



# Washington Street MISSION

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## 0 Come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Christmas 1999

Dear Friends:

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The Christmas season can be a very difficult time of the year for many of the people we work with at Washington Street Mission. Families are trying to stretch their meager resources to cover the expense of special gifts they can hardly afford. Children are often excited and anxious. Older folks remember better times and friends and family who are no longer close.

It can be a season of deep anxiety or even depression. But it is also a special time of opportunity to share the hope of the message of Jesus Christ. As we celebrate the Christmas season, we keep that message of hope central to the celebration. We proclaim hope as we decorate the Mission, serve coffee and doughnuts, help the children with their schoolwork, distribute clothing, make Bibles and tracts available, pray with people, teach Bible stories and memory verses. In each service we offer, we proclaim hope.

I've been reflecting recently on the picture of our God painted in Psalm 68. The description of God as "father to the fatherless" and "defender of widows" has special meaning to me as I see the work of the Mission touch the lives of some of the most helpless in our society.

Then Psalm 68:6 says, "God sets the lonely in families." God's heart for the lonely is to see them included in loving, caring family relationships that draw them to himself. We participate with God in that work as the Mission serves as a family for many who find themselves lonely and abandoned by others.

By your generous giving at this time of the year you join us in this ministry.

We are also inviting you to join us in celebrating the ninetieth anniversary of the founding of the Mission. A special open house is being held on Sunday, January 9, to kick off what we hope will be a year-long celebration of God's faithfulness to this ministry over the years. Additional details are on the enclosed invitation.

Thank you for your partnership with us in the work of Washington Street Mission.

Sincerely,

Kenneth E. Mitchell  
Executive Director