



Washington Street MISSION

Easter 2001

Dear Friends:

Three recent deaths that will have an impact on the ministry of Washington Street Mission are fresh in my mind as I reflect on this Easter season.

Most vivid to me is the death of a young man named Tyrice Price early in January. Stabbed in a violent argument, Tyrice was only 26 years old and always wore a blue hat when he walked the streets. He and his hat had been pointed out to us several times, but we had never met him. Our connection with Tyrice was through his younger brother, Edrick, an 11-year-old who comes to our regular afterschool tutoring program and Bible study. Several of Tyrice's cousins are also involved in the tutoring program. While Tyrice was in the hospital, Edrick and the cousins were at the Mission talking about bad choices in life and the difference that Jesus can make in their lives. The day Tyrice died, they came to the Mission and talked with us about death and killing and eternal life. The day of the funeral was another regular tutoring day at the Mission and Edrick and the cousins insisted that they needed to be here. The Mission may be the most stable place in their lives and the message of Jesus they hear here gives them hope. The evening of the funeral they wanted to talk about dead bodies and ghosts and how we cope with death. Tyrice's death will impact these children and they will remember the message of hope we continue to share with them here. For the funeral the Mission was also able to assist other family members with clothing. Several times in the days following Tyrice's death, we were able to share our faith with them and help them to see the love of Jesus even in this difficult time.

There has also been a recent death among the high school youth we work with at the Mission. Although she suffered from cystic fibrosis, Melissa Cooper regularly came to our Thursday night youth group with a number of her friends. At age 16 she was not prepared to talk about dying and death even though her condition required frequent treatments and visits to the hospital. No one else in the group wanted to talk about dying or death either. When Melissa went into the hospital for the final time, the other youth were all optimistic. She had been in the hospital frequently before and they assumed that she would again recover. As her condition deteriorated and they saw her move slowly closer to death each time they visited, the reality of death began to dawn on them. As she listened to the message of the Gospel one more time as she was dying, we believe that she turned her life over to Jesus and accepted him as her Savior. The funeral included a strong note of hope and an emphatic Gospel presentation. The youth who gather at the Mission heard it with open ears and open hearts. It's only been a few weeks now since the funeral and the impact of Melissa's decision for Christ and her death is still sinking into the youth here. These young men and women will not be the same again.

The third death fresh in my mind at this season is not a child or a young person. Wilma Gene Doby was a long-time supporter of Washington Street Mission. She served on the Board of Directors for a number of years and helped in numerous ways before her illness made it impossible to continue. She has been an emeritus Board member in recent years and still took an active interest in the ministry here. With her husband Dr. Paul Doby who also passed away recently, Gene was a member of Central Baptist Church. Both of them were a significant part of our efforts to reach out to meet the spiritual and physical needs of people in our community who may be considered the least, the lonely, and the lost. Memorial gifts in Gene's honor are being given to both the church and the Mission.

The message of Easter is victory over death. Jesus gives us hope even in the face of these three deaths. Pray for us and support our ministry in spreading the message of the Gospel and making a difference in the lives of children, youth, men, women, and families.

With the Hope of Christ,

Kenneth E. Mitchell
Executive Director

The rose on the front of this Easter greeting was drawn by Hope Austin, a high school student who regularly attends youth activities at Washington Street Mission. We hope that it will remind you of the message of new life in Jesus Christ and of the ministry of the Mission, especially at this season of the year.

Regularly Scheduled Activities at Washington Street Mission

Coffee Hall: each weekday morning from 9:00 to 11:00 A.M.

Afterschool Children's Ministry: tutoring, activities, Bible studies, and meal on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 4:00 to 7:00 P.M.

Youth Ministry: activities, snack, and Bible study on Thursdays from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M.

Women's Bible Fellowship: Bible study and luncheon on first and third Tuesdays of the month from 10:00 A.M. to noon

Clothing Shop: open for men on Mondays and Thursdays from 10:00 to 11:00 A.M., open for women on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10:00 to 11:00 A.M.

Drop-Off of Clothing and Household Items: each weekday from 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. and Saturdays from 9:00 A.M. to noon

Board of Directors

Robert John Kane, President
Larry Lipka, Vice-President
Gary Short, Secretary
David E. Beatty, Treasurer
Suzanne Berman
Laura Catherwood

Verne Evans
Charlyn Fargo
Ralph C. Fuhrken
Thomas O. Kay
Raven A. Pulliam
Stan Welch

Our Mission: To share the love of Jesus Christ with the people of Springfield by providing opportunities that meet their spiritual and physical needs.

Board Members Emeritus

Philip Hanna
Martha Lorton
Charles H. Northrup

Marianne Stowers
Robert C. Walbaum

Mission Staff

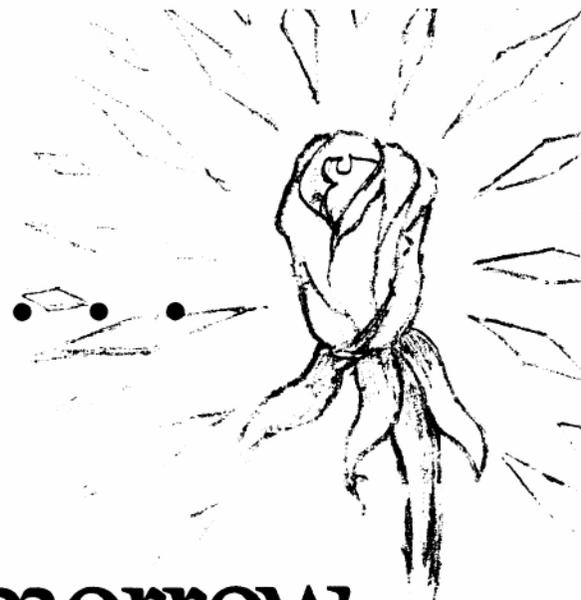
Kenneth E. Mitchell, Executive Director
Mary Lynn Mitchell, Associate Director
Ricky Fritch, Coordinator of Youth Ministries
George Eeten



Washington Street
MISSION

408 North Fourth Street
Springfield, Illinois 62702
Phone: (217) 544-9011

Because **H**e lives ...



can face tomorrow.

Drawing by Hope Austin