



Market Street Mission **Messenger**

Changing Lives Since 1889

H O L I D A Y I S S U E 2 0 1 0

“My Children Were My Strength...” **“They Helped Me Get My Life Together!”**

When he was growing up in Northern New Jersey, Melvin’s grandfather was his best friend. His passing left a gaping hole in Melvin’s life – a hole he filled with drugs and alcohol.

“That was the start of my turmoil... when I was using, I felt no pain.” And because Melvin was “a good kid who went to church every Sunday,” his mother never suspected anything.

He left home at the first opportunity and went to live with the woman who is the mother of his children. But he found troubles there, too.

“I would work then come home and drink. It was like I still needed a place to run.” The farther Melvin ran, the worse his life became. He

turned to cocaine and heroin and became an addict. Trying to kick that habit, he went to a methadone clinic but discovered that it was “just another addiction.”

“I became a menace in the streets.”

“I thank God for my family because they cared.” Even though Melvin was homeless and living on the streets, his family cared for his children and kept “a watchful eye” on him.

To make his family happy, Melvin tried several rehabilitation programs. But he always ended up back on the streets until he came to the Market Street Mission.

“When I came here, I asked them, ‘What’s the difference between this and other programs?’ They said, ‘God is in the building.’” Melvin entered our Life Change Program and graduated in 2005!

Keeping in contact with his children was a priority, but when



he couldn’t reach his daughter, he knew there was a problem. The children’s mother had been jailed! That was the impetus Melvin needed to fight for their custody.

Melvin and his children were reunited on April 6 last year. “They are my shadow,” he says. “I’m a full-time daddy... I get off work and go pick them up at school. Today, I don’t have to wonder what’s going on with my kids... they are my strength that helped me get myself together!”

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A Message from the Director



“It’s a Wonderful Life”

Nearly everyone has seen the classic Christmas movie, “It’s a Wonderful Life.”

Jimmy Stewart plays George Bailey, a man who’s about to commit suicide until his guardian angel intervenes and shows him all the lives he has touched and the wonderful contributions he has made to his community.

This year, as you get ready to celebrate the holidays with friends and family, I want you to think of all the men, women and children whose lives you have touched through this ministry!

The food you’ve provided has done more than feed hungry people. It has encouraged them to make changes that have saved their lives, through the Mission’s programs.

You’ve helped there, too, through your support of our Life Change Program.

So today we all say “thank you!” With your prayers and support, many in Northern New Jersey can truthfully say, “It is a wonderful life!”



G. David Scott
Executive Director

A Birthday Gift to the Mission

Two of the Market Street Mission’s littlest friends raised \$320 from their birthday party!

Emma and Kayley collected the money in place of receiving gifts for their birthdays and gave it to the Mission to help the neediest in our community. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity!

For more creative ways to support the Mission, visit marketstreet.org or call Nancy at (973) 538-6337.



Annual Coat Giveaway

We would like to thank everyone who volunteered and donated new and gently used coats to our annual Coat Giveaway! Thanks to your generosity, we were able to distribute thousands of coats and other winter clothing to the neediest in our community.

Once they have a warm coat, the people we serve can learn about other Mission services that offer whole life change to get them off the streets and out of poverty. Thank you again for making this event such a success!

For more information on this annual Mission event, call (973) 993-2871 or visit marketstreet.org.



Home for the Holidays You Make It Happen!

How does the old song go? “Oh, there’s no place like home for the holidays...”

For many people here in Northern New Jersey, that home is going to be the Mission. And we’re going to make it the best place we possibly can!

There will be decorations. Bountiful, home-cooked holiday dinners. Some small gifts. And most of all, Christian love and acceptance. Because that’s the best gift of all for people who have nowhere else to turn

...no family or friends to turn to.

This year, there will be “room at the inn.” A home for the holidays! It’s so much better than homeless for the holidays and you have the power to make it happen.

Please use the enclosed holiday gift card to provide meals, shelter and other loving care this holiday season. Or, go online to www.marketstreet.org and make a gift right now.

God bless you during this holy season!

From Crack House to House Manager...

“Surrender To the Lord and He Will Direct Your Path”

Greg was an alcoholic, a hard core drinker. And a cocaine addict... until he hit rock bottom.

He went from living in a crack house to living with another addict in a hotel before both of them were evicted.

“I was a mess. No hope and full of fear.” A sister sent him a train ticket, and for a while he lived with her in Philadelphia, but she “got tired” of his addictions. Then, it was “tough love time.”

Searching the internet, Greg’s brother-in-law found the Market Street Mission’s Life Change Program and drove him to Morristown. “I asked about a room, and they said, ‘we don’t have rooms,’” but they had a space on the chapel floor for him to stay the night. “I didn’t want to stay here, so I turned around to see what my brother-in-law thought, and he was gone.”

“Every day was a struggle. But every day it got better.”

At first, Greg was angry with his brother-in-law for “abandoning” him. But he soon realized that “it was the best thing he did for me.”

For the first few days, Greg would walk around the Mission with his head down, trying to keep busy, trying not to think about his situation. But the guys ahead of him in the program knew how he was feeling and kept encouraging him, lifting his spirits. “Every time I saw them, someone would say, ‘put your head up, it gets better.’” And, it did.

It wasn’t easy for Greg to admit he was powerless over his addiction. But every day he was filled with more and more hope. Today, he celebrates

more than five and a half years clean and sober!

“It’s amazing. I never would have thought it possible. It’s my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who gave me the strength. There’s no way I could have done it on my own.”

“Being a child of God...”

Greg discovered that what he needed was “eternal recovery.” And today, his life is full of hope and prayers on a regular basis. Since he graduated in December of 2005, he has worked here at the Mission helping bring that hope to others.



“The strength of the Holy Spirit got me through. My courage was knowing that He is always with me. I can do all things with the Lord.”

One of Greg’s first jobs was doing “client intake,” talking with people who were new to the Mission and the program. “I got to share how good the program was and how it worked for me. I used the Home Depot slogan, ‘You can do it. We can help.’”

Today, he’s the House Manager, checking on residents and taking calls every day from people trying to get into the program... just like he did so many years ago.

A Special Visit

Over the summer a group of close to 60 women from the **National Association of Negro Business & Professional Women’s Clubs, Inc.** visited the Mission. They brought gifts of food and financial donations to help support Project Backpack, the Mission’s back to school program to provide school supplies and backpacks to needy children.

Executive Director G. David Scott greeted them and treated them to a tour of the Mission. We are grateful for their generous support.

If your group is interested in supporting the Mission, please call Nancy at **(973) 538-6337** to arrange a tour.



Thanks for Making Project Backpack a Success!

Thanks to the generosity of friends like you, hundreds of children returned to school with backpacks filled with school supplies this fall. With the help of volunteers and staff, the Mission distributed over 920 backpacks to needy children of all ages! The backpacks and school supplies you helped donate provide the tools these kids need to succeed in school and in life!

Project Backpack is just one way the Mission reaches out to needy and at-risk boys, girls and their families throughout the year. To learn more about these programs, contact Nancy at **(973) 538-6337** or visit **www.marketstreet.org**.

MSM Online



Have you visited **marketstreet.org** lately? We recently launched a new website and want to share it with you. This is the best way to learn about what's going on at the Mission 24/7.

You can read about how our programs are helping change lives, learn about volunteer opportunities and share prayer requests.

You can also save us administrative costs by donating securely through our website. With the cost of nearly everything increasing, this is the most cost-effective way to support our ministry.

Happy Holidays for All!

It's almost Christmastime, and we need your help to make this a very merry Christmas for the children of the men in our program. On Friday, December 17, we will hold our annual **Christmas Toy Shoppe**. The chapel will be transformed into a Christmas store where the men in our program can select gifts for their children.

In addition to collecting gifts for the children, we are collecting small personal items to give away to our residents.

Please help us make the holidays brighter for these very special people.

This may be the only gift they receive this Christmas.

Donations can be dropped off at 9 Market Street. For more information

Christmas Toy Shoppe Gifts

Board games
Educational toys
Trucks/cars
Art supplies
Books
G-rated DVDs
Dolls
Push/pull toys
Stuffed Animals
Balls

Residents' Gifts

Winter Hats
Socks
Sweat Pants
Underwear
Dress Shirts
Gloves
Towel & Wash Cloths
Daily Devotional Books
Phone Cards

call Nancy at **(973) 993-2871** or visit **www.marketstreet.org**.

The Holidays are Here

We are preparing to serve hundreds of holiday meals this Thanksgiving and Christmas season and we need your help! We need volunteers to prepare and serve food, set up, clean, distribute food boxes, collect donations and donate holiday supplies.

If you or your group are interested in helping make the holidays brighter for the homeless and needy, please



contact Nancy at **(973) 538-6337** for more information.