

URM TODAY

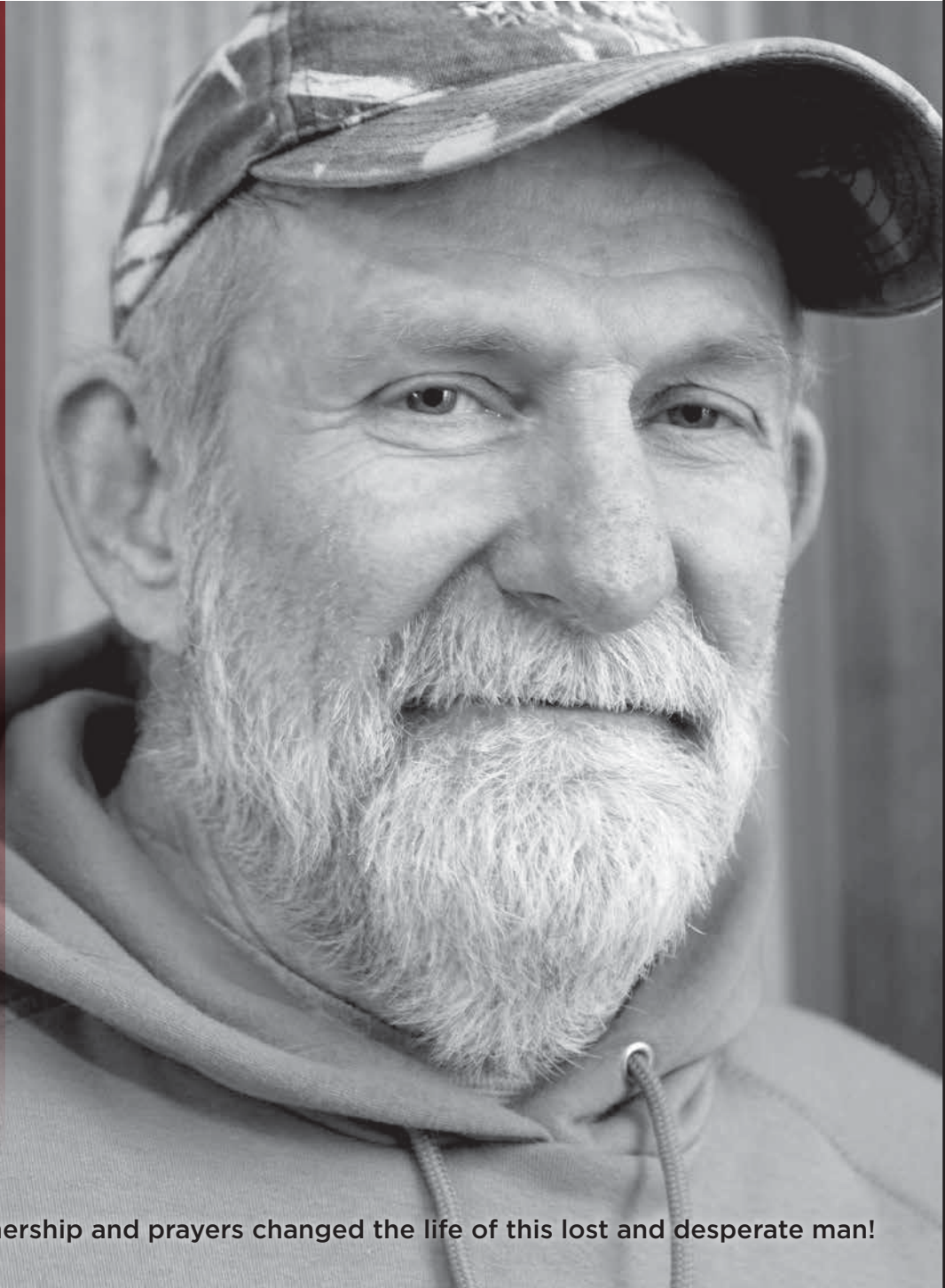
HOLIDAY 2018

Changing the Future of the Homeless... One Life at a Time

NEWSLETTER FROM THE UNION RESCUE MISSION

From *Struggle* to **STRENGTH**

Your gifts bring **JOY** to hurting people like Jon at Christmas and all year round.



ON PAGE 3: Read how your partnership and prayers changed the life of this lost and desperate man!

Don't miss... **2** A Message from Denny Bender **3** "The Mission raised me up."
4 Eagles Wing Getting Ready to Soar!

“
I’m growing
in the Lord
and it shows.
”



When Jon first walked through our doors last year, he was a lost, addicted and desperate man. He couldn't have begun to imagine the God he would meet, the healing he would find, or the man he would become in the days to follow, but his internal transformation has become evident to all in his bearing and countenance.

“People ask if I’m getting taller and I say, ‘Maybe it’s the Jesus in me,’” he says with a smile. “I’m growing in the Lord and it shows.”

“People say I look like a whole different person.”

He has a sense of peace now – the kind he had growing up on the family farm. Then, at 18, he came to the city and went to work at a factory with 3,500 people. He felt like a fish out of water. **“I fell in with the wrong crowd and started using drugs to fit in with them, to become ‘normal,’”** he says.

In spite of his addiction, Jon held his factory job for 20 years. Then management began drug testing, so he quit. “After that, I couldn’t keep a job,” he says. “I hated myself, and I started getting into fights.”

One of those altercations landed him in trouble with the police who recommended he come to the Mission. “I felt like it was God talking through them, so I did,” he says.

Jon entered our STEPS Program and, through your gifts, was able to hone his life skills and build a strong relationship with Jesus Christ. “My mother took me to church growing up, but I never really understood who Jesus was,” he says. “Here, I’ve grown close to the Lord.”

Jon graduated and now works for our New Leaf Book Mercantile, driving the donation truck and sorting and scanning books. Meanwhile, he’s staying at the Mission, saving money for a car and his own place in the Mission’s new housing unit when it’s finished. **“I want to be self-sufficient,”** he says.

This Christmas, as Jon celebrates Christ’s birth, he’ll also celebrate the new man he’s become inside and out... because of your kind compassion. **“I was hopeless, but the Mission raised me up... Now, I’m working for the Lord.”**



Your gifts bring joy to hurting people.

Your generous contributions are not only blessings in themselves, but they're multiplied exponentially by the countless gifts they allow the Mission to share with those who are hungry, hurting and homeless.

The food, shelter and clothing we provide are gifts that fulfill the most basic human needs. Guidance, education and job training through our New Beginnings life-change program are gifts too – and when accepted with commitment and dedication, they can lead to lives filled with promise and purpose.

Yet the greatest gift we offer inside our doors is the message of God's love and grace, which can transform lives for eternity!

This issue of URM TODAY is all about sharing gifts – a subject that's especially appropriate during the holiday season as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth. Yet God's work, the Mission's outreach and our partnership with friends like you is focused on giving all year long!

Of course, none of our ministries would be possible without the gifts you first give to us. And I'm so very grateful for your selfless giving, which brings joy to our hurting guests at Christmas and every day of the year. God bless you this holiday season and always.

Dennis H. Bender, APR
Executive Director

DISCOVER WHAT'S HAPPENING
AT THE HOLIDAYS!

urmwichita.org



endHUNGER... offerHOPE

8,144 MEALS BY CHRISTMAS

A single nutritious meal is often the first step toward a new beginning for those who are hungry, homeless and struggling with life's challenges. Most importantly, it's an opportunity to share God's love – the greatest gift you can give!

It costs only \$2.15 to provide one meal for a hungry person, at the holidays and all year round!

- ✉ GIVE NOW using the enclosed reply card and envelope.
- 📄 GIVE ONLINE anytime at urmwichita.org.

HELP US *Help Seniors* CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS!

Our **NEW BEGINNINGS MEN'S CHOIR** will be sharing the joy of Christmas with residents of Wichita area senior centers and assisted living facilities throughout December.

We'd love for you to join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior! To schedule the choir, or learn dates and locations of upcoming performances, go to urmwichita.org/news/mission-choir-performing-during-christmas.



THE *Blessings* OF YEAR-END GIVING

Many Mission partners choose to make an extra financial gift by December 31 to maximize their tax deduction for the current calendar year, while helping the Mission assist those in need well into the year ahead. Your generosity will touch countless lives!

- 📄 Give online at urmwichita.org.
- ✉ Add your special holiday gift to the reply card and send it today!

Eagles Wing Getting READY TO SOAR!



Our Eagles Wing transitional housing project is well underway! Before long, our graduates will have a place to call home as they prepare for productive, independent living!

Construction is scheduled for completion in May, 2019. Come by our North Hillside campus and take a look at our progress!

We've raised 97 percent of the cost. **Will you consider a gift above and beyond your usual giving toward the remaining 3 percent?** Send your Eagles Wing gift in the enclosed envelope, or give online now at urmwichita.org. Thank you for your support!



Select the perfect gift with #GIVINGTUESDAY™

Make your #GivingTuesday gift now by shopping our Christmas Gift Catalog. It's full of ways to bring the joy of help and hope to people like Jon (See Page 3).



\$25
provides
nourishing
meals



\$50
provides
safe shelter



\$100
provides
education
and training

Shop online at urmwichita.org/GiftCatalog.

Or, add your special holiday gift to the enclosed reply card.

These Christmas gifts are representative of the needs of those we serve. Donations may be used to support the area of our ministry with the greatest need.