

the BRIDGE

Building bridges of hope



WINTER ISSUE 2019

OLD SAVANNAH
CITY MISSION



A Hope and a Future

by Taji

Some kids dream of a future playing basketball, acting in movies, or playing music in front of 50,000 people. But you don't have those dreams when your mom is a hopeless drug addict who can't take care of you. When your only "family" is a gang. When your only role models are selling drugs, wearing flashy jewelry, and driving tricked-out cars on the streets of Newark, New Jersey.

My dream was to be a big-time drug dealer like them. Yeah, I was gonna be a kingpin. So, I dropped out of school at 15 and tried to live that life for 18 years.

The problem was, I spent 14 of those 18 years in prison. And after a while, I started to realize that prison ain't no dream. Prison ain't no future.

So, I gave my life to God, and when I got out of prison seven years ago, I tried to do right. But I slowly slipped away, hanging out with the wrong people again. I needed a change, so I moved to Savannah, where I have relatives. But I still messed up. I wasn't living for God and I ended up homeless. I kept bouncing around, stuck, going nowhere. I still couldn't see a future for myself. But I wanted one.

“I started to realize that prison ain't no dream. Prison ain't no future.”

When I heard about Old Savannah City Mission, God got my attention. I knew this is where I had to be. I've been here 15 months now, and God's been dealing with me 24/7 ever since—Bible studies, spiritual counselors, prayer, chapels, and classes. For the first time, I'm learning how to live for Christ, and God's got me on a whole new path to a brand-new future. It's a future all about serving other people. In fact, I start school next month to become a barber, because I can't imagine a better profession to share Christ with others.

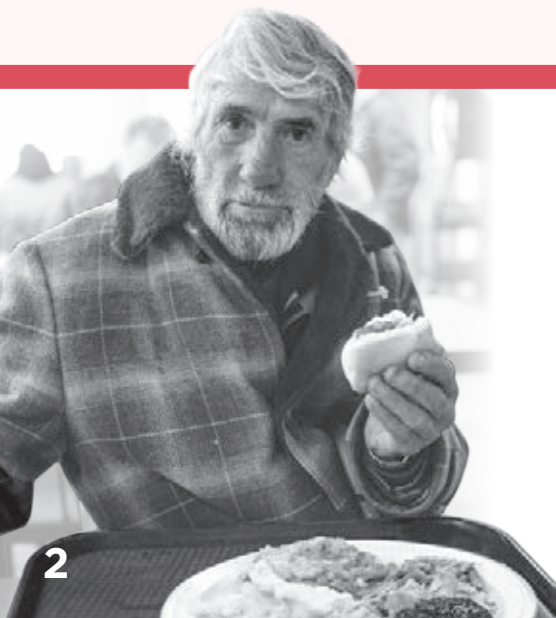
God says, "I know the plans I have for you...plans to give you hope and a future." I found that future here. Thank you for supporting the Old Savannah City Mission.



UTI Students Partner with Kenny Grant Evangelist Ministries

Students in the Old Savannah City Mission Urban Training Institute participate in a 13-month spiritual growth and character development program that is intended to offer relational recovery called Clean Start. Relational recovery identifies failed or broken relationships with God, self, and others as the core issues feeding addictive behaviors. The path to recovery works by placing individuals in an environment where the restoration of these relationships can be cultivated, challenged, and corrected on a daily basis.

To that end, every Friday Clean Start students attend the 6:00 am Band of Brothers Bible study that is sponsored by the Kenny Grant Evangelist Ministries. During this time, over 200 men—ranging in age from teenagers to those in their 90s, from different socioeconomic levels, ethnic groups, and from a wide range of careers including attorneys, judges, business owners, and laborers—meet to sharpen each other, move from success to meaning, addictions to freedom, and selfishness to God's call. The Covenant for the Band of Brothers is to become a follower and brother of Christ and to engage in the battle with other like-hearted men in authentic relationships.



An Encouraging Word from Brother Bill



Dear Friend of Old Savannah City Mission,

With the holiday season around the corner, I want to tell you how much I appreciate your donations, prayer support, and ongoing encouragement for the work God has given us to do at Old Savannah City Mission. Every day, those who come seeking our help have the chance to experience the life-changing power of Jesus Christ.

"Every day, your donations help transform lives for years to come in the name of Jesus."

But every Thanksgiving and Christmas, it seems like people who are hurting are even more open to the Good News that faith in Jesus Christ can change their lives today—and for eternity. This is the season we remind our guests that Jesus is the greatest gift they will ever receive—not only His birth at Christmas, but also his sacrificial death and glorious resurrection, which changed the world forever. And because of the gift of Jesus Christ and His Love, everyone who believes in Him receives the free gift of salvation and the promise of healing and new life.

That's what your support for Old Savannah City Mission really means. Every day, your donations help transform lives for years to come in the name of Jesus.

Thank you for standing with us—not only during this holy season, but throughout the year. And if you haven't visited us at Old Savannah City Mission lately, I invite you to come down and see the difference you're making in the lives of all the precious souls who have found new life in Jesus Christ. May God bless you and your family richly this holiday season. Thank you for being one who cares.

Blessings,

William Stiles, Sr.
Executive Director



Please give the gift of new life to h

It all started on that starry night, when God chose to launch his long-awaited project to reclaim and redeem the world, starting in a humble stable in Bethlehem. That night, through His holy angels, God announced peace on earth and goodwill to all humanity through His Son—our Savior—Jesus Christ.

Today, thanks to caring and compassionate people like you, God continues to offer His peace and goodwill to hurting souls at Old Savannah City Mission. People who were once enslaved to alcohol, drugs, and unspeakable abuse, have found freedom through the King of Kings. Those who've lost their way are now following the One who says follow me.

High on God by Bartholomew

I had an excellent childhood. Two wonderful parents who took care of me, went to church, and taught me to make sure I always take care of business.

I learned those lessons well and that's how I lived my life. After high school, I started working in the restaurant business. I never got married, never hurt anyone, and I never did any hard drugs. Oh, I drank here and there, hanging out with friends, but it was just "social drinking." That's about it.



"I don't want to waste any more time, I want to live for Him."

But as I got older, drinking "here and there" turned into something more than that. I still didn't see it as a problem, though. I figured, I work hard, I'm not bothering anyone, I'm taking care of business. I'm fine.

But earlier this year, I realized I'm not fine. As soon as I wake up in the morning, before I brush my teeth, I'm drinking. On my way to work, I'm drinking a beer. Lunch time, I'm drinking more. And every evening, I'd throw back a six-pack. Every day, day after day, the same thing. I knew I was hurting my health and I was putting myself in some dangerous situations. So I thought, before anything really bad happens, I got to get a grip on this.

I got to get right with God again.

So two months ago, I came here to the Old Savannah City Mission to get my life back on track. Thanks to the spiritual program here, my head's already clearing up, I'm thinking better, and I'm seeing a future for myself I never saw before. I'm planning on going to culinary school to get the certificates I need for a better job.

I've already wasted too much of my life. I don't want to get high on alcohol anymore, I want to get high on God. I don't want to waste any more time, I want to live for Him.

Your support for the Old Savannah City Mission made all this possible for me. Thanks to you, I'm going to be a productive citizen again.

The top causes of homelessness among families are:

1. Lack of affordable housing
2. Unemployment
3. Poverty
4. Low wages

(Source: National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty)

Leading causes of homelessness:

- Poverty
- Eroding job opportunities
- Lack of/decline in public assistance
- Lack of affordable housing
- Lack of affordable health care
- Domestic violence
- Mental illness
- Addiction

(Source: National Coalition for the Homeless)

Please help provide meals, shelter, and life-transforming care to our homeless neighbors at Old Savannah City Mission.

urting souls this Christmas.

Please remember those who are homeless this Christmas

Your gifts to Old Savannah City Mission provide nourishing food, warm clothing, safe shelter—and the promise of God's peace, goodwill, and transforming power to people who need it most. So, this Christmas season, please remember people devastated by homelessness who are seeking hope and a new start.

To keep providing hope to those in need, please use the enclosed remit slip and include it with your donation today. You may also give your gift by visiting us at www.oscm.org. God bless you for reaching out to so many during this holiday season.

"This Christmas season, please remember people devastated by homelessness who are seeking hope and a new start."



Thy Will Be Done...

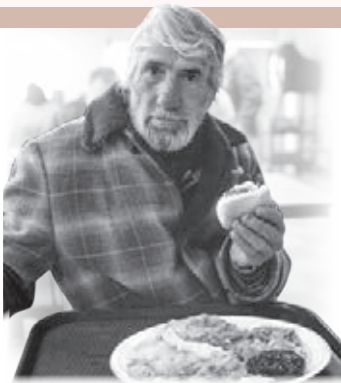
Here are several ways you can remember Old Savannah City Mission:

- 1. Beneficiary:** Name Old Savannah City Mission as the primary or only beneficiary in your will.
- 2. Children:** Name Old Savannah City Mission as one of your “children,” factoring one more child into the division of your will.
- 3. Life Insurance:** Make Old Savannah City Mission the beneficiary of your life insurance policy, and you not only make your premium tax deductible, but you also get to donate that large gift that you’ve always wanted to give!
- 4. Title of Estate:** Specify a percentage of your estate or decide on a specific dollar amount for Old Savannah City Mission to factor into your estate plan.
- 5. Endowment Fund:** Use your estate to set up an endowment fund at Old Savannah City Mission in memory of a loved one or in your own name.
- 6. Appreciated Assets:** Donate any appreciated property, securities, charitable trusts, stocks, or annuities to Old Savannah City Mission. Doing this during your lifetime will reduce the size of your estate, which will reduce estate and inheritance taxes, eliminating capital gains taxes.
- 7. Annuity: Lifetime Income Agreement:** Receive a guaranteed income for life, and help support Old Savannah City Mission’s ministry to hungry and homeless people through a charitable gift annuity.

Call Connell Stiles at 912-232-1979 or e-mail stiles@oscm.org



Did you ever think about including Old Savannah City Mission in your Estate Planning? We know that there may be family members, and other organizations, vying for your attention, your participation, and your donations. However, have you considered how much a blessing you could be to many hungry, hurting, homeless people by naming Old Savannah City Mission in your Estate Planning? Old Savannah City Mission is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service, Department of The Treasury, as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.



My Christmas Gift

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YES, Brother Bill, it’s a privilege to help provide food, shelter, and care for those who come to the Mission this holiday season. **Here’s my gift of:**

- \$21.70** to provide **10** meals and other assistance
- \$32.55** to provide **15** meals and other assistance
- \$65.10** to provide **30** meals and other assistance
- \$ _____** to provide as many meals and 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 donation, or donate online at www.oscm.org. Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.