



The Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons offer us a time to reflect on the goodness of our friends and our God. This year we have much to offer thanks for. When the year started little did we know that we would have to permanently layoff three people and cut back on some of our services, but then neither did we know that our Lord was preparing to pour out a blessing.

Which is exactly what He did.

The first blessing was the success of our two summer fund raisers which raised some much needed funds to help the needy. One businessman, the owner of the Sportsman Inn, donated a total of \$1,500 dollars between the two of them. An additional blessing was received when one of our regular donors, a local business man, read of our need for a van and provided us with a great used van; two other people donated cars. Yet another blessing was the answered prayer request for a roof at the Friendship Home for Women and Children. I had no idea how to raise the \$30,000 needed for the project. Some new board members suggested that we ask the city and county since we provide valuable services to both. We did and received \$15,000. The publicity surrounding the two requests have brought in an additional \$7,500 and money is still coming in. Here once again one of McDowell's businessmen provided a significant gift when he placed a jar at his business and matched the donations the public supplied. God's blessings continued this past Sunday when the people who came to worship at the Downtown Churches Community Thanksgiving service provided a \$620 cash donation and an additional \$100+ food donation. Thank You God and God Bless You Everyone!

As we enter into the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons, we want to give you every opportunity to bless and touch our clients' lives. We appreciate your generosity and extend an invitation to each of you to help meet the needs of the homeless and poor all year long through our ministry. *Rev. Bill Warren, Mission Executive Director*

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE, JUST OPEN YOUR EYES

In August during the peak of this year's oppressive summer heat I started getting calls asking about heating assistance for this winter. The recent cold snap created a frenzy of calls. Many in our community are feeling pinched and the ministry has responded. In just the past couple of months the ministry helped 75 families with over \$7,000 dollars for heat and utilities. 940 families, nearly 3000 men, women, and children received food boxes.

Who are all these people? They are our neighbors and friends, the people up the street, that person in front of you at the grocery store counting out change. Maybe it's your child's best friend at school or even their teacher. The face of the needy is not

easily defined. They come in all different colors, shapes, ages, and sizes. Some days the line at our door seems to be endless. Sadly we are unable to help them all, but those we do, well, just let me say there is no feeling like it when you see them smile and hear the familiar thank you.

You are the reason we receive this blessing. Thank you, all of you who contribute, you make this possible. You have and are touching people's lives in positive ways.

So what has all this to do with the timeworn holiday movie I mentioned in the title; a movie that meant little to me when I was younger? Ten years ago I

was like Harry Bailey. I thought the world would be better off without me. I didn't expect to see another Christmas. I had made many bad decisions and choices, I found myself at an all-time low -- I was homeless, penniless, depressed and without hope. McDowell Mission Ministries became my Clarence and you became my friends and helped me out. I've been trying to give back ever since, trying to be a Clarence to someone in need. I now watch the movie every year, and every year I am thankful that you cared enough to create and sustain this ministry. Clarence has his wings and one day soon so will you. Have a happy and blessed holiday. whs "Bill Sexton"



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MISSION POSSIBLE

TIS' THE SEASON TO BE THANKFUL

Can you believe it? It is already here again — the season of Thanksgiving. The season offers us all a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the blessing we have received. As the Director of the Christian Clothing Center, I have a few that I would like to communicate to you.

First, I am thankful that God chose to continue to bless this ministry and that He decided to use each of you. Your generosity, friendship, and patronage have pro-

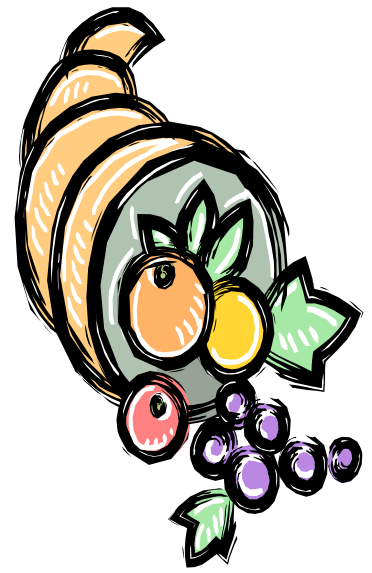
duced a great harvest of good will and many people in need have been helped.

My thanksgiving is also lifted to God because we have three new volunteers — Brenda Sills, Pat Canty and Patricia Dixon. These three ladies joined our other volunteers to serve our God and to help make your shopping experience with us a pleasurable one. We also had a new Retail Specialist, Wanda Lee, join our team in July. We are so grateful to

have her. She is such a blessing. I invite you to come by and meet Wanda and all of our other wonderful volunteers and staff.

Furthermore because we are so blessed we want share a blessing — You are invited to our **DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING SALE**. Everything will be 50% off on that day, so don't miss out.

In closing let me wish each of you a heartfelt and joyful holiday season and may you know God's love and blessings everyday. Kathy Leis



ON THE PATH OUT OF DARKNESS

I'd like to share Mike's story with you. He is a young man, 38 years old. Sometime during the past few years he suffered several strokes which left him mildly impaired. Through a misunderstanding he landed in jail where he stayed for two and half months, during which time he had another stroke or two. By the time he was released his short term memory was gone, as was any comprehension of his surroundings. The local attorney who represented him and obtained his release was able to get his charges dropped and brought him to the John Thompson Center.

Mike's needs were many. Everyday my first task was

to sit and talk with him for an hour or more. He needed to be retaught each day where he was staying, (the center, Marion, North Carolina, etc.) why he was here, what we were doing for him. He had to be told to take his meds and to eat. He would frequently break down emotionally. I spent many hours talking and reassuring him that he was safe and that everything was going to be alright. We set appointments for him with New River Mental Health and a local Doctor.

Over time he began to retain more of what we talked about. Through some old paperwork found in his wallet, we established contact

with his parents. They were separated and living in Texas. Poor Mike didn't even know his mother was alive. He thought she had died years earlier. The first time I was able to put him on the phone with her; he broke down and cried. They were tears of joy.

After about a month and a half of regular calls with Mike's mother we made arrangements for her and his stepfather to come and get him. I did not share this information with him. The morning his mother called and said they were on Baldwin Avenue, I told him he they would be here in a few minutes. What a joy it was to see his face light up with a

smile. They took him home to care for him. When he left with them he was smiling and clinging to the bible he had when he first arrived. Reading the Bible was the one thing he didn't have to be told to do everyday, because it was already in his heart. He had faith in the Lord.

Since leaving, his mother has called a couple of times with updates. He is now receiving all the medical attention he needs. His disability case is proceeding. Being with family is helping him remember and retain more. Some things still aren't clear for him; however he's on the path out of darkness and holding on to the light. God is good thank you for letting me do my job. whs



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FIND WHERE GOD IS AT WORK AND JOIN HIM



I will never forget the afternoon I was sitting in my office last spring in Bloomfield, New Jersey. There I was, Senior Pastor of a church that just a few years earlier had come very close to dying, and yet now, by God's amazing grace, had experienced new life with new hope and new vision. God was at work in people's lives in powerfully transforming ways. God was at work in my life, in ways just a few months earlier I would have never imagined. What I discovered in my office last spring, was that as God had been building His church up, He had also been in the process of breaking me down and preparing me for a whole new sense and direction of calling.

My name is Danny Hampton. I had the wonderful privilege of spending my teenage years growing up in Fairview, North Carolina. After graduation from AC Reynolds High School I had the great blessing of attending Mars Hill College where four years later I graduated

with a BME (Bachelors of Music Education) degree. While attending Mars Hill I surrendered to a call into ministry. After graduating from Mars Hill I continued to follow God's lead in His calling on my life by attending The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary where I had the wonderful privilege of graduating with an MDiv (Masters of Divinity) degree.

By the time God confronted my heart that afternoon in Bloomfield, New Jersey I had been in ministry for well over 20 years and had seen God work faithfully and powerfully throughout these amazing years of serving Him. As I cried out to God that day, He nailed my heart with His Word in Isaiah 61:1 in a way that has left me filled with excitement and anticipation yet also with fear and trembling. In the book *Experiencing God*, Henry Blackaby challenges us to find where God is at work and join Him. Last spring God invited me to give up the office of Senior Pastor at Brookdale Chris-

tian Church, where He had been at work in my life, and join Him in a whole new dimension and direction of work He desired to bring forth in and through my life.

Last spring God revealed to me that He was calling me to reach out to the hurting, broken and imprisoned at a level and focus that up to this time in my life and calling I had never been able to do. As I cried out to Him in prayer concerning how and what this new intensity of calling would look like, God simply said, "Trust Me, I will lead you one step at a time, and the first step is resigning your ministry here and moving back to your family in North Carolina." My family lives here in McDowell County. So, to McDowell County we have now moved.

Soon after arriving and putting our feet down in the Marion area last summer, as God would have it, I learned of the part time Chaplain's job being open at the Minimum Security Prison. I learned that the position was sponsored and funded by

McDowell Mission Ministries. Is God amazing or what? By His grace and leadership I now find myself serving God by serving those in prison. God has already begun revealing the fulfilling of His new call on my life.

I am so excited about all that God has in store. I am looking forward to getting to know more of you, the churches that make up the Kingdom of God in McDowell County. I and my family are so blessed to be joining God in His work in the lives of the hurting, broken, and imprisoned in this area. Last Spring my heart was torn and broken by a new sense of calling God was raising up within it. This fall, my heart is overflowing with gratitude and anticipation. God is up to great things. He has given me and my family the privilege of joining with Him by joining with you in His work here in McDowell. Wow! Praise God from whom all blessings flow!



TACKLE

HUNGER

Dear denominational and civic club leader, America's youth are transforming the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving through the Souper Bowl of Caring. Last year, youth across the nation collected \$10 million for charities through

participating in Souper Bowl of Caring. I want to remind and encourage you to get involved with this simple movement of God's love in 2011. On Souper Bowl Sunday, February 6, 2011 take a collection in large soup pots as worshippers leave church. Then donate the money directly to the charity of your choice—no money is sent to Souper Bowl of Caring headquarters. Organizers simply ask that groups report their collection amount so a national total can be determined. It's this easy! •Register at tacklehunger.org or call 1-800-358-SOUP (7687) to receive your free promotional materials. I hope you will choose to get involved in this grassroots, youth movement that is truly helping to serve "the least of these my brethren."



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Homeless Not Hopeless:

I am homeless:

I am a 21 year old female
I am a resident of the
Friendship Home
I am not addicted to any
drugs or alcohol
I am working on finding
employment
I am in college full time
I am a straight A student
I am a single mother of a
1 year old son
I am a good mother
I am making a better life
for me and my son
I am not hopeless

I am Homeless:

I am a 50 year old female
I am a resident of the
Friendship Home
I am employed
I am a hard worker
I am a college student
I am changing my life for
the better
I am not hopeless

I am Homeless:

I am a 24 year old female
I am a resident of the
Friendship Home
I am a single mother of 3
children and one on the
way
I am a good mother
I am employed
I am working on my GED
I am planning on going to
college
I am drug and alcohol free
for over a year
I am making changes to
benefit me and my chil-
dren
I am not hopeless

I am Homeless:

I am a teenager
I am at the Friendship
Home with my mom and
sister
I am in Jr. High
I am a good Student
I am here though no fault
of my own
I am not a product of
drugs or alcohol



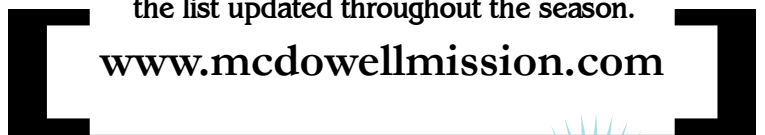
**We Believe that Matthew 25:31-46
is a modern day commandment.**

McDowell Mission Ministries Is a Christian ministry
dedicated to impacting the lives of people in personal need
by providing shelter, counseling, and practical economic
assistance in the name of Jesus Christ.

We serve McDowell County for the Lord Jesus Christ.
We survive on the generosity of its people,
churches and businesses.
We greatly appreciate any and all support

For information about our residents Christmas wishes please
visit or web site or call **828.659.6490**. We will try to keep
the list updated throughout the season.

www.mcdowellmission.com



I am here because my
mom can't find a job
I am not embarrassed or
ashamed of my family
I am sometimes embar-
rassed because my clothes
are second hand
I am sometimes embar-
rassed to tell kids where I
live
I am thankful for not being
hungry
I am thankful for not being
cold
I am thankful for having a
bed to sleep in at night
I am making the best of
what I have in life
I am not hopeless

These are some of the
many faces of homeless-
ness. These women and
girls could be your mother,
daughter, neighbor, or
friend.

They are homeless but
thanks to you they are not
helpless and thanks to God
they are not hopeless.

