



## A Personal Word from Denny

Dear Mr. Sample,

27,648 meals. 14,173 nights of shelter. Hundreds of hours of counseling, education and Bible study.

There are lots of numbers here at the Mission, but the most important number is one.

One person rescued from homelessness. One life saved from the horrors of addiction. One man returned to a family who needs them.

But perhaps the best “one” of all is one soul committed to Christ. As the hymn says, “I am one with Thee, Lord Jesus, One in spirit now with Thee; All Thyself I now possess, Lord, All Thou art now lives in me”

Lonnie is one of the people whose lives you’ve helped change. You’ll find his amazing story in this issue of *URM Today*.

Thanks to your donations, your prayers and your time, lives like Lonnie’s are changed here every day – one at a time!

Dennis H. Bender, APR  
Executive Director

## The Mission was...

# A Fortress in Lonnie’s Time of Need

**B**ecause of an accident, then through choice, Lonnie struggled for years with an addiction to drugs. “My head was twisted in knots,” he says. “I struggled trying to live a normal life.”

Lonnie’s fight brought him to Wichita and into fellowship at a Bible study with a gentleman who became his mentor.

“Joe knew I was struggling with addiction,” Lonnie says with a smile. “So he kept telling me, ‘I know a wonderful place that would help you and change your life.’”

Joe Stout (who is a member of the board here at the Mission) was talking about our New Beginnings Life-Change Program, a place where Lonnie could recover, rebuild, restore, and redirect his life by building a stronger relationship with the Lord.

“The Mission has done a wonderful job of **giving me a safety net, a fortress, a refuge, a strong tower**, and an excellent place to be able to just take my time and understand who I am,” Lonnie says with praise.



The Mission also helped Lonnie learn about the man God wanted him to be. And today, he’s training to be an ordained minister! “Before I got to the Mission, I wanted to live a godly life, but I had no desire to be a minister,” Lonnie says. Today, he’s on the ministry team at a small church, healing the wounds of his past and helping others heal theirs.

“I went to drugs and alcohol and everything else to try to numb the pain of what I felt.” Today, he’s working hard to **“inspire people as God has inspired me – to bring grace into people’s lives.”**

## Can You Help Us?

### Desperately needed:

Disposable diapers (all sizes)  
Diaper wipes  
Canned baby formula (any brand - not expired)

### On-going daily needs:

New men's underwear  
New or gently used men's clothing  
Deodorant  
Toilet paper  
Cold medication  
Cough drops  
Anti-fungal foot spray  
African-American hair care products  
Adult backpacks  
Food - especially meat

Your donation of any of these much-needed items saves the Mission thousands of dollars that can provide meals, shelter and care. Drop off donated items at the URM Shelter, 2800 North Hillside, Wichita, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. THANK YOU!

## There's so much more online!



Read more great stories about people who are living changed lives because of your help; learn about volunteer opportunities; read the latest news and events and donate securely on our website, [www.URMWichita.org](http://www.URMWichita.org).

## Follow us



## Join Us for Lunch!

Monthly Awareness Luncheons are served here at the Mission the second Wednesday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Bring a group of friends, your Adult Sunday School Class or Bible Study Group and join us for lunch and a tour. You'll get a "bird's eye view" of the Mission, meet some of our New Beginnings students and learn how you can lend a hand by volunteering here at the Mission.



To schedule an Awareness Luncheon for your group, or to get more information, please call Stuart Ferrell at (316) 687-4673, or e-mail him at [sferrell@urmwichita.org](mailto:sferrell@urmwichita.org).

## Make This the Month YOU Make a Difference!

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." The Mission is always in need of caring, compassionate volunteers to lend a hand in all areas:

- Sort & stock donations
- Serve an evening meal
- Prepare food boxes
- Take part in a chapel service
- Work in the office
- Become a mentor



To learn more, contact Chantal, our Volunteer Program Coordinator at (316) 687-4673 or e-mail her at [Chantal@urmwichita.org](mailto:Chantal@urmwichita.org).

## Mission men help set Guinness World Record

Twelve men from the Mission's New Beginnings life-change program and three staff members joined nearly



2,000 other volunteers in a Guinness World Record event in Park City to package 350,000 meals. The record for the most hunger relief meals packaged in one hour was set when 479,034 meals were packaged in just 32 minutes! The food, enough to feed 800 children for over a year, will be sent to Haiti by Numana, a non-profit organization partnering with the Red Cross to provide Haiti relief.

## "Summertime and the Livin' Is Easy..."

That old song from *Porgy and Bess* may be a classic, but it certainly doesn't reflect what happens here at the Mission!

If anything, summer is our most difficult time.

First, there are fewer donations. It's not that people forget those in need, they just have other things on their minds. Meanwhile, there's not much drop off in the number of people we feed and shelter. If anything, numbers increase as the days, and nights, grow

hotter and more unbearable.

Your gift today will go a long way toward providing those who are hungry and homeless with 27,648 meals and more than 14,173 nights of shelter in the next 90 days...along with the compassion and Christian care that can truly help turn their lives around.

You can make a safe, secure donation online at [www.URMWichita.org](http://www.URMWichita.org). Or use the enclosed envelope. Then, **enjoy your summer, knowing that you've helped those most in need.**