



THE MISSION NEWSLETTER
 1321 E. Lancaster Avenue
 Fort Worth, TX 76102
 (817) 339-2553 | www.ugm-tc.org

FOLLOW US ONLINE:

A local united Christian organization and ministry dedicated to providing love, hope, respect and a new beginning to those experiencing homelessness.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Vice Chairman — Caroline Samis
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Don Shisler
CEO Emeritus

Dr. Charles M. Wolford II
CEO

Together, We Give Thanks

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and there is a lot of joy and a sense of community here at Union Gospel Mission of Tarrant County. People are bonding, sharing and lifting each other up. It is wonderful to see.

Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous.

1 PETER 3:8, NKJV

Many men and women come here feeling alone and lost, escaping painful pasts. Some come here looking for a meal. No matter what brings them, they find a community that cares for them.

You provide the means to fulfill their needs. You give them the opportunity to know God and begin a new life. They see the sense of family among others. Lives begin to change, and you can see God working within, especially during the holidays.

This Thanksgiving will be a gathering for delicious food, praise to our Lord and good conversation. The sense of family is strong, and you are a part of it, too. Your compassion and care shine bright in our halls, and you are the reason we have somewhere to gather.

Both of us enjoy working together, and we seek one goal — to provide hope and new beginnings to the homeless through Christ-centered teaching and care. Together, we create new ideas and support each other wholeheartedly. The future of UGM-TC is in good hands.

Thank you for providing a way for men, women and children to break free from the cycle of homelessness. New friendships begin, people find the strength to continue and many find refuge in Jesus. May God bless you and your family this Thanksgiving.

In Christ,

SAVE THE DATE

HEART FOR THE HOMELESS
featuring Josh Weathers



NOVEMBER 14, 2024
River Ranch Stockyards

Tickets sell fast! Reserve your spot today by visiting www.heartforhomeless.com for purchasing options.

KEEP IN TOUCH

- Like us on Facebook
- Follow us on Instagram (@ugmtarrantco)
- Include your email address on the enclosed response form to receive Mission news and opportunities via email



FATHER ROGERS MEREDITH

LIVE THANKFULLY

When I was young, one of the cardinal rules of our household was saying “Thank you.” This was intentional because an ungrateful child (or grownup) is very much lacking in social graces, to say the least.

We need to be trained to be thankful. We find gratitude hard for many reasons, but, at least in my case, saying “thank you” or expressing appreciation is difficult because it strikes at my independence.

Americans, rightly, value our independence, but sometimes independence can be a negative thing. Sovereignty carries with it the danger of self-reliance, and to turn from God to the self is to turn from good, for only God is good.

To turn to God is to be thankful and to be thankful is to relish and express our dependence on Him for everything. We may glory in our achievements and appreciate others’ accomplishments, but we may only do so properly when we are staring God in the face.

To love God is to live thankfully.

As the Psalmist writes:

“Let us give thanks to the Lord for He is good, and His mercy endures forever.”

PLEASE PRAY:

- That The Holy Spirit would be poured out on Union Gospel Mission and conform us all more faithfully to the image of Christ.
- That we would all see the goodness of God in every aspect of our lives and be led to give Him Thanksgiving and praise.

HOW MAY WE PRAY FOR YOU?
We would like to pray for you.

If you have any prayer requests you would like to share, please email them to rmeredith@ugm-tc.org.

The **MISSION** NEWSLETTER
 Stories of the Lord’s provision through you in Tarrant County



Always Thankful
“God continues to bless me!”

From Then to Now, Greg Shares God's Blessings



You may recognize Greg; he was featured in our March 2019 newsletter. His journey from rock bottom to beginning a new life in Christ is a tremendous story of God's power. Now, he is here to tell you how God has blessed him since appearing in the newsletter.

To recap: It started with a big fall from success. Greg had a great job, making plenty of money but no time to focus on his family. What little time he did have, he used to drink. His work ethic declined, and he lost his job.

Eventually, he found himself homeless, starving and sleeping at a truck stop. This was his rock bottom, and he knew it. "I cried out to God," he says. "I asked God to take me or save me. I didn't want to live anymore."

God did save Greg. He sent a truck driver to reach out and get him help. Greg went to the hospital, and then on to Union Gospel Mission of Tarrant County.

Here, Greg found the Holy Spirit, delved deep into learning about God and began a sober, godly life. He told his life-change story to the staff, and it went in the March newsletter.

Shortly after the release of the newsletter, his daughter — who Greg had not spoken to in over 10 years — was scrolling through Facebook. Suddenly, there was her father's face on the screen. She could not believe what she was seeing and reading.

Moved to see Greg sober and living a Christian life, she decided to reach out, reunite with her dad and introduce her two children

to their grandfather. "Now, my daughter and I reconnected in a wonderful relationship. I can love and play with grandchildren I would never have known if it wasn't for UGM-TC," he proudly says.

Greg also continued his studies. He will soon graduate with a degree in psychology and a minor in religion. He currently works at a ministry that helps men who have faced homelessness pursue an education. There, he does what he loves most. "I love to inspire people. I know what rock bottom is, and I want to help others change their life," he says.

Thankful for your support, Greg says, "You help turn homeless people into contributing members of society, and that is a great thing. I am proof of that, and now I have a wonderful life!"

What are you thankful for?

As Thanksgiving draws near, it's good to look at the blessings God gives. Here are some friends at Union Gospel Mission of Tarrant County who would like to share their blessings with you about their case managers.

I'm thankful to Manuwela for her patience with me during a tough time in my life.



MORGAN

My case manager, Cindy, is experienced, friendly and very professional. She is an awesome lady and very good at what she does!



GALEN

I'm thankful for Kenedi because she always worked with me. She also always listened to me. When I thought I wasn't going to be able to do something, she showed me how I could. She is a wonderful person.



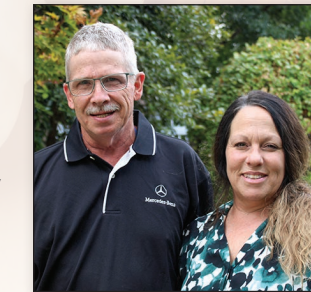
CHERYL

I'm thankful for my case manager, Carolyn, because she listens to my problems. I realize she is not just here because it's her job.



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My caseworker is my greatest asset. She is kind, thoughtful and concerned. She instills and maintains the highest level of honesty and integrity. I am grateful to have Cara on my side.



RANDALL

I am thankful for my case manager, Paulann. She allows me to be seen and heard. She gives me a safe space and tells me what I need to hear. She cares for me and my daughter, and I love her for that and all she does for us.



LAYLA

All of us at UGM-TC are thankful for you!
You help provide new beginnings for the homeless.

How will God use you?

Volunteering at UGM-TC helps many in our community, and Eric is one volunteer who makes a big difference here every day, every year. And he says you can too!

Originally, Eric felt God leading him to get involved with the community. He began here as an after-school youth mentor. "Seeing God work among the kids was incredible," he says. "I helped them learn skills and became like a grandpa to them."

As he continued to volunteer in many different ways, Eric noticed there was a need for turkeys at

Thanksgiving and Christmas. He gathered his fellow Gideons and they donated 89 turkeys the first year. Every year, they bring more and more turkeys for the holidays — a true blessing!

"No one should go hungry," Eric says. "No child should miss a meal. My friends and I realized we have so much, and if we do not share, we are not doing the Lord's work."

Eric encourages you to volunteer as well. "You never know how God will use you," he says. "And when you give, God will give right back to you."

If you feel God is leading you to become a volunteer, please visit ugm-tc.org/volunteer. There are many ways you can make a big difference in someone's life today!



The MISSION

Stories of the Lord's provision through you in Tarrant County

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2024



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