

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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WINTER 2012

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

Jeff Abbott UGM's Discipleship Program

Jeff Abbott has been here before. He came into the UGM Discipleship program back in 2009. He was here about three months. He had just moved from the prospect phase to the first phase. However, Jeff was here under false pretenses. He was here because it allowed him to not have to hang out around The Bridge all day. And as it turns out, he had a cell phone he wasn't ready

to give up (a program requirement). Eventually that got seized and Jeff was dismissed from the program. After a couple of years of banging around, finding work but work that wasn't long term, Jeff found himself back at the Calvert Place Men's Shelter as an overnight guest. "I saw despair in so many of those sitting around me and I realized that to anyone looking I probably



exhibited despair." Attending chapel nightly Jeff Abbott heard messages that motivated him. "I understand now that was

Continued on page 3.

You Made All the Difference!

In the middle of a down economy, the Union Gospel Mission met its operational budget numbers for 2011. Our friends and supporters (that's you) gave enough money for us to hit our projections before January 1, 2012.

You might be saying to yourself, "Okay, that's what they're supposed to do," and you are correct. However, we never want to take you for granted. Our goals were high. The demand for our emergency services has never been higher. And you came through for us.

2012 will be a year of further expansion coupled with more demand for our services. We have a capital campaign underway which, if funded, will provide beds and meals for an additional 134 men at our Calvert Place Shelter.

Thank you for all you have done for UGM. We appreciate you! ■

Rodney Pitts UGM's Discipleship Program

To see Rodney Pitts on his stage, cooking and directing others, keeping the kitchen at the Calvert Place Men's Shelter running smoothly, you wouldn't guess this man has recently found victory over a 22-year drug addiction. While he continues to advance through the Discipleship program, Rodney is Assistant to Jackson Zepeda in the Men's Shelter kitchen. Rodney has roots here at the Mission. His stepfather and brother have both gone through the Discipleship program before him. His stepdad, Reggie Thompson Sr., is currently working in a walk-in shelter in South Dallas. Reggie Jr. is working at a stone paneling business in Dallas, married, and raising his three children.



In fact it was Reggie Jr. writing Rodney while he was in prison that intrigued Rodney enough that he came here after his release. "My spiritual walk with God has blossomed. After many years in darkness because of my addiction, it's all about Him now."

"Since coming to UGM, my diabetes is now under control. I've also repaired many fractured

Continued on page 3.

Marlene Garner UGM's Discipleship Program

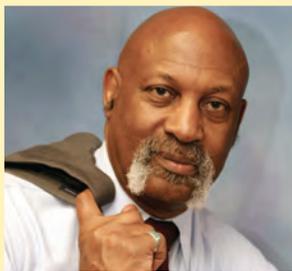
You've probably seen the TV commercials where they say "cigarettes don't always kill" and they show a guy with one of those voice boxes because of cancer. Or they show a guy with a hole in his neck trying to communicate. **Marlene Garner** knows it too. 35 years of smoking two packs of Marlboros a day left her semi-paralyzed after a stroke caused by smoking. It also drove her to the RiverPointe single women's ministry to rebuild her life. Married and divorced four times, struggling



Continued on page 4.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Executive Director,
William Thompson



It is a good exercise for me to ask myself questions. Here is one of the questions I asked recently. What could have been more valuable to us as a ministry at UGM in 2011? The thing that comes to mind first is sharing "The Good News" with more people.

I suppose that rises to the top because daily our buses rolled in from pick-up points in the downtown area leaving behind as many as 70 people some nights. This was not done because we ran out of time or ran out

of patience. It was because we ran out of beds. Of course, we don't have a crystal ball and we aren't able to predict the future. However, it is not that much of a stretch to believe that we could have added to the number of people who came to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior last year. Our pure delight is knowing that eternal business is taken care of daily at UGM! When the hustle and bustle of Thanksgiving and the Christmas holidays ended in 2011, more than 450 people had said, "Yes, I put my trust in Jesus Christ." The only thing that could have been greater was, if only there had been more.

Question number two was, what would the Lord have us do about it. **I have an answer!** Well, the news is that plans were made in 2011, and documents are being drawn to add more space to UGM'S Calvert Place facility for men. The net result will be the addition of 134 more beds to house homeless men. This also means more opportunity to teach God's word and to disciple them. We will see more men take baby steps that are often needed before they become committed and stable in the faith.

Certainly, there will be other questions I will ask myself. Would you pray with us and ask yourself, "How can I get more involved in helping the homeless find a future and the blessed hope?" I'd love to hear your answer. ■

Reflections on Christmas 2011



Help Change a Person's Life

Donate Your Car, Truck or RV Running or Not,

to the Union Gospel Mission & Receive the Maximum Tax Deduction for Your Donation!

Call OR Email:
Stacey Morgan
214-637-6117
smorgan@ugmdallas.org

Reaching the last, least, lost and lonely since 1949



Lawn Care is Just a Call Away

Tired of leaves all over your yard, blowing into your garage, even into your house? Call Ray Smith at **214-287-3223** and schedule the Mission's General Services Department to come out to rake, mow and bag your leaves. Quality work, reasonable prices!. It's another way you can help UGM serve the homeless of Dallas.

Calvert Place/COH 2011 Update

OCTOBER

Professions of faith in Christ.....	46
Recommitments	47
Meals served.....	29,464
Nights lodging provided	11,264
Individual Men, Women & Children Served	709

NOVEMBER

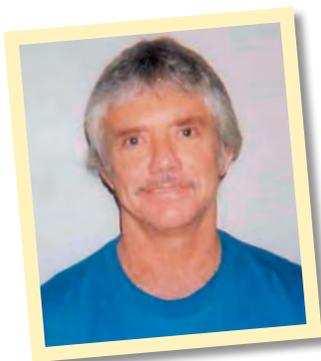
Professions of faith in Christ.....	28
Recommitments	68
Meals served.....	29,356
Nights lodging provided	10,924
Individual Men, Women & Children Served	690

DECEMBER

Professions of faith in Christ.....	24
Recommitments	51
Meals served.....	32,813
Nights lodging provided	11,048
Individual Men, Women & Children Served	766

Continued Testimony from page 1.

Jeff Abbott: Peace and Joy travel with him.



Jeff when he first came to UGM.

God tugging at my sleeve.”

The Chaplains at UGM understand the need for second and even third chances. Jeff came back into the program. He’s looking forward to his first anniversary coming up soon.

Jeff is working outside of Calvert Place working security shifts at the RiverPointe Women’s Shelter, it’s three 10-hour

shifts a week. The majority of the time Jeff is at work he’s alone. “Because of the presence of the Holy Spirit, I have developed Peace and Joy that travel with me to work.” Jeff feels like he’s developing roots here with God and is excited about the future and what God is preparing for him. Welcome back Jeff! ■



Jeff consulting with Chaplain Jim Oakes.

Honors and Memoriums

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Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Ramage
Mr. and Mrs. John Boskas
Ms. Jane Higginbotham
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon McNulty
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon McNulty
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon McNulty

In Memory of

Willie Balka
Jeff Turner
Ken Green (husband)
Barbara Macchia
Frank S. Carter
Lisbeth L. Watts
Bob Pinces
Betty Stockton
Connie Germany
Connie Germany
David W. Lane
Larry Tutson
Mary Lou Green
Betty Stockton

In Honor of

John Wood
Sharman and Fen Vesecky
Joanne and Jeanne Nichols
Joanne and Jeanne Nichols
Maria Edwards (birthday)
The Krabacher family
Ruell Owens
Allen Gulledge
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Welch
Jeffrey and Erin Kelley
Mr. Gerald Horn
Mr. Gerald Horn
Mr. Gerald Horn
Mr. Jay Barlow
Mr. Jay Barlow
Mr. Jay Barlow
Ken and Lisa Boskas
Mrs. Mary Ann Denton
Jonathan McNulty
Matt McNulty
Josh McNulty

Continued Testimony from page 1.

Rodney Pitts: Stirring Things Up

family ties.” Rodney says his own life experiences and his one year at the Mission have changed the way he sees the people we serve. “I don’t see ‘homeless guys’ anymore. I see guys who need God’s direction.”

The next time you visit the Mission, as you can see, Rodney will be glad to stir something up for you. He hopes to be in the UGM kitchens for a long time. ■

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

ugmdallas.org



The Union Gospel Mission has an interactive website! The site makes it easy 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. Check it out!



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.

UNION GOSPEL MISSION DALLAS

SEARCHLIGHT

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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!

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 9am-9pm 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**.



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 0112

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

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

My credit card#: _____ - _____ - _____

Signature _____ Expiration Date _____

SEND ME A TOM THUMB REWARDS CARD

FOR VOLUNTEER INFO visit UGMdallas.org. Click "Volunteer."

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.

Mail to: Union Gospel Mission • 3211 Irving Blvd. • Dallas, TX 75247 • (214) 637-6117

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.



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!**
- Twin Mattresses
- Warehouse Space
- Flat Screen Computer Monitors
- Engine Hoist
- Laptop Computers
- LCD Projectors/Screens
- Clothing Bailer
- Mailing Equipment
- 1-2 ton Portable Air Compressor/Dental Vacuum Pump
- 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:

The list of kitchen needs were supplied by a generous donation from Standard Controls, located in Dallas, Texas. Thanks Standard Controls!

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 #5454. Cards for Kroger and Albertson's are also available. Please email Julie Moore to get one: jmoore@ugmdallas.org
- Shop at The UGM Thrift Store located at the corner of Story Road and Hwy. 183 in Irving, TX.

COH Graduates



Disciple graduates Joan King, Lisa Randles, Chaplain Benita Anderson and Disciple graduate Selam Teferi at the COH Graduation ceremony.



The latest graduates flanked by Executive Director Bill Thompson and Women's Director Hazel Mays.

Continued Testimony from page 1.

Marlene Garner: *Smoking Can Kill*

to be able to write, unable to wash her own hair, Marlene needed help. She was paying the price for "living for pleasure and being involved in questionable events." But in the midst of the pain and bewilderment, Marlene found the grace and mercy of God.

"I joined the Discipleship program at RiverPointe in November. God's word has been brought to life as I progress through the phases. Understanding has come out of the study and meditation of God's word. I truly love my chaplains for their guidance and compassion." God has and is continuing to change Marlene's life. "I plan to go back to school for continuing Bible study. I have found my church home at Watermark, where I hope to serve with all my heart for many years."

Smoking can kill and will definitely damage our health. However, our God can reach down through the smoke and ashes of a shattered life and bring us back to Him. ■