

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 55130
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

WorkNet & SuccessNet

109 9th St. E., St. Paul, MN 55101
651-222-2471 (WorkNet)
651-209-6244 (SuccessNet)

Promise Program

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

Asian Ministries

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

77 9th St. E. - 7th Floor
St. Paul, MN 55101
Attn: Roger Quant

General Offices

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

Helping Matters

Hungry people will need nearly 69,000 meals this holiday season. Can you help?

Your support is critical to ensure everyone gets fed.

The holidays are here. And more and more hungry people are coming to the Mission for something to eat. This is our busiest time of year.

Between now and Christmas, we expect to serve almost 69,000 meals to poor people in the Twin Cities. Hurting families. Lonely seniors. And dozens of little children with hungry tummies.

Can you help us? Because of food donations we receive, we are able to prepare a complete holiday dinner for just \$1.88. Can you believe it? \$1.88 for a big plate stacked high with turkey, dressing, cranberry sauce, and a big slice of pumpkin pie!

That means a generous gift of \$18.80 will feed 10 hungry people, reminding them friends like you really care. And God cares!

Please be as generous as you can this holiday season. So many people need your help. Thank you.



A hot, nutritious meal at the Mission reminds homeless people that friends like you really care — and God cares!

Call to Action

Items needed for men's gift bags:

- Double-edged razors
- Shaving cream/gel
- Deodorant/deodorant soap
- White socks
- Winter gloves
- Winter hats
- Combs
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Nail clippers
- Wrapped candy

Gifts for kids:

- Sports equipment (basketballs, soccer balls, bike helmets, etc.)

We also need small gifts and wrapping paper for children living at our Naomi Family Residence to give to their moms on Christmas morning.



A complete holiday meal for just \$1.88!

OUR MISSION IS CHANGING LIVES



Twin Cities

HOLIDAYS 2006

November 2006 Vol. 4 No. 6

M E S S E N G E R

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

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

No father boundaries hope

His mistakes almost killed him. Now Phil enjoys a brand-new life.

Phil's friends gave it to him straight. "Dude, if you keep doing this, you're gonna die! You've gotta make a choice."

In the past, Phil would always choose drugs. Drugs over eating. Over family. Even over an open shelter bed.

Now it was Thanksgiving, and Phil could go see his dad — who he hadn't seen much since his mom and dad divorced — or he could take a bed that just opened up at the Christ Recovery Center.

Figuring this might be his last chance to loosen the grip drugs had on him, Phil chose to come into the Mission — and unknowingly opened the door to a brand-new life.

Up to that point, Phil seemed more interested in destroying himself. Growing up without a father meant Phil never had boundaries. He was smoking pot by the sixth grade.

Soon Phil was so



Phil's life was changed forever the day he decided to check into the Christ Recovery Center — instead of going to his dad's house for Thanksgiving dinner.

deep into drugs that he borrowed money around town — and never paid it back. More than once, he was almost killed over an unpaid debt.

The Mission, it turns out, provided just what he needed — a roof over his head, three meals a day, and a caring staff who didn't just talk about loving him, but demonstrated it every day. More important, Phil began to

let God into his life — and discovered how God's love was demonstrated that very first Christmas when Jesus was born. Hope was born that day. Now Phil has found sobriety and a brand-new life.

What you do this Christmas can make the difference in someone's life. Please send a generous gift today — and become a blessing to those looking for a second chance. Thank you!

THE *Heart* OF THE MATTER

A MESSAGE FROM KEN COOPER,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Something wonderful always happens around food

One thing I remember about growing up in Indiana is the church potlucks. Everyone knew who made the best food, and we'd all try to be first in line. Mrs. Lewis was known for the best fried chicken. And there were the most delicious fish fries. The whole experience was incredible.

I don't know what it is about food, but something wonderful always happens when food is around.

Think of all the places where the Bible mentions food. How wandering Jews were miraculously fed in the desert. The feeding of the 5,000. Even the Last Supper.

Food creates an atmosphere where people socialize. Food creates an atmosphere where people socialize. Where walls come down. Where love is offered — and received.

Where walls come down. At the Union Gospel Mission, a holiday meal is like sitting down with extended family. We want homeless people to feel welcome. To feel loved. This holiday season, they are our family.

Where love is offered — and received. Your support is so important at this critical time. Without you, there is no holiday dinner. No special decorations. No one to make these folks feel like they still have dignity and worth.

Today, your gift can do more than just provide holiday meals. It carries a reminder that all is not lost. There is hope.

What an amazing gift at this special time of year! A plate full of hope. That's what you have offered homeless people in the Twin Cities this holiday season.

Thank you. May your own family experience God's richest blessing, just as you have been a blessing to ours!

Ken Cooper

In My Own Words

"I thought this was payback ... How wrong I was!"

EDITOR'S NOTE: David used to buy Christmas presents for family members by selling drugs or robbing people. But all it made him feel was guilty — and ashamed. Here, in his own words, is how David found inner peace by first making peace with God ...

(Second in a three-part series)
By David B.



At one time, David blamed God for taking his father before he had a chance to make things right with his dad.

I was at the end of my rope. I wasn't homeless or broke, but I felt depressed and disillusioned. I was so broken I knew I could no longer live the life I was living.

My first few days at the Mission, I wouldn't talk to people. I wouldn't look anyone in the eye. I had a hard time forgiving myself for things I had done in my past.

Last Christmas was so different. There was a sense of joy. I got a little job here at the Mission and spent my whole paycheck on nothing but gifts. It felt so good to give my family gifts with money I had earned in an honest way.

I used to be a God-hater. I guess it was

because I felt God took my father before I had a chance to make things right with him. I thought I was being punished for all the wrong I had done.

My dad had a rare form of cancer. Only 328 people in the world have ever had it. I thought this was payback. I didn't know the Lord as the Great Forgiver. I just thought God was trying to

convict me for all my wrongs and letting me have it with both barrels.

How wrong I was!

NEXT MONTH:
"I came in a loser. I'm going out a survivor."

I just thought God was ... letting me have it with both barrels. How wrong I was!

Christmas is caring



To a homeless man, it's a hot meal and a break from the monotony of the streets ...

... to a single mom, it's knowing her kids won't miss out on another holiday ...



... to a room full of hungry souls, it's a throwback to happier gatherings ...

... and to the one who donates a turkey, toys, or cash to the Mission, Christmas is a chance to bless someone in need.



Death of a big fat lie

Your giving saved Greg's life. Now he wants to return the favor.

"Since I've been here, my life has taken a 180-degree turn. I am able to look at myself in the mirror again and you know what? I love what I see!"

— Greg's letter to friends of Union Gospel Mission

Greg wasn't always so content about who he was.

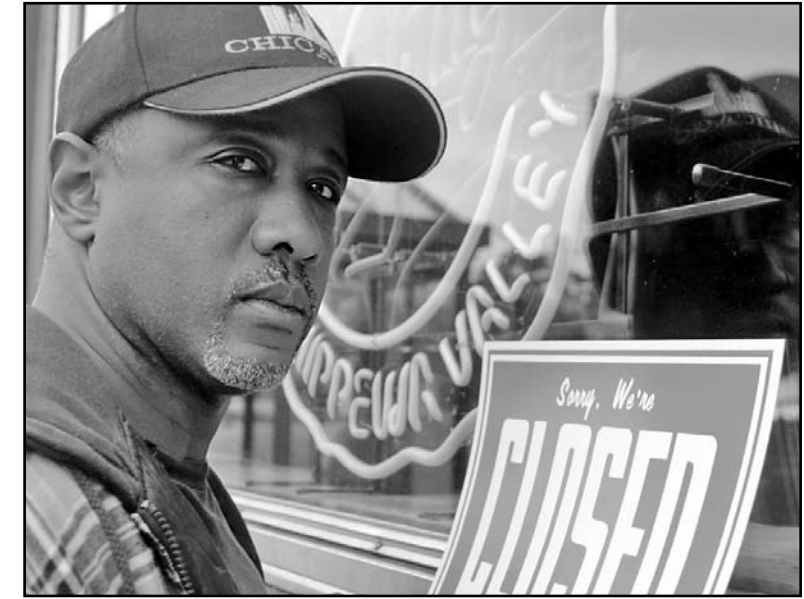
Back in the days when he was drinking and doing drugs, Greg was more concerned about fitting in with his pot-smoking, cocaine-snorting friends.

Nothing could turn him aside from his wild ways. Not jail time. Or the death of his brother, who got AIDS from a dirty needle. Not even after he promised God, "Lord, if You show me a way out of this, I will never look back."

Eventually, Greg got tired of living a big fat lie. That's when he came to our Mission — and with the help of friends like you, got the help he so desperately needed.

Counseling. Bible

"Thank you for not giving up on me."



Greg's life was once "closed" to the things God wanted from him. Now he wants to be a positive influence in his community.

studies. The chance to return to school. It's all led to a new life.

Greg's family, (who once told him "We love you, but we can't be

around you until you get help."), is now closer to him than ever.

Today, his life's message is simple. To his family, who prayed for him all these years, he says, "I'm sorry for hurting you. Thank

you for not giving up on me."

To those who support the Mission, he says, "I thank God for people like you. Now, I'm returning the favor by being a positive influence in this world from this day forward."

This holiday season, hundreds of men and women will start a new life because of the support you provide.

Your gifts make the difference. Thank you!