



Washington Street MISSION

Easter 2003

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Dear Friends:

This Easter season is special in a number of ways at Washington Street Mission. A lot is happening here.

We are particularly excited about two areas in which God is opening new doors for us to reach out with the message of the Gospel more deeply and more broadly. Knowing that the ministry of the Mission depends on your faithful support, we want to share our excitement about these developments with you.

First, our ministry to children is expanding. The children who attend the regular afterschool tutoring program at the Mission are close to our hearts. We are finding new ways to meet specific needs of these children and help them overcome the many obstacles they face in their lives.

Let me share the story of one particular child with you. Carlos has been attending the Mission for at least five or six years. After his mother died and his older sister took over as the head of the household, the Mission began to sponsor Carlos' attendance at Calvary Academy.

In the sixth grade now, Carlos struggles with his classwork, but appreciates the opportunity he has been given. He relies on the tutors who volunteer to work with him at the Mission. We work closely with him to make sure that assignments get completed and turned in on time.

Carlos' need for work on his teeth has been obvious for several years. With a severe overbite and an extra tooth behind his regular front teeth, Carlos already faced jokes from other children. Without attention, the problems were likely to affect the shape of his self-image and limit his potential for the rest of his life.

We were able to secure a professional evaluation of Carlos' need for orthodontic treatment. Unfortunately, we discovered that Medicaid guidelines severely limit reimbursements for the kind of orthodontic treatment he needs. Only when a child cannot breathe, eat, or talk, will such treatments be covered. A specific, serious physical need was clear and the Mission needed to find a way to meet that need.

Quietly, but certainly, God opened a door. Several individuals and businesses heard about the need and volunteered to cover the cost of the necessary treatment through the Mission. An oral surgeon offered to extract the five teeth that needed to be removed before braces could be applied. He performed the extractions with no charge to the Mission. An orthodontist offered a special discount for the actual treatment.



Carlos works with a volunteer tutor in our afterschool tutoring program at the Mission.

Carlos now has braces on his teeth. He is committed to caring for them properly and knows that the Mission is helping him in a very tangible way.

We are keeping our eyes open for additional opportunities that we know God will open up for us. As we continue to work with the children we serve at the Mission, our eyes are open to physical as well as spiritual needs. We are confident that deepening and expanding our ministry to these children will bear fruit in the days and years ahead.

The second area in which we see God opening new opportunities for the ministry of the Mission might be more visible. With the opening of the Mission's transitional living home for men this past November, we have been able to influence the lives of a significant number of men who need to get off the street.

God has provided the resources for the operation of the house and he has richly blessed us with an ideal staff. At the very inception of this ministry, two staff members were located to provide direct supervision and guidance to the residents of the house. One of these staff members, Danny Yocum, lives at the house with the men. The other staff member, Stanley Sawicki, takes charge in the evenings and helps lead accountability sessions and Bible studies.

We have also been blessed with a new director of adult ministries who ideally meets the need for the overall direction of the transition house. Richard Bettes is a pastor and actively involved as a chaplain at the county jail. He has expanded and enhanced the Bible studies at the house and brought a new depth of insight and maturity to this ministry.

Both of these areas, ministry to children and to homeless men, represent exciting new opportunities. But we know the Mission can only move forward with the kind of faithful support you provide. Your prayers, donations, volunteer time, and financial support are essential.

To enable you to support us more effectively, we are enclosing a copy of an informational brochure that we recently developed to introduce people to Washington Street Mission. We hope that you find it helpful. Please use it as a reminder to continue to support and pray for the Mission's ministries. And pass it along to friends who share your concern for people in need and for spreading the Gospel.

Your support is appreciated here.

Sincerely,

Kenneth E. Mitchell
Executive Director

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Regularly Scheduled Activities at the Mission

Neighborhood 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

Free 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