

THE BRIDGE

Savannah's Gospel Rescue Mission

BUILDING BRIDGES OF HOPE

It Took Me a Long Time to Get Tired of My Misery

My name is Dennis. I started using crack cocaine as a cross addiction. I was also a gambler. In both cases, I tried hard to hide my addictions from my wife. I started with powder cocaine, but it didn't give me the high I wanted. So, I started cooking it. That's what my flesh wanted, and I was eager to indulge my flesh. What I didn't lose through cocaine, I lost by gambling. In the end, I lost it all.

The worst day of my life was when my wife presented me with a set of divorce papers. I had broken my sacred marriage vow. I had caused her nothing but pain. Now, I was paying the price. Eventually, God led me through the doors of Old Savannah City Mission. Here, I'm learning I need God in my life. I had walked away from Him for so long. Finally, I was coming home.

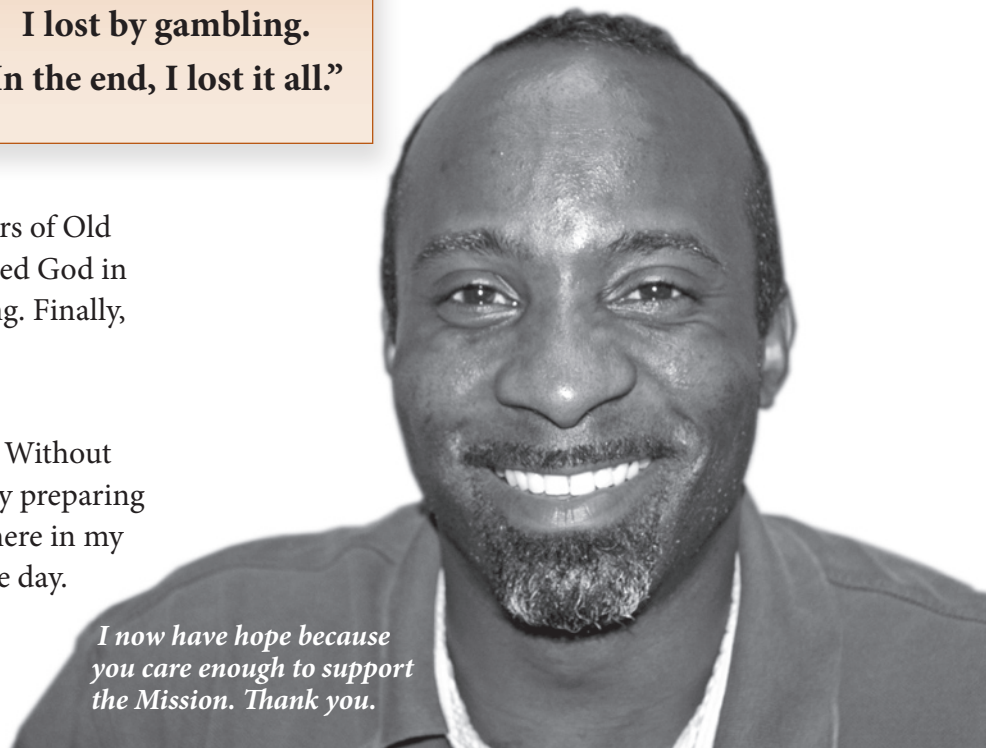
“What I didn't lose through cocaine, I lost by gambling. In the end, I lost it all.”

Thank you for making the Mission possible for someone like me. You are God's gift to Old Savannah City Mission. You volunteer your time, give your money, and provide us with food, shelter and clothing. This

Thanksgiving, I especially appreciate all you do. God bless you and thank you so very much.

My Heavenly Father just kept waiting for me

I'm a modern example of the Prodigal Son. Without my knowing it, my Heavenly Father was already preparing the fatted calf for me — even when I was out there in my own mess. He knew His son would return some day. He was so patient. Eventually I got tired of my sinful ways and ran into His arms of love.



I now have hope because you care enough to support the Mission. Thank you.



An Encouraging Word from Reverend Jim

... Pg. 2



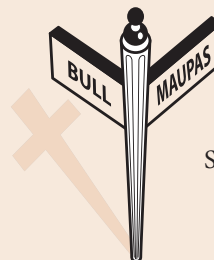
From Running with the Devil ... to a life of peace with God

... Pg. 3



“Big Bertha”

... Pg. 4



Old Savannah City Mission

Reverend Jim Lewis
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William E. Stiles, Sr.

William Stiles comes to Old Savannah City Mission after a long and distinguished career as an entrepreneur and businessman. He is a native Savannahian and a 1965 graduate of Sol C. Johnson High School. Bill attended Hampton University, Hampton, Virginia, graduating with a degree in Bio-Chemistry in 1969. After working briefly as a Line Supervisor for Seagrams, he was drafted into the military for two years, after which he returned to Savannah to begin his business career in 1972.

In May of 1976, he and his wife Connell opened their first business, Stiles For Living, Inc., an upscale furniture, gift and accessories shop located at 1310 Abercorn Street. In 1982, they expanded to a second location in Oglethorpe Mall, becoming the first African American business to operate in a regional mall in southeast Georgia.

Having worked as a consultant for the City of Savannah, the Savannah-Chatham County Board of Public Education, he was also a joint venture partner for the largest public works project in the history of Savannah, the \$80 million Georgia International Maritime and Trade Center on Hutchinson Island in 1998. **Bill brings a wealth of knowledge and business experience to Old Savannah City Mission and we welcome him to our team.**

An Encouraging Word from Reverend Jim

“We are blessed to take your hard-earned dollars and apply them to lives that are being changed for all eternity.”

It’s still a few weeks until Thanksgiving, but it’s not too early to begin sharing the excitement of our Day of Great Thanksgiving dinner to be held on Saturday, November 22nd at Forsyth Park. More than 500 volunteers will be on hand to serve anyone who asks to be fed. No questions asked.

The green beans will weigh 900 pounds. There will be 1,200 pounds of turkey and 900 pounds of dressing. All this will be served with hearts of love to more than 3,000 people who need a good Thanksgiving meal.

You are welcome to come — either to eat or as a volunteer. This has become a great Thanksgiving event for the people of Savannah throughout the years. We thank God for the privilege of sharing both physical and spiritual food on this special day.



You are Old Savannah City Mission

Because of your strong support, Old Savannah City Mission has been able to serve Savannah’s hungry and homeless in the name of Jesus Christ since 1997. All our services at the Mission are free. No taxpayer or United Way funds are requested or received by the Mission. *We rely on the generosity of a person such as you.*

As you read the testimonials of Dennis and Dwayne, you will see we do more than feed people. We provide answers to homelessness, addiction and self-abuse by teaching our students that God’s way is the only way to live. At the Mission, we are all about relational rehabilitation — not only at the Thanksgiving season, but every day of the year.

Thanks to you and your support, the Christian faith is alive at Old Savannah City Mission. We are blessed to take your hard-earned dollars and apply them to lives that are being changed for all eternity.

When you help us serve a meal, provide a bed and give clean clothing to a person in the name of Jesus, you become part of a long-term solution for a person in need. God bless you for caring that much. Happy Thanksgiving.

Blessings,

Reverend Jim Lewis, Executive Director

Thanksgiving is coming . . . and another

This past summer, you gave vital physical and spiritual nourishment to hundreds of people who came through the doors of Old Savannah City Mission. You provided clean clothing, comfortable shelter, good food and a friendly, listening ear. *Thank you!*

During the summer months you also gave people — some for the first time — the opportunity to learn of a Savior who cares for them, and who wants the best for their lives. *Thank you for your faithful support of this Mission of rescue.*

Hunger, poverty and addictions take no vacation

Now, in just a few weeks, we’ll be entering one of the most joyous seasons of the year: Thanksgiving. During this time, we will again be reminded of the multitude of sorrows that afflict those who come



From Running with the Devil . . . to a life of peace with God

My name is Dwayne. I came to Old Savannah City Mission because if I didn't straighten my life out there would be little hope for me. I'm 44 years old now and I've been in and out of prison since I was 19. I have three children, but all they've known about their mom and dad is that we spent all our time getting high.

Eventually family services took the kids away from us and my wife went into rehab.

Me? I just kept using and going to prison. It seemed my goal was to keep destroying my life. I can't tell you how many birthdays I've missed. My kids would look up into the stands at their athletic events and see an empty seat. Supporting my drug habit was more important to me than supporting my children. It breaks my heart to realize what I did to them.

I finally got tired of my misery

Thank God I came to the Mission. I finally got tired of my misery and decided to do things right for a change. Out in the world, the only friend I had was the Devil. Here, I'm building a relationship with God.

Without your donations I would have been lost. Thank you for giving me a safe haven.

I've said farewell to the crack, alcohol, pills and cigarettes and exchanged them for a lifestyle that will be pleasing to the Lord.

I'm not worthy, but I'm thankful this Thanksgiving season for the changes in my life. Even though my son drinks and spends too much time at the bars, I hope he'll continue to see the change in me. Once I figured there was no hope. Today, I anticipate a better future with the Lord at my side. Thank you for your support of the Old Savannah City Mission. God must be

the one who motivates you to give. I just want you to know how much I appreciate your donations.

"Supporting my drug habit was more important to me than supporting my kids. It breaks my heart to realize what I did to them."



The Best thing . . .

The best thing to give your enemy is forgiveness;

to an opponent, tolerance;

to a friend, your heart;

to your child, a good example;

to a father, appreciation;

to your mother, conduct that will make her proud of you;

to yourself, respect;

to people in need of rescue . . . hope for today and for a better future tomorrow.

Thank you for doing your best as you continue to reach out to those who come through the doors of Old Savannah City Mission.

opportunity to reach out to people in despair in Savannah.

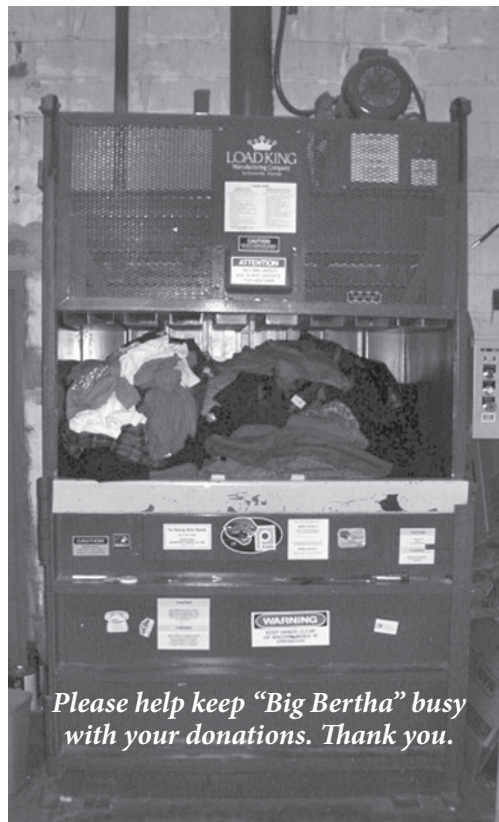
Too many of our guests have forgotten what human love means. Many have never known the love of God.

through our doors. These are sorrows due to hunger, to lack of shelter and to all manner of illness and addiction. For many, however, the greatest sorrow of all is being all alone . . . feeling unwanted . . . of having no one to care whether they live or die. Too many of our friends and neighbors have forgotten what human love means. Many have never known the love of God.

That's why we urge you to keep our Mission friends and neighbors before you in prayer every day of the year — especially during the Thanksgiving season. When you do, you continue to be a *champion for those in need*. To send your donation today to help people in need, please use the remit slip enclosed. You may also give your gift on our secure web site at www.oscm.org. Thank you for touching so many lives through your generous donations. God bless you for caring during the critical Thanksgiving season and throughout the year.

“Big Bertha”

Our students like to name the Mission vehicles and machinery. One of our vans is “Elvis.” They dubbed it Elvis because it has a raised roof that reminds them of his hair style. Our biggest box truck is “Brutus.” Now, we are hoping “Big Bertha,” the baler will soon be part of our “family.” “Big Bertha” is a one-ton baler that stands over 12 feet tall. At the moment she lives in Jacksonville, but she will move to Savannah if we can come up with \$5,000.



“Big Bertha” can play a key role in generating revenue for the Mission’s ministries. In today’s market, small non-profits like the Mission cannot depend exclusively on financial donations. We must be innovative in our efforts to raise funds. This fits with our belief that hard work is therapeutic. Every student who enrolls in the Mission’s Urban Training Institute, the Mission’s residential recovery program, must buy into the Mission’s commitment to work hard. We believe hard work will bring men to wellness more quickly when it is paired up with God’s grace. Every UTI student experiences the value of hard work with the payoff of joy and satisfaction at the end of a productive day of service. “Big Bertha” will give them that opportunity in a measurable way.

Our students will be much more productive if they work with “Big Bertha.” Yes, we need \$5,000 for the purchase of “Big Bertha, the Baler” and we need your donations of clean, usable clothing. The unused clothes in your closet can keep our students and “Big Bertha” busy all day. Their efforts and your donations will put hot, nutritious meals on our tables, refreshing showers for all and clean sheets on every bed.

Please help us purchase “Big Bertha” and keep her and our students busy with your donations. Bring your donations to the Mission at 2414 Bull Street or call 912-232-1979 to schedule a pick up. Thanks!

Where is Happiness?

Not in unbelief. Voltaire was an infidel of the most pronounced type. He wrote, “I wish I had never been born.”

Not in pleasure. Lord Byron lived a life of pleasure. He wrote, “The worm, the canker and grief are mine alone.”

Not in money. Jay Gould, the American millionaire, had plenty of that. When dying, he said, “I suppose I am the most miserable man on earth.”

Alexander the Great conquered the known world of his day. Having done so, he wept in his tent because, as he said, “There are no more worlds to conquer.”

Where then is there peace and comfort? It is found in the words of the Savior: “Now you are sad, but I will see you again and you will be happy, and no one will take away your joy.” (John 16:22.)

Thank you for helping to provide true happiness for so many in need.

My Thanksgiving Gift

YES, Reverend Jim,
I want to continue to provide food and loving support for those who come through the Mission’s doors.

Here is my 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.
- Please bill my credit card VISA MC AMEX DINERS



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 Thanksgiving donation, or donate online at www.oscm.org. Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.