



Scott Payne
 714 N. 7th St.
 P.O. Box 8148
 Springfield, IL 62791-8148

We are homeless and many of us
 have lost our way. But our lives are better
 because of your compassion.
Thank you.

CR RT
 Mrs. John Sample
 Street Address
 City, ST Zip



Holiday newsletter enclosed

RM_XX-XXXX_H01SP

Art Director/Designer	Production Artist(s)	Initials	Date
DGY			
Production Art Manager	Initials	Initials	Date
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Part# Pre-Print Specs
 10NADNLK RM November 2010 – **H01SP** Springfield Newsletter Group E
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Lifeline

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

Because of the Mission I've learned never to give up.



Straight from
 Scott's heart



"I'm sorry,
 but..."



Thank you
 for your
 generosity...

Inner City Mission
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 714 N. 7th St.
 P.O. Box 8148
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 217-525-3940
 www.innercitymission.net

My name is Chevonne. If there were no Inner City Mission, there would be so many more people on the streets of Springfield. And if it were not for the Mission — and for Scott's straightforward approach to helping people — there's no telling where I would be today. I've always had a stability issue, even though as a kid I heard all the Bible stories and went to church five-days-a-week. I just needed someone to help me.

I've been through a lot. After I lost my dad, I found myself raising my two brothers when I was only seven years old. I had my first child at 14, and I lived many of my early years in foster homes. So for me to change my attitude toward life is some kind of miracle. Right now, I'm not at the Mission. I live in a townhouse and I've finished high school — all because of the compassion, discipline and caring I received here.

Thank you for the Christian environment that changed my life

Because of the Mission, I've learned never to give up. I've become accountable and I don't blame others for my problems. Most important, the Mission provided me with a Christian environment when I needed it most. I also want you to know I've always

appreciated what you as a donor mean to us who come through these doors. Without you, we'd have no food, no shelter and no clothing on our backs. Even though I'm not at the Mission now, you will be in my thoughts and prayers for the rest of my life.

Thank you for your support of the Mission during the holidays and every day of the year. Inner City Mission is a good steward of your donations—and every dollar you provide helps people like me find their way back to God. Thank you.

I'm now out on my own...thanks to God, the Mission and to you who donate your time and service. Thank you.



Testimonial photo client supplied, \$0

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Sidebar photo client supplied, \$0

I am sorry but. . .

My name is Jeff Higginson, and I have worked at Inner City Mission for thirteen years. I love working at ICM because it is both rewarding and challenging. I remember laughing at my friend Scott Payne (who was my college roommate) when he told me he had the perfect job for me. I have to admit Scott was right, and **I am honored to be a part of the ICM staff.**

There is, however, one thing I do not enjoy about working at ICM. No one on our staff likes to turn people away because we have no room available. The phone calls are tough, but the face-to-face encounters are the worst. Imagine having someone break down in front of you because you are unable to help meet their need.



I remember telling one woman on a cold morning that we had no place for her to stay. She had told me her family was living in their car. From where we were standing, I could see the kids in the car. I wish I could, but I will *never* forget that winter morning. **We turn away three to five requests a day for housing, and often it is more.**

Some day I hope we never have to say the words "I am sorry, but we have no room here at the mission." That is why I am so excited that in 2010, we have started an expansion process. Plans are being made to purchase more property so that we can open up at least five more rooms to house families. We would love to have you be a part of this process.

Please be praying for us as we move forward. Ask God to direct our paths so that He will be honored in all that we do. If you are able to give, that would also be a tremendous blessing. I know for a fact that our doors stay open at ICM because of those who have joined us as partners in this ministry. Thank you for being involved in our ministry to broken and shattered people. **I hope someday I can tell you we no longer have to use the phrase "I am sorry, but..."**

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Straight from Scott's heart

To live in a homeless environment is both heartbreaking and frightening. It's one thing to be poor and homeless. *It's even worse to feel invisible.* And that's how most homeless people feel in our community. But when poor, lonely, hungry people come to the Mission, they discover they are anything but invisible. We sit with these folks. We listen to their stories — and we do not judge them for past choices. Most important, we see our friends and their circumstances through the tender eyes of Jesus.



Little by little light comes to eyes once darkened by sin and wrong decisions. Hope — once a word not in their vocabulary — now becomes a reality. At the Mission, the smallest acts of kindness — a listening ear, a clean bed, a home-cooked meal, a toothbrush, washcloth and towel — are all received with thankful hearts. This is because small is indeed beautiful.

Your gift of \$5.00 could save a life

If you can only give \$5.00, that \$5.00 may be just the amount that helps save a life. But whether your gift is large or small, it's my prayer you will simply listen to your heart and give what you can. These are challenging times for the Mission — just as they are for you, your friends and your neighbors.

This year more than 250 men, women and children passed through our doors. Every person experienced love in action. Some are still with us. Others we may never see again. But our mission is to be Christ's love to every person who comes to us.

Because the need is so great, we're now expanding our facilities. We're giving birth to five new living spaces for families in distress. We are retrofitting our present space to house more guests. We are also in the process of buying property nearby. This expansion has but one purpose: to continue to respond to Christ's call to touch people in need with His mercy and love.

Thank you for your support throughout 2010. Now at this holiday season, it's my prayer you will continue to share out of your abundance with men, women and children who need to know you care. Thank you in advance for being a friend to the homeless. See you next time, good Lord willing.

Your servant,

Scott Payne, a Minister to the Homeless

Thank you for your generosity in the past. Now the holidays are here and the homeless still need to know you care

No question about it. God could have chosen other methods. A more dramatic announcement to be sure. He could have sent His Son trailing through clouds of glory with the heavens suddenly opening and legions of winged angels. Or He might have announced the arrival of His Son through a succession of horrendous seismic shocks, torrential floods, an enormous voice of thunder or other means that would certainly have gotten mankind's attention.



But no, not at all. That was not the plan. The announcement came in the form of a baby. A *baby*...born of a humble girl in a crude stable. . .the Son of God. Who but God would have thought of such a thing? Yet, it was at this precise moment in time that Love was set forth on God's mighty mission.

Your generosity allows us to declare the gift at Bethlehem

And it is this baby, this child of Bethlehem, this Savior of the world, this King of Kings, Lord of Lords, the Son of God whom we celebrate and share with *others* in need who come through the doors of Inner City Mission this holiday season.

You have been generous beyond words in the weeks and months past. *How could we make it without you? Simple answer: we couldn't.* Your

faithful support keeps our doors open. Your kindness brings joy and peace to shattered spirits and broken hearts. God bless you.

To send your donation today, please use the remit slip enclosed. You may also call Inner City Mission at **217-525-3940**. Thank you for touching the lives of families and individuals.

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Part# Pre-Print Specs

10NADNLK12 RM November 2010 – H01SP Springfield Newsletter Group E

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