



Washington Street MISSION

"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"

2 Corinthians 9:15

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Thanksgiving 2002

Dear Friends:

God has been so good to us! How can we begin to give him the thanks that he deserves? And how can we respond properly to the incredible opportunities he has opened up for the ministry of the Mission in the days ahead?

Just over a year ago, when we began to make plans to expand the adult ministries of the Mission, we could not imagine all that the Lord had in mind for us. As we began to see the need for transitional housing for men, we started to envision opening a home when men could get off the streets into stable employment and discover the difference that Christ can make in their lives.

Now that dream has become a visible reality. Beginning about the middle of November, the house pictured here has become a place for a number of men to find stability, support and a second chance.



The leading and provision of the Lord in this project has been evident from the beginning. People who saw the need came forward and helped us plan. Financial backers offered to fund most of the costs of opening the home. The ideal house was located -- ample space, near the Mission, at an affordable price.

Each opportunity brings along challenges. But God has richly blessed us in meeting each of these challenges.

One of our biggest concerns in moving forward with this project was the need to locate the right staff. We knew that adequate staffing was essential to have the kind of deep, spiritual impact we wanted to have on the lives of the men who would live at the home.

We could not hope for better staff members than the two men God has brought to us. Stanley Sawicki and Danny Yocum will team up to staff the house on a day-to-day basis, while Ricky Fritch will provide overall supervision in his position as Director of Adult Ministries.

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We are amazed at what God has done. But we also understand the challenges that still lay ahead of us. Selecting the residents who will be able to benefit most from the house will be difficult at times. Dealing with the inevitable conflicts and obstacles these men face in moving forward in their lives will also be difficult at times.

Let me speak to you frankly here. We will also be challenged to meet the financial obligations of operating this house. Full-time staff costs, in addition to the costs of heating, cooling and maintaining the house, will be significant and will stretch the budget of the Mission.

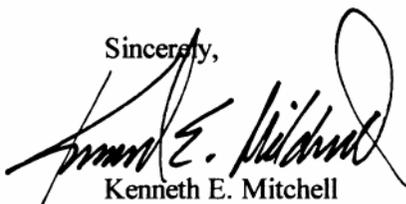
We will need the help of the many faithful supporters who have given consistently to the Mission over the years. And we will need help from new supporters as well. We will need donations of food, furniture, linens, blankets, towels, personal hygiene items, and the numerous other supplies that will be necessary to provide housing for the men who will live in the house.

Financial contributions designated for the operations of this transitional living facility should be marked "Mission House" on the donation card or in the memo line of your check. We hope that you will be led to give generously to this project.

Please remember as well the other ministries of the Mission. Your regular Thanksgiving gifts and other special gifts are needed to support our afterschool tutoring program, other ministries to children and youth, the clothing ministry, the morning coffee hall, and the other ways in which we reach out to touch the lives of individuals and families with the love of Christ.

As we thank God for his blessings on the Mission's ministries during this season, we also thank you for your support as God leads you. As the apostle Paul wrote in his note of thanks to the Corinthian believers, we know that your gifts are "overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God" (2 Corinthians 9:12).

Sincerely,



Kenneth E. Mitchell
Executive Director

**"Each of you should give
what you have decided in your heart to give,
not reluctantly or under compulsion,
for God loves a cheerful giver."**

2 Corinthians 9:7