



www.ourmission.org

October 2008

the Light of Hope

But I am poor
and needy;
yet the Lord
thinks it
upon me:
thou art my
help and my
deliverer.
- Psalm 40:17



**ORLANDO UNION
RESCUE MISSION**

*Celebrating 60 years of
bringing the hungry, hurting and
homeless to new life, new goals and
a new future in Christ.*



Looking Deeper at the Man on the Street Corner

It is all too easy to look the opposite direction as you approach the homeless man standing at the busy intersection. However, what if you took a moment to really look at him?

Don Moody,
Executive Director

Could you tell that he used to be a successful businessman, married for several years with 2 children? Did you know that he had goals of owning his own business one day? Probably not, because it's often too hard to see past the dusty overcoat, the bloodshot eyes, and the stench of alcohol on his breath.

Few, if any, children go to school as a homeless person on Career Day. So, what is it that brings someone—like that man or woman on the street corner—to the desperation of living on the streets? The Lord places trials in each of our lives, but promises that he will make a way to escape. Some of us quickly find the escape, while others take days, months, or years to escape.

Nevertheless, the Lord promised an escape and throughout the past 60 years, the Orlando Union Rescue Mission has seen countless men and women find their way of escape while on our program. It is rewarding to see men, women, and children turn their lives over to Christ daily and reach toward the goals He places before them. Your generous support of this ministry is an investment in the lives of broken men and women ready to change their lives for good.

IF YOU TRY GAINING EMPLOYMENT WITHOUT ANY FORM OF IDENTIFICATION, YOU WON'T GET VERY FAR...

Fortunately, a special group of local churches have banded together to form **IDignity** events hosted at the Mission for homeless men and women living on the streets of Orlando.

IDignity has helped hundreds of homeless men and women receive birth certificates, social security cards, identification cards, and/or driver's licenses—opening doors for these men and women to gain employment.

The next **IDignity** event is scheduled for October 23rd. Please pray the Lord would use these events to change many lives.

The DREAM THAT BROUGHT ME TO THE STREETS



Imagine living an entire week without life's most basic items—such as a toothbrush, a clean pair of socks, a stick of deodorant, or a hairbrush. How about more treasured luxuries—such as a safe bed, air conditioning or heat, a clothes dryer, or food you enjoy? Could you do it? Most of us would struggle living without these items for a day—let alone an entire week... month... or year. Yet, nearly 8,100 homeless men, women, and children face night after night of this harsh reality in Central Florida alone.

Lesly Chery knows what it means to live without life's basic necessities as he found himself desperately living on the streets of Orlando for an entire month. Growing up, Lesly had everything pointing him toward success in the world's eyes. His well-educated family of respected physicians, prominent attorneys, and successful entrepreneurs always encouraged Lesly to follow the same path; however, he always had a passion for art and pursued his dream to Florida.

He lived in a quaint, but adequate apartment in Altamonte Springs with his wife and teenage daughter—until his world turned upside down. One day, Lesly came home from work to find an empty apartment. The financial tolls of following his dream had become too much of a burden and his wife and daughter left without saying a word. Within weeks, Lesly lost his apartment and was forced to live out of his car for nearly a month.

Lesly recalls this as the lowest point of his life— he was alone in a city where he knew no one, parked on a side street, hidden from the world, doing odd jobs just to get enough money to survive.

Ashamed that someone would see him in his desperate condition, Lesly would go to the swimming pool at his former apartment complex before dawn to bathe himself prior to reporting for work. One day, the security guard spotted Lesly in the swimming pool and asked him about his situation. As Lesly explained, the security guard told him about a friend who would be willing to open a room at his house for a nominal rent fee. Gratefully, Lesly accepted the offer to have a roof over his head; however, he quickly learned of the bad situation he had entered.

The landlord introduced Lesly to a world of alcohol. A substance which immediately soothed the pain of his broken marriage, but long term brought his world to a downward spiral of addiction.

Knowing there had to be a better plan for his life, Lesly abandoned the living arrangements and found himself with no place to turn until

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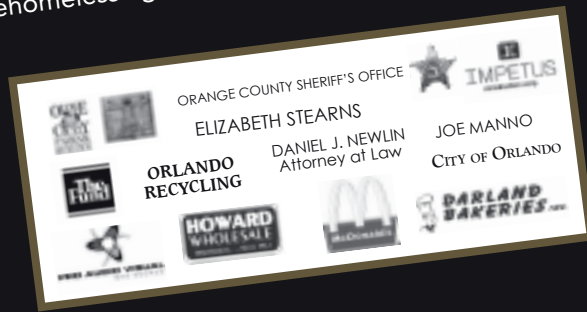
Truly Bringing Hope to the Streets

It was the ultimate learning experience for nearly 250 men, women, boys, and girls in our community—experiencing a small glimmer of homelessness firsthand underneath the Interstate 4 overpass in downtown Orlando on September 19th during the Orlando Union Rescue Mission's 1st Annual One Homeless Night event.

One Homeless Night was a tremendous success and hundreds of lives were touched through this life-changing event. Thank you to all of the special guests, generous supporters, and event participants who made this event possible!

To learn more about what happened at this year's One Homeless Night, please visit www.onehomelessnight.org.

"I couldn't imagine living like that for more than 1 night."



PRAYER AND PRAISE

Become 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:

That the Lord would faithfully meet the financial needs of the Mission.



For God's wisdom when ministering to the homeless men, women, and children coming to the Mission for help.



For the hundreds of homeless men and women who will be served by the upcoming IDignity event. Pray the Lord would help the event to go smoothly.

Praise Reports:

Thank God for the residents completing our program and moving out into their own living accommodations.



Thank God for a successful One Homeless Night event. Hundreds of lives were changed through this special evening.

MEALS OF HOPE

**Where Hunger Ends...
Hope Begins.**

Radio station 98.9 WMMO will be partnering once again with the Orlando Union Rescue Mission to help care for and feed the needy around us. Tune in on November 20th from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. to hear about how you can provide meals and hope- every month - to the hungry, hurting, and homeless around us.

For more information, please contact Laurie Fewless at (407) 472-0659.

MISSION IN ACTION LUNCHEON

An exciting season of Mission in Action luncheons resume this month. Don't miss out on your opportunity to hear inspiring speakers, touching testimonies, and joyous music. Our next meeting includes:

**Mr. Kyle Thomas
First Baptist Church Orlando**

**October 13, 2008
Time 11:30 am -1:00 pm
Cost is \$5.00**

For more information, please contact the Mission at 407-422-4855.

GREAT THANKSGIVING BANQUET

Want to make a difference in a hurting life this Thanksgiving? Now you can! On Wednesday, November 26th, turkey and all of the trimmings will be served to nearly 1,200 homeless men, women, and children living on the streets of Orlando.

Each year, hundreds of lives are changed through this outreach to Central Florida's neediest. Don't miss your opportunity to help. Volunteers and financial support are urgently needed.

For more information on our "Great Thanksgiving Banquet," please contact Andrea Boatwright Burch at 407-422-4855 ext. 118.

**Make a difference
through your
regular purchases...**

The average American family spends \$800 per month on food and gas expenses. Wouldn't it be nice to use that money to help those in need? Now you can...

Purchase your everyday items with gift cards from the Mission's Gift Card Store! For each card that you order from the link on our website, the Mission receives up to 8% of the proceeds to help homeless men, women, and children.

Here's how it works...

1. Go to the Mission's website at www.ourm.org.
2. Click on the "Support us with your everyday purchases" link
3. Purchase gift cards for your groceries, department stores, restaurants, and fuel to benefit homeless men, women, and children.

For more information about this new opportunity, please contact 407-472-0659.

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he was led to the doorstep of the Orlando Union Rescue Mission's Emergency Shelter seeking a hot meal, a warm shower, and a safe night's sleep.

That was over a year ago. Today, Lesly has stayed completely sober, is growing in his relationship with the Lord, and is gaining work skills by faithfully serving on the Mission's Discipleship Program. You will find Lesly at O.U.R. Bargain Store stocking shelves, assisting customers, or sorting donations. In his spare time, Lesly creates beautiful art pieces that he shares with his friends.



When intense hunger and sleepless nights cloud judgment and distort future plans, a hot meal and safe shelter can offer the hope needed for a fresh start. Each year, the Orlando Union Rescue Mission's Emergency Shelter provides thousands of hopeless men living on the streets of Orlando a hot meal, warm shower, and safe shelter. After the physical needs are met, desperate and hurting men are shared a message of a loving Savior who is willing to forgive all sins so they can transform their lives for good. Without your generous support, men—just like Lesly— wouldn't have the opportunity to see that there is hope for the future. For more information about the Orlando Union Rescue Mission's Emergency Shelter please visit www.ourm.org.

SPECIAL NEEDS
SPECIAL NEEDS THIS MONTH INCLUDE:
NEW WHITE BATH TOWELS, NEW MEN'S AND
WOMEN'S UNDERGARMENTS, NEW SOCKS, BABY
WIPES, AND KJV LARGE PRINT BIBLES.
 For more details, please contact LeeDawn Carpenter
 at 407-422-4855



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.

Name Phone

Address

City, State, Zip

Email

Here is my gift of: \$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 Other \$

Please make checks payable to: Orlando Union Rescue Mission (We never sell, rent or exchange our supporter's names.)

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

Card # Code Exp. -

Signature

To charge by phone, call 407-472-0626 YES! I would like to receive email updates from the Mission.

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.

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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.

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