



Washington Street MISSION

"Christ in you, the hope of glory . . ."

Colossians 1:27

Easter 2008

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Dear Friends:

We all hear a lot about hope during the Easter season. Even politicians and economists are talking about hope this year.

Helping people in need discover the hope that Jesus offers is our primary goal at Washington Street Mission. We see lots of men and women, children and youth, families, who are desperately in need of hope.

Recently reading a book by pastor Craig Barnes entitled *Yearning: Living Between How It Is and How It Ought To Be* brought some thoughts about hope into focus for me. Describing our common experience of hopelessness, he writes: "Some of us are lost in lonely marriages, others in the blind pursuit of success and still others in their grief. We struggle to find a way out, but the harder we try the more lost we become. Sometimes we get so lost, we don't even know where or who we are. It would be good to have someone find us, to tell us it's going to be okay. It would be good to have hope."

He goes on to describe the hope we have in Jesus: "Our hope is rooted in the event that occurred two thousand years ago on the cross of Calvary. Christ hung on the cross to bring the presence of God to all who have been judged lost and in sin. . . . Hope is always found where Jesus is found, and Jesus is always found in the places that need him most. . . . These are the places that need hope, the places Jesus is determined to go in his wild pursuit to find humanity and bring us back to the love of God." Quotations are from M. Craig Barnes, *Yearning: Living Between How It Is and How It Ought To Be* (InterVarsity Press, 1991), pages 112, 119, 124.

A lot of things are changing at Washington Street Mission right now. Our expanded morning "day center" hours are bringing more and more people into the Mission for coffee and doughnuts. Clothing distribution days add to the crowd. We are just completing a remodeling project in the Mission's chapel and about to begin an expansion of our shower, restroom and laundry facilities. Our transition house is operating at capacity and our programs for children and youth continue to reach out to troubled families.

But our message never changes. Especially during this Easter season, we continue to offer hope to everyone we serve. We proclaim Jesus' death and resurrection as the hope of a new life. It is the only real hope we can have in this difficult world.

Please join us. Please pray for this ministry and give generously as you join us in offering Jesus' message of hope to people in need.

Sincerely,

Kenneth E. Mitchell
Executive Director

408 North Fourth Street
Springfield, Illinois 62702
217-544-9011