

Lifeline

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

When our house was foreclosed . . . God opened a place for us at the Mission

My name is Chris. I don't have the words to express what Inner City Mission means to my wife and me. It's helping us get our act together. Kelli and I are learning from our mistakes, and there have been quite a few of them. The good news is we are now able to start saving our money so we can get out on our own. But for now, the Mission is our home. And it is a wonderful place for us. At present, I'm washing dishes at a café, where it feels good to do a day's work and earn my own way. My wife and I are here at the Mission because our house was foreclosed. It was such a blessing when we were accepted as residents. I particularly enjoy the classes where I'm able to hear the words of Jesus. Our kids are also learning about God in a great family atmosphere. My major goals in life are to encourage our kids to follow God, graduate from school and stay out of trouble.

Thank you for everything you provide for us

Something else. Kelli and I are learning how to communicate better with each other. We no longer raise our voices when we talk, and we are feeling less stress in our lives. I'm sure Jesus is pleased with the progress we are making. One day when I meet my

Savior, I will thank him for all He's done for me in my life, especially for being my risen Lord. I also want to thank you who donate so much to help us. It may be money, furniture, clothing or other items. We appreciate everything you provide for our family. It's my prayer that God continues to bless you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Chris

"My major goals in life are to encourage our kids to follow God, graduate from school and stay out of trouble."

Thank you for being so good to my family.
We will always remember your kindness.



**Straight from
Scott's Heart . . .**
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**Forgiving Oneself
and Others . . .**
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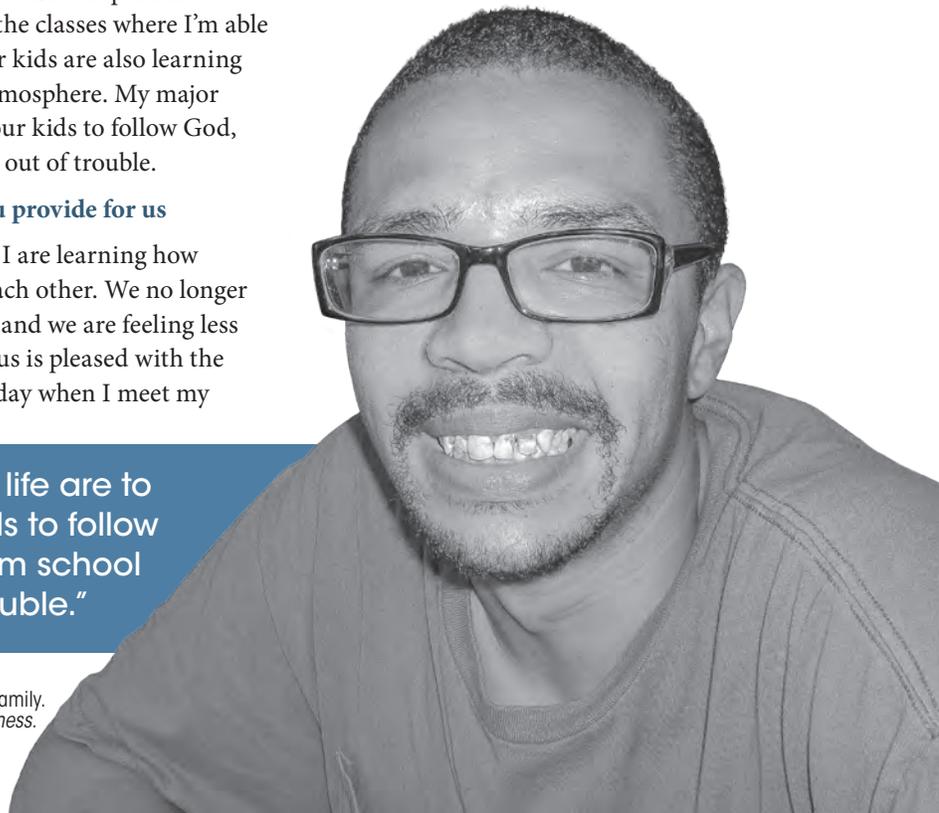


Thank you . . .
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FORGIVING ONESELF AND OTHERS

There are many reasons for homelessness. For some, it's addictions to alcohol and other drugs. For others, it has been a lifelong struggle with domestic abuse. Children have been used and abused by those who were supposed to love and cherish them. Women have sold their bodies for a quick fix. When friends with such backgrounds come to the Mission and become part of our program, we welcome them with open arms. And once they are with us, one of the primary things we share is the importance of forgiveness — God's way. This means forgiving themselves for self-inflicted wounds and forgiving others who did them so much physical and mental harm. True healing and recovery always begin with forgiveness. But our guests don't just hear it from us. We open the Word of God and share what Scripture says about the subject. Here are some verses for all of us to ponder.

Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you. (Matthew 5:43-44)

Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. (Romans 12:14)

Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. (Romans 12:17)

Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

It all starts with forgiveness. It's true for the guests at Inner City Mission.

It's true for us all.

Straight from Scott's Heart

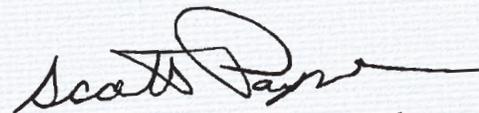
Dear Friend of Inner City Mission,

We're all homeless if we don't know where we're going. This is true for those who come through the doors of Inner City Mission; it's also true for you and me. And the men and women who come to the Mission are the definition of this homelessness. They don't know the way out of their despair. For them, there is no exit. Life is a bust. So what's the point of living? Actually, we're glad they ask us this question, because it gives us an opportunity to provide a daily, practical answer which is . . . *to demonstrate to them a loving, caring atmosphere of joy and peace.* For many of our guests and residents this is new information. Because on the streets, there is precious little joy and *peace is nowhere to be found.* Nor is there a sense of responsibility or respect of authority — something they learn they must accept if they are to remain within the walls of the Mission.

God's Truth always wins the day

But we don't just talk. We listen, and the power of a listening ear sparks hope in people's lives. Before long, they understand the importance of repenting of their sins if they want the Kingdom of God to reside in their lives. To do this, they must become poor in spirit, which means being willing to accept their limitations and to give God full control of their hearts. Because our counselors spend two hours each week with each resident you can see why, over time, God's Truth wins the day. Thank you for giving us this unique opportunity to minister to the homeless people, the lost, and to those who've been cast aside. Without your ongoing support and generosity, this ministry would not take place. God bless you richly now and always.

Your Servant,



Scott Payne, A Minister to the Homeless



" . . . on the streets, there is precious little joy and peace is nowhere to be found."



Thank you for playing your vital role in the physical and spiritual healing of others



When you make yourself a blessing to someone at the Mission today your caring may be just the touch a man or woman needs to start a new life. Your kind smile or pat on the back may be what pulls someone back from the edge. Caring often begins with a hot meal, a warm bed, and a safe environment. Compassionate attention assures our friends they really do matter. For the first time in a long time, many realize someone cares whether they live or die. The good news is the Mission gives those who come to our door a place where they are able to find the help they need.

Often a word of encouragement or a listening ear are unexpected gifts to those who have felt so little love when they lived in a state of homelessness. In the process, another gift is the one you give to yourself. When you get involved, you become closer to God as you help make this world a better place by helping someone in need. The other piece of good news is we are all healed when we participate in the physical and spiritual healing of others. To send your donation to help so many who are homeless and despairing of life itself, please use the remit slip enclosed, or make your donation online at www.innercitymission.net. God bless you as you reach out to others — like Chris and his family — during these critical months and every day of the year.