



## A Personal Word from Denny

What a blessing it is to be able to share stories like Brian's with you!

This incredible testimony of a life transformed is the reason this ministry exists. It is the goal that drives us – that keeps our doors open, offering a warm Christian welcome to each and every person who is hungry, homeless or in need of care and compassion.

But we can only do that because you share your blessings.

Your prayers. Your time. Your gifts. These are the blessings you bestow on those who are hungry and homeless. These are the blessings that change – and save – people's lives.

As Thanksgiving approaches, my staff and I will be sending up an extra prayer of thanks for your support and encouragement.

It truly is a blessing to have friends like you who help feed, shelter and care for "the least, the last and the lost."

With grateful thanks,

Dennis H. Bender, APR  
Executive Director

## "Nobody would hire me!"

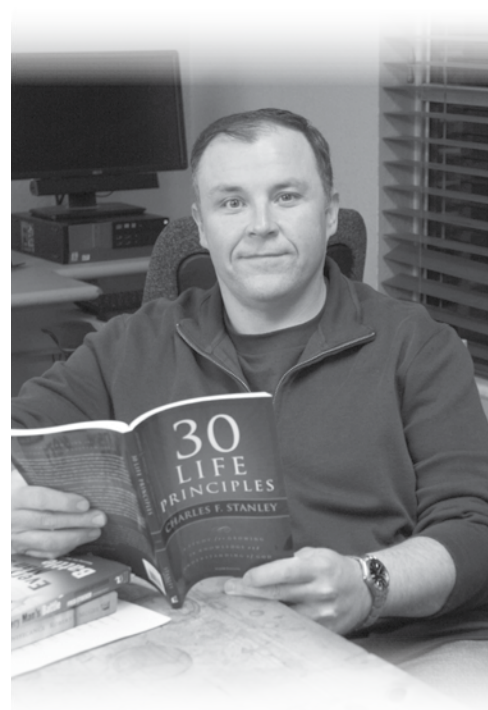
We all react in different ways when we're frustrated and upset – Brian burned down his home!

He owned his own business and was making a good income when a very bitter divorce turned him into a felon. "I burned our house down so she didn't get it," he says with regret.

He spent two years in prison for arson and was paroled to the Union Rescue Mission because he had no family or friends to take him in. **"I had hit bottom," he remembers. "I was homeless. I had \$108 in my pocket, a pair of jeans, a white T-shirt, a hoodie, and a pair of shoes."**

Brian began looking for work, but to no avail. "I don't know if it was because I was a convicted felon, or homeless, or both, but nobody would hire me."

Unsure of what to do next, he joined the Mission's New Beginnings life-change program. He wanted to leave the program early on, but the words of one of his instructors changed his mind. **"You've given 34 years of doing life your way. Why not give a year to the Lord?"**



"They teach you a different way of handling stuff," he says. "But the main thing was introducing me to the Lord. I got saved and was indwelt by the Holy Spirit."

**Today, Brian is working and active in a local church.** He also volunteers once a month, serving dinner at the Mission. "This is my reminder not to mess up again." "This is my spiritual marker for that season in my life where it all turned around."

## National Hunger & Homelessness

### AWARENESS WEEK

Did you know one out of seven Americans lives in poverty? You may not see them every day in Wichita, but they are here, and the Mission is working hard to help them. November 17-23 is National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness week – a time set aside for every American to help fix the problems of hunger and homelessness. Your support is one of the best solutions. So make this your special time to volunteer, organize a food or clothing drive, or make a special donation. Together, we can eliminate hunger and homelessness – one person at a time!



**A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor.** Proverbs 22:9

#### Thank you for providing:

More than 112,128 meals

Over 57,000 nights of shelter

Monthly food boxes for 160 families

PLUS...as many as 200 extra food boxes at Thanksgiving

Your gifts feed, shelter and care for hungry, homeless neighbors. Use the enclosed envelope to make a donation today, or give safely and securely online at [www.URMWichita.org](http://www.URMWichita.org).

Join us



#### Visit Us Online!

Get to know us better, learn about volunteer opportunities, read about the latest news and events and donate securely online at [www.URMWichita.org](http://www.URMWichita.org).

# A great Thanksgiving feast – delivered!

The makings of a traditional turkey dinner – plus food for a few extra meals – will be delivered to needy families in Wichita the week before Thanksgiving by the Wichita Police Department and men in the Mission's New Beginnings life-change program. "We're commanded to love our neighbors as we love ourselves," says Mission Executive Director



Denny Bender. "This is a great way to demonstrate that love!" Last year, 89 Thanksgiving boxes were delivered to Wichita families. This year's list is expected to be even longer.

## Homelessness Through a Child's Eyes

Dear Rescue Mission  
Thank you for helping homeless people and teach them to obey Jesus and trust God. I want to encourage you to help more and more people and teach more and more people. Thank you for teach homeless people to be smarter and smarter. Thank you for everything you do to help them. Keep up the good work!  
From, CCA Samuel

"Please help the people their [there] who don't now [know] Jesus to exopt [accept] Jesus as their savior," wrote one five-year-old from Central Christian Academy after her class toured the Mission. Another said, "I like that you tell them about the Bible and teach them." The biggest surprise of all for these young Christians: how much work is done here at the Mission...and how many sheets are washed in our laundry!

## Your help, please

It takes a lot of turkeys, hams and canned yams to provide 170 Thanksgiving meals to our overnight guests and fill Thanksgiving food boxes for 289 families.

Donating one or more of the items on our Thanksgiving shopping list would be a real help:

Turkeys  
Hams  
Canned Yams  
Stuffing Mix  
Dinner Rolls  
Carrots  
Onions  
Potatoes  
Pumpkin Pie  
Fruit



Drop off donations Mon.-Fri. between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the Union Rescue Mission, 2800 N. Hillside, Wichita.

## Feed the need or fix the problem?

In the next couple of months, your mailbox will be filled with requests from all kinds of organizations asking you to "Feed hungry people at Thanksgiving."

We think that's wonderful. But, why just at Thanksgiving? And why just food?

People who are hungry and homeless need more than a meal. They need shelter. Clothing. Job training. And most of all, they need **life-changing** programs



that will not only address the causes of hunger and homelessness, but work to overcome them!

Addiction, hunger and homelessness can be fatal. Your support provides the year-round, all-day-every-day food, shelter, Christian care and counseling that save lives. Your gifts also bless people with the ability to transform their lives through our New Beginnings life-change program.

**Your gift today to the Union Rescue Mission will do so much more than feed the need. You will help fix the problem. Thank you!**