

Union Gospel Mission Programs

Men's Campus & Programs

Bethel Hotel, Central Services, Chapel, Christ Recovery Center, Dental & Medical Clinic, Discipleship Program, Men's LifeNet Learning Center, Gateway Program
435 University Ave. E.
St. Paul, MN 55101
651-292-1721

Women & Family Programs

Naomi Family Residence
77 9th St. E., St. Paul, MN 55101
651-222-7962

Ober Community Center
375 St. Anthony Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55103
651-209-6512 ext.101

Child Care Center
109 9th St. E., St. Paul, MN 55101
651-224-9970

Women's LifeNet Learning Center
109 9th St. E., St. Paul, MN 55101
651-225-8019

Women's & Men's WorkNet
109 9th St. E., St. Paul, MN 55101
651-222-2471

Promise Program
375 St. Anthony Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55103
651-224-3024

Asian Family Ministry (FYASI)
1031 Payne Ave., St. Paul, MN 55101
651-774-5567

Snail Lake Camp & Ministry Center
580 W. Hwy 96
Shoreview, MN 55126
651-484-2023

Children's Gospel Mission
1407 Washington Ave. South
Minneapolis, MN 55454

General Offices

77 9th St. E., St. Paul, MN 55101
651-228-1800
www.ugmtc.org

TOP TEN

... things everyone should know about a Minnesota winter.

10 More than 1,000 people are turned away from shelters every night.



9 When skin is exposed to bitter cold (i.e. a temperature of 10 degrees with an 18 mph wind) frostbite can occur in 60 seconds.

8 32% of homeless people who can't get into a shelter sleep outdoors, even in winter time.



7 Children are the most vulnerable to cold, yet 10,600 are homeless.

6 Minneapolis-St. Paul averages 45" of snow each winter.

5 The Twin Cities are among the coldest cities in the US.

4 The average winter temperature here ranges between 2° and 37°.



3 Donating a sleeping bag to the Mission is a great way to help the homeless fight off bitter cold.

2 The homeless actually stay warmer on a full stomach. So when you provide meals, you're actually helping people survive on the streets.



1 Giving to the Mission is practically a guarantee the homeless will get help. If we don't have room in our shelter, we work hard to find someplace that does.

Pocket full of miracles

(continued from page 1)

that I'm still alive."

Randy Young is a living testimony to the power of Christ's transforming love — and what happens when friends like you give to the Union Gospel Mission.

Now there are more young men like Randy who could use a warm coat, a hot meal, and a little encouragement.

Please send a generous gift today, and help melt the cold hearts of those who have been homeless for too long. Thank you!

OUR MISSION IS CHANGING LIVES



Twin Cities

COLD WEATHER REPORT

January 2006 Vol. 4 No. 1

M E S S E N G E R

INSIDE



2 The most desperate time of year



2 Where survival is a "badge of honor"



3 Keep moving to stay alive



77 Ninth Street East
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651-228-1800
Ken Cooper,
Executive Director

For more information,
visit us online at:
www.ugmtc.org.

Pocket full of miracles

How one man found new life in a warm winter coat

It was the winter of 1997, and Randy Young needed a warm coat for working outside.

Never mind that he was drinking heavily and living on the streets of St. Paul. He only thought about staying warm while on the job.

That winter, Randy received a coat from the Union Gospel Mission. But he also got something else he wasn't expecting — the chance for a new life.

Today, that coat hangs behind Randy's desk at the furniture store where he works — a constant reminder of the kindhearted treatment he received at one of the lowest points in his life.

"I'm still grateful," Randy says. "That coat helps me to remember where I came from."

When Randy first came to the Mission, he was just



Randy still puts on his coat before going to work every day — the same coat the Mission gave him 8 years ago when he was homeless on the streets of St. Paul.

looking for a meal and a bed. The last thing he intended to do was join

the Christ Recovery Center. Especially after a buddy warned him, "You don't want to go in there ... people don't come out the same!"

But then Randy received his coat, and that simple act of kindness turned his life around.

Randy went on to sobriety, and now manages a sober house — a home for recovering alcoholics — and a furniture store in the Midway. He was recently married. Meanwhile his buddy, who warned him about joining the Mission's recovery program, is doing hard time in prison.

"I really should have died out on the streets," Randy says. "It's a miracle

"I really should have died out on the streets ... it's a miracle that I'm still alive."

(continued on page 4)

THE *Heart* OF THE MATTER

A MESSAGE FROM KEN COOPER,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Homeless enter the most desperate time of year

When the weather turns bitterly cold in the Twin Cities each winter, the homeless do what they have to do to survive.

Some sleep in their cars or find an old, abandoned warehouse. Others seek shelter in the caves along the Mississippi River.

The important thing is to get protection from the cold, especially when you consider that at zero degrees, frostbite begins to occur in as little as five minutes.

Of course, we believe their best option is to come into the Mission, where it's always warm and dry. If we

At zero degrees frostbite begins to occur in as little as five minutes.

have room, they are welcome here. If we don't, we'll find them a bed at another shelter

— and even drive them there if they need a ride.

Each winter, hundreds of homeless people go “numb”. Because of the bitter cold, they are physically numb. But many are also emotionally and spiritually numb.

They can't feel anything. That's how people end up dying on the streets.

Every life is precious to God. Which means it's precious to us ... and is undoubtedly precious to you.

Please help us save lives this winter by sending a generous gift to the Mission today.

There's no better way to support your community, and no better time than now, when so many are cold and wanting help. Thank you!

A winter of remorse

Freezing rain, bitter cold have homeless thinking twice about braving the elements

When it comes to surviving winter on the streets of the Twin Cities, the old adage is true: You can run, but you can't hide. A few people can tough it out each year. But many more are seeking relief, tired of months of wet socks and shoes and the constant threat of pneumonia. Here's what winter looks like from the streets ...

Hardcore homeless view survival as “badge of honor”

Surviving winter on the streets is a “badge of honor” for many hardcore homeless people, says one reformed addict.

“It's a testament to their independence,” says John, who was once homeless himself.

But under such extreme circumstances, can't someone die suddenly? Yes, particularly if that individual passes out in the cold after drinking too much alcohol.

John says those who are chronically homeless usually have a strategy for fighting off the cold.

“To this day, he still believes God was watching over him.”

They'll wear layered clothing to stay warm. Or find an old, abandoned railroad car.

But even these things are no guarantee they'll survive when temperatures plunge below freezing.

“One guy I know passed out in a fairly secluded area in the dead of winter,” John recalls. “He was discovered by a man who just happened to be driving by — at a time when no one is usually on the road.”

“To this day, he still believes God was watching over him,” he says.



Many homeless people view surviving another winter on the streets as a “badge of honor” they pin on their independent lifestyle.

The day the Mission won a showdown with the city

The year was 1980, and George Verley had an important decision to make.

A biting cold winter had just descended on the Twin Cities, and the new Mission could not accommodate everyone seeking shelter.

(The economy had just hit the skids and many people were homeless for the very first time.)

Verley knew that if he put bunkbeds up, he could house twice as many people — and maybe keep a few from freezing to death.

But the building code in those days severely limited the number of beds he could have. Verley pleaded his case before the city building inspector, who said he wouldn't stop Verley from adding bunkbeds if it was necessary.

All went well until a new guy from



No longer is there any question about whether there are too many beds at the Mission.

the city's building department came through the Mission and insisted Verley take the bunkbeds down.

Verley refused, telling the young man, “Go call your boss” (Verley's friend).

No sooner did the young man pick up the phone and begin reciting the ordinance to his boss when he suddenly grew quiet. “Yes, sir. Yes, sir,” the young man said sheepishly.

Since that day, there's been no more debate about bunkbeds at the Mission.



When it gets cold outside, some homeless people hunker down in a doorway. But it's really better to keep moving.

The secret to staying alive? Keep moving!

The best advice Jerry ever received for surviving the bitterly cold winters in St. Paul can be summed up in two words.

Keep moving.

“You've got to keep moving,” he says. “It's so cold, you can't stop.”

Like many homeless people, Jerry had his favorite places to hang out.

Sometimes, he'd wander into a Super America gas station, or he'd duck into the White Castle on Rice Street.

When he wore out his welcome at those places, he'd find a downtown skyway, where he'd walk back and forth until someone kicked him out.

When he finally decided to come to the Mission, he says, “It felt like everything I ever wanted or prayed for got answered.”

Looking back, he says, “I hope to God I'll never have to go through that again!”

“I hope to God I'll never have to go through that again!”

EMERGENCY NEED

Key programs face cuts if Mission finances don't improve

Job training, family services, and even the Mission's widely recognized feeding programs could face cutbacks if our current financial picture doesn't improve soon.

As of December, the Mission was facing a \$119,562 shortfall in anticipated giving.

One possible reason: So many Minnesotans gave generously to recent disasters worldwide.

Now the need has returned home. More and more families in the Twin Cities are being hit with huge increases in their heating bills. They fall behind and pretty soon, they're homeless.

We must be able to help them, especially with another bitterly cold winter upon us. That's why I'm asking you to send a generous gift to the Mission today — so we won't have to cut vital services to those who need it most.

All of us need to make sacrifices at this critical time. But I believe if we trust the Lord, He will help us manage our resources in a wise and faithful way.

Please let me hear from you today. Thank you!

Ken Cooper