

# THE BRIDGE

Savannah's Gospel Rescue Mission

BUILDING BRIDGES OF HOPE

## From Living under Bridges and Serving Satan . . . to a place of rescue called the Old Savannah City Mission

**M**y name is Glenn. I came to Savannah to enroll in truck driving school. But when I arrived at the bus station, all my luggage was stolen. I had to start all over with a new ID, birth certificate and Social Security card. It took me a while to get things back together. I don't know why, but I went out into left field for awhile — drinking and doing drugs to where I exhausted myself in wrong living. I'm happy the Lord directed my feet to the Old Savannah City Mission.

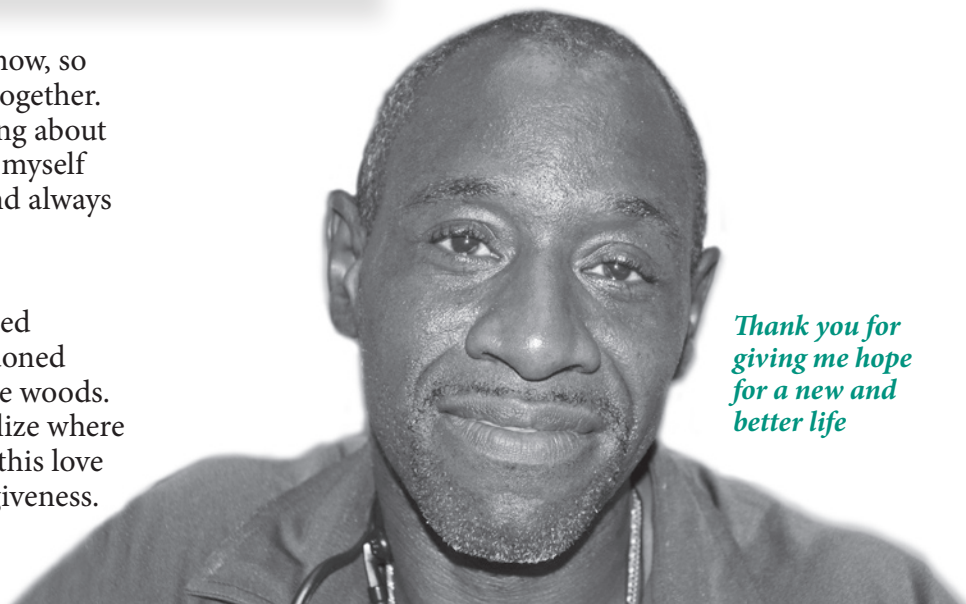
Here I'm growing spiritually — and I'm getting my GED. I never should have quit school in the 10th grade. I'm 47 years old now, so it's about time I allow God to put my life back together. The Mission is great in every regard. I'm learning about boundaries and the importance of disciplining myself to read the Bible and pray. The staff is caring and always available when I have a need to talk.

### No more eating out of garbage cans for me

Out in the world, I was living in the darkened shadows of life. I spent my days living in abandoned houses, in parked cars, under bridges and in the woods. I ate my meals out of garbage cans. When I realize where I am today, I sometimes don't feel I deserve all this love and caring. But I'm slowly accepting God's forgiveness. Jesus is my light; Satan is the chief of darkness.

I'm also grateful to you for your volunteer service and financial donations to the Mission. You mean so much to me. The Bible education I'm receiving here is worth thousands of dollars. In addition, I have food, safe shelter and warm clothing. Some mornings I'm just thankful for *waking up* to a new day. My purpose is to keep God in my life . . . and to make sure the main thing remains the *main thing*. I hope you and your family enjoy a nice Thanksgiving and a good Christmas. God bless you.

**"My purpose is to keep  
God in my life . . . and  
to make sure the main  
thing remains the  
main thing."**



*Thank you for  
giving me hope  
for a new and  
better life*



An Encouraging  
Word from  
Reverend Jim

... Pg. 2



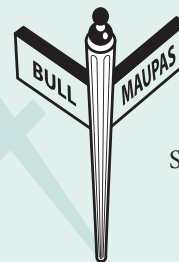
God is picking  
up the Pieces  
of My Life

... Pg. 3



When he  
decides  
to stand . . .

... Pg. 4



**Old Savannah  
City Mission**

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

912-232-1979  
[www.oscm.org](http://www.oscm.org)

## The Act of Thanksgiving

Annually, the Mission serves over one hundred thousand meals and provides emergency shelter to tens of thousands. However, the thing we do most at the Mission is **give thanks**. Our days are peppered with an abundance of giving thanks. It is such a common and frequent practice, yet it flows freely from truly grateful hearts. Gratitude abounds at Old Savannah City Mission. Our thanks is to God and to you, our faithful partners.



## Christmas on the Corner

Christmas time is ministry time at the Mission. **This is our third "Christmas on the Corner."** However, this year we plan to celebrate the birth of Christ on two corners. We are taking to the streets. We will celebrate Christmas on the Corner of Bull and Maupas. And, we will go into the "hood." Over the past several months our students have labored to bring up the neighborhood around the MLK, Jr. Apartments. Now, it's time to celebrate the birth of Jesus and the success He brings when people do the right thing. The times and places for "Christmas on the Corner" will be announced. Call the Mission for the specifics.

## An Encouraging Word from Reverend Jim

There are lots of drug dealers in town. Well, I'm a dealer too — *a hope dealer!* By the grace of a loving God, it's my privilege to encourage, hearten and help lift the spirits of those who are going through tough times because of poor decisions and illicit behavior.

I also love our beautiful city . . . and I'm committed to doing all I can to help make our community an even better place for our citizens. This is also the commitment of the Mission. To be specific, several students from *Fresh Start*, a year-long residential transition program of spiritual rehabilitation for ex-offenders, are playing a pivotal role in a major city project. In the early 1990s, a group of black investors purchased and rehabilitated a cluster of dilapidated houses in west Savannah. But over the years, the neighborhood has deteriorated through wear and abuse. That's where our *Fresh Start* students are stepping up to the plate to help breathe new life into the community.

### A three-legged challenge

The men who are helping with the rehabilitation of the neighborhood have a three-legged challenge: they are homeless, ex-offenders and substance abusers. But if we don't help them, who will? These men need a fresh start, a work history and *someone who believes they have the ability to be solid citizens*. I remind our staff *the longer the runway the smoother the takeoff*. And because you care so much about our students, the runway gets longer for them each day: a runway of personal discipline, the study of God's Word, work opportunities, and being told they have worth in the sight of God.

When the west Savannah project is completed, we're going to give it as a Christmas gift to Mayor Otis S. Johnson and County Commission Chairman Pete Liakakis. To top it off, we're planning to celebrate a great Christmas with the residents of the neighborhood. Thank you for helping us make this happen. If you didn't give your resources to the Mission, we'd have nothing to give to others. You are investing in lives not only today, but for all of eternity. Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas.

Blessings,

Reverend Jim Lewis, Executive Director



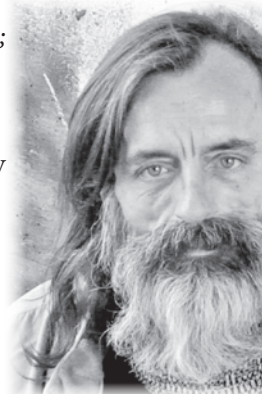
Left to right: Contractor William Stiles, Robert James of Century Investors, and Reverend Jim Lewis of Old Savannah City Mission discuss plans for renovating the Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Apartments.

Photo: John Carrington/Savannah Morning News

## The finest Christmas gift is not the one that

The English writer and theologian J. B. Phillips reminds us *The Christian faith is founded upon a well attested sober fact of history; that quietly, but with deliberate purpose, God Himself has visited this little planet*. Thank you for giving us the privilege of sharing this Savior of the world with so many needy people during the recent summer months. We hope you realize how important — how absolutely vital — your gifts are to help bring hope and healing to struggling souls who come to our doors.

Your donations provide nourishing food, warm shelter, clean clothes and an atmosphere that is filled with the love of a living God. You blanket the poor with love. Your donations help us demonstrate God's amazing grace to those who had given up all hope.



# God is Picking up the Pieces of My Life . . . and He's putting me together again

**M**y name is Willie. When I realize all that God is doing in my life at Old Savannah City Mission, I'm tickled pink — *and that's saying a lot for an African American!* The Mission has allowed me to step back and take a good look at myself and my life. In the past, I self-medicated to make it through the day. Now, I consult with my Heavenly Father and He tells me what to do and how to live.

I had to come in "empty headed" to learn obedience. On the street, I had lost my first loves: God, Bible study, going to church and being around positive people. In fact, the best day of my life was when I surrendered to God. It's finally dawning on me that I can do nothing without the power of Christ in my life. God is my Lord, my Master and my Hero.

## **I'm being conformed to the image of God's Son**

Do I have still problems? Yes, I do. But not compared with the challenges of so many other people in our world. I glad I'm alive, that I'm a child of God and that I've been called to be His servant. I used to grumble

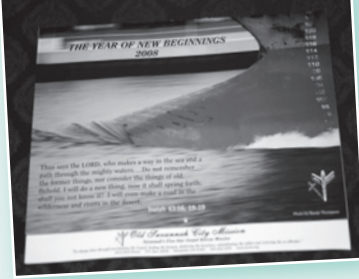
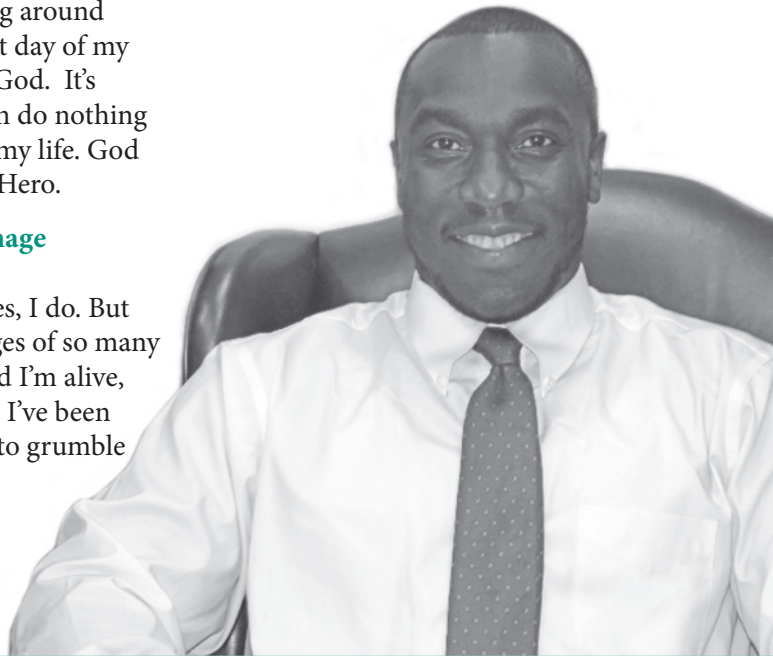
*I'm grateful for everything you provide for me at the Mission. Thank you!*

a lot. Now I take things to the Lord and allow Him to sort out that which I am worried about. It's an amazing experience to strive to be conformed to the image of God's Son.

Thank you for your support of the Mission. If I had not come here, I'd either be in prison or be dead. Thank you for introducing me to life everlasting. I appreciate everything you provide for me — right down to my toothbrush. You're giving me a wonderful Christmas gift through your

love and caring. God bless you and your family at this holiday season.

**"It's finally dawning on me that I can do nothing without the power of Christ in my life."**



## **2009 Old Savannah City Mission Calendar**

**F**or the fifth consecutive year, the Mission will be publishing a beautiful calendar. Many who received the full-color 2008 Calendar expressed their gratitude by sending us special support for our efforts to lift the load of the less fortunate in our community.

When you receive your copy of the Mission's beautiful, full-color 2009 Calendar, I hope you will be impressed. In fact, I hope you will like it so much that you will display it in your home, your office or your place of business.

Please remember, the Mission is supported entirely by the benevolence of people just like you. Your most generous gift will help us so much in this, the busiest season of the year. In anticipation of your open heart and opened hand, I sincerely thank you. Reverend Jim Lewis

**costs the most money, but the one that carries the most love.**

### **Help us share the Christ of Christmas**

During the coming holiday season, we need your strong financial support more than ever before. As you can imagine, all our costs for operating the Mission are increasing. Food is more expensive. The cost of utilities is on the increase. Staff must be paid and services to the needy must continue. At the same time, growing numbers of needy folks continue to come to us for physical and spiritual help.

To respond to people's physical and spiritual needs right now, please use the enclosed remit slip and mail it to us today. You may also donate by visiting us online at [www.oscm.org](http://www.oscm.org). Thank you for touching so many lives through your generous giving during these critical holiday months — and throughout the year.



**"Your donations help us demonstrate God's amazing grace to those who had given up all hope."**



When he decides to

we can help him walk

to  
c  
o  
s

**Urban Training Institute**

High Standards, Strong Boundaries and Clear Direction. To qualify, one must be mature in one's misery, sick and tired of being sick and tired; have a willingness to live in and relate to a community of learners; be teachable, willing to study, to learn and to change. Also must complete community service without compensation and work as permitted with required savings. One will learn responsibility, accountability and restitution, including child support and reparations. Free Enrollment. It costs nothing, yet it costs everything.

Old Savannah City Mission is a local, non-profit, charity committed to proclaim the Gospel, feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, rehabilitate the addict and restore the ex-offender. We are privately funded by people who care about the less fortunate and demonstrate it by giving of their time, talent and treasure. No government money is requested or received and there's never a charge for any goods or services.

[www.oscm.org](http://www.oscm.org) • 912-232-1979 • 2414 Bull Street



*My Holiday Gift*

**YES, Reverend Jim, my heart is moved by the stories of lives transformed.**



**Here is my best donation of:**

- \$20.50 to provide 10 meals and other assistance
- \$30.75 to provide 15 meals and other assistance
- \$61.50 to provide 30 meals and other assistance
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ to provide as many meals and as much care as possible.
- Please bill my credit card     VISA     MC     AMEX     DINERS

ACCOUNT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY / STATE / ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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**Old Savannah City Mission**  
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► Please mail this completed form with your holiday donation, or donate online at [www.oscm.org](http://www.oscm.org). Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.