

Mission . . . POSSIBLE!

January 2011

A Quarterly Newsletter from the



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Executive Director

In 2 Corinthians 2:12 we read "Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and found that the Lord had opened a door for me." God has opened a door for ministry here at the Flint Eastside Mission. We have obtained a building at 2722 Franklin that will work well for our lunch ministry, making it handicap accessible. No more stairs up and down for lunch. We are having more people come for lunch and see many new faces each week. In order to help people hear the truth of the gospel of Christ we are sharing for just a few minutes from the scripture before we pray for the meal each day and it has been well received. This is a work in progress and we are in need of \$100,000.00 for the remodeling to be complete. I know this is a huge request but I

also know that God has the means through His obedient people as we reach out with His love to the Eastside.



EXCITING NEWS:

I hope that by the time you receive this you are aware of the new (actually old) building we have acquired on Franklin that we really want to use as our new lunch building. We have to raise \$100,000.00 to remodel and bring the building up to a usable condition. Over 7% of the funds needed have been raised at this point; so, you can see we have a long ways to go. This building will give us great opportunities for adding to the ministry of the Eastside Mission in the years to come. I believe that God is not finished with the advancement of the Eastside Mission but is willing to do some great things through this ministry. We will be using volunteers wherever possible, but due to city and state regulations. we need to use properly licensed personnel for some of the major projects. One important focus of this project is to make sure we do our best to renovate the

building so it is easy to heat and clean. I will eventually need volunteers to install insulation, rough in the walls, install drywall and finish the drywall. I can also use volunteers for installation of the dropped ceiling when we get ready. I have no idea at this point what the time line will be for this work. Demolition is the present project.

CHRISTMAS PARTY:



Our annual Christmas party was held on Saturday December 18th and people were lined up at the Christmas house (clothing house) ready for the gifts we had for them. Children and parents were lined up before 9:00 a.m. and waited until we opened at 11:00 to let them in. I was in the clothing house and watched the volunteers take a bag and a child's hand and walk them through the rooms with the gifts. I saw the children's eyes light up as they were able to choose a couple of gifts from the tables and shelves. We had more people for lunch this year than we have had in the past, over 470, and over 450 going through the gift house.

CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEER:

Each Christmas we hustle about trying to stir up some volunteers to help and donors to send us new gifts for distribution in the clothing house. One person heads up the arrangement and set-up for the gift distribution. Our friend Ruth Hubbard is a gem and her contribution to the Christmas party is amazing.

Ruth is at the far left in this picture, and as you can see, she is surrounded by Christmas presents waiting for the children. Ruth is a blessing to the mission and works very hard the week of the Christmas

party to make sure everything is set up right so the gift



house operates smoothly. Thank you, Ruth, for your help and your love for the people (especially the children) that come to celebrate Christmas with the Eastside Mission.

“BENEATH THE CHRISTMAS TREE”

The families of Flint's Eastside Mission, as well as several others, were treated to a special night of food, music, and gifts on December 10th. The Gospelmen in conjunction with several corporate and individual sponsors presented the Christmas story in a musical format that was spectacular. Nearly one hundred individuals boarded two of the Blue Lakes Charter buses and headed to the Richfield Church of the Nazarene. Here, dinner was provided and was followed by a concert that told and exemplified the true meaning of Christmas. Children were remembered with special gifts and hearts were touched as the music brought back memories and helped to create new ones.

FEINSTEIN FUNDING FOR FLINT EASTSIDE MISSION

Each year the Feinstein Foundation donated \$1M to those non-profit organizations that feed and cloth those in need. Your help in giving us higher donations during March and April again this year will be greatly appreciated. (Please know that we will need donations in January and February to keep our finances in line.) This is always a time of year when increased donations are needed so please help us at this time. We will receive our portion of the \$1M distribution about the end of July. In 2010 we received over \$300.00.

VG's RECEIPTS:

You may have heard that VG's is changing their community rewards program. Beginning January 9th if you have not signed up for their '**Vg's Yes Rewards**' you will not get the community rewards at the bottom of your receipt. You also must use your card every time you make a purchase at VG's to get the community rewards. We appreciate your donations of the community rewards and hope you will be able to continue to send them to us. In December we received a check from VG's for \$142.00, thanks to your receipt contribution to us.

LIVES CHANGED:

One of the blessings we have here at the mission is when we see lives changed and people beginning to really put God first. One woman who comes to the mission quite regularly is a woman who has had a rather difficult life. Since she has been coming to the mission, volunteers have taken an interest in her, talked to her and encouraged her whenever possible. Recently I have found out that she is attending New Life Church on Sunday afternoons and it is having a noticeable impact on her life. She comes in to help and is willing to do whatever needs to be done. I talked to her as we were waiting for the bus to take the guests to the Gospelmen's Christmas Concert. She had such a good attitude and was looking forward to the concert and the Holidays in general. She is one of those people that is really enjoyable to talk with and I believe God is going to use her in this area. With the prayer that is being focused on this area in Flint, I believe we will see more and more people

reaching out to God. We can only experience the working of God if we are trusting, praying and honoring God with our words and deeds. God cares for all of His creation and our station in life has no bearing on God's love nor on His call to repentance. *"...you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of salvation."* Ephesians 1:13a NIV



Pastor's Corner

By: Pastor Bob Cattane

Happy New year

Does it seem possible that 2010 has passed by already. I know people that thought that Jesus would return before we got to another year. Of one thing we can be sure, His return is closer than when we started 2010.

With the New Year many people are making New Year's resolutions. I would like to encourage you to begin this year with a new pledge of support for the Flint Eastside Mission as we work to bring the life-changing message of salvation through Jesus Christ to one of the most desperate areas of the City. Someone recently drove through this part of Flint and commented that it looked like bombed out Baghdad. There are burned out and empty homes and former business buildings throughout the neighborhood. One sees holes where homes used to sit on basements or vacant lots. Some city blocks have more empty or burned out buildings than homes people legally live in. The homeless population calls some of those abandoned homes home. Some of those homes house the people we see every day at the lunch-room. Jesus said "work while it is day for the night cometh..." We want to be working to build the Kingdom **NOW**, while we can still work. Wouldn't it be great to see one of God's outpourings of the Holy Spirit on the City of Flint and surrounding area? God is willing, we must be faithful.

The ministry here continues to explode The children's church. which is being housed in St, Mary's Catholic school which we are renting, is going great. We have started a junior high class with much success. We have purchased a new van to add to our current fleet for pick-ups. We have started a disciple class with 50% of the congregation attending. We are continuing our evangelism throughout the winter. God has given us a very aggressive vision. We are uniting with several churches as well as different denominations to spark a revival in Flint. We believe a country-wide revival will start in the inner city with the less fortunate. We have faith that God can return Flint back to where it used to be when churches were filled and it was a great place to live. More and more people continue to come on board with this vision and as God is increasing here, the bad things that make Flint famous will decrease

One of the empty burned out homes awaiting demolition in the neighborhood





P. O. Box 90238
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Stamp

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Meet a Mission Friend

This is an opportunity to introduce a new friend of the mission. Avis came to us for the first time on November 16th, obviously finding it hard to ask for help in her time of need, a new experience for her.

For the past 6 months her income has been reduced over 50% due to a paperwork error that did not want to be corrected. She has been forced to begin looking to food pantries and friends for the help she needs to get through this time. She has sought prayer, encouragement and love from those she knows and at times, even new places like the Eastside Mission Food Pantry.

Avis says that God has taught her humility and the necessity to rely on Him for her every need. She had to do the footwork to get this financial problem fixed, but God is teaching her to trust Him for the restoration of her financial support. Avis has been a Christian since she was 16. Even though there have been some tough times, she is still trusting God to bring about His will in her life. With Avis at the food pantry was a friend, Janie. Janie has been her constant prayer support and friend through this time of difficulty. Together they have tried to give back by volunteering at various food banks in the area.

Pray with us that Avis will be able to get her financial support straightened out soon.

A donation to the Flint Eastside Mission. From my heart to yours.

NAME: _____

All donations to the Flint Eastside Mission are tax
Deductible and qualify for the State of Michigan
tax credit.

ADDRESS: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ DONATION AMOUNT \$ _____