Thanks to you...

**Dempsey**

has been given a
life-changing gift
this Christmas.

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For more information: (816) 474-9380   cityunionmission.org
A Message from DR. TERRY MEGLI

Celebrating Christmas with JOY for All People

In Luke 2:10, the angel says, “Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.”

During the Christmas season, we hear a lot about joy. It has me thinking about how joy is something all people can have in their hearts. This time of year, our greatest joy is celebrating the birth of our Savior and the eternal life we have been freely given.

That joy is what fills our hearts Christmas morning... and, hopefully, every day of the year. It’s the same joy I see on the faces of the children, women and men that have come to City Union Mission and experienced God’s life-changing love up close and personal. The joy YOU help them experience through your heartfelt prayers and support.

This Christmas, as you reflect on the “reason for the season,” I hope you will remember our neighbors who are hurting. As Dempsey’s story shows, your generosity offers help, healing and a chance to be held in the arms of a loving God.

I am continually humbled by the faithfulness of friends like you who joyfully bless others. Thank you, and may God fill your heart with peace and love.

Giving thanks to God,

Dr. Terry Megli
Chief Executive Officer

Bring Christmas Joy to Neighbors in Need

Guests in our Family Shelter, residents of our long-term programs and income-qualified families will “shop” for presents for loved ones at our Christmas store.

Children in our Vanderberg Youth Center, men in our emergency shelter, residents of nursing homes and inmates of Jackson County jails will be given gifts as well.

We’ll hold a Christmas dinner for our residents and the homeless and we’ll provide food bags to hundreds of struggling families.

Here’s how to partner with us!

1 SHOP FOR GIFTS – Visit MissionChristmas.org for a list of our most needed gift items for men, women and children, along with Mission drop-off locations.

OR:

2 DONATE ONLINE at MissionChristmas.org – We’ll purchase gifts on your behalf. $50 provides presents for one person in our Christmas store.

Our Christmas Store opens November 1st... Shop today to ensure our shelves are filled!

Giving thanks to God,
I was in a very dark place.

I grew up in foster homes, group homes and street shelters,” Dempsey says. “At a very young age I learned to take care of myself.” Sadly, influenced by his detrimental surroundings, his self-education also included the use of alcohol and drugs.

Over the years, addiction prevented him from holding a steady job... eroded his relationships... and led to what he calls a “nothingness” in life.

Finally, homeless on the streets of Denver, he recognized a voice he’d turned his back on long ago. “I heard the Lord telling me to get on a bus... any bus.” Dempsey went to the station and picked a door that said Kansas City. “I got on that bus and it dropped me a block from here,” he says, referring to our shelter where he’s now in our care.

Dempsey joined our New Believers Covenant program where he began to study the Bible, attend church and participate in discipleship classes. “Now I don’t even feel like using drugs,” he says. “I need the Lord in my life, and I want to learn more about Jesus.” He is also encouraged by the walk of our godly staff and mentors. “You need to surround yourself with believers,” he says.

As he works in our kitchen, he’s embracing the joy of service and feels he’s being called into ministry. “After graduation I plan to stay in this field as a cook or a chef.”

Today, no longer living in darkness, Dempsey’s future is bright. “You have to have ethics about yourself... put the past behind... and become a new person in Christ,” he says. “Once I learned all that, I knew I’d be all right in the world.”

It’s going to be a Christmas filled with joy for Dempsey – and he is so grateful to you for this wonderful gift of a new beginning. “The Mission has changed my life 100 percent and people notice. They say, ‘Hey, you got a smile on your face!’”

Feed KC Now... and make transformation possible!
Your gift provides a meal and care for one person... and could be the first step toward a new beginning!

$2.50 for 1 hot meal

$21.00 for 1 night of safe shelter

Please feed KC Now – Send Your Gift Today!
Hunger, homelessness and poverty are tragedies that impact our Kansas City neighbors all year long. To meet their immediate and long-term needs, the Mission invites the community to take part in Celebrate Hope: Reach Out to K.C.’s Poor or Homeless, our annual campaign to raise a significant portion of our yearly budget. By supporting this initiative, you help ensure we have the resources to share God’s Word and offer permanent transformation to hurting individuals and families 365 days a year:

• Food, shelter, clothing, medical services and other life essentials
• Spiritual guidance, counseling and case management
• Long-term Christian recovery
• Adult education, career development and job placement assistance
• Summer camp and structured year-round activities for children
• The ability to keep pace with growing and changing needs

The Mission accepts no funding that would require us to compromise the principles of our biblical outreach. We rely instead on the financial support of churches, businesses, foundations and caring friends like you to continue our faith-based outreach.

For more information on ways to give, including “challenge” opportunities or donations of securities, vehicles or collectibles, contact Karl Ploeger at (816) 329-1475 or karl.ploeger@cityunionmission.org.

Make an Impact Through Year-End Giving
City Union Mission offers a variety of giving opportunities that allow you to demonstrate your compassion for Kansas City’s poor and homeless...

• Donations of cash can purchase items needed most.
• Gifts of stock and other securities allow you to give without depleting cash reserves.
• Contributions of products or services can meet specific needs and offset our budget.
• Used cars, trucks and vans can be used in Mission programs or sold for funding.
• 401(k) retirement giving/mandatory disbursements at 70 1/2.

For more information on these and other year-end giving options, contact Karl Ploeger at karl.ploeger@cityunionmission.org or (816) 329-1475.

Every December, we display Nativities that include the “three wise men.” Here are a few surprising things you might not know about them:

1. There may have only been two. Because the magi brought three gifts, it’s often assumed there were three, but the Bible doesn’t offer a number.

2. They didn’t arrive the night Jesus was born. Matthew records the men arrived “after Jesus was born,” at the “house” where Jesus was. It’s believed Mary and Joseph were no longer at the stable but in another location of the city, at a later time.

3. They were the first Gentiles to worship Jesus. The Bible says they knew Jesus was the “King of the Jews.” And even though they were astrologers, they were overjoyed to worship the baby as King.

Every December, we follow in their footsteps. We give gifts and gather to worship the King. One way we can do both is through the practice of Biblical stewardship. We can donate our time serving alongside loved ones, or update an estate plan to include a gift to a ministry like City Union Mission.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of “Surprising Facts About the Nativity” by contacting Karl Ploeger at karl.ploeger@cityunionmission.org or (816) 329-1475 – or bless your family today with a God-honoring will at christianwill.org/cityunionmission.