

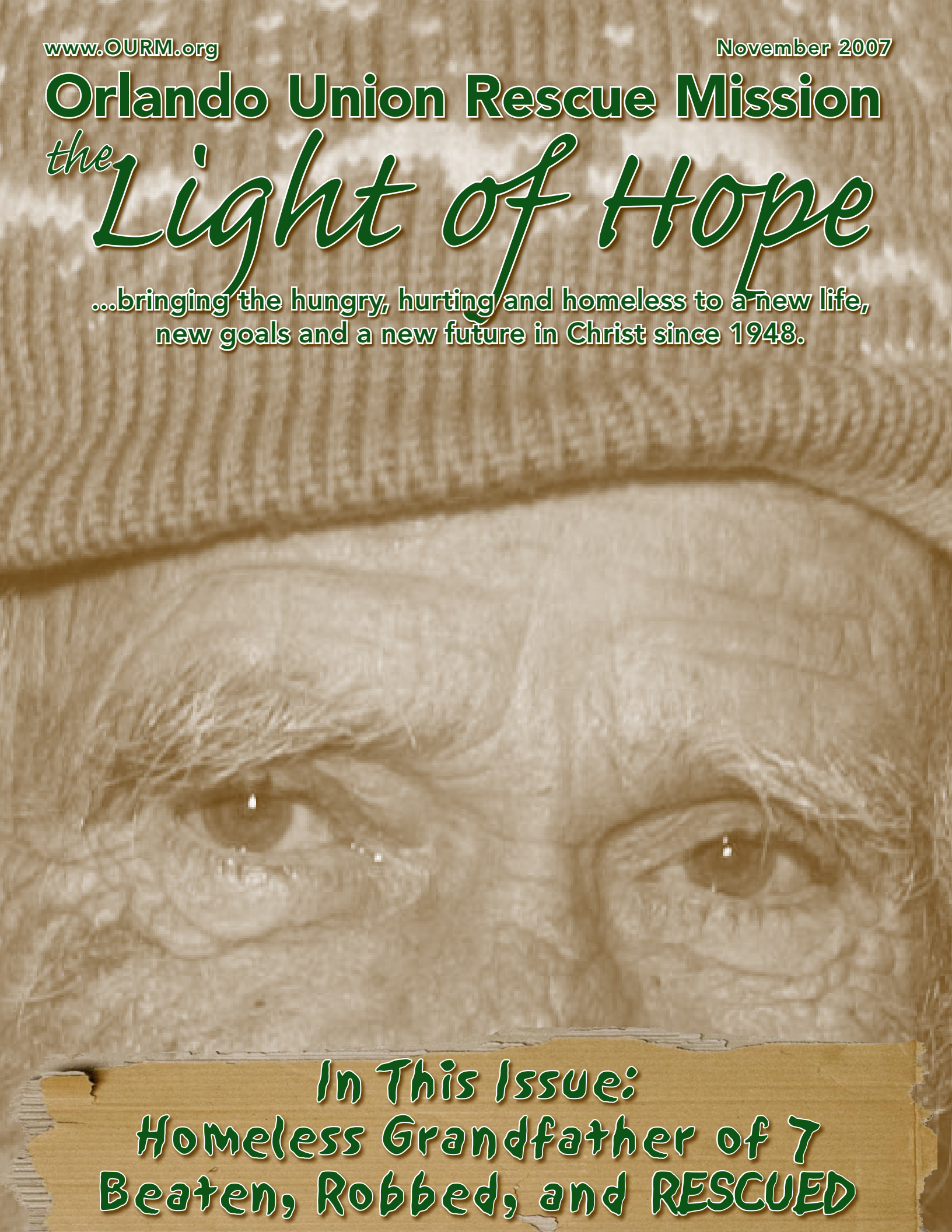
www.OURM.org

November 2007

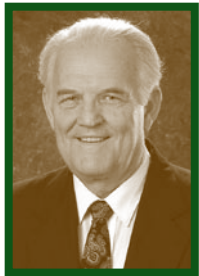
Orlando Union Rescue Mission

*the* **Light of Hope**

...bringing the hungry, hurting and homeless to a new life,  
new goals and a new future in Christ since 1948.



**In This Issue:**  
**Homeless Grandfather of 7**  
**Beaten, Robbed, and RESCUED**



Dear Friends,

Think about the man standing beside the road holding a tattered cardboard sign reading-- "Will Work For Food". We've all seen him, yet our responses to him may be quite different. Do you just glance at him and continue on your way? Or do you really look at him as one of God's precious creations? Do you wonder what happened in his life to bring him to this state of homelessness? Do you think about how you could make a difference in his life?

Most of the men and women who participate in the Mission's programs are trapped in addictions, fleeing abusive relationships, suffering financial hardships, or have had some other unforeseen circumstance cause them to resort to life on the streets.

The Mission reaches out to the homeless by providing a hot meal, clean clothes, and a safe shelter. Most importantly, we introduce them to the only One who can truly change their life, Jesus Christ. Events such as our Annual Great Thanksgiving Banquet show those living on the streets that others do care about them. After the physical needs are met, the needy see hope that a brighter future may exist. Your faithful support allows the Orlando Union Rescue Mission the opportunity to reach out to these hurting souls and provide the foundation necessary for rebuilding a new life.

God bless,

  
Don Moody,  
Executive Director

**Don't miss an exciting  
MISSION IN ACTION  
this month.**

Call for more details.

## YOU MAY BE WONDERING...

### Why Do I Receive So Much Mail From The Mission?

Our primary method of communicating with donors is by mail. Granted, our mailings do incur certain costs, but we carefully supervise the efficiency of this communication method to ensure that we are being wise stewards of that which God has entrusted to us.

We make every attempt to reduce the costs of our mailings by allowing donors the opportunity to personalize their mailing schedules. We understand that not everyone wishes to receive all of our mailings, and we are more than happy to adjust the amount of mail you receive to avoid any unnecessary postage costs. **If you would like to change your mailing schedule, please visit our website at [http://www.ourm.org/mail\\_preferences.htm](http://www.ourm.org/mail_preferences.htm) or call Laurie Fewless at 407-472-0659.**

## Homeless Grandfather of 7 Beaten, Robbed and... RESCUED

The Story of Robert Kirkland  
Resident at O.U.R.M. Men's Division

**I**n 2006 alone, there were 122 attacks and 20 murders of America's homeless. As disturbing as those statistics may be, a staggering 35% of those attacks and murders took place in Florida. More and more, we are seeing startling headlines scattered throughout our local and national media— Spokane, WA- "Two Accused of Setting Wheelchair Bound Homeless Man on Fire"; Nashville, TN- "Police Search for Homeless Woman After Two Men Push Her in River"; Orlando, FL- "Boy, 10, Sentenced in Beating of Homeless Man". Sound familiar? Today's homeless have more elements to beware of than intense weather and insatiable hunger. Vulnerable men and women are being brutally beaten, raped, and even murdered while trying to survive life on the streets.



Robert Kirkland, 66, is most grateful this Thanksgiving for a safe place to lay his head at night. At the age of 64, Robert found himself homeless, living behind a dumpster near a well-traveled venue in Orlando. You may have passed by this dumpster several times without noticing the man living behind it. However, the stench of the dumpster and the constant

noise of passing traffic was Robert's home for 2 years. Admittedly, he spent many nights drunk and drugged; yet he lived alone, behind the dumpster, bothering no one.

On August 9, all seemed normal as Robert went to sleep. It was another night spent in solitude, another night spent drunk and drugged, another night spent homeless on the streets of Orlando. However, little did Robert know, this was the night that God had chosen to get his attention.

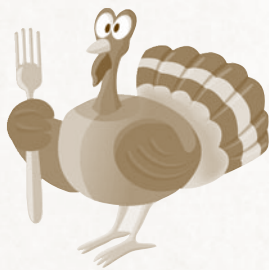
**"I came to the Mission needing safety, food, clothes, and companionship"**

*continued on back page*

# What's Happening at the Mission?

## GREAT THANKSGIVING BANQUET

**Wednesday, Nov. 21**, the Orlando Union Rescue Mission will be hosting approximately 1,200 homeless men, women, and children at this year's Great Thanksgiving Banquet. Bibles will be distributed, a hot Thanksgiving meal will be served, clean clothes will be provided, and hope will be restored to the needy of Central Florida.



Preparations are currently underway, but your cash donations are still urgently needed to help support this life changing outreach to Central Florida's homeless community. Call 407-422-4855 for more information.



## Come to OUR Home for the Holidays

**Friday, Dec. 7 from 10 am - 3 pm**, the Orlando Union Rescue Mission will host its Annual Open House.

This is your opportunity to see what Christmas is like at the Mission. Take a tour and enjoy some refreshments as we welcome you to O.U.R. Home this holiday season.

## IT'S A PARTY!

Wrap a gift and impact someone's life! The Mission is seeking volunteers for our annual gift wrapping party on **Saturday, Dec. 22 from 1- 5 pm**. Meet O.U.R.M. families, help them wrap Christmas packages for their little ones, and make this Christmas special for the less fortunate. RSVP is required as space is extremely limited. Call LeeDawn Carpenter at 407-472-0632 for more information about this exciting event!



## PRAYER AND PRAISE

Be an Orlando Union Rescue Mission prayer partner! Please post this list where you pray.

Thank you so much for lifting up your heartfelt prayers for this ministry, and those in need!

### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

†  
The homeless men, women, and children that we are expecting to feed at the Great Thanksgiving Banquet. Pray that God would open their hearts and that many would come to know Christ through this outreach.

†  
The spiritual growth of the men and women on our programs.

†  
That God would continue to bless this ministry through the financial donations and gifts given during this busy time of year.

### PRAISE REPORTS:

Thank God for the 692 men that have accepted Christ as their Savior this year at our Men's Division.

Thank God for the faithful volunteers who will serve our ministry during the Thanksgiving and Christmas season.



## HOW THE LORD GRABBED MY UNDIVIDED ATTENTION...

By Alan Berglund, Resident at OURM Men's Division

I believe that the whole reason that the Orlando Union Rescue Mission exists is not only to help people, but also to let them know and see that there truly is a God. When I came to the Mission, I was on a path toward destruction. I thought I could fill the emptiness inside of me with alcohol. However, through the people at the Mission, I learned that the only thing that could fill my void was God.

When I was in the Mission's program for 65 days, I was studying and doing well. What I didn't know was that I wasn't capable of completely opening my heart or trusting in God yet. To get my attention, God stuck something in my path that would change my life forever. That day, I found out that a drunk driver (of all things) had killed my 20-year-old daughter.

God knew that I had the window of my heart open just a crack and He was only able to access it through that crack. On the day my daughter was taken, not only did all the windows of my life open, but the doors also. I truly believe that the Lord placed me at the Mission around godly people in order for Him to fully open my heart. I don't think given any other circumstance that I could have handled such a tragedy.






It's a rare thing in this day and age to find an organization that will take you in off the street, lead you to Christ, and allow you the time to heal and grow in the Lord. For that I am eternally grateful and hope that the Mission will always be there for the needy.



# URGENT: TOYS NEEDED!



**Make a child smile this Christmas by donating the following items:**

-  New, Unwrapped Toys for Children of All Ages
-  Filled Stockings for All Ages
-  A Child's Special Wish
-  Gift Certificates for Teenagers and Single Women
-  Hygiene Backpacks / Duffel Bags for Men

For more information on how you, your family, church group, or office can help with this urgent need at the Mission, please contact LeeDawn Carpenter at 407-472-0632.

*continued from page 2*

Very early in the morning, two middle-aged men found Robert sleeping behind the dumpster and brutally beat him over the head with a broomstick. The men ransacked Robert's belongings and stole the little money that he had to his name.



Left to die, Robert managed to make his way to a pay phone and called the police for help. Robert was taken to a local hospital for intense care and treatment of the serious head wounds he suffered. This incident was all it took for Robert to realize that this was not what God had planned for his life. Robert knew he could not continue living on the streets, so he sought aid and upon his release from the hospital went to the Orlando Union Rescue Mission.

"I came to the Mission needing safety, food, clothes, and companionship," Robert recalls. Within a week of coming to the Mission, he was taught about how the blood of Christ has the power to wash away anything he may have done in the past and has also given him hope for a brighter future. The void that was once filled with drugs and alcohol is now filled with Jesus Christ.

Life on the streets was hard for Robert as well as the thousands of other homeless in Central Florida. Even today, 3 months later, Robert still has scars on his head from the violent beating he suffered on the streets. God spared Robert's life and allowed him to start rebuilding it at the Mission.

Robert is using his time at the Mission to build a foundation for his recovery process. It is only by your generous donations that the Orlando Union Rescue Mission is able to keep our doors open 365 days per year as a refuge for the homeless, keeping them safe from the dangers of the streets, so they can focus on changing their lives.

To learn more about the Orlando Union Rescue Mission's safe, nurturing facilities for homeless men like Robert, please visit our website at [http://www.ourm.org/mens\\_division.htm](http://www.ourm.org/mens_division.htm).



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE ORLANDO UNION RESCUE MISSION.

Please use this form and return your tax deductible gift to:  
ORLANDO UNION RESCUE MISSION P.O. Box 2791 Orlando, FL 32802

If gifts exceed expenses, extra funds will be used to care for hungry, homeless and hurting people throughout the year. No person is denied services on race, creed, sex, disability or national origin.

Name  Phone

Address

City, State, Zip

Here is my gift of:  \$25  \$50  \$75  \$100 Other \$  (We never sell, rent or exchange our supporter's names.)

Please make checks payable to: Orlando Union Rescue Mission

Please charge my gift of \$  to my credit card.  Visa  MC  AMEX  DISC

Card #  Code  Exp.  -

Signature

To charge by phone, please call 407-472-0626

YES! I would like more information about the Orlando Union Rescue Mission's Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Program.

Thank you! You will receive a receipt for tax purposes.

N07K1ZA

Your entire contribution is received by the Orlando Union Rescue Mission. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. FDA Registration #CH-2536. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling 1-800-435-7352. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state."

The Light of Hope is published by the Orlando Union Rescue Mission, Inc., a non-profit, faith-based organization, whose mission is to provide those in need with food, shelter, clothing, and other resources to help the homeless build their lives and achieve self-sufficiency. The foundation of our work is Biblically based to bring people to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

Administration Office  
1521 W. Washington Street  
407-422-4855

OUR Mission Home  
1525 W. Washington Street  
407-423-2131

OUR Men's Division  
410 W. Central Blvd.  
407-423-3596

Mission Bargain Store  
911 W. Central Blvd.  
407-841-7578

Mission Bargain Barn  
315 N. OBT  
407-423-7766

