



.....

## A WEARY *heart* REJOICES.

.....

Curtis was exhausted from his struggles and searching for a way forward.

Today, Curtis feels the thrill of hope in his life – because of YOU!  
READ HIS STORY ON PAGE 3.

2800 N. Hillside • Wichita, KS 67219-4702 • (316) 687-4673 • [urmwichita.org](http://urmwichita.org)

Don't miss...

2 A Message  
from Denny

3 "The Lord  
showed up."

4 The perfect gift?  
Look no further!



A black and white portrait of a middle-aged Black man with glasses and a goatee, wearing a white sweater over a collared shirt and a patterned tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is dark and out of focus.

# “The Lord showed up.”

Curtis was getting high again, but this time, he was haunted by images of his grandchildren.

**“I thought of my children telling my grandkids that I was in a rehab or dead. I didn’t want them to have to tell that story.”**

Curtis started experimenting with drugs when he was 27, eventually walking away from his relationship with the Lord. “Over 23 years, my use went from experimental to recreational to a dependence,” he says. **“I lost many jobs, my marriage and good relationships with my kids.”**

One night when he needed a place to stay, Curtis came to the Mission’s Emergency Shelter. It was then he learned of our New Beginnings life-change program and decided it was for him. “I had had enough. I was whipped. I said, ‘I must change.’”

Curtis was anxious to rebuild his relationship with the Lord and committed himself fully to our program. **“I totally surrendered my old lifestyle,”** he says. “The Lord showed up and showed me how much He was with me.”

**“We’re the ones that walk away.  
GOD NEVER WALKS AWAY.”**

Partway through the program, Curtis began attending Bible college and, after graduation, became a licensed, ordained minister. So when the Mission had an opening for a Chaplain, we reached out to him. **“The Lord said this was where I needed to be,”** he says. “The Mission does a great work.”

Curtis is remarried now, and he and his wife hope to start a ministry that will change the lives of women the way New Beginnings changed his own.

When he sees his life today and compares it to a decade ago, **Curtis is thrilled by his transformation thanks to God’s love in his life – and your support.** “The Mission makes sure the men in the program feel the love of Christ... that they feel hope is still alive.”





## *Bring* **HOPE** *to weary hearts*

Caroling angels. Christmas pageants. Celebrations around the world. Christmas is truly a thrilling time of year.

It's a time to share love. A time to raise hopes. A time to be joyful!

I think the Christmas carol "O Holy Night" puts it best: **A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices / For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!**

But that's exactly what makes Christmas **a very difficult time** for the men who make their home with us here at the Mission.

While it feels like the world is rejoicing around them, most of our guests would tell you they have very little to celebrate. Many are apart from their families, separated from spouses and children. Their hearts are weary from their struggles with homelessness or other desperate situations.

It's your gifts that **make Christmas the very best day possible for them** – and provide them with the thrill of new hope!

Special meals. Decorations. Small gifts. And above all, a celebration of that very first Christmas... a reminder for them – and for all of us – that miracles do happen and prayers are answered!

As you keep Wichita's hurting and homeless in your prayers, I pray you'll share the joy of the season through a gift that transforms lives forever... filling people with joy and new hope.

This then is my Christmas wish for all who join us here at the Mission during the holidays, and for you and those who are near and dear: **Let weary hearts experience the thrill of hope!**

Dennis H. Bender, APR  
Executive Director



# 11,695

MEALS BY DEC. 25

OUR GOAL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Each meal you provide today is so much more than a plate of food. It's a chance to end someone's hunger or homelessness – and offer them the gift of a thrilling new life this Christmas.

✉ GIVE NOW

using the enclosed reply card & envelope.

🖨 GIVE ONLINE

anytime at [urmwichita.org](http://urmwichita.org).

*Thank you*  
for sharing your blessings & bounty!

SHARE

# *The Thrill* <sup>OF</sup> **HOPE**

THIS CHRISTMAS WITH PEOPLE IN NEED!



9,144  
MEALS



4,272  
BEDS

# The perfect gift? Look no further!

Make your #GivingTuesday gift now by shopping our Christmas Gift Catalog – it's full of ways to save and change even more lives in Wichita!

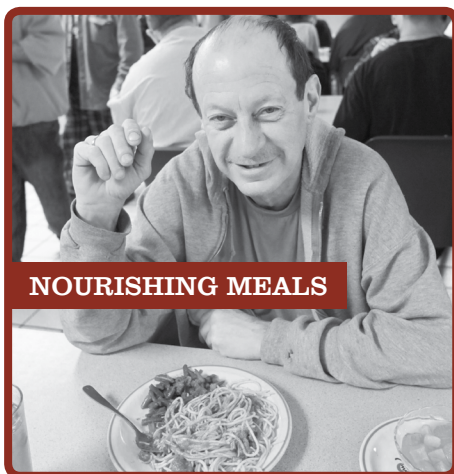
Shop our Gift Catalog online at [urmwichita.org/GiftCatalog](http://urmwichita.org/GiftCatalog). Or simply add your special Christmas gift to the enclosed reply card.



**HOLIDAY HERO PACK**

**\$55**

Give even more with our Holiday Hero Pack! It includes 10+ hot meals, 2+ nights of shelter & access to clothing, medical care & recovery programs!



**NOURISHING MEALS**

**\$25**

A hot meal at the Mission may be people's only meal of the day.



**SAFE SHELTER**

**\$50**

It's so much more than a bed! During winter, it's protection from hypothermia, frostbite & worse when temperatures drop.

These Christmas gifts are representative of the needs of people served by the Union Rescue Mission. Donations may be used to support the area of ministry where the need is greatest.

**CONNECT WITH US**

[urmwichita.org](http://urmwichita.org)

