

THE BRIDGE

Savannah's Gospel Rescue Mission

BUILDING BRIDGES OF HOPE

My Health, Body and Mind are being restored . . . and it all started the day I entered the Mission's doors

My name is Gene. The worst day of my life was the day of my mother's funeral. Not only because she had passed away, but because for years she had not seen me clean and sober. Thirty-five years of addiction to alcohol, cocaine and meth had destroyed my life and all relationships that should have been important to me.

It was not until I came through the doors of Old Savannah City Mission that I allowed God to turn my life around. I'm discovering that in Jesus Christ, I have all I need. My mind is being renewed and I am a new person. When I came to the Mission, I was irresponsible, immature and a man with an attitude. Today, because of the caring of the staff and the classes I attend, I'm a diligent student of God's Word. Day by day I find myself moving to a higher level of maturity and accountability. The Lord has also given me an outstanding job outside the Mission that is giving me some financial stability. I praise Him for this opportunity.

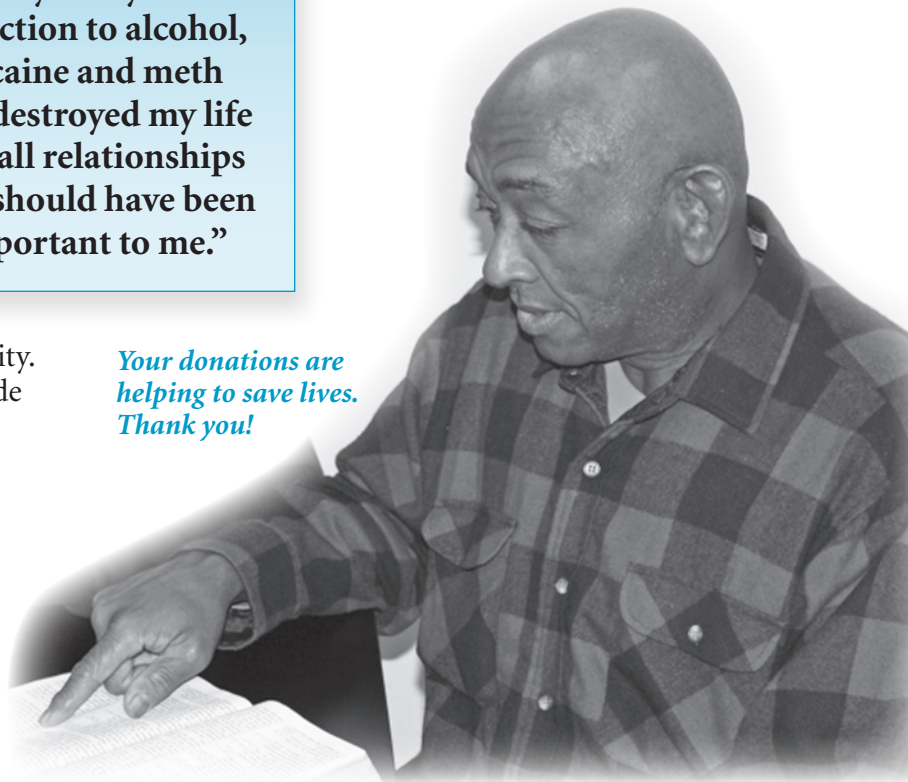
You are helping to raise up men of God

One of the most important things for me is scripture memorization. Every day I'm hiding God's Word in my heart, and what a difference this is making in my life. It took me many years to come to know the power of God and His Word. Now at age 56, I'm making up for lost time.

"Thirty-five years of addiction to alcohol, cocaine and meth had destroyed my life and all relationships that should have been important to me."

I want to take this opportunity to say *thank you* for all you are doing to help me find my way home. You donate money, clothing, food and your support to this place of rescue. In the process, you are helping to raise up men of God who are learning to be responsible citizens, ready to serve wherever God tells us to go. What greater gift could you possibly provide? Thank you for caring.

Your donations are helping to save lives. Thank you!



An Encouraging
Word from
Reverend Jim

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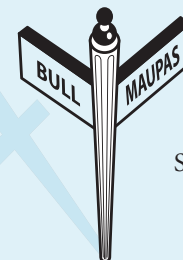


2008: The Year of
New Beginnings
"A Place Called
Home"

... Pg. 2



What does it
Profit a Man if
He gains the
whole World
and ... Pg. 3



**Old Savannah
City Mission**

Reverend Jim Lewis
2414 Bull Street
Savannah, GA 31401-9113

912-232-1979
www.oscm.org



2008: The Year of New Beginnings “A Place Called Home”

Can you imagine never having a place to call “home”? That, I would think, is a pretty bad feeling. Some of us are so blessed that we not only have one place to call home, but we have two, three, or even four places we call “home.” Old Savannah City Mission is celebrating another phase of 2008: Our Year of New Beginnings, as we dedicate “A Place Called Home” for our Mission’s Fresh Start Women’s Program.

The Fresh Start Women’s Program is designed to serve women who, while incarcerated, come to faith in Jesus Christ and desire a “Fresh Start” in life. Upon release from jail or prison, each woman will be paired with a mentor (a mature Christian woman) who will serve as a life coach and will guide her in all aspects of transition. This newly renovated home with two carriage-house apartments, has a capacity to serve five single women and two mothers with a child, in addition to the house monitor who will be on duty 24/7.

We have had great response from the community as four of the bedrooms have already been adopted to be decorated as we go to print. We invite you, your church, your organization or business to get involved by subsidizing or furnishing the remaining two bedrooms and two 1-bedroom apartments. This is a great project to undertake! And what a wonderful cause as you will lend credence by giving a homeless woman — fresh out of jail or prison — who has come to know Christ “A Place Called Home”.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. If you would like to sponsor a room, an apartment or just donate to the cause, call Connell Stiles at 912-232-1979 or send your donations to:

**Old Savannah City Mission
“A Place Called Home”
P.O. Box 16839
Savannah, GA 31416-3539**

An Encouraging Word from Reverend Jim

“You are the life blood of Old Savannah City Mission.”

Dear Friend,

The Old Savannah City Mission is much like the ER in a hospital. Our “patients” are sick and in desperate need of urgent care. It may be an addiction, the loss of a job, a marital relationship that’s gone south, or perhaps a person has simply fallen on hard times. Whatever the situation, our residents, friends and neighbors need emergency attention *now*. That’s why we’re open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

How can we keep our doors open? How do we maintain an “ER” staffed and ready to help folks in need? It’s a one word answer: **you**. You are the life blood of Old Savannah City Mission. As Gene says, you are helping to raise up men of God. You are providing hope where there was once only despair.

There are many ways to give

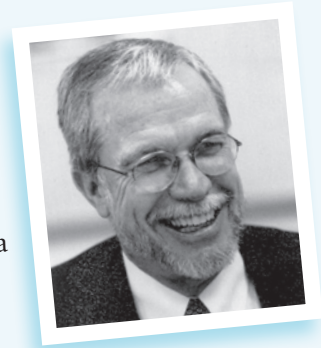
With so much economic uncertainty in our nation, when you give your gift it’s often a sacrificial donation. But whether your contribution is large or small, God is using your gift in ways you cannot even imagine. There are also other ways to give. Perhaps you can donate food. This summer we need great supplies of fresh foods, vegetables and seafood. We’ll even come to you and pick it up.

You may also have clothing or bric-a-brac items that we can sell in our thrift store. Whatever you give to Old Savannah City Mission, we promise to put it to good use. I also want to encourage you to come to the Mission to see your compassion in action. One of our students will be delighted to take you on a tour. At the end of the tour, you may well say, *I had no idea . . . I just had no idea*.

So come see us. Be generous in your giving. Pray earnestly for all who come to the Mission for help. Please remember that when you give to the poor and needy you give to Jesus Himself. Thank you for remembering the needs of the homeless this summer.

God’s servant to the needy,

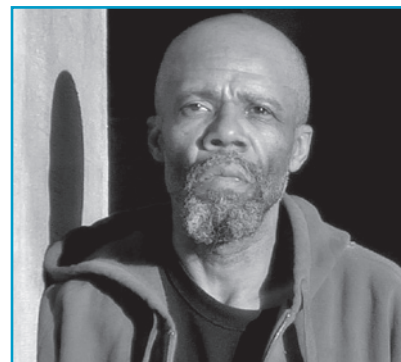
Reverend Jim Lewis, Executive Director



Summer is here . . . and Hunger & Pain

Everyone at Old Savannah City Mission thanks you for your enormous outpouring of support during the Easter season. Without you there could be no Mission. There simply are not enough words in the English language to express our gratitude to you for the role you play in this ministry of rescue.

Yes, we have graduates from our various recovery programs. But in fact, no one ever really graduates from the spiritual course presented to them. That is a “course” that never ends.



What Does it Profit a Man if He Gains the Whole World and Loses His Own Soul? This was the question I had to ask myself.

My name is Dale. I have a home and a business in Atlanta. But I've also been plagued with addictions that continue to run and to ruin my life. I have a friend who went through the program here at Old Savannah City Mission so I made the decision to come here as well. It's one of the best decisions I ever made.

In the past I'd be sober for a while and then, like a dog returning to his own vomit, I'd relapse into my life of alcoholism, be in and out jail, and do other brainless things to make my life miserable. I have the ability to make good money, but I had to ask myself: *what would financial gain mean to me in the end if I were to lose my own soul?* And I **was** losing my soul.

The battle is the Lord's

I now realize that I must give all control of my life over to God. I also believe I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength. I'm tired of hanging on to the reins of my life. Today I'm giving everything over to my Savior and Lord. It's no longer my battle to fight. The

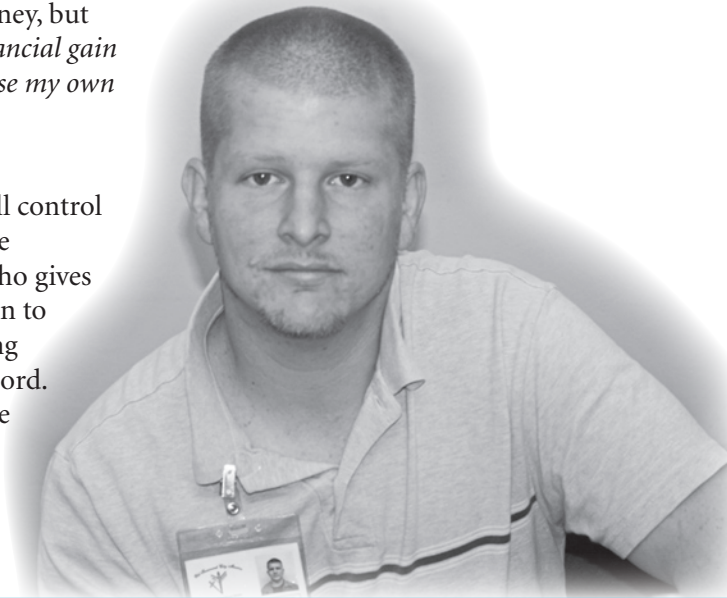
God bless you for your support of the Mission . . . and for helping someone like me.

battle is the Lord's, and I've never been more content in my life.

“In the past I'd be sober for a while and then, like a dog returning to his own vomit, I'd relapse into my life of alcoholism.”

Now as I grow stronger in the Christian faith, I understand how much I need the prayers of other brothers and sisters. So I would appreciate it if you'd pray that I'll remain strong in the Lord. I want to be His vessel for service and help touch the lives of others. I also want to give a word of thanks to you for all you do to keep the doors of the Mission open. In many ways, your donations

are saving my life. And for that, I'll be eternally grateful. Thank you and God bless you.



“Save The Date”



Old Savannah City Mission is gearing up for its 2009 Calendar Fundraising Drive. Before you forget, we are asking you to personally “Save A Date” to sponsor on the Mission's 2009 Calendar. You, your church, your organization or your business can honor, memorialize, congratulate or celebrate a loved one on his/her birthday, anniversary or other event. Or you can use the date to advertise your business or make an announcement.

Sponsorships are as follows:

1 day — \$300

1 week — \$2,000
(7 consecutive days)

1 month — \$5,000
(header at top of page)

Reserve your space early! Your support is vital to Old Savannah City Mission. This is just one way you can lend your support and show your compassion and your faithfulness to those who are less fortunate than you. Thank you in advance for your generosity. Please call Connell at **912-232-1979** to reserve your date(s) or mail your donation to:

**OSCM —
2009 Calendar
P.O. Box 16839
Savannah, GA
31416-3539**

refuse to take a vacation in Savannah

We're all works in progress

So as you read the stories in this newsletter, please remember that each person is a work in progress. Together let's agree that our spiritual journey may come to a close each night, but that it begins all over again each morning.

To send your donation today to help our friends on *their* spiritual journey, please use the remit slip enclosed. Or you may call us at **1-912-232-1979**. You may also donate on our secure website at www.oscm.org. Thank you for your investment in the lives of the poor and needy in our community during the summer months and throughout the year.

“Thank you for your investment in the lives of the poor and needy in Savannah during the summer months and throughout the year.”

Easter Eve with *Friends and Neighbors*

The day was incredibly balmy and bright. A gentle breeze carried the music across and down the street.

Over 200 friends and neighbors, i.e. homeless, volunteers and students, assembled in the parking lot on the south side of the Mission. Huxsie Scott's voice rang out, inspiring and clear as she sang "Run to the Mercy Seat." The Good News of the Resurrection focused on its rock-bed purpose . . . the declaration of God's redeeming love.

Reverend Jim Lewis preached and he proclaimed that the most important thing was to know that God loves us and then to personally experience it. The redemptive work of Christ proclaims God's love. The death and Resurrection of Christ demonstrates God's unfailing love.

Huxsie Scott

Before the event began, everyone was individually invited to personalize the message of God's love. Business cards were provided for all. The message was spoken, written and repeated to each person, "You are worth the Life of the Son of God."

Reverend Lewis tied this great truth to the harsh reality of the homeless. He explained that when you are trapped in poverty, you can lose your sense of self-worth. There are unkind people who will judge you as being a "worthless,



no good bum." Tragically, many have heard that assessment since childhood, even from the mouth of those closest to them. God reverses that message through the Cross and the Empty Tomb. What an affirmation of the Mission's service as many friends and neighbors publicly received Christ and found in Him new hope, new strength and new vision.

Reverend Jim Lewis

The icing on the cake was a gourmet meal of smoked leg of lamb and smoked ham with sides of garlic green beans, red potatoes and dessert. The "General," Wiley McCrary, led a team of students and volunteers in preparation of a meal fit for children of the King. The Mission's dining room and chapel were over-filled with hungry and hurting people. Many asked for and received second servings. Why not? They were hungry and it was Easter Eve.

Because you care, we were able to serve our friends and neighbors who are down and out. Yes, they ate well. Remember the words of Jesus, "As you do unto the least of these my brethren, you do unto Me."



Because you care, we were able to serve our friends and neighbors who are down and out.

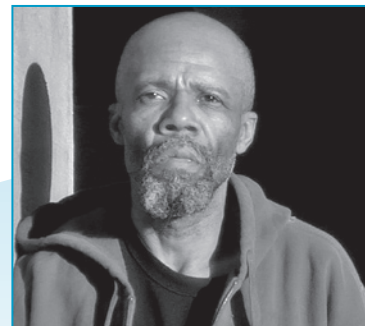
My Summertime Gift

YES, Reverend Jim, you can count on my summertime investment in the lives of people in need.

- Please bill my credit card
 VISA MC AMEX DINERS

Here is my best gift of:

- \$17.90 to provide **10 meals** and other assistance
 \$26.85 to provide **15 meals** and other assistance
 \$53.70 to provide **30 meals** and other assistance
 \$_____ to provide as many meals and as much care as possible.



ACCOUNT NO. _____ EXP. DATE _____

NAME _____ SIGNATURE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Old Savannah City Mission
P.O. Box 16839
Savannah, GA 31416-3539

▶ Please mail this completed form with your summer donation, or donate online at www.oscm.org. Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.