



The Mission Newsletter
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Charles M. Wolford II
 President/CEO

You Help Make
All Things New

Dear Friend,

Here in the Fort Worth area, we're fortunate to have relatively mild winters. But I've always envied our neighbors to the north for the dramatic return of spring after months of cold and snow. There's something so uplifting and even miraculous when everything beautiful bursts forth. In a wonderful way, it mirrors the Easter story, when new life triumphs over death.

At Union Gospel Mission of Tarrant County, lives are made new not just at Easter, but every day. Your support gives our residents a chance to restore their hope, reclaim their dignity and renew their relationships with God, their families and our community.

These transformations remind us that when Christ rose on the third day, He opened the door to new life for everyone. This beautiful act of restoration leads residents like Kelton onto a path toward lasting change.

On behalf of everyone at UGM-TC, I thank you for joining us on a mission and wish you and all your loved ones a very joyful Easter season.

In Christ,

Charles M. Wolford II
 President/CEO

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ...

— 1 PETER 1:3, NKJV

New Welcome Center *Now Open*

UGM-TC's new Welcome Center opened on January 20, providing a space marked by quick and compassionate responsiveness to our unsheltered neighbors. UGM-TC staff will help guests navigate resources for shelter, food, rental assistance, Social Security, identification cards and more.


The Welcome Center also opens the door to UGM-TC's residential programs. "We want people to leave here better than when they came, and to be more stable as a whole person," says Dacia Whitaker, Director of Intake, Assessment and Diversion.

To learn more about the impact the Welcome Center is having in Tarrant County, read more by scanning the QR code.



 Like us on Facebook

 Follow us on Instagram (@ugmtarrantco)

 Include your email address on the enclosed response form to receive Mission news and updates via email

Celebrating New Life
At Easter

Easter is just days away, and UGM-TC is ready to celebrate. We'll hear the Gospel account of our Lord's Resurrection at an uplifting chapel service, followed by a wonderful meal shared with our residents.

There's even more in store for the boys and girls here. They'll enjoy a visit from the Easter Bunny, some gifts and treats, and weather permitting, an Easter egg hunt.

You can help by providing goodies for the children's Easter baskets:

- Candy
- Christian Children's Books
- Coloring Books
- Crayons and Colored Pencils
- Fun Socks
- Stickers
- Stuffed Animals

Drop off your donations Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 2400 N. Kentucky Avenue, or after hours at 1321 E. Lancaster Avenue. Use the call box to gain entry to the gated parking lot. For more information, contact Dana Walser at dwalser@ugm-tc.org or 817-338-8402.



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THE **MISSION**

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



"God can deliver you from all things!"



Baptism and New Life at UGM-TC

Father Rogers Meredith, Chaplain of UGM-TC, will always remember the Alpha graduation when he baptized seven graduates and presided over one rededication to Christ. "I've been in ministry 30 years," he says, "and that's the most I've ever baptized at one time. That was remarkable."

Baptism itself is remarkable, according to Father Rogers. "Something happens to you. You're given the Spirit at baptism. Your sins are actually forgiven. You pass from the old life into a new life. That's why it's impactful."

The passage from an old life into a new one is especially meaningful for residents of UGM-TC. Father Rogers tells us he conducts a spiritual assessment on new residents when they arrive and another upon their graduation. Especially among those who have made their public commitment to Christ in baptism, the level of spiritual growth and maturity shown at the end of this period can be profound. "They've achieved a lot of their goals, and they're moving on with their lives. That's really gratifying. I see that as the work of God."

Father Rogers recognizes the contributions of everyone involved with the Mission. "Everything we do here is important. It's a holistic effort." Sharing God's Word is part of the effort.

"I want to be sure Christ is being lifted up," he continues. "We believe the preaching of God's Word changes people. Jeremiah 20:9 says, 'His word was in my heart like a burning fire.'"



Volunteer Highlight

"Just Another Pilgrim Trying to Get Home"



A chapel leader for the past 18 months, Joe Underwood has seen many lives change at UGM-TC. One of them was his. "I'm speaking to real people in that chapel," he says. "Their humility, their compassion for each other, their sincere gratitude is amazing. They changed my life. God used them to change me."

Joe brings 50 years of ministry experience to the Mission. "Unofficially retired," he delivers an average of 18 sermons or discipleship lessons per month. He developed curriculum for a class based on Tony Evans' *The Kingdom Agenda* and conducts Bible studies. Joe also sometimes helps out in the service line, usually at lunchtime, praying with residents and picking up trays. "I'm just another pilgrim trying to get home," Joe says.

To prospective volunteers, Joe says, "You just need to make sure this is what God wants you to do. I firmly believe He empowers you, He equips you, He prepares you." As for what you can expect to get out of it, Joe tells you, "Those who come because God sent them don't need a lot of rewards. But He dishes them out anyway."



Can You Lend a Hand?

There's always plenty to do at UGM-TC, and we can use your help. If you want to make a difference, scan this QR code with your smartphone camera.



Thank You!

Kelton Finds Deliverance and Discipleship

"I felt brand new."

Two years ago, Kelton was unsheltered and suffering from substance abuse. Hope seemed very far away. Then, on Easter Sunday, his deliverance came in a very unexpected manner: he was attacked, stabbed and ended up in the hospital. There, victim advocates referred Kelton to Union Gospel Mission of Tarrant County.

"When I got here and filled out the application, I was crying. I felt so lost," Kelton remembers. "Then I heard God speaking to me. I didn't harden my heart. I asked Him

to save me. I felt His presence. I took little steps, one by one." Those little steps led to a bigger one: joining UGM-TC's men's residential program. Kelton tells us, "I got really focused on my faith and got sober. Ever since, I've been living for Christ, being a disciple and trying to witness to others and talk to them about His goodness."

As Kelton progressed through the program and deepened his discipleship, he was chosen as a Community Ambassador at the Mission. "I prayed with my brothers. If they needed me, I was there,"

he says. Remembering how lost he felt when he first arrived at UGM-TC, Kelton made a point of welcoming new arrivals and helping them get settled. "I gave out encouragement. That's how you know you've been changed by the power of the Holy Ghost."

That's not the only significant change Kelton experienced since coming to UGM-TC. He was hired as a program navigator for a Fortune 500 healthcare company, assisting Medicaid applicants. "It's really fun and interesting," he says. "I want

to develop my career within the company."

Looking forward to this coming Easter, Kelton sees how far he has come in the past two years. He has an apartment of his own, as well as a car. He enjoys his newfound independence, and will never forget how he got here: through God, UGM-TC and you.

"When I got here, I gave my life to Christ," Kelton says. "I came from a long history of violence and drugs, but I felt brand new. God can deliver you from all things."