DALE WANTS TO THANK YOU

His heart is filled with thanksgiving because of God’s love and your generosity!

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While everyone has the ability to express thankfulness, not everyone practices it. I’m sure that’s why the Lord found it necessary to remind His children multiple times to have hearts of thanksgiving. It was because of our need to be grateful that the Mission has “gratitude” as one of our core values.

Gratitude – We will seek to exemplify and instill in others an attitude of thankfulness and appreciation for what God and others have done to bring blessing into our lives. “So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” - Colossians 2:6,7

God doesn’t want us to simply match how “the world” says thank you; He wants us to overflow with thankfulness. That means God wants me to be known for having a heart of thanksgiving – you too! I love it that Jesus Himself is recorded as giving thanks. What an important standard for us that the Son of God, our Savior, would lead by example.

Most of us love the Thanksgiving holiday when we are more aware of the importance of showing our thanks to those who serve us, and thanks to the Lord for His blessings over the past year, but O how He desires us to overflow, to abound, to be filled to overflowing with hearts of thanksgiving.

Thank YOU for praying, for volunteering, for sharing, for giving. The needs of our nation are enormous, but it is amazing sometimes what we can see by being thankful!

Giving thanks to God,

Rev. Dan Doty
Executive Director
There’s a God and He’s real, and He’s been waiting for me to come back.

“I came here mentally, physically and spiritually broken,” says Dale, describing the downward spiral that brought him to our doors.

Years earlier, he began drinking heavily as he watched his mother suffer a fatal illness. He and his wife divorced. And he was incarcerated for choices he deeply regrets. When he was released, he was burdened with a disability that prevented him from working… and he had nowhere to go.

He attended church when he was younger, but never developed a relationship with the Lord. “I was excited about God, but I wanted my own lifestyle, which was drugs, alcohol and things that go with the world,” he explains. Yet he knew something was missing in his life. So when blessed with the opportunity to join our Christian Life Program after prison, he knew it was where he belonged.

Through the guidance of our godly staff and mentors, he began to rebuild his life. “They pushed me when I needed to be pushed… and they prayed for me when I needed to be prayed for,” he shares. And he opened his heart to God’s direction for his future.

Dale graduated in May and was accepted into our Servant Leadership Institute. “I’ve realized there’s more to life than me,” he says, “so I’m getting more training on how to really give back to the community.” He hopes to one day go into rescue mission ministry.

“Good360 Program Blesses Community

City Union Mission is excited to bless the community through a partnership with Good360, a national gleaning organization that redistributes unused products. Each week the Mission picks up items that have been returned or have damaged packaging – as well as overstock or surplus goods – from six metro Walmart locations. Then they are sorted and allocated to our internal departments, traded to other nonprofits, or given to individuals in need.

The Mission receives products such as pots and pans; children’s toys; men’s and women’s clothing; and automotive supplies. These items cannot be purchased with food stamps, so they are truly appreciated by those working to get back on their feet.

If your group, congregation or civic group would like to be involved with or could benefit from this Community Redistribution Program, please contact Jon Capp at (816) 474-9380 or jon.capp@cityunionmission.org.

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Congratulations, Imanual!

Last fall, Imanual, a resident in our Christian Life Program, expressed a desire to earn his HiSET (high school) diploma. He studied diligently and quickly passed the social studies, science and reading portions of the test. The grammar and writing sections slowed him down a bit, but he still earned a solid score. However, his last subject – math – was a different story. He took the exam last December and failed.

Imanual was crushed. After a study break over the holidays, Imanual attacked his math with gusto. He spent three months preparing and took the test again in April. All he needed was a score of 8, but he earned an 11. His cumulative required score to earn his HiSET diploma was 45 – he earned a 60. Congratulations, Imanual, on this exciting and life-changing accomplishment!

Our gratitude goes to Ashley Gibson, one of our High Impact Volunteers, whose diligent work with Imanual was vital in empowering him to pass the math test.

Because of friends like you... Celebrating 95 Years of Serving the Poor

Caring friends often ask about the best way to help the Mission. Today, just as when we opened our doors back in 1924, the answer is your heartfelt generosity! Because the Mission accepts no government funding that would compromise the faith-based foundation of our programs and services, we rely solely on the partnership and generosity of compassionate individuals, churches and businesses.

The holiday season is an especially important time for giving, as we typically receive a major portion of our donated income during the final quarter of the year. Your financial support is and always will be our greatest need and blessing. Thank you for being extra generous during the holiday season and into the new year ahead.

The Joys of Retirement

Have you seen the viral photo dubbed “Success Kid”? Millions have viewed his image alongside phrases that illustrate daily successes, like “Does the laundry. Finds $5 in pants pocket.”

Maybe people love Success Kid because of that “job well done” feeling. Perhaps that’s also why many identify retirement as one of the happiest seasons of their lives. Here are three special sources of joy that make retirement shine:

1. **The JOYS of travel.** Traveling lets you experience fun and beauty.
2. **The JOYS of family.** The sweetness of experiencing children and grandchildren is unlike anything else.
3. **The JOYS of giving.** Being able to bless a ministry like City Union Mission that is impacting lives provides a special kind of fulfillment.

As you reflect on joy today, perhaps you feel a bit like David in Psalm 116:12 – “What shall I return to the Lord for all His goodness to me?” Now is a great time to think about how you can fashion your future giving plans and retirement assets to maximize a blessing for your loved ones and the ministries you care about.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of “3 Ways to Experience Joy in Retirement” by contacting Dennis Chapman at (816) 329-1476 or dennis.chapman@cityunionmission.org. Or bless your family today with a God-honoring will at christianwill.org/cityunionmission.