

**Chaplain’s Corner**

**Please pray with us . . .**

- For wisdom to know what the Lord would have us do in response to the growing issue of family homelessness in our city . . . for the best use of the recently acquired building next to our men’s shelter . . . and for the successful completion of our new multipurpose building at Camp CUMCITO.
- For God’s guidance for the future as biblical values are minimized by our current culture.
- For the following homeless guests, that they will know God’s comfort and love: Antonio, who is striving to overcome substance addictions. Jason, who lost his wife and daughter this year. Jeff, Andre, Wally, Stephen, Anthony, Terry, Michael, John and Bruce, who have left homelessness for new residences.

**City Union Mission is pleased to sponsor this seminar that offers churches and other ministries an effective and proven model for recruiting, screening, training and leading high-impact volunteers. The event is scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, October 1-2, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Graceway in Raytown. Attendees will learn:**

- How to create an environment in which volunteer ministry can flourish.
- How to craft an effective recruiting message.
- How to motivate your volunteer force to peak performance.
- The secrets to volunteer retention.
- How to develop a powerful advocate ministry to bring funds to your organization.

Valued at $795 per person, the Mission is offering this information-packed session for a discounted rate of only $150 per person, which includes a seminar book, lunch and snacks. For more information or to register, visit www.cityunionmission.org.

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What’s Next . . .

How is God calling you to be part of the next 90 years?

Faithful and consistent donor support has sustained our ministry for 90 years, and because of your partnership we continue to forge ahead with confidence. Please prayerfully consider how God is calling you to partner with us now and in the years ahead:

- **Cash giving** is one of the best ways you can ensure our outreach remains vital and strong. Simply send donations in response to mailings like this newsletter or give online at [www.cityunionmission.org](http://www.cityunionmission.org).

- Pledge monthly or quarterly gifts by becoming a **Bed & Bread Club** giving partner.

- Use the Mission’s **My Legacy Planner** online tool to ensure your compassionate giving continues beyond your lifetime (visit [cityunionmission.mylegacyhg.com](http://cityunionmission.mylegacyhg.com)).

- Donations of **food and material goods** help meet our residents’ basic needs.

- **Volunteering your time and talents** allows us to extend our assistance to our neighbors in need far beyond what we could offer through our staff’s efforts alone. From serving meals to tutoring, you can make a real and personal impact in the life of a homeless individual.

- Lift up the Mission in **prayer** as we discern the path God would have us take to meet the ever-changing needs of our Kansas City community.

If you would like to learn more about the specific role you can play in helping City Union Mission carry on our legacy of service, email info@cityunionmission.org.

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**Financial Stewardship**

**Because You Gave** (January – July 2014)

- **Meals Served** (daily avg.): 732
- **Homeless Sleeping Overnight** (daily avg.): 450
- **Patients Seen** (for medical issues): 4,445
- **Chapel Service Attendance** (daily avg.): 280
- **Salvations and Rededications**: 269


**Amount Raised** (As of July 31, 2014): $9,635,893.43