

Leave a life-changing LEGACY

It's almost tax time. Which means it's time to think about the financial decisions you're making. (If you haven't been thinking about them already!)

This past year, you have made it a priority to provide for your family. But did you know you can also have a profound influence on those who come after you?

By leaving specific instructions for the disbursement of your estate to those you love, including your favorite charitable cause (like Union Gospel Mission), you can leave a legacy of changed lives that will impact your community for years to come.

This way, your assets and invested savings keep working for causes that mean the most to you.

There are many planned giving options available. For more information on how you can leave a legacy of hope, call Peggy Fink at 651-228-1800, ext. 318, or simply return this form in the envelope provided, along with your next gift.

**(Individuals 70-1/2 or older who are interested in the most tax-effective gift can call us at 651-228-1800 for information on the latest IRA charitable rollover.)*

I want to be a part of the Legacy of Hope

- I have already made provisions for Union Gospel Mission in my will.
- I want information on how to include Union Gospel Mission in my will.
- I want to gift Union Gospel Mission through other gift-planning options.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Free at last!

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and now all these weights were being lifted off me.”

That night, Donald joined the Mission's Discipleship Program, promising himself, "One day, I'm going to share this with others."

Little did he realize how quickly that day would come.

Six months earlier, Donald had been released early from jail because it was overcrowded. But he was still facing trial — now as a Christian — on an assault charge. "If I tell the truth, I may go to prison," he begged God.

That's when Donald says God told him he didn't have to worry because "I'm going with you."

Donald pled guilty to assault and served the next five years in prison.

"And God was with me every step of the way," Donald says. In prison, Donald talked about Christ to practically

every inmate he met. By the time he left (as a chaplain's assistant), he had earned the respect of the guards, the prison staff, and dozens of fellow prisoners.

Upon his release, Donald went back to Union Gospel Mission. Today, he serves as chaplain, in addition to being an instructor in the Mission's LifeNet Learning Center. He and his wife also pastor a church in Brooklyn Center — a church that started when his wife began reaching out to prostitutes, offering them dinner and reading them the Bible.

His favorite Bible verse: Zechariah 3:4, where the

angel of the Lord tells Joshua to take off the raggedy clothes he's wearing and put on the rich garments God had for him.

"That's me," Donald now says. "God took all the filth out of my life and replaced it with purpose."

"God took all the filth out of my life and replaced it with purpose."



Today, as the Mission's chaplain, Donald helps other men struggling like he once was.

He continues, "I don't have to do what I'm doing today. I get to do it. And I'm so grateful."

Every time you give to restore the life of someone like Donald, you spread the

hope that God offers through His Son, Jesus.

Thank you for supporting Union Gospel Mission, and helping to bring new life to hurting people in the Twin Cities this Easter.

EASTER 2009: MODERN STORIES OF REDEMPTION — WITH A TWIST



Twin Cities MESSENGER

OUR MISSION IS CHANGING LIVES! MARCH 2009 | Vol. 8 No. 2

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Free at last!

Donald feared being sent to prison until God told him, "I'm going with you!"

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Easter marks Christ's death and resurrection, the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of mankind. Donald had no idea what that even meant when he first came to the Mission. But he was about to find out ...)



Sitting down in this chair was Donald's first step to new life in Christ.

The scene, Donald says, was almost surreal.

No sooner had chapel service begun than the preacher set an empty chair in the middle

of the platform and announced, "I'm only here for one person tonight."

As the woman at the piano began playing, "There's Room At

the Cross for You," Donald says he instinctively stood up and began to walk forward.

"When I sat down in the chair, I started grieving, like somebody close to me had just

died," he recalls. "It was ... the old me!"

When Donald asked Jesus to come into his heart, he says, "I felt like all the (bad) things I had done were separating from me: the stealing, the cheating, the criminal behavior, the drugs, drinking, all the carousing."

"The more I sensed these detaching from me, the lighter I felt," he continues. "It was like I had been weighed down

COMPLETE EASTER DINNER \$1.92

EASTER MEAL TICKET

YES, KEN! I want to share the hope of new life with homeless, hungry people in the Twin Cities this Easter season. Here is my gift to provide hot meals, safe shelter, and other life-changing programs:

- \$19.20 to help provide 10 meals and other care.
- \$28.80 to help provide 15 meals and other care.
- \$38.40 to help provide 20 meals and other care.
- \$_____ to help provide meals and other care for as many poor people as possible.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

MY E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Home Office

THANK YOU! Please make your tax-deductible check payable to Union Gospel Mission. Mail it with this meal ticket in the enclosed envelope to P.O. Box 64389, St. Paul, MN 55164-0389. Questions? Call us at 651-228-1800. www.ugmtc.org

N319-2009



77 Ninth Street East
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
651-228-1800
Ken Peterson,
Executive Director

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

A complete Easter dinner — just \$1.92!

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THE *Heart* OF THE MATTER

A MESSAGE FROM KEN PETERSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Easter brings sweet release

Q: Does Easter really matter to homeless and hungry people?

A: Absolutely! This is the time of year when the whole Mission experiences the fresh wind of resurrection hope. Spring is coming. The snow is melting and the cold is subsiding. People are finally beginning to go outside again, experiencing the physical — as well as spiritual — release that comes to those who accept the freedom from sin that Christ offers.

Easter is a reminder of the future that's only possible because of God's mercy and grace.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

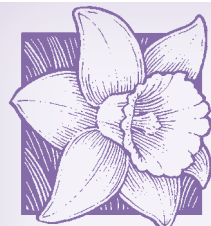
— Jeremiah 29:11, NIV

Where there was once only despair, God has given us newness of life. Where spiritual and physical bondage once led to death, there is now redemption and rehabilitation.

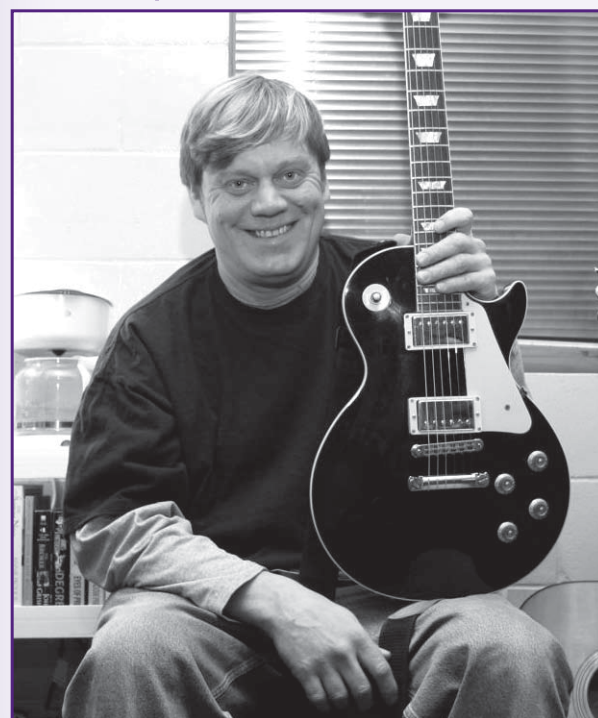
Easter is God's way of telling the men and women here that it is possible to leave the past in the past. Through the resurrection, God has given them moral strength — the ability to face their old demons and experience victory through the redeeming power of Christ.

Truly, we have much to be thankful for this Easter, beginning with the sweet release Christ made possible at Calvary. But we are also grateful for caring friends like you, who make this ministry possible through your prayers and generous financial gifts.

Thank you for faithfully supporting us, especially in these tough economic times. May you experience the fresh wind of resurrection hope in your own life this Easter.



He's singing a different tune



God gave Erik a new life to live and new lyrics to sing.

For Erik, drugs were almost his undoing

For almost as long as he can remember, drugs have been a fundamental part of Erik's life.

A very cruel, bitter life, he now admits.

At his peak, Erik was playing lead guitar in well-known bands like Mango Jam and Super Loser. Some nights, he went on right before big-name stars like Natalie Merchant, Blues Traveler, and the Neville Brothers.

But the money he made with his music — and his side job as a waiter — all got wasted on black tar heroin and cocaine.

"My life was playing music and working and beating my head against the wall with drugs."

"My life was playing music and working and beating my head against the wall with drugs," he says.

Helplessly, he watched a handful of close friends die from drug overdoses (including Bob Stinson from The Replacements). That woke Erik up to what he was doing to himself. Several times, he tried to get help, but it always failed. "I had the right attitude but the wrong motive," he says.

"I was doing it for my wife, my family, my reputation; for every reason except to have a better life." When Erik's wife couldn't take it anymore and filed for divorce, he was devastated.

Talk of suicide led to 72 hours in a hospital psych ward before Erik realized,



After a seven-month search, Jackie still couldn't find affordable housing.

When perseverance pays off

It wasn't easy, but Jackie's making a new start — thanks to you!

When you're single, a mom, and an ex-felon like Jackie is, there aren't a lot of places willing to give you a chance.

But since Jackie got hers — beginning with the day she moved into Union Gospel Mission's Naomi Family Residence — she has been determined to make the most of it.

Since coming to the Mission last July, Jackie has already earned her GED (something she failed at

before) and is now entering our WorkNet Program. "The Mission has taught me that I just need to persevere, keep pushing," she says.

After her release from prison, Jackie spent seven months looking for a place of her own. "I couldn't even afford a two-bedroom apartment in the most rundown neighborhoods," she says.

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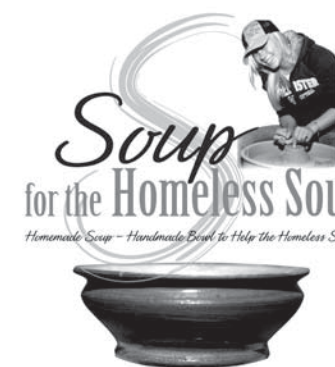
That's when she found an opening at the Naomi Family Residence.

"My kids are learning a lot about God, and I'm learning not to give up, that there's always hope."

Every day, your gifts are giving people like Jackie the opportunity to make a fresh start. Now she is putting her past behind her — for good.

Enjoy the soup — and take home the bowl!

Here's your chance to learn more about the homeless in the Twin Cities and receive a special handmade bowl created by local art students. Union Gospel Mission is holding its second "Soup for the Homeless Soul" event on Saturday, March 21st from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. at our Men's Campus, 435 University Ave. E., St. Paul.



Meet Mission staff and participants and enjoy a specially prepared soup-and-breadsticks lunch in a handmade, one-of-a-kind bowl that's yours to keep. Then tour our Men's Center and discover what's being done right in your community to help the homeless get back on their feet.

Suggested donation is \$15, with all proceeds going to feed and care for needy people in the Twin Cities.

No need to RSVP. Simply show up, or for more information, call Nick at 651-292-1721, ext. 109.

We'll see you there!

Thank you for delivering the real message of Easter hope to people in such great need.

EXTRA

What does Easter mean to you?

"Bright happy colors and a good day to go to church!"

— Alesia



"Easter gives me a certain hope that I am saved through the unconditional love of God."

— Kidan



"Unlimited second chances. Every second of every day can be a do-over!"

— Charlie



"A time of joy, because it's when Christ gave his life — for me!"

— Tony

