

SEARCHLIGHT

"If any man be in Christ he is a new creation..." 2 Cor. 5:17

UNION GOSPEL MISSION • ugmdallas.org

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SUMMER 2011

Reaching out to
the Last, Least,
Lost and Lonely
since 1949

Brotherly Love

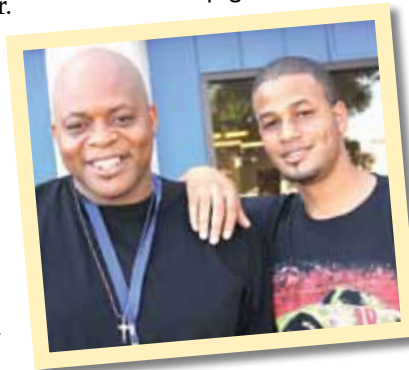
UGM's Discipleship Program

It has been 18 months since the Union Gospel Mission hasn't housed at least two members from the Thompson/Pitts family. In fact, for a couple of months UGM was host to three members of the family, all in the Discipleship Program at the Calvert Place Men's Shelter. You may remember **Reggie Thompson Jr.** and **Sr.** coming into the program in January, 2010. Reggie Sr. stayed 14 months before leaving this spring. Reggie, Jr., who turns 26 in September, is currently in the third phase of the program. He is working full-time at Interstate Batteries' Distribution Center.

The third member of this family, **James Pitt, 42**, was serving time in the Texas prison system, while

his brother and step-dad were at UGM. He had been in and out of jail for years because of a 22-year crack cocaine addiction. As Reggie Jr.'s faith grew, he started sending encouraging notes with Bible verses to James in jail. What he didn't know was that James had accepted Christ in prison, and James

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James (left) and Reggie Jr.

A Mother Who Found Her Father

Lisa Randles

I came to know the Lord when I was 6 years old. I was raised by my grandparents until I was 14, when I went back to live with my birth mother and father. They were not very nice. I became very angry at God.

When I was 18, I left and moved to Columbia, Mississippi, where I met and married my first husband. Less than two years later, I was pregnant. My husband and I were so happy. We had a beautiful 4 lb. baby girl. Then we



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Chandler Davis:

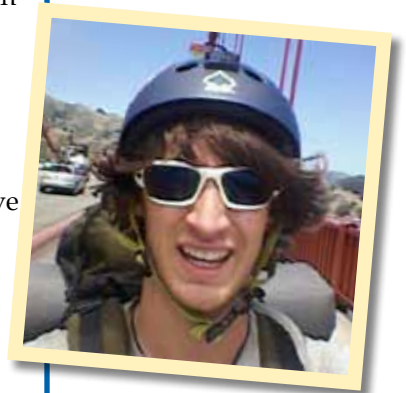
A Man on a Mission



Checking in at Dallas' Love Field.

The phone rang at about 6:00 p.m.. It was from a hostel in San Francisco, California. **Chandler Davis** had arrived there as part of his longboarding trip from Seattle, Washington to Southern California. Eighteen years old and five weeks after graduating from Grapevine High School, Chandler is on a mission. A large part of that mission is raising money for the UGM Center of Hope. Support Chandler Davis' trip and you support the women and children's shelter and ministry. Chandler started learning to longboard about four years ago, about the same time he started volunteering at COH with a group from First Baptist Grapevine. His group handled children's church, allowing the mothers to attend the nightly chapel service. "This was the first place I had gotten to know homeless people and how

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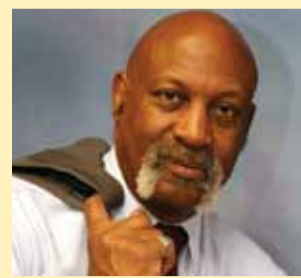
On the road in California.

The route.



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Executive Director,
William Thompson



Willie Mae Balka went home to be with the Lord and join her husband in the presence of the Lord on May 7, 2011. I came to realize a number of years ago that UGM was being served by Mrs. Willie Mae Balka in a very special way. I had met her in the mid 80s through her beloved husband, Herman, a faithful UGM Board member. Herman was known for faithfully keeping us before the throne of God in prayer. What I learned after a few years was known to almost everyone in their Sunday school class at Prestonwood Baptist Church; **Herman and Willie Mae were a team!**

From time to time, I will hear an announcement on radio about "The Power Team" coming to Preston-wood. The posters

I've seen have pictures of muscular, well developed men doing incredible feats and showing their strength. Willie Mae and Herman were UGM's Power Team. On their knees before God, they fought the prayer battle with the weapons of spiritual warfare, pulling down the strongholds in the lives of countless men and women, and allowing them to escape the grip of sin in their lives.

The team never sat me down and gave me a lecture, but they taught me a valuable lesson. **There are many things in this life you can do without, but communion with God in prayer is not one of them!** I am so grateful for that lesson.

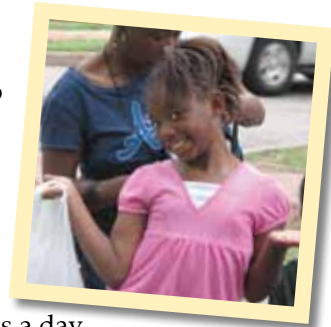
Willie Mae and Herman were married. When I say married, I really mean married! They were committed to one another to the end. A beautiful thought occurred to me. In their lifetime a place was marked out which will not need to change in eternity. They were at the feet of Jesus in this life, and now they are together at the place where they were so often found in this life: at Jesus' feet. Now they are beholding His wonderful face. Praise God for "The Team," His faithful servants. ■

Games Day: A Party in the Park

Games Day was a hit for the 700 homeless men, women and children who attended our twentieth annual picnic in Reverchon Park on the last Saturday in June. With the help of nearly 100 volunteers, UGM staff organized a day full of sporting events, games, music, snow cones and a picnic lunch for Dallas' homeless. It was a day where they could kick back, relax and enjoy a day off from life on the streets.

Popular events included basketball, horseshoes and volleyball. The kids loved the clowns dressed in bright colors, who twisted balloons into animal shapes, painted faces, and applied tattoos. Faith Bible Church of Caddo Mills did a fantastic job of providing bounce houses and kid-oriented games and crafts. Other volunteers from Park Cities Presbyterian Church, Watermark Community Church, Westside Baptist Church and Grace Bible Church helped to manage the crowd and to serve a lunch of hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken and beans.

Games Day was a fun day of fellowship, a time to relax and enjoy God's creation with His people. ■



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Donate Your Car, Truck or RV,
Running or Not,
to the Union Gospel Mission &
Receive the Maximum Tax Deduction
for Your Donation!



Call Joe Whitman: 214-637-6117
jwhitman@ugmdallas.org.

Reaching the last, least, lost and lonely since 1949

Continued Testimony from page 1.

Chandler Davis: A Man on a Mission

it affects the children.”

Chandler’s call to give himself to God occurred at a summer camp in Marshall, Texas, between his freshman and sophomore years in high school. He has enrolled in Moody Bible Institute in Spokane, Washington, and starts a path this fall that he feels will prepare him to be a youth pastor.

The trip started with Chandler flying from DFW to Seattle on June 13th. It ended in the second week of July. For the most part, Chandler has stayed on the Pacific Coast Highway Bike Route. He averaged between 45-55 miles traveled a day. His longest day, he covered 62 miles. Chandler says it’s mostly state park to hostel back to state park as he decides where to stop each night. “I’m meeting new people. A TV crew in Eureka, California, documented my stay there.”

We appreciate Chandler’s unique way of spending his summer. He’s rolling on for a good cause, ours! ■

Continued Testimony from page 1.

James Pitts: Brotherly Love

answered Reggie’s verses with Bible verses important to himself.



James (he and Reggie share the same mother) was released from the Texas Department of Correction in late January, 2011. He came immediately to UGM and entered the Discipleship Program. He has now been clean for two and a half years. James credits the change in Reggie Jr. as his inspiration and role model.

Yes, that’s humbling, as James is 16 years older than his little brother.

Reggie continues to grow and mature in his faith and as a man. He looks forward to returning to his three kids, spending quality time and traveling with them.

“The Lord has taught me a lot of self-control and how to witness and share my testimony. The opportunity to be sober-minded has allowed me to look at my kids differently.”

“I talk to my dad often, he’s happy. James and I have always been close, but having him here at UGM has been beyond words. I NEVER thought he would be in a program. He had always adopted a ‘homeless lifestyle.’ This has to be God dealing with his situation.”

For these two, UGM continues to be a family affair. ■

Calvert Place/COH 2011 Update

APRIL

Professions of faith in Christ.....	30
Recommitments	61
Meals served.....	26,858
Nights lodging provided	9,136
Individual Men, Women & Children Served	650

MAY

Professions of faith in Christ.....	40
Recommitments	65
Meals served.....	27,701
Nights lodging provided	10,380
Individual Men, Women & Children Served	748

JUNE

Professions of faith in Christ.....	50
Recommitments	52
Meals served.....	29,959
Nights lodging provided	10,676
Individual Men, Women & Children Served	734

UGM Looks New Online!



Union Gospel Mission has a new, interactive website! We think it’s dramatically upgraded. The new site makes it easier to see how we’re using your donations to meet the people whose lives are being changed because they’ve come to UGM and to support the ministry.

- Do you know someone who needs our services? Click **Need Shelter** on the front page.
- Want to hear how Jesus Christ changes lives? Click on the videos and hear it from the people who lived it.
- Need to connect with a member of the staff, go to the **Meet Our Staff** page.

Welcome to the new ugmdallas.org Check it out. Let us know what you think.

Honors and Memoriums

Donor

- Charles and Lynn Couch
- Peggy H. Dickerson
- Billy H. Kilgore
- Mr and Mrs Billy D.Cooper
- Mr and Mrs Edward C. Balka
- Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Paul
- Bessie J. Lantrip

In Memory of

- Robin Chan
- Sidney Ann Kilgore
- Sidney Ann Kilgore
- Frank J. Murphy, Larry Cooper
- Willie Mae Balka
- Jeff Turner
- Ann Beebe

Donor

- Ray and Vickie Smith
- Mr. and Mrs. Michael McCulley

In Honor of

- Bill Thompson’s birthday
- All USA Veterans

Want to become more involved in the UGM community on a regular basis? It’s easy to do. Just become our friend on our facebook page. Once you sign onto your personal page, search for UGM Dallas until you find us. Become a fan and you will receive regular, real-time updates with daily happenings at UGM.



IN MEMORY of _____

IN HONOR of _____

Notification (below): Name of bereaved family to be notified of your memorial gift. The amount will be kept confidential.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Mail to: Union Gospel Mission • 3211 Irving Blvd. • Dallas, TX 75247

UNION GOSPEL MISSION

DALLAS

SEARCHLIGHT

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The purpose of the Union Gospel Mission is to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of homeless men, women and children in the Dallas, Texas area. The physical needs are met by providing meals, clothing, shelter, emergency medical referral, and daycare for children. The emotional needs are met through evaluation and referral to professional counselors. The spiritual needs are met through Chapel services and Bible studies.

Our goal is to restore the last, least, lost and lonely to a productive life by giving them needed life and job skills, as well as teaching them to build a new life on the solid foundation of the Christian faith.

The Union Gospel Mission is non-denominational and is supported by donations from individuals, churches and businesses.

PLEASE SEND US YOUR ADDRESS CORRECTIONS!

If you have a change of address, or are receiving duplicates, please clip the label below and mail it with correction information. Thank you for helping us save money!

HELP WANTED!

We're looking to partner with companies in employing the homeless. Contact Bill Thompson at 214-637-6117 ext. 114.

CURRENT NEEDS

- **CONSTANT PRAYER!**
- Christian Living and Reference Books
- Engine Hoist
- Laptop Computers
- LCD Projectors/Screens
- Clothing Bailer
- Mailing Equipment
- Portable Air Compressor
- Shredders
- Tool Chest/Kits
- Scrub Uniforms
- Clothing & Shoes—Men, Women, Children
- LARGE PRINT Bibles (New or Used)
- Christian DVD's (Teaching, Stories, Movies)
- Automobiles, Motorcycles, Boats, RVs
- Lawn Equipment: Mowers, Edgers & Weed Eaters
- Donations for Publishing Book on UGM's History

For Kitchen:

- 6" Strainer Pans (4)
- Colanders (2)
- 4" Steam Table Pans (10)
- Blender (1)
- 6" Insert Steam Table Pans (10)
- Commercial Can Opener & Cutlery
- Professional Quisnart
- 10 Kitchen Knives (Butcher, Chopping, etc.)
- Slip-Proof Rubber Floor Mats

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Find the volunteer application by clicking on the *Volunteer Today* link on the *Volunteer Page* found under the Act tab at ugmdallas.org.

OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT UGM

- The Union Gospel Mission **Tom Thumb Reward Card**. Ask the Tom Thumb Customer Service Desk to link your Rewards Card to UGM's Charity Number 5454.
- Shop at The UGM Thrift Store located at the corner of Story Road and Hwy. 183 in Irving, Texas.



ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE!

If you have new or gently used clothing or household goods that you'd like to donate and receive a tax deduction on, please bring them to the UGM Super Thrift Store, located at the corner of Story Road and Highway 183 in Irving, open 9-9 Monday through Saturday. All income derived from the thrift store sales allows the Mission to reach out to more of the last, least, lost and lonely of Dallas. For more information, please call Rusty or Pamela at **(972) 252-6040**.

Continued Testimony from page 1.

Lisa Randles: A Mother Who Found Her Father

had twins. At the end of August in 1980, we had a boy named Prentice. However, on our first Thanksgiving I went into the nursery and found Prentice dead. That day my world fell apart and so did my faith in God. I finally got counseling from our pastor and found the faith in God that was covered by my anger. Through much prayer, I was able to let go of that anger at God.

In 1992, my husband was critically injured in a wreck. He died on February 14, 1995.

I married a man named Jeff in 1996, and we lived a life based on faith in God. However, he was killed in 2005. My children were now grown and had all joined the Air Force. Sharra is at Jacksonville, Arkansas; Marc is at Miami, Florida; Clarc is in Sun, Arizona.

I was living in Dallas in 2009 when I lost my job. That September, I came to COH. I thought I wanted a place to stay until I found a job. God had different ideas. In November, I joined the Discipleship Program, I rededicated my life to Christ and I am now in the third phase of the program.

God has taught me to surrender. He has drawn me close and let me know His love and forgiveness. I'm researching grant possibilities that would allow me to attend Dallas Theological Seminary and get a Masters in Christian Counseling. I want to work with kids and help lead them to a life with Christ. ■



Call UGM General Services to do the yard work for you. They'll manicure your lawn, bag the cuttings and put them out for bulk trash pickup! Call Ray Smith at **214-287-3223** to schedule your yard cleanup.

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____ to feed, clothe, and shelter the hungry and homeless at the Union Gospel Mission.

\$15 \$20 \$35 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____ LITE 0611

PLEASE PRINT (PERSON GIVING GIFT/NAME ON CREDIT CARD):

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Signature _____ Expiration Date _____

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Please make your check payable to the **Union Gospel Mission** and return it with this form.

We will send you a receipt for your tax-deductible gift.

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