

HIS HANDS

REACHING HEARTS | CHANGING LIVES

"I AM GLAD IN CHRIST!"

An answered prayer gives Bruce a new life



Restoration and RESURRECTION



Rev. Richard Trickel
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Friend,

Restoration is a word we use often here at The City Mission. However, Easter is on its way, and that brings to mind another very meaningful "R" word: resurrection.

Our Lord's passion and death seemed to be the darkest hour in history, but just three days later His resurrection brought light to the world that will never be extinguished.

Likewise, at The City Mission, men and women come to us at the lowest, darkest points in their lives. As Bruce in this issue of *His Hands* plainly states, "I was dead." It took a lot longer than three days for Bruce to experience his personal resurrection, but God is faithful. When Bruce finally cried out to Him, He answered and restored Bruce's life.

Residents in our Crossroads Men's Crisis Center and at Laura's Home Women's Crisis Center experience answered prayers every day. With your support, they're able to put aside their old lives and become new creations in Christ.

Thank you for reaching out to men, women, and children in need during this season of restoration, renewal, and—most of all—resurrection. I wish you and those you love a blessed Easter!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rev Richard Trickel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

ROMANS 6:4

"DEAD" FOR 54 YEARS, BRUCE IS A NEW MAN IN CHRIST

"I know in my heart that God loves me."

It's like I'm in a new world," says Bruce. Living in his own apartment, cooking hearty meals, and volunteering at The City Mission, he is light years away from sleeping in the woods and eating out of dumpsters. Most of all, Bruce is "a new man in Christ."

Bruce's transformation took almost 54 years. "I started doing drugs at 14. Neighbors on my street would sit on their porch, smoke weed and drink. That was normal." In the years ahead, Bruce used harder drugs, eventually becoming addicted to heroin.

The toast of the town

Bruce lived the high life, working for his grandfather, driving expensive cars, and being "the toast of the town." When his grandfather suffered a severe stroke, it all came crashing down. "I was making half a million dollars a year and I blew it. You can't focus when you're on drugs. I got fired."

Before long, Bruce was selling drugs to survive and went to prison five times. Evicted from his apartment in the middle of winter, Bruce broke into an abandoned garage and took refuge. Later, he says, "I lived down by the creek. I dug a ditch and put leaves or dirty blankets down to sleep."

Answered prayer

Finally, Bruce says, "I just wanted to die." But he couldn't give up so easily. He tried to get into a detox center and was referred to The City Mission. In just a few hours, though, he knew he would be going through heroin withdrawal.

"I prayed all night," Bruce recalls. "I said, 'God, I will change my life, just please don't let me get drug sick.' The morning came and I wasn't sick!"

Bruce persevered in his promise and graduated from our Crossroads program. "This is the best I've felt since I was 14. I know in my heart that God loves me. Before The City Mission, I was dead. Because of The City Mission, I am glad in Christ!"



**"I know in my heart
that God loves me,"
says Bruce.**

Pathways makes the way children with special needs

Here at Laura's Home, all kids are special. However, some of the boys and girls in the Pathways program have special emotional, physical, and educational needs, often caused or complicated by their homelessness.

When children up to age five arrive at Laura's Home, they are given a play-based assessment to establish their level of interaction with peers and adults and determine whether they have any special needs. Older children (up to age 17) are assessed primarily on reading, interpersonal, and other skills.

Christina Hahn, Family Ministry Coordinator, tells us that the assessments are a huge step forward

in serving children in Pathways. "All children who have a special need, developmental delay, or mental health need are referred for services in a fast, timely manner," she says.

Partners in development

Staff members refer clients to the Centers for Families and Children, Bright Beginnings, OhioGuidestone, OhioGuidestone PLAY Project, and PALS for Healing. Through these agencies and programs, children with autism, Asberger's syndrome, speech and language delays, and other disorders get the individualized attention they need to thrive in social and educational settings.



"It's a safe place for children to learn about Jesus, while having a great time."

y straight for ds

Mothers at Laura's Home take an active role in the assessments and referrals, and then in their children's ongoing development. According to Christina, this gives them a sense of independence and autonomy that many women in shelters don't normally experience. All appointments are conducted onsite at Laura's Home and the hours count towards completion of the program.

An outpouring of support

Children traumatized by past abuse and suffering from depression and anxiety benefit greatly from Pathways' quarterly family-oriented activities. Last year, families enjoyed, at no cost, a visit to the I-X Indoor Amusement Park, a fourth of July celebration, a "drive-in" movie night at Laura's Home, and a trip to the Cleveland Natural History Museum.

The community has been very generous in the past year, providing \$8,500 in grants for weighted blankets, noise-canceling headphones, alternative seating, fidgeting tools, and sensory sox that help comfort children with special needs and developmental delays.

Christina tells us that the Cleveland Police Department volunteers bi-weekly with youth in the Pathways Program, building beneficial relationships with the children and their families. In addition, PNC Bank employees provided 373 volunteer hours of child care. A new mentorship program is also currently underway.



SPECIAL NEEDS BY THE NUMBERS

In the past fiscal year, Laura's Home served 106 families with a total of 275 children. Of those 275 children, 140 received long-term developmental intervention or mental health/trauma counseling. Sadly, 73 children came directly from an environment of domestic violence.

This outpouring of community support, along with your gifts, helps all of the youth in the Pathways program to build a brighter future. Christina relates, "The youth have been very excited to come to Pathways. It's a safe place for children to learn about Jesus, while having a great time."

Save the Dates

Stand In for homeless children

What will we stand for?

There are 2,972 children attending Cleveland Metropolitan School District by day that struggle with a life of homelessness by night. These children are fighting to escape a cycle of poverty. The daily struggle for them and their families includes trying to fit in and avoid the stigma, which is why this crisis goes tragically unseen.

How can you join us?

On Saturday, June 29th, you can help make Cleveland aware of this need in a way that is impossible to ignore. 3,000 people will gather at Public Square to "Stand In" for these children. Our goal is to not just raise awareness, but to unite together and turn that awareness into action. Visit our website for more details and to connect.

Stand with us on Saturday, June 29th at Public Square
www.thecitymission.org/stand-in

OUR BOARD

Trustees

Brian F. Broadbent
Chair

Theodore A. Wagner
Treasurer

Emmett Robinson
Secretary

Mark F. Alder

Kate Bang

William Beattie

Phillip Bell

Sandy Chochola

Christine Elliott

Art Hall

Geoff Himes

Deforia Lane, PhD

Karen Shaw Nelson

Robert H. Rowland

Robin Thomas

Keith Vanderburg

Wayne K. Walker

John Zaller

Emeritus Members

Walter L. Baker

Rev. Harry Banfield
Director Emeritus

William P. Barrett, Jr.

Joseph A. Campanella

RUNNING WITH A MISSION

5K 1-MILE WALK AT CLEVELAND METROPARKS ZOO

Admission to Zoo & The Rainforest
Race T-Shirt (must register by 6/3)
Free Kids' Dash
Post-Race Refreshments
DJ, Photobooth, Games & More



SATURDAY, JUNE 15

REGISTER TODAY!

www.thecitymission.org/run

Presented by



RIDE WITH A MISSION 2019



**SATURDAY
SEPT 7
10AM TO 3PM**

WWW.THECITYMISSION.ORG/RIDE

3 WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

\$35/RIDER
\$60/RIDER & PASSENGER
\$25/AFTER PARTY ONLY

- T-SHIRT
- PATCH
- MEAL
- DOOR PRIZES
- 1 IRON 1200™
RAFFLE TICKET



REGISTER TO WIN
2019 HARLEY-DAVIDSON®



**THE
CITY MISSION**

REACHING HEARTS | CHANGING LIVES

5310 Carnegie Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44103
216.431.3510

www.thecitymission.org

Providing help and hope
to all people through
the transforming power
of God's love



CITYGATE™ MISSION
NETWORK MEMBER

Welcome to gospel-powered life transformation

