

Lifeline

A Ministry Publication of Inner City Mission of Springfield, Inc.

When our apartment burned, we became homeless overnight. We're grateful to Inner City Mission for giving us a place to stay



Straight
from
Scott's Heart



2009 R.O.C.K.
Awards



Easter is all
about New
Opportunities

Inner City Mission
Scott Payne
714 N. 7th St.
P.O. Box 8148
Springfield, IL 62791
217-525-3940
www.innercitymission.net

Our names are Carla and Trey. When you have a fire in your apartment and have no place to stay, you become homeless in a matter of minutes. And that's what happened to us. We came to this area because we had a friend in Springfield. With the help of our friend, a local church and Inner City Mission, we are starting to get back on our feet. But it's not easy.

Neither one of us thought we'd ever be homeless. I used to work at a detox Center and Trey is a union worker. But we can't find work. Not even McDonald's is hiring, and the Lord knows we're willing to do just about anything to put food on the table for ourselves and our son.

I don't know what we would do without the compassion of the folks here at the Mission during this time in our lives. Trey is tough — with an inner resolve he developed when he was in the Army.

There are so many great people in this world.

As I look at all the people who are helping us, I realize over and over again that there are lots of wonderful people in our world. You who donate to the Mission don't even know us and still you reach out to us in our time of need.



"Not even McDonald's is hiring, and the Lord knows we're willing to do just about anything to put food on the table for ourselves and our son."

The other day, I asked a stranger if he could spare a dollar for us to buy some food. That person reached in his wallet and gave us \$50.00. He didn't know us and we didn't know him. I can't tell you how much that meant to us. Neither Trey nor I can pay that man back. But, we can repay

this man's kindness by helping the next person in need once we get back on our feet.

Now it's Easter and Trey and I want to thank you for your friendship and kindness.

2009 R.O.C.K. Awards

December 18th, 2009 was a big day for us at Inner City Mission. During our *Gift Worth Celebrating* service at the Athens Christian Church, we **shredded our mortgage!** We also gave out the first annual R.O.C.K. (**Radical Outpouring of Christian Kindness**) Awards.

The R.O.C.K. Award recognizes outstanding Christian behavior that touches the lives of others in a positive, uplifting manner. The rock was chosen as a symbol for this award because of its rich imagery found throughout the Bible.

In the Old Testament, God told Joshua to have twelve men, one from each tribe of Israel, pick up a rock out of the middle of the Jordan River and carry it to camp where Joshua was building a lasting memorial to God's faithful love and care of His people.

In the New Testament, Christ used the rock as a symbol of strength found in Peter's Great Confession that Jesus was the Son of God. Christ also used the rock as a symbol of Godly wisdom in the last illustration in the Sermon on the Mount where He speaks of the wise man who builds his house on the rock — the solid foundation of Christ's teachings.

The 2009 R.O.C.K. Awards were presented to:

- **Williamsville Christian Church** for **Outstanding Christian Witness** in the aftermath of the tornado that destroyed their building, but not their faith, love and spirit of praise.
- **David and Melinda Beals** for **Outstanding Christian Leadership** during the aftermath of the tornado that destroyed the church building, but not the Church.
- **Ron and Teena Jockisch** for **Outstanding Family Leadership** in the creation of a beautifully blended family founded upon the Holy Word of God.
- **George and Nedra Melton** for **Outstanding Family Leadership** in the raising of Godly children through Christian service and sacrifice founded on the Holy Word of God.

RM_40-0350_H01SP

Straight from Scott's Heart

Imagine with me for a moment. You go into your garage and you see a small dish with some seeds in it. You've forgotten all about those seeds. In fact, you almost throw them away. After all, they're hard, shriveled up and look pretty hopeless.

Then you look outside and you ask yourself, *I wonder what would happen if I planted these seeds?* Well it's now spring, so you plant them. Before long, a miracle seems to take place. A tiny green shoot breaks through the ground. The next day, there are even more shoots. Before you know it, your once seemingly dead, hopeless, lifeless seeds have burst into life.

People come to us looking like death warmed over.

That's how it is every day at Inner City Mission. People come to us looking like death warmed over. They've put themselves on the garage shelf of life for months — even years. They thought they were hopeless and so did most of their family. Then, they enter an environment filled with God's love, personal discipline and accountability. Like those physical seeds, they begin to break through their pain and addictions. Before long — if they stay the course — they begin to experience the joy and satisfaction of a new life in Christ.

For them, old things are now passed away and all things are becoming new. You see, the seed wasn't dead after all. It was just waiting for the right moment — and for a nurturing environment — to bring it to life. We at Inner City Mission have the privilege of seeing these miracles take place every day — *miracles that happen only because a faithful friend like you keeps saying yes to people in need.*

The fruit of God's love.

But there's even more exciting news. We're now seeing fruit of transformed lives as our residents lead others to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. *Many of these men and women are doing this on their own without our even knowing about it.*

So this is our Easter story — a story of resurrection from the dead or near dead. It's about people coming to newness of life through the power of a risen Lord. God bless you for your constant, enthusiastic support of our ministry.

Thank you for helping our folks to move in a positive direction as they allow Jesus Christ to enter their lives. See you next time, good Lord willing.

Your servant



Scott Payne, a Minister to the Homeless



Easter is all about New Opportunities and New Hope...

Thank you for playing a vital role in this ministry of new life.

Men, women and children who are hungry, afraid and without a friend in the world need to be rescued every day. *But it must be an eternal rescue* — not simply food, clothing and shelter. Pain, fear, alienation from God and the other terrors of homelessness demand a spiritual response from us who are committed to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

This rescue is especially vital for our guests at Easter here at Inner City Mission. This is always an exceptional time for us to reaffirm the promise of new life and new beginnings for our residents and guests. Year after year, we see that folks seem to be more open at Easter than at any other time to the promise of new life.



Thank you for your partnership during the past critical months.

You helped meet the physical and spiritual needs of so many during the past holiday season. Now, with Easter approaching, we again have an opportunity to work together to share this new life in Christ with all who come through our doors. If you'd like to be a part of this physical and spiritual healing during this special time, please share your Easter joy by giving a generous gift to help those in need.

To give your generous gift immediately, please use the remit slip enclosed. You may also call Inner City Mission at **217-525-3940**. Thank you for your acts of kindness to families and individuals who need a loving touch during Easter and throughout the year.