

# THE Mission



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

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



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- The World's Best Christmas
- "From the Bottom of My Heart, Thank You!"
- A Grandma for Christmas

**Christmas is  
Brimming with Joy,  
Because of You!**

W I N T E R 2 0 1 0



**Don Shisler** PRESIDENT

# THE WORLD'S **BEST** CHRISTMAS

Dear Friend,

If you could spend this Christmas anywhere in the world, where would it be?

I'd be right where I am, at Union Gospel Mission of Tarrant County. And I'm so thankful my wife, Vicki, feels the same way. Having her beside me makes the day perfect.

I'm busy all day long on Christmas, greeting guests, talking to residents, participating in chapel services...and I'm sure everyone I meet thinks I'm helping them. But the real truth is, they're ministering to me.

You'd see what I mean if you could be here for two of my favorite moments of every Christmas. The first is when long-time volunteer Rolf Larson sneaks into the Mission in his white whiskers and bright red suit. He wouldn't be St. Nicholas for just anybody—how he loves every one of the people here! And they love him, from the smallest child to the toughest homeless man. Seeing all that joy just makes my heart glad.

My second special moment is our 11:30 chapel service, when our guests and residents with no family to visit gather together. It could be a sad service. The family-oriented holidays can be a very fragile time for guests and residents who are alone. But instead, it's a celebration of the family we've become in Christ!

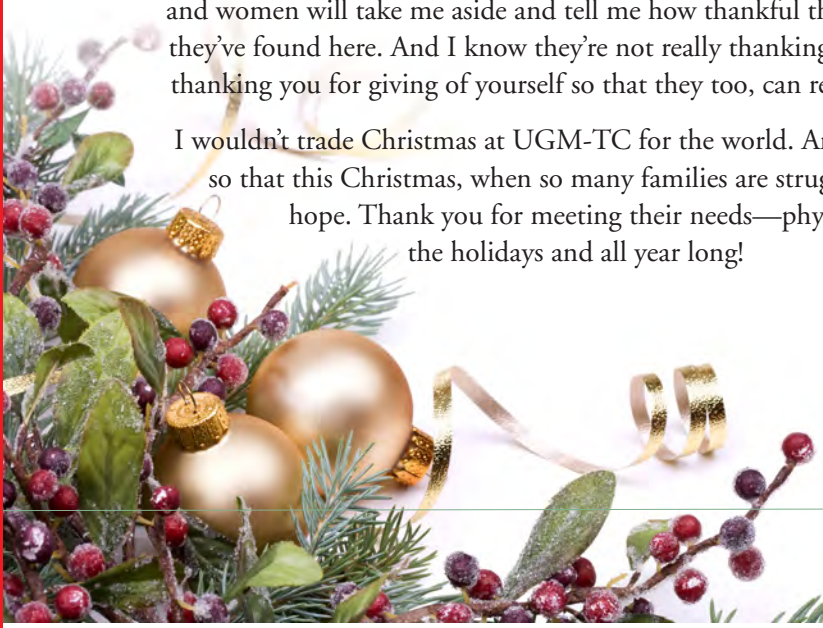
Every year it feels like our whole community comes together to make this possible—to give our guests and residents a Christmas just as joyful as the one in your own home. Often, homeless men and women will take me aside and tell me how thankful they are for the love, hope, and respect they've found here. And I know they're not really thanking me. They're thanking God, and thanking you for giving of yourself so that they too, can rejoice over Immanuel—God With Us.

I wouldn't trade Christmas at UGM-TC for the world. And I pray you'll continue your support so that this Christmas, when so many families are struggling, will still be filled with joy and hope. Thank you for meeting their needs—physical, spiritual, and emotional—during the holidays and all year long!

**“How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you?”**

—1 Thessalonians 3:9, NIV

In Christ,





# “From the Bottom of My Heart, Thank You!”

Every morning, Terry watched the men leave Union Gospel Mission of Tarrant County. Their heads were high. They looked hopeful as they set out on their daily job search...and hope was something Terry hadn't had in a long time.

## Homeless by Degrees

Terry started his job search confidently. He'd held management positions in the past, so he was sure he could find another.

But he couldn't find any work at all. As his money ran out, Terry became homeless by degrees. First

the “pay by the week” motels. Then, finally, that awful first night beneath an underpass.

Terry quickly learned to sleep with his head on the bag holding all his belongings, so they wouldn't be stolen. From others he met on the street, Terry learned something even more valuable. “You should go to Union Gospel Mission,” they told him.

## Shining Through

So Terry came in for a few meals, a few nights in a clean bed. Soon, he saw this was more than a “nice

place”—it's a place where a whole community has come together to provide new hope to people in crisis situations. He couldn't wait to start!

“Life has a whole new meaning now,” he says. “The Work Readiness Program really empowers you,” and he's gained even greater confidence by recommitting his life to Christ. He's even going back to school, through Tarrant County College's unique Visions Program, designed to help homeless men and women further their education. “When God starts working in your life, it starts shining through to others that everything's changed. Everybody sees me as a different person [now] 'cause I see me as a different person!”

## “A Whole New Me”

Isolated by depression and shame last Christmas, Terry expects this Christmas to be “wonderful.” He explains, “There's a whole new me. I have faith in myself again.” What a great gift you've given him through your prayers and support!

“Please tell everyone out there ‘thank you,’” Terry says. “From the bottom of my heart, thank you.” In fact, even though he still lives at the Mission, he's planning to follow your example as soon as he can. “I just want to step up and do something [to give] back to the Mission. I will do this for the rest of my life.” As Terry says, thank you for changing lives like his through your generosity!



# Christmas = JOY, Because



From the first carol until the last exhausted child tumbles into bed clutching a new toy, you fill Christmas with joy at UGM-TC!



Imagine the joy of homeless residents choosing just the right toys for their children from the gifts you've donated... the joy of sitting down to a real Christmas feast after many hungry days...the joy of just knowing someone cares and wants them to be happy.



And what would we do without volunteers to wrap the gifts you donate, serve the meals you provide, lead Gospel-centered Christmas chapels, and make our guests welcome in a hundred different ways?

Thank you for having a heart big enough to include the least, the last, and the lost this Christmas!



"Celebrate the Blessings" was the theme for our Fall Banquet this year, and we certainly did! Caring friends gathered on September 23 to celebrate how we can change the lives of hurting, homeless people by working together as a community. We're deeply grateful for the many sponsors who made the event possible, and for everyone who gave at the event to meet more needs this holiday season. Please know that, even if you were unable to attend, we celebrated you and the difference you make through your partnership with UGM-TC!

Don Shisler, President of Union Gospel Mission of Tarrant County, with keynote speaker, Norm Miller, Chairman of Interstate Battery and Founding Partner of I AM SECOND.com.

# e You Care!



## Christmas NEEDS

Can you help with any of the following urgent needs? Donations can be dropped off at our Donation Collection Center, 1111 East Lancaster, during normal business hours, or call (817) 284-3255 for a pick-up. Thank you!

- Clothing for men, women, and children (especially plus-sizes)
- Watches
- Alarm clocks/radios
- Coats for men, women, and children
- Socks and underwear
- Shoe gift cards (e.g. Payless)
- Children's toys
- Games and electronics for teens

## Christmas in July

The weather wasn't very Christmasy this July, but hundreds of UGM-TC friends got into the spirit anyway, helping us get a head start on the holiday!

All July, we gave out a "Christmas in July" list of items we ran short on last Christmas. Rev. Maneikis also sent about 200 letters to churches and Vacation Bible Schools. We had a wonderful response! St. Miguel Church in Fort Worth even invited Rev. Maneikis to their service, and presented him with 18 quilts made by VBS classes. The children were all for giving away the quilts right now ("Christmas is so far away!" one little boy said), but all the Christmas in July donations are safely stored away in our warehouse, ready to fill someone's holiday with real joy.

All kinds of "Christmas angels" got into the act, including some very tiny ones. Pictured here are Sam and Lillie, local twins who asked for UGM-TC donations instead of gifts for their 4th birthday.



**If you missed Christmas in July, don't worry**—you can still be a Christmas angel! You can donate any of the items listed below (new and unwrapped, please) that we ran short on last year, or get an up-to-the-minute list by calling (817) 338-8402 or visiting [www.ugm-tc.org](http://www.ugm-tc.org).

- Men's and women's underwear
- Twin sheets and pillow cases
- Men's and women's socks
- Women's bath robes
- Men's long underwear
- Baby & toddler: crib sheets, crib pads, baby and toddler toys to age 5, clothing, baby bottles

**Check out Union Gospel Mission of TARRANT COUNTY online!  
Visit our new website at [www.ugm-tc.org](http://www.ugm-tc.org)!**

**“And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”** –Luke 2:7, NKJV

December 25 is Christmas, also known as the feast of the Incarnate Son of God. Here, Christmas is celebrated with worship, good food, gifts, and a visit from jolly old St. Nicholas. If Jesus were to come to our house on Christmas, there would be room for Him here. Very different than that day when He came into the world, not in the inn, but in a stable, laid in a tight bundle in the animals feeding trough.

At a specific place and a specific time, God chose to send His only Son into the world. And Jesus, the Son of God, continues to change the world God sent Him to save. Most people, whether they admit it or not, know they are sinners in need of redemption. Jesus didn't come to offer advice, or secrets to self-help, but to give Himself up for us all. All we have to do is open the inn door to our hearts, and let Him in. Is there room for Him in your heart this year?



Chaplain Stanley Maneikis

Because of your prayers, goods, gifts, and volunteer service, there is room for the homeless and hungry at UGM-TC this Christmas. Thank you for letting them hear, “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” Matthew 11:28, NKJV.

From our inn to yours, “Have a Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!”



## Please **Pray!**

- Please pray that our resident men, women, and children will experience the Love of Jesus through the Mission at Christmas.
- Please pray that we will provide that special Christmas gift for which each person asks.
- Please pray that this Christmas we can echo Paul's great command: “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I will say, rejoice! Let, your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand” Philippians 4:4-5, NKJV.
- Please continue to pray that what we offer here is worthy of the High Calling of Christ.

## **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](http://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!

## **ALPHA UPDATE**

By Christmas, ALPHA leaders and residents will complete “A Life Worth Living,” a study on Philippians. We look forward to seeing Nickey Gumble, the study's author, in Dallas for the 2011 National ALPHA Conference. We also look forward to our annual retreat in January, as we begin a new course building a strong Christian foundation, especially presenting Jesus and salvation in an understandable way for our younger residents who have no knowledge of the Christian Gospel.

New Ministry Note: We're delighted to announce that Moms in Touch International volunteers now lead a chapel service every Monday. This ministry helps women develop a prayer life on behalf of their children. It is well received and helping to build bonds between moms (or aunts, grandmothers, stepmothers, etc) and children.



Moms in Touch International volunteers (from left to right), Renee Eiband, Barbara McGee, and Mary Hamm.

Other volunteers not pictured include: Mikki Carey, Toni Meadows, and Mary Jane Edwards.

# 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 from July 1 through August 31)*

### Alma W. Alexander

Mr. and Mrs. William G. Spoons

### H. Bruce Alford

Mr. and Mrs. George Runnion, Jr.

### About Ary

Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Ottinger

### Frank A. and Marjorie T. Bailey

Mr. and Mrs. Crawford O. Edwards

### Cliff E. Baker

Mr. and Mrs. Crawford O. Edwards

### Aleda Baldwin

Mr. and Mrs. Crawford O. Edwards

### Linton Barbee

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Korman

### Jon Berg

Ms. Johnnie D. Herndon

### Robert Bowen

Mr. and Mrs. George Beggs, III

### Wayne R. Britton

Rev. V. Stanley Maneikis

### Thomas Brizendine

Ms. Marilyn Brizendine

### Jerry Brooks

Mr. and Mrs. Carl R. Brumley

### B. G. Byas

Dr. Sharon E. Allen  
Ms. Nelda S. Stroder  
Ms. Virginia S. Walker

### Pat Christian

Ms. Helen O. Christian

### Charles A. Cobden

Dr. and Mrs. Donald E. Pentecost

### Carol Colvin

Mr. and Mrs. James H. Engstrom

### Diane M. Cornwall

Ms. Ann G. Sutherland

### Rebecca Crouch

Mr. and Mrs. B. Thomas Miller, Jr.

### Raymond Curtis

Ms. Helen O. Christian

### Clara Devlin

Ms. Charleen Toney

### James R. Donnell

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Gill

### Mike Duffy

Ms. Winifred Y. Duffy

### James A. Elkins

Mr. and Mrs. Crawford O. Edwards

### James W. Evans

Dr. and Mrs. Charles L. Renshaw

### Father Bob

Mr. and Mrs. Ceferino Ortiz

### Father Meinard

Mr. and Mrs. Ceferino Ortiz

### Clovis Genovese

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Broward

### Deborah Hall

Ms. Jeanette Reed

### Nancy Herpin

Mr. and Mrs. Timothy J. Hiles

### J. W. Hewell

Ms. Sylvia S. Hewell

### John M. Hogg

Mr. and Mrs. Crawford O. Edwards

### Pearl O. Humphrey

Mr. and Mrs. Crawford O. Edwards

### Jesus Christ Our Lord & Savior

Mr. Alphonso Martinez  
Ms. Millie Moore

*(continued on Memorials insert)*

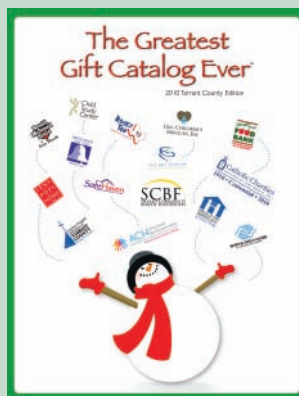
When you send your memorial or in honor of gift to Union Gospel Mission of Tarrant County, you will receive a tax-deductible receipt and a card will be mailed promptly to the bereaved family or the friend being honored, telling them of your gift. Please mail your memorial and in honor of gifts to:

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

## Christmas Gifts that Matter!

This year, more than ever, people are seeking Christmas gifts with significance—a way to impact the world instead of accumulating “things.” *The Greatest Gift Catalog Ever™*, 2010 Tarrant County Edition, makes it simple to donate to UGM-TC (and other worthwhile local charities) for yourself or in honor of a loved one this Christmas. UGM-TC gifts range from \$25 for 15 meals, to \$250 for a week of life-changing care. Purchase a “gift” for that special teacher or hard-to-shop-for friend. Turn a larger gift into a Sunday School or office project!

Visit [www.thegreatestgiftcatalogever.org](http://www.thegreatestgiftcatalogever.org) to learn more.



## New to Our Board!

Please join us in welcoming Mary Jane Edwards to the UGM-TC board. Mary Jane is one of six Moms in Touch International volunteers who come to the Mission every Monday to teach our resident women how to pray for their children and grandchildren. By joining the board, she's also following in the footsteps of her late father-in-law, Cass Edwards, a treasured member for many years. We're grateful for the knowledge and enthusiasm she brings.



# A Grandma for Christmas

Some of us think of Christmas shopping as a chore, but not Janice. She can't wait to buy presents for her two grandsons living here in Fort Worth! It's been so long since she could give them anything at all...even herself.

## A New Way

Once, Janice says, Christmas was "just like any other day when you're addicted. You don't care about anybody. You're complacent about your life and yourself. Every day is a challenge, but you don't care."

But this Christmas, she's determined, will be different...and every Christmas from now on.

On her very first day at UGM-TC, Janice says, "I had a new freedom. I was able to begin to take responsibility for myself." And through the programs you support, she's growing spiritually by leaps and bounds into a woman who can rely on Jesus Christ instead of addictions.

"The Mission lets me know that I am loved," she enthuses. "It's introduced me to a different way of life. I don't have to beat myself up anymore. I don't have to seek the approval of others. I can be okay with myself... I love it! I had such low self-esteem before. I always found the wrong places to be. This is the right place to be. [ALPHA] teaches me to read



the Bible, to apply it to [my] life. I can live life a new way now."

## The Best Gift

For the first time in years, Janice is looking forward to Christmas...to family and all the joys of the season. "There are only blessings to be had at UGM-TC," she says. "My daughter is on my side 100% and we talk every day. Right now, I'm doing everything I'm supposed to be doing. I can face life on life's terms now. I couldn't have come to a better place."

No matter what Janice buys for her grandsons this Christmas, you've played a big part in giving them the best gift of all—their grandma! Thank you for helping to reunite other families through your ongoing support.

**...through the programs you support, Janice is growing spiritually by leaps and bounds into a woman who can rely on Jesus Christ instead of addictions.**



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

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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Stephen Berry

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