

Christ the Lord is risen today.

Alelluia!

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Easter 2012

Dear Friends:

As the warm weather comes with the Spring this year, we see so much energy and excitement as we work with the children in the afterschool program at Washington Street Mission. They are enjoying life and learning. And the message of new life in this Easter season gives a deeper dimension to the joy we share with them in Christ.

Warren Wiersbe, who served as pastor at Moody Church in Chicago for a number of years, tells a wonderful story about British pastor Robert William Dale (1829-1895). He says, "Dale was preparing an Easter sermon when the truth of Christ's physical resurrection burst upon him with compelling power. 'Christ is alive!' he said aloud; 'He is alive -- alive!' He began to walk about the room saying to himself, 'Christ is living! Christ is living!' Not only that following Easter Sunday, but for months afterward he exulted in the theme of the resurrected Christ. He even began the practice of having a resurrection hymn sung each Sunday morning, just to remind the people that they were worshiping a living Christ." Quoted from *50 People Every Christian Should Know: Learning from the Spiritual Giants of the Faith* (Baker Books, 2009), page 121.

Every day as we minister to men and women and families at Washington Street Mission we proclaim the truth that Christ is alive. He really is alive and that makes all the difference.

During the morning coffee hours, we see many people all around us who need to be reminded that the living Christ can change their lives and give them hope for the future. As we work with men at the

Our Mission

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

Mission's transition house, we are excited to see Christ at work in their lives. And the excitement of the children reminds us as well that Christ can make a difference in each of our lives.

The new life that comes from the living Christ that we celebrate at Easter is shared with many different people at Washington Street Mission. And we welcome your partnership with us in this ministry. As you share your financial gifts, your prayer support, your donations, your time as a volunteer or whatever you can contribute you are helping us reach people in need in this significant season of the year.

Thank you again for your generous support.

Sincerely,

Kenneth E. Mitchell
Executive Director

Kenny Jetton was well-known all over the north end of Springfield. In this old photo he is reading a Scripture passage during a church Christmas program. In recent years he regularly enjoyed coffee and doughnuts and listening to his radio (sometimes playing a little too loudly) during the morning coffee hours at Washington Street Mission. An active member of Fairview Baptist Church even before Ken Mitchell served as pastor there in the 1980s, Kenny knew everyone and never forgot anyone he met. He loved to remind us nearly every time he visited that we had told him years ago that "people are people." He never had an unkind word for anyone. In March this year he was hit and killed by a car as he crossed a busy street. We will remember him fondly and are confident that our ministry played a significant role in his life. He was just one of the many diverse and special people we serve each day at Washington Street Mission.

