

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 2012

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

Andre Johnson UGM's Discipleship Program

Andre Johnson was born in Dallas but raised in Los Angeles. It's a story you've no doubt heard before. A guy starts doing things he knows he shouldn't be doing. In Andre's case, it's selling and using drugs. That cost him a four-year prison stint in the mid 1980s. His inability to give it up cost him another 16 months of freedom. He paroled out in 2000, and

got involved in a ministry that operated out of the LA Dream Center. It was called "Born Again, Delivered Disciples."

Andre believed but still fell short of committing himself completely to Christ. For seven years, he toured and was a part of the ministry that toured in many places, including Dallas. Andre still had relatives in Dallas, and returned here



in 2008. By now Andre was 43-years-old and had a lot of trouble holding on to what jobs he could get. He started using again.

Continued on page 3.

Mark Your Calendar!

SEPT. 13, 2012:
Annual Golf Classic
Bear Creek Golf Club

Granville Gould UGM's Discipleship Program

Granville Gould is one of the few people who came to UGM not because he was forced to by virtue of being homeless. He left his mother's home in Oak Cliff, spent one night under a bridge trying to get into the Mission so he could join the Discipleship program. Granville had been introduced to Jesus Christ while at a Seattle, Washington shelter. Being introduced is not the same as committing your life, and Granville went back to using drugs, fighting addiction to crack-cocaine that eventually lasted 29 years.

Granville was born in New Orleans, spent some time in LA before going to Seattle, where he stayed until late 2008. After a relationship breakup, Granville came to Dallas to rejoin family that had



been relocated following Hurricane Katrina. His coke addiction followed him. After joining our Discipleship program in February of this year, Granville says, "I started building and strengthening my faith. I find that I'm learning to trust and lean on Christ. I'm growing, and though the desire to use drugs reappears from time to time, I'm able to say no."

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Chantal Kaku UGM's Discipleship Program

It's now called the Democratic Republic of the Congo, but Chantal Kaku refers to it as the Belgian Congo, which it was when she was born there 47 years ago. After graduating high school and working a few years learning Cosmetology, Chantal moved to Chad, where her uncle was the ambassador from the Congo. It was while working there that she met her husband, a Christian who led her to Christ and saw that she was baptized. They've been married for



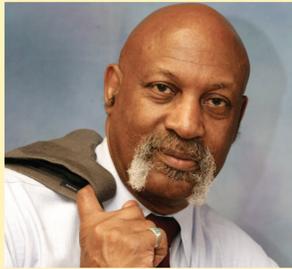
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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Executive Director,
William Thompson



Seeking to better serve those who come to the Union Gospel Mission is a constant pursuit. Sometimes better service is not a matter of providing something different, rather it is providing more of the same, if in fact what you are providing is good. Along that line, UGM is in the process of adding to the number of beds it offers to those who have not been able to find

shelter at UGM because we have been operating at capacity. Better service, in this instance, means new beds, new showers and a new locker room, a place where more homeless men can have their critical needs met.

In recent months, UGM has dealt with the painful reality of leaving between 50 and 80 homeless men downtown, because we could not accommodate them in our shelter. It will be a great joy to be able to welcome those individuals who have tried to get a bed at UGM but were not able to in the past. Our plans are to begin renovating the Calvert Place men's facility to raise the number of men we can shelter there to 465 per night. The scheduled start time for the renovations is the week of September 16th.

We must do the best we can to provide an alternative to needless human suffering. ■



21st Annual Games Day

Four hundred sixty homeless men, women, children and UGM volunteers descended on Reverchon Park Saturday, June 30th, for the 21st annual Homeless Games Day. An enthusiastic tug of war got the day off to a strong start. Flag football, 4-on-4 basketball, volleyball, soccer kicking, 50-yard dash and horseshoes followed. Those not wanting to deal with the sun had checkers, chess and dominoes to play. For the kids, bounce houses, crafts, clowns and balloons filled in their morning nicely, before everyone gathered for a stomach-filling picnic and sacred concert. The day



ended with the handing out of awards and door prizes. ■



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Granville Gould: From Coke to Christ!

Granville has gotten an opportunity to be involved in outside work while still being in the early stages of the Discipleship program. He rides with Louis Anderson on the UGM Pick-up and Delivery truck that goes throughout the Metroplex picking up donated furniture, clothes,

etc. "God has definitely blessed me with this outside job opportunity. People are blessing us by giving to the Mission and we are blessing them by doing the physical labor many of them can no longer do."

There are other dividends. Money that

once would have been used to buy drugs was used to buy his mother a nice present for her recent birthday.

What's in the future? "Five years from now, I want to be in ministry. My dream job would be as a Praise Team Director. You know the change I was seeking is happening here. My life is getting balanced." ■



Calvert Place/COH 2012 Update

APRIL

Professions of faith in Christ.....	27
Recommitments	41
Meals served.....	30,019
Nights lodging provided	9,237
Individual Men, Women & Children Served	602

MAY

Professions of faith in Christ.....	18
Recommitments	29
Meals served.....	30,936
Nights lodging provided	9,850
Individual Men, Women & Children Served	638

JUNE

Professions of faith in Christ.....	48
Recommitments	25
Meals served.....	30,247
Nights lodging provided	9,356
Individual Men, Women & Children Served	608

Honors and Memoriums

Donor

Stacy and Conder LLP
 Carol Etzel
 John M. Etzel
 Norma Becker
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 Randy and Melissa Barr
 Mr. Bill L. Bowden
 Ann and Lance Ellis
 Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Paul
 Kristi Roberson
 Shirley Groff
 Mr. and Mrs. James Perkins
 Mary Weir
 Christopher Kersey

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 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Price

In Memory of

David Terry
 Annette Guinsberg
 Annette Guinsberg
 Annette Guinsberg
 Annette Guinsberg
 Annette Guinsberg
 Dorothy Pherigo
 Ray Mercer
 David Millet
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 James R. Fisher
 Martin Massinger
 O.K. Mac McCullough
 Travis Parker
 Jeff Turner
 Annette Guinsberg
 Monique Blackburn
 Duane Row
 Annette Guinsberg
 Martin Massinger

In Honor of

Andy Kerner
 Andy Kerner

Continued Testimony from page 1.

Andre Johnson: *Completely Committed*

Finally, Andre realized he was missing the joy and peace he had in Los Angeles back when he was involved in ministry. He had a younger brother who had stayed at UGM sometimes. Andre knew this was the place. He came here, not to gain shelter, but to learn discipleship. "When I walked through the front doors, I had a feeling of peace. I knew this was where I needed to be."



Men's Program Director Dr. Cobby Asante Mensah described it to him as, "This is a new awakening of that which has been dormant inside you for so long." Recently, Andre has added working at the UGM Super Thrift Store to his discipleship duties. "Working at the thrift store is definitely different. I enjoy it." Andre also runs the clothing room at the men's shelter. He enjoys being able to give clients some of life's basics. "It's just great being useful. I get asked to pray for the clients sometimes. It's an honor and a blessing."

Add to all of the changes going on in Andre's life, becoming a grandfather. His 24-year-old daughter, who still lives in LA, recently had a baby. Andre sees himself staying in ministry after his UGM Discipleship days are over. "I want to be teaching people about the Lord, teaching discipleship." He should be ready to share the greatest calling of all. ■

Again this year UGM will be participating in DonorBridge. The date is September 13th and the donating hours are 7am-midnight. This is the one day where everyone gets a chance to donate to their favorite non-profit/and or ministry, and the Communities Foundation will match a percentage of each donation. This year their goal is to raise \$1,000,000 to be available in matching funds. We'll have more to say as we get closer but again, the date is September 13th from 7am-midnight. www.DonorBridgeTX.org

UGM and Stream Energy!

We're partnering with Stream Energy in a program that pays us \$5 every month you get your electricity from Stream. How does that help you? Well, Stream Energy offers rates that are at least 10% less than you're paying right now. Stream pays us monthly for every customer that signs up. You pay nothing extra, in fact, you'll save on your electric bill while the Mission benefits.

All you have to do is go to: www.ugm.streampowerup.biz.

ugmdallas.org

The Union Gospel Mission has an interactive website which we update regularly with new pictures and videos! 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!



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

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 lost, 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!

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 lost, least, lost, and lonely of Dallas. For more information, please call Monaque or Raychel at (972) 252-6040.

Scan this for online donation access:



CURRENT NEEDS

- **CONSTANT PRAYER!**
- Plastic Twin Mattress Covers
- Warehouse Space
- Flat Screen Computer Monitors
- Engine Hoist
- Laptop Computers
- LCD Projectors/Screens
- Commercial Shredder
- Bicycle Rack
- 1-2 ton Portable Air Compressor/Dental Vacuum Pump
- Clothing Bailer
- Scrub Uniforms (various sizes)
- 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:

- Canned goods (#10 can)
- 4" Steam Table Pans
- 6" Insert Steam Table Pans
- Blender
- Portable Air Conditioner
- Laser Printers
- Mailing Equipment
- Tool Chest/Kits
- Household Furnishings
- Colanders
- 6" Strainer Pans
- Professional Cuisinart
- Kitchen Knives

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.

HELP WANTED!

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

Continued Testimony from page 1.

Chantal Kaku: A Healed Life

21 years, they have six children, but Chantal has not seen her husband and four of her children since 2006.

She first came to Dallas in 2005 to visit relatives. At the time she was expecting her sixth child, Sarah. Sarah wouldn't wait until Chantal got back to Chad, and was born in Dallas, so she's an American citizen. Returning to Chad, Chantal and her family went through a six month span of political upheaval and violence in Chad, before it was decided that Chantal and the two youngest children should return to America. She couldn't speak English, but taught herself by watching PBS Kids, a portion of KERA's daily programming. Sarah and now 13-year-old Elizabeth also learned English the same way. A work permit allowed Chantal to keep her family afloat here, until it expired in 2009 and she couldn't get it renewed. She did some babysitting and cutting hair, while her husband back in Chad sold off some of their assets to send her money to keep her and the kids subsidized.

She ends up at the Center of Hope in the Fall of 2010 and she's still there. "My faith had been beaten down, it seemed like God was punishing me. But the moment I walked through the doors of the Center of Hope I knew I was where I needed to be. My own room, my own toilet, plus the Discipleship program has been so helpful. They took me back to the beginning, making me rebuild my basics. By coming to the COH, my relationship with God has been renewed. I've rediscovered God as the center of my life."

Both Elizabeth and Sarah take the bus everyday to the Focus Learning Center in Oak Cliff. Chantal is on schedule to graduate the Discipleship program this Fall. Her plans are to return to Chad with the kids, and, after reacquainting herself with her family, to assist her husband, Joel, who pastors a 200-member church there.

It's been a journey and Chantal believes after all God has done to bring her this far, He's going to provide a way for her to see her four kids, two of whom were teenagers when she left, and have now become adults. A lot can happen in six years. ■



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 \$ _____ LITE0712

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." CCV _____

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