

A Publication of CITY UNION MISSION

THE LIGHT

VOLUME 64 • NO. 1 • 2024 EASTER NEWSLETTER

Kevin is celebrating Easter with JOY – because of you!



Thank you for
showing him that
new life is possible.

*Easter*²⁰²⁴
ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Don't miss ...



The Promises of Easter Page 2



Donate a car and change a life
Page 2



**"I was spiritually confused and
emotionally bruised."** Page 3

For more information: (816) 474-9380 cityunionmission.org



A Message from DR. TERRY MEGLI

THE PROMISES OF EASTER

Have you ever seen the realization cross someone's face the first time they understand the gravity of Christ's death and resurrection? It's one of my favorite things about Easter at City Union Mission. It's a privilege to be a small part of their story, as our guests celebrate the promises of joy and hope this season brings.

You too are a part of our guests' stories, as you share God's love with them by providing nutritious meals, safe shelter and other services to change their lives.

Your faithful prayers and generosity help hurting men, women and children in our community find a home through our doors. They also find HOPE – hope for their future, and hope in the promises we celebrate at Easter.

Thank you for showing our hurting neighbors in need that you care about them – in their present circumstances, for their future and for eternity. You show them they are loved. You help restore their dignity, and ignite in them a desire to change their circumstances.

Together with God's faithfulness, you help turn stories of pain into promises of new life in Christ.

Thank you... happy Easter... and God bless!

Giving thanks to God,

Dr. Terry Megli
Chief Executive Officer



DONATE YOUR CAR AND CHANGE A LIFE!



When you donate your reliable, used car to our **Car Ministry Program**, we give it to one of our Christian Life Program graduates as they leave the Mission and begin a new season of independent living.

Most of our graduates aren't financially able to purchase a reliable car to get back and forth to work and take care of other responsibilities, so your gift helps set them up for success. And we'll take care of maintaining the car for a year.

All donations are tax deductible. To learn more about our Car Ministry or make a donation, call ☎ (816) 841-6171 or go to cityunionmission.org/ways-to-help/donate-a-car



SHARE JOY THIS EASTER

Help meet the needs of our hurting neighbors!

With Easter coming early this year, we need your help to welcome every man, woman and child who comes to our doors! YOU can help meet their needs and fill hearts with joy...



30,000 meals –
just \$2.50 each!



17,500 nights
of shelter



Christ-centered care
& healing in our life-
change programs!

Easter²⁰²⁴
ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

- ✉ Give now using the enclosed reply card and envelope.
- 🌟 Give online anytime at cityunionmission.org.

**“I was
spiritually
confused
and
emotionally
bruised.”**



Years of abuse at the hands of his father sparked Kevin's rebellious nature, and it took him down a self-destructive path. "I felt different from other people," he says. So he sought belonging and acceptance in a lifestyle of vagrancy and drug use.

For most of his adult life, he struggled with homelessness, substance abuse and incarceration. With each passing year, the more difficult it became to try to change his ways. Finally, at age 50, he was arrested once again. "And a funny thing happened," he shares.

"I walked into the jail and the guys were sitting in a prayer group. I thought, 'This is strange,' but I seriously wanted to join them." While serving time, he began to study God's Word. And he opened his heart to the Lord.

When released on probation, Kevin had nowhere to go. But he knew where he wanted to be. He joined our Christian Life Program and felt a sense of belonging he'd never experienced before.

In addition to spiritual guidance, we're helping Kevin recognize his God-given talents and strengths. He embraces life-skills classes and vocational training, and he works in our response center where he enjoys making new guests feel at home.

After graduation he plans to rekindle relationships with loved ones, build a stable career and, most importantly, serve the Lord. "I ask for guidance every morning and someday hopefully I'll find my calling."

Thank you for sharing God's love with Kevin this Easter. His life has been renewed through the joy and hope of the Gospel! "I'm in better physical condition, mental condition, emotionally sound and getting a foundation under me. I wake up every morning and praise God for leading me here."

**I hadn't realized that one thing
missing in my life was the Lord.**

HELP MEET OUR EASTER NEEDS



Sunday, March 31: Our Easter Celebration from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Now through Easter, your help is needed to provide **thousands of meals** for our hungry neighbors! Help welcome these special guests with love and a good meal, by sharing a donation of these needed food items.

URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS!

Drop off any of these items **by Friday, March 29:**

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SPIRAL SLICED HAMS | <input type="checkbox"/> POWDERED MILK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> INSTANT MASHED POTATOES | <input type="checkbox"/> DESSERTS (homemade or store-bought) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUTTER | <input type="checkbox"/> COFFEE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CANNED VEGETABLES | <input type="checkbox"/> CREAMER |

Drop off donations at the our Food Warehouse at 1020 E. 10th Street,
Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

No time to shop? Donate now!

☎ (816) 474-9380 🌟 cityunionmission.org



God's Promise of Joy

"If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." - John 15:10-11



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HOTLINE FOR THE HOMELESS
(816) 474-4599

How creating a will shows you care

Before Dr. Gary Chapman was a bestselling author, he was a husband in a struggling marriage. His wife was frustrated that he didn't help around the house. He was disappointed she didn't respond to his encouraging words. When they realized they expressed love differently, the discovery led to Gary's book *The Five Love Languages*, a resource that has helped millions of people.*

Have you ever thought about legacy planning as an act of love? It's a loving deed that:

- **Serves your family.** Creating a will ensures your financial house is in order, your final wishes are clear, and your family is saved stress and expense.
- **Shares what matters.** Your will allows you to communicate with your loved ones about your cherished beliefs and values.
- **Spreads the love.** A gift in your will to City Union Mission helps us extend God's love to the people we serve. Your loving generosity embodies Jesus' words in John 13: "As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another."

*Story taken from The New York Times

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "Legacy Planning is an Act of Love" by contacting Karl Ploeger at (816) 329-1475 or karl.ploeger@cityunionmission.org – or bless your family today with an up-to-date will at cityunionmission.legacywill.org

cityunionmission.org • info@cityunionmission.org