



Washington Street MISSION

Easter 2006

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Dear Friends:

Several significant questions and challenges face Washington Street Mission during this Easter season. But every challenge brings an opportunity. We want to be ready to respond to all of them as God leads and enables us.

First, the tornados that recently struck the Springfield area have directly increased the needs of the people we serve. More people are coming to the Mission to replace lost clothing and household items. More people are also seeking counseling and reassurance. With the numerous volunteers who assist us and the resources that are donated here, we are prepared to meet most of these immediate needs.

The long-term issues raised by the tornados are more difficult and will take longer to address. Many of the people who were most severely impacted by the tornados were already struggling with poverty and inadequate housing. How will we be able to help them beyond this emergency?

The transition house that the Mission started several years ago is one answer. Men who are struggling with substance abuse and other recovery issues are given housing and job search assistance. They are able to remain at the transition house for up to a year as they adjust, make significant changes, and learn to function effectively in the community. Bible studies and church attendance are vital components of this program. Although it is only a partial answer to the need for stable and affordable housing, it may provide a useful model for addressing the broader needs of homeless individuals and families.

A second challenge that we see in front of the ministry of Washington Street Mission concerns the future of the young people we seek to help. Their futures often seem hopeless. We encourage them to remain in school and try to inspire them with the hope that only God can provide. As we share the Gospel and try to address the specific needs they face, we know that God will use us to make their future brighter.

The Mission also faces a significant challenge in providing long-term sustainability for its ministry. We know God has placed this ministry here and that he intends for it to continue to meet the needs of people in this community for a long time to come. Please join us in meeting the challenges we face in this Easter season and in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

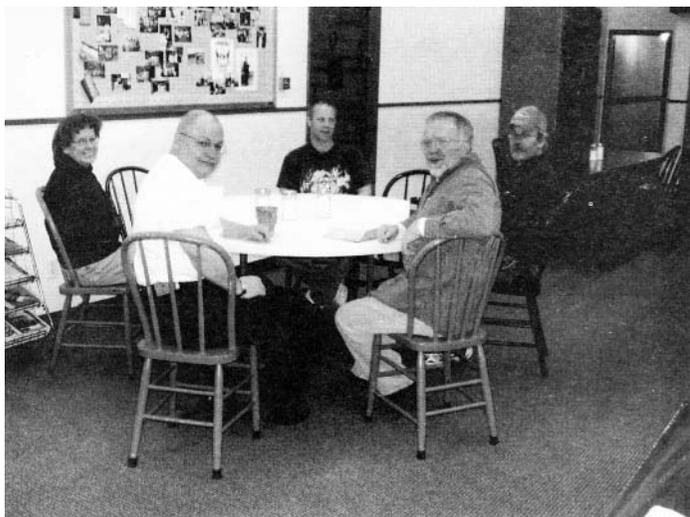
Kenneth E. Mitchell
Executive Director

If we are the body of Christ -- and Christ came not for the healthy but the sick -- we need to be fully present in the places where people are most broken.

-- Mike Yankoski, *Under the Overpass. A Journey of Faith on the Streets of America* (Sisters, Oregon: Multnomah Publishers, 2005), page 46

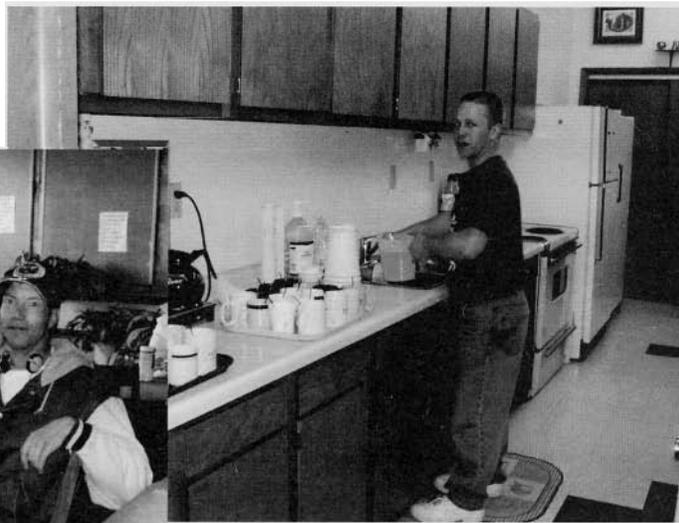
Washington Street Mission's Neighborhood Coffee Hour

Each weekday morning the Mission is open for a neighborhood coffee hour. A wide range of people enjoy the free coffee and doughnuts and appreciate the peace, safety, and quiet witness they find here. They sense the love of Jesus as they are able to relax, away from the chaos of the streets.



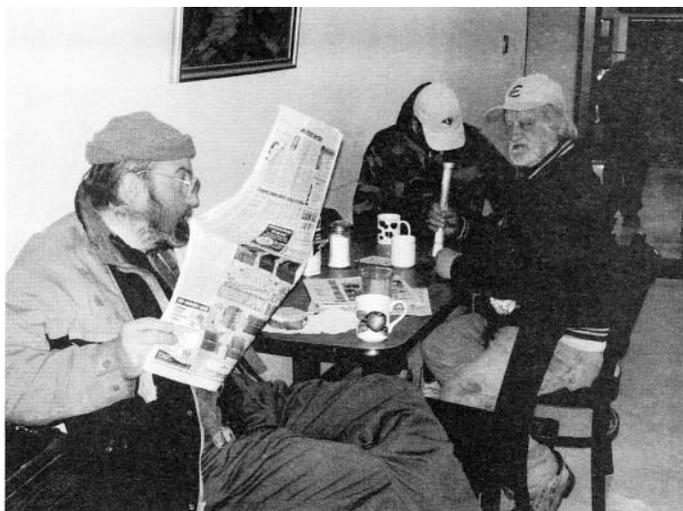
Staff and volunteers gather for devotions before opening the Mission's doors for the morning coffee hour.

People of all ages are among the folks who share coffee and doughnuts with us at the Mission. We are currently serving an average of over 70 people each day. Many of them are coming to use the Mission's free clothing shop as well.



Jeremy, a resident of the Mission's transition house, works in the kitchen to prepare for serving during the coffee hour.

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



Many of the men who come to the coffee hour are homeless and living on the streets. They are often surprised by the warm welcome and kind words they receive here. Many come to the Mission for clothing as well as coffee and doughnuts.



Mary Margaret is a regular at the Mission during the coffee hour. Although she might not seem too excited in this picture, she usually has a smile and a kind word for everyone.