

# Mission . . . POSSIBLE!

January 2009

A Quarterly Newsletter from the  
Celebrating 15 years! 1994-2009



## Notes from the Director...

By: Rev. Roger Lutze, Executive Director

### SUCH LOVE – SUCH WONDEROUS LOVE:

That old gospel song reminds us that it is the LOVE of GOD that gives our life meaning. I hope we never begin to take the LOVE of GOD for granted – to allow the wonder of that love to begin to feel common.

It is amazing to me the capacity of love that we can have if we will only open our hearts and allow GOD to fill us with HIS LOVE.

It was the LOVE of GOD that sent HIS SON, JESUS that night so long ago to the little town of Bethlehem. Born of a virgin, to live as man. Totally man and at the same time totally GOD. What wonder, what love! So many in our society don't understand that GOD so loved us that He gave HIS only SON.

Somehow there are a great number of people in our society who have lost their way and don't know how to get back. They have had little if any teaching from the Word of God, few positive experiences with Christians and the church, and no great memories of Sunday School or Bible School. Is there a way out of this despair? YES! JESUS is the WAY the TRUTH and the LIFE if any man comes to him he will in no way cast him out. What a great promise that is and we have this good news to tell the world.

At the Flint Eastside Mission we take this responsibility very seriously. We are here to tell others of the love and real life that we all can have through JESUS CHRIST. JESUS has come to set us free – free from the bondage of sin and the guilt of sin so we can live life and live it more abundantly. This abundant life may have nothing to do with financial riches but everything to do with a clean conscience and the joy of the LORD in all we do.

This LOVE of GOD knows no boundaries and is not inhibited by past sin. God is not

someone who is prejudiced by skin color or language and he is always open to hear us pray. Not only does he hear our prayer but he also answers our prayers. Praise be to the God of Glory. The one who LOVED us first.

## A NEW MAILING ADDRESS...

**Please take note!**

Flint Eastside Mission  
P.O. Box 90238  
Burton, MI 48509

This was a necessary change for Mission security.

## Thanksgiving Dinner...

By: Sammi Justice

The Thanksgiving dinner held on Thanksgiving day was a big hit! There was a visit from a very odd looking character.



Pastor Bob Cattane, Pastor Marv Gerbig and  
"The Turkey"

A great time was had by all, as our new cook, Ed, conquered his first Thanksgiving meal at Eastside Mission. Just over 250 meals were served. Thanks to all the volunteers that came out to help. Also, thanks to Richfield church of the Nazarene that provided 30 pumpkin pies for dessert!

## Christmas Dinner...

By: Sammi Justice

Ahhh the joy of Christmas! This is by far my favorite "big dinner" that we do at the Mission. It's probably the most work too. I had the opportunity to help organize the clothing house to be transformed into the gift shop this year. At least that's what they told me I was doing! I don't know if I really made a dent or not those few hours I was there. . .



This picture doesn't come close to showing the HUNDREDS of gifts that came in to be given out!

As always, there was a special visitor and his wife!



Who's enjoying this more?

Special thanks, as usual, to Zabrina – "The Cake Lady". Truly a "chip off the 'ol block", Zondra gives willingly to the Mission – just like Pastor Bill and Barb (her mom and dad).



"The Cake Lady" and her cakes!



"You want sugar in that coffee?"

In all, 314 meals were served, and people were lined up an hour ahead of time to go through the gift house!

Also, something really cool happened to those working in the gift shop/clothing house this year. The following is a brief account as relayed to us through Ruth Ann Hubbard, who organizes the gifts each year:

"A little girl came into the Christmas gift house shortly after we opened. She was wearing a light jacket and large boots. Ruth Ann with the help of those volunteers at the party found her a new coat, hat and gloves. That wasn't all she needed though. Those boots that were too large had caused blisters on the little girl's feet so Ruth Ann and her helpers then set about finding several pairs of socks for her and a new pair of boots that were her size and also a pair of shoes. This was one little girl among the many that left the Christmas gift house warm and happy because of the gifts sent to us that we distributed this year. Thank you for participating in our Christmas dinner and gift distribution for 2008.

## Mission Word of Thanks...

By: Rev. Roger Lutze

We want to thank those who have made sacrificial donations to the Eastside Mission this past quarter. We received donations of turkeys for Thanksgiving and hams for Christmas from friends of the Mission. We also received 275 turkeys to distribute from the Landaal family at our Christmas party on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

What a great surprise for the people who come to the Eastside for lunch. On Tuesday December 9<sup>th</sup> we had a great group of the Flint Generals Hockey players come and help prepare and serve the lunch. Many autographs were given

and they gave us some tickets to one of their games.

December brought a lot of help our way and we are very appreciative of Hurley's Surgeon's Services coming in on December 10<sup>th</sup> to serve lunch and they brought dessert and drinks to serve as well. We had some really good helpers on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

## A NEW YEAR ... A NEW BUDGET...

By: Rev. Roger Lutze

As we begin the New Year we are thankful for all the donations of food clothing and money we received from you our friends. Thank you! We are now at the beginning of 2009 and none of us know what a New Year will hold. Remember the concerns of 2000? With the New Year now here, I have taken on a new verse for 2009, Jeremiah 32:17 "Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and your outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you."

Our budget will be one of holding the line on spending as much as possible. We are trusting that with God's help you will continue to be a part of our body of support.

## Something New...

By: Rev. Roger Lutze

With this edition of "**Mission . . . Possible**" we are adding a new feature. We will be listing the names all those who were honored with a donation in memorial. This quarter we received donations in memory of the following: "Ruthie" Maxwell, Mary Ross, Garnet Martin, and Imogene George.

## VG's Receipts...

By: Rev. Roger Lutze

If you shop at VG's you may be familiar with the section at the bottom of your receipt that says, "Community Share points." If you would send us those bottom sections of your VG's receipts we can collect them and then VG's will make a donation to the Mission based on the number of points we collect. Just send them to:

Flint Eastside Mission  
P.O. Box 90238  
Burton, MI 48509



## Pastor's Corner...

By: Pastor Bob Cattane

New Life church here at the Eastside Mission continues to grow. We continue to develop new ministries. We have seen tremendous growth in men, women, teens, and children in this area. The lost continue to be found and God continues to give sight to the blind. We now have a full pastoral staff. We also have, for the first time, a church board. I am so proud of the people here and how in the midst of their storm they are showing such tremendous faith. We have even begun budgeting a set amount each month to the Mission. God is showing us what happens when we keep Him in the center of everything we do. Everything God has said would happen has happened. Our Friday prayer meetings have brought us closer to God than we have ever been. I know God has an awesome plan for this place and if we will remain faithful and wait on Him, He will not let us down. In His service,  
Pastor Bob

## Stats ...

Meals served:

September	1,557
October	1,940
November	2,100

Pounds of food from Food Bank of Eastern MI:

September	18,300
October	14,000 in the food truck & 4,822 lbs bought directly
November	16,273 lbs in the food truck & 6,038 lbs bought directly

People fed through our pantry:

September	713
October	535
November	631

Clothing distribution:

September	245
October	230
November	245

Baby formula/diapers

September	18/49
October	14/77
November	13/96



1829 Delaware  
Flint, MI 48506

Stamp

## **Everyone has a Story ...**

By: Sammi Justice

I've been working at the Eastside Mission for over three years now. In that time, I've learned one very valuable lesson: everyone has a story. Whether it be that they've hit hard times, experienced great loss, or are struggling with an addiction, there's always a reason that drives people to the Eastside to the Mission.

One man that I've developed a friendship with is Tim. Tim comes to the Mission almost daily for a hot meal and a smile. Recently, I had a chance to sit down and have a nice long chat with him. He mentioned that he'd recently found a niece that he'd lost touch with for a few years. That brought a big smile! Tim talked about how he had practically raised this niece when she was little.

Currently, Tim is staying in an abandoned house. He has no income. He joked that if he could just live long enough, he could draw a pension from his job from years ago. I asked him what had happened to change his life so drastically. His answer: "People started dying." He got real serious for a moment and told me something that I'll never forget. He said: "Don't ever take for granted what you have, especially family. Because if you wait until they're all gone, you'll realize just how much you had." He then went on to tell me that the people at the Mission was all he had, and how much he looks forward to spending time there each day.

His words have haunted me. Do I take the blessings that God has given me for granted? Do I take my family for granted? My prayer is that I don't take what I have for granted. Furthermore, I pray that God will use me, and what He's given me for His glory!