

THE Mission



Union Gospel
Mission of
**TARRANT
COUNTY**
Serving for 122 Years

Stories of the Lord's Provision Through You in Tarrant County



THANK YOU
for a summer of smiles!

INSIDE:

- Talented Friends
- Diana's Big Day
- From Prison to Freedom in Christ

F A L L 2 0 1 0



Don Shisler PRESIDENT

TALENTED FRIENDS

Dear Friend,

"Master," he said, "you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more." –Matthew 25:20, NIV

Jesus' Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25 tells us we've all been given "talents." Our financial blessings...skills we've learned, even our free time. And we can choose to "bury them in the ground," like the servant with one talent, or send them out to grow and flourish, like the servant with five.

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"

–Matthew 25:21, NIV

When you pray, give, or volunteer, you are like the servant with five—investing your "talents" in the lives of the less fortunate. In this issue of *The Mission*, look at some of the great things your gifts have made possible this summer—including College for Kids, summer camp, thousands of meals and bottles of cold water given to people in need, and more.

Our local narcotics police officers gave us an extra blessing with increased patrols in our neighborhood over the past few months. Thanks to them, the streets around UGM-TC are much safer for residents, staff, volunteers, and hold many fewer temptations for local residents.

The Mission also kicked off our "Christmas in July" program this year, collecting presents and supplies well in advance of the holidays, preventing last-minute emergencies during the very hectic Christmas period. Especially as more families in Tarrant County are struggling to provide for themselves and their children, we need to be ready!

Will you continue to share your talents in the coming weeks and months? The holidays can be the hardest time of all for homeless and working poor families...and record numbers of people already need help right now. I assure you, your investment today will bring about positive, lasting change in the lives of homeless men, women, and children. Thank you!

In Christ,

P.S. Be sure to read Rev. Maneikis' thoughts on the Parable of the Talents on page 6.

Diana's Big Day

July 30th was Diana's big day—the day she moved into an apartment of her own at last. Looking back over the past few years, she can hardly believe the life she has now...

A New Attitude

"I couldn't believe I could become so helpless," Diana says of the way alcohol took her good job, her home, and everything else she valued.

With some tough love, her sister got Diana into a detox center. But they both knew it wasn't enough to get the alcohol out of her system. Diana would need a whole new attitude towards life. And that's exactly what you helped give her at Union Gospel Mission of Tarrant County!

"I never had peace like I do now," she marvels. "I was a total wreck when I came. This has been a great place for me to heal—physically, emotionally, and spiritually."

A New Vision

While at Union Gospel Mission, Diana was able to enroll in Tarrant Community College's (TCC) innovative Vision Program. Knowing education is one of the keys to a stable future, TCC created the program to help homeless men and women attend college.

Diana's enthusiasm and hard work in her classes earned her one of the program's housing vouchers. With the voucher, TCC collaborated with the Fort Worth Housing Authority to secure the apartment she has today. She also qualified for Work Study hours that will make her financially independent again!

Now, Diana is in a two-year program to become a licensed drug and alcohol counselor. For the

doors. I am so thankful for the opportunity. I was able to take time, rest, and open my heart and

"I know if not for this place, I'd probably not be on this earth anymore. The Mission provides you with so many opportunities, so many doors. I am so thankful for the opportunity."

future, she plans to achieve a Bachelor's in Social Work, and dreams of including animal therapy as she helps others overcome their addictions.

Giving Thanks

"I know if not for this place, I'd probably not be on this earth anymore," Diana admits candidly. "The Mission provides you with so many opportunities, so many

mind to God again. I let Him back into my life here at the Mission."

In fact, as she left for her new apartment, Diana had only one regret—not being able to attend 4:00 chapel anymore! Thank you for creating a safe place for Diana and others like her to pursue healing and new life. Please pray with us for many more to have their own "big day" soon!



A SUMMER Filled wit

This could have been the worst summer ever. Many families were out of work and even homeless. The heat was brutal. But thanks to your generous support, the last three months were filled with hope at UGM-TC!

Learning about God, growing, and having fun were the focus of our 2010 summer camp season! Thank you for sending 20 boys and girls to VBS, overnight camp, and day camp.



Great smells waft through the women's building every week as Glenda Wright of Texas Agricultural Extension teaches our female residents on a fixed income how to cook healthy meals.



Five children from UGM-TC participated in the three-week "College for Kids" program this summer, with a variety of fun, challenging courses taught by college faculty. Many of our boys and girls have parents who never finished high school. The program teaches children that they have the same opportunities as anybody else, if they stay clean and work hard!

Thank you for sending homeless boys and girls at UGM-TC back to school with all the clothes and supplies they need to excel! The children especially appreciate the personal, handwritten notes sent in by so many friends.



h SMILES



Many church youth groups—both local and from around the country—volunteered for tasks from leading chapel services to cleaning our facilities. Their servant spirit greatly encouraged guests and residents. Groups from Fortress Youth Development Center also toured UGM-TC to learn how they can impact homelessness.



When Melissa walked across the stage at Tarrant County College (TCC) to receive her associate degree in May, it was a dream come true. She'd always planned to go to college, but caring for her sick mother came first...and after her mother died, debt left her homeless. With your help, she got her life back together. She joined a TCC program, "Visions Unlimited," dedicated to helping the homeless achieve a college education. This summer, she became their very first graduate. Congratulations on your accomplishment, Melissa!



Your generosity helped serve a record number of meals to our community's poorest people this summer—all in our cool, safe dining hall. Your continued support will be just as important in the busy holiday months to come!

Check out Union Gospel Mission of TARRANT COUNTY online! Visit our new website at www.ugm-tc.org!

“...to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability...” –Matthew 25:15, NKJV

Often, Jesus spoke of bearing much fruit. Always, the test is faith in action to use God’s provision for wise and holy purposes. Think this thought: everything God sends our way is His to begin with. We have the choice to use it for and in His kingdom.

Jesus spins an amazing teaching in the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14–30). Three servants were given talents: five, two and one, respectively. Each servant, except one, doubled the investment the master had given. That one servant, full of fear, chose to bury his talent in the ground. But ultimately, keeping the talent safe did him no good!

A talent is a lot of money—today, about \$29,100. The parable suggests a lot of good can be done with the money, reaping great possibilities.

I think of our residents, who take what we invest in them—our “talent,” so to speak. They stabilize their lives, grow closer to God, receive the help they need to deal with their issues, and find inspiration



Chaplain Stanley Maneikis

here to motivate them to a better life. Truly, this is Kingdom work.

When we spend “talents” on ourselves, it is the same as burying them in the ground. Thank you for investing your “talent” in the Kingdom of God here at UGM-TC, for “the least of these,” our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Every Blessing!

Please **Pray!**

- That we will continue to meet the needs of more homeless persons God sends to UGM-TC.
- That more people than ever will come to our “Celebrate the Blessings” fundraising banquet on September 23 to hear good news and to learn more about how their generosity can make an impact through this ministry.
- For our Children’s Enrichment Program and children beginning a new school year to be free from anxiety as they learn.
- For our chapel and ALPHA leaders, here week after week to serve Christ in this special ministry.

Volunteer Opportunities

If you have the time to spare and the heart to share, we can use you at the Mission! Right now, we need friends to:

- Host a drive for our needs here at the Mission (see needs list at www.ugm-tc.org)
- Host events and field trips for our residents
- Serve a meal at the Mission
- Provide tutoring assistance to children and adults

For more information or suggestions, please call our volunteer coordinators at (817) 338-8402 today!

Growing in GRACE



Several ALPHA students were baptized into new life at our May celebration.

In May, a party and several baptisms marked the end of a productive 15-week ALPHA series. Then, on June 3, enthusiastic students dove into the new series, “Challenging Lifestyles,” based on the teaching of Jesus in the Beatitudes. The course deals with issues like integrity, dealing with conflict and difficult people, and giving.

Throughout, we’ve been blessed by the ministry of our trained ALPHA leaders. Ten new leaders have joined us for “Challenging Lifestyles,” which allows us to have smaller groups and a more personal experience for everyone. Currently, around 200 residents and leaders participate in ALPHA each week.

www.ugm-tc.org

Honors and Memorials



Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers are with the family and friends of those remembered below. A gift to Union Gospel Mission of Tarrant County is a special legacy offering hope to those in need.

IN MEMORY OF:

(gifts received April 2, 2010 through June 30, 2010)

Alma W. Alexander

Mr. & Mrs. Frank P. Carvey, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. David Farmer
Mr. & Mrs. James C. Fuller
Ms. Mary C. Gibson
Ms. Sue McNeil
Ms. Millicent K. Mercer
Ms. Pamela S. Rhoads
Ms. Martha Taylor

H. Bruce Alford

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Mrs. Jo Ann Walker

Mabel M. Davies

Rev. V. Stanley Maneikis

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Rodney, Delanie & Lake Duree

Ms. Shirley McClure

Gene Edens

Ms. Martha C. Morton

Nancy Edens

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Mrs. Evalyn P. Ellis

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Jones Audiology & Hearing Aid Centers
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Mrs. Frances Gupton
Mr. & Mrs. Chad Stephens

Terry Holcomb

Ms. Edna Holcomb

(continued on Memorials insert)

When you send your memorial or in honor of gift to Union Gospel Mission of Tarrant County, you will receive a tax-deductible receipt and a card will be mailed promptly to the bereaved family or the friend being honored, telling them of your gift. Please mail your memorial and in honor of gifts to:

UNION GOSPEL MISSION OF TARRANT COUNTY
P.O. Box 2144, Fort Worth, Texas 76113-2144

CELEBRATE the BLESSINGS!

Get your tickets now for our annual fundraising banquet! This year's theme is "Celebrate the Blessings," and we have plenty of blessings to share with you from the past year of ministry.

When:

September 23, 6 p.m.

Where:

Round Up Inn,
Will Rogers
Memorial Center

Featuring:

Norm Miller, Chairman
of Interstate Battery and Funding
Partner of I AM SECOND.com

Who to contact:

Susan Baer, 817-338-8407 or
celebrateblessings@ugm-tc.org

We hope to see you there!



Welcome Back to the Board!



We're delighted to welcome Larry D. Eason back to our Board. His previous years of service and his true passion for expanding the work of

UGM-TC to help even more people will be valuable assets in the days to come.

FROM PRISON TO FREEDOM in CHRIST

To Danny, marijuana was just a way to get through the days after his mother died. He couldn't feel his grief and depression anymore. It seemed like a good thing.

But soon, marijuana wasn't enough, and Danny turned to harder drugs. "Before I knew it, I had lost my girlfriend, my home, my car... everything started vanishing slowly."

A Life of Fear

Earlier in his life, Danny spent six years in the military before moving on to a full-time job. Until his mother died, he'd never touched drugs. The world of addiction was entirely new to him. Now, as his life spiraled out of control, he found himself headed for prison. "I had a sense of fear because I didn't know where my life would be going," he remembers. "I was unsure of what to expect when I got out."

"I'm just grateful there are people willing to donate to help us. Especially when they don't even know us!"

But by God's grace, Danny had once stayed at Union Gospel Mission of Tarrant County briefly. "I had nowhere to go. I knew the policies of the Mission and how they had helped me the first time, so I came back. They gave me a second chance." Then he adds emphatically, "They want me to succeed!"

A New Hope

And, thanks to the support you give him every day, Danny is succeeding. "I feel better about me. This addiction



doesn't have to get the best of me. I've realized Jesus loves me and that He always has. He wants the best in me and He brought me here to bring that out. Now,

I read my Bible more and try to live life the way Christ would want me to live it.

"My family is really happy for me. They see the positive things going on with me." One of those positive things is the desire for a new career helping others. "I hope to go to college this fall, to get a degree in Sociology, to maybe work as a case manager."

Looking back over his experience so far, Danny says, "There are so many good things about the Mission." That includes the people who make it all possible—like you! "I'm just grateful there are people willing to donate to help us. Especially when they don't even know us! Thank You!"



1321 E. Lancaster Ave.
Fort Worth, TX 76102
(817) 339-2553
www.ugm-tc.org

A local united Christian organization and ministry dedicated to providing love, hope, respect, and a new beginning to the homeless.

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Honors and Memorials (continued from page 7)



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Do you have a loved one you would like to honor? A gift to Union Gospel Mission of Tarrant County is an ideal way to celebrate your loved one's birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion by helping our community's neediest people in their name!

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(gifts received April 2, 2010 through June 30, 2010)

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