

MISSION Update



Washington Street
MISSION

408 N. FOURTH STREET • SPRINGFIELD, IL 62702 • (217) 544-9011

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MINISTRIES GROW AS WE CELEBRATE 100 YEARS

This has been a special year at Washington Street Mission as we are celebrating 100 years of ministry in the city of Springfield. We have tried to include as many people as possible in the celebration. As the number of people coming to the Mission in the mornings for coffee and doughnuts has steadily increased, we have reminded them that this ministry began in 1910 and has continued ever since. People coming for clothing have also been reminded of the Mission's rich heritage.

When we tell the children in the afterschool tutoring program that the Mission is 100 years old, we try to explain that we are not personally 100 years old. Despite some misunderstanding about our age, they do seem to appreciate some of the tradition that the Mission represents.

As the various ministries of the Mission continue to expand and reach more people, we have striven to remain faithful to the desire of those who established the Mission to proclaim the Gospel in a tangible way.

We can continue to reach out to people in need in Springfield only with your help. Please give generously to continue to support this ministry as we look forward to the next 100 years.

VIDEO PRESENTATIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

A number of people have asked about the availability of the video presentations that were shown at the Mission's 100th anniversary banquet. We are happy to announce that all three videos are now available on our website. Just go to the website at www.WSMission.org and look for the links to these videos. Please feel free to use them in your church or small group to show what is happening here.

"WSM History Highlights" is 5 minutes long and includes both historic and current photos of Mission ministries.

"A Day in the Life of the Mission" is about 10 minutes long and features a time-lapse view of the hectic pace of Mission ministries, including coffee hours, clothing distribution and the afterschool tutoring program.

"WSM 100 Years" is about 8 minutes long. It narrates the history of the Mission and includes interviews with long-time Board member Thomas Kay and Director of Men's Ministries Danny Yocum.

COFFEE DONATIONS NOW NEEDED

Almost all of the coffee served during the morning neighborhood coffee and doughnut hours at the Mission is donated by individuals and churches who understand the importance of supporting this ministry.

As the number of people we serve has increased to an average of over 150 per day, we have started to fall behind on coffee donations to meet this increased demand. Occasionally we are forced to purchase coffee to maintain the supply. Perhaps you can help with this need by donating an additional can of coffee or encouraging your church or small group to become involved in this effort. Your help will be appreciated.



Activities for children during the summer months are an important part of the afterschool tutoring program. The children look at photos from the previous summer and look forward to the activities the next summer will bring. It motivates them all year. Here the children lick their mixing spoons while they wait for their brownies to cook. We try to expand their horizons and help them enjoy new experiences, while building significant relationships with them.

NEW HEATING AND COOLING UNITS BEING INSTALLED

A major upgrade of the heating and cooling units in the chapel and coffee hall areas of the Mission is underway. The old units have been failing for several years and have become increasingly costly to run and difficult to maintain.

The new units are expected to cost between \$6000 and \$8000, including the cost of installation and mounting the cooling units on the roof. The new equipment will be more energy efficient and better protected from theft and vandalism. Copper piping has been stolen from the old units several times over the past few years.

This upgrade will be a significant cost for the Mission. If you would like to contribute directly to the cost of this project, simply designate your gift for this purpose. You can make this designation on the donation card or on the memo line of your check. As always, your generous support is appreciated.



We don't usually show photos of the back of the Mission, but many of our guests spend lots of time outside and in alleys like this. The backpacks and the snow in this photo remind us that winter is coming again and even more people will need a warm, peaceful place to get off the streets for a while.

JESUS SHED TEARS FOR THE CITY

A beautiful limited-edition lithograph was recently donated to the Mission. Now hanging in the front entryway, the painting entitled "O Jerusalem" by artist Greg Olsen depicts Jesus looking over the city of Jerusalem with tears in his eyes.

The painting is an attempt to visualize the scene described in Luke 19:41-42. "As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, 'If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace – but now it is hidden from your eyes.' "

A similar scene in Matthew 23:37 describes Jesus saying, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing."

Looking at the painting, it struck me that Jesus' response to the unbelief and defiant rebellion of the people of the city was not anger or judgment, but sorrow. It made him sad to see the people refusing to listen to his message, turning their backs on the truth that could bring them peace

Too often we are tempted to be angry when we see people choosing a life of sin. We want to give up on people who are wasting their lives and refusing to turn to the truth of Jesus.

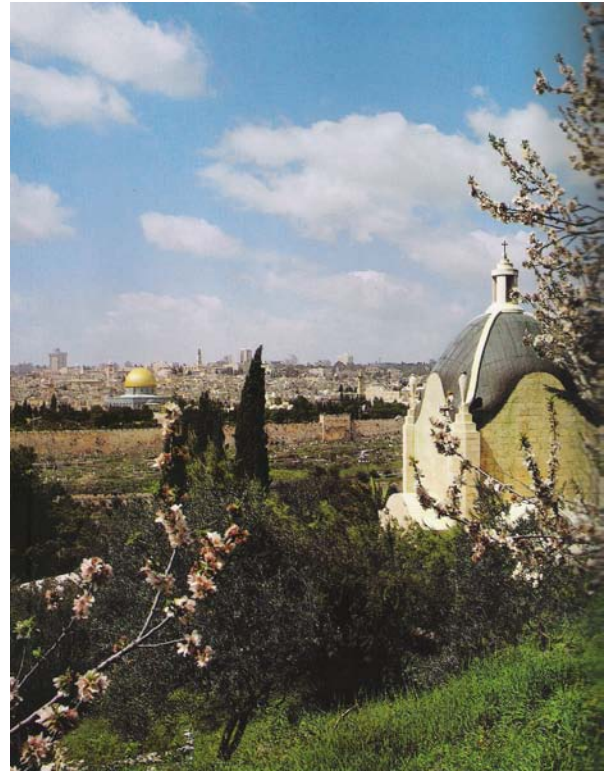
OUR MISSION

To share the love of Jesus Christ with the people of Springfield by providing opportunities that meet their spiritual and physical needs.

We could learn a lot by watching Jesus cry over the city, feeling his heart of compassion and love, knowing that he is always ready to welcome those who open their eyes and turn to him as their Savior and Lord.

As I looked at the painting, I was also reminded of something written by Brennan

The chapel in the foreground of this photograph marks the traditional location of the place where Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem. It is intended to be shaped like a teardrop and is known as *dominus flevit*, Latin for "the Lord wept." This is the site depicted in the lithograph.



Manning: "Every time the Gospels mention that Jesus was moved with deep emotion for people, they show that it led him to do something – physical or inner healing, deliverance or exorcism, feeding the hungry crowds or intercessory prayer. Above all it moved him to dispel distorted images of who he is and who God is, to lead people out of darkness into light. Jesus' compassion moved him to tell the story of God's love." [*The Rabbi's Heartbeat* (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2003), page 84.]

Everyday men and women come into the Mission who need to know something of God's love. They need to sense our tears and feel our compassion for them, instead of hearing words of judgment and condemnation. Let's look for ways to follow the example of our Savior's tears over the city.

MISSION STAFF AT THE ANNIVERSARY BANQUET



Most of the members of the Mission staff are pictured here, at the banquet celebrating the Mission's 100th anniversary. They include, from left to right, *Danny Yocum*, director of men's ministries, who has served at the transition house since its opening in 2002; *Shana Stine* who worked with children and youth at the Mission until leaving earlier this year to work with an orphanage in Kenya, Africa; *Ken Mitchell*, executive director, and *Mary Lynn Mitchell*, associate director, who have led the Mission's ministries since 1999; *Jim Medley* who coordinates the morning neighborhood coffee hours every weekday at the Mission; and *Scott Brindley* who serves as the Mission's chaplain. The other paid staff member Scott Wilcoxson who handles cleaning and maintenance tasks at the Mission did not attend the banquet.

THANKSGIVING BRINGS SPECIAL REMINDERS TO US

The Thanksgiving season reminds us that God has been faithful to Washington Street Mission for over 100 years. We thank him for his faithfulness. We also thank him for the excellent team of staff members he has brought to the Mission to work in the various ministries here. We thank him for the many volunteers and for all of the donors who have given so consistently and so generously over the years to support the ministry here.

It's good to remember and to express our thankfulness to the source of all the blessings we experience, to remember that every good and perfect gift comes from above.

We are also thankful for the unique opportunities we experience at this time of the year. We are able to extend our outreach to people in need in unique ways during the Thanksgiving season.

The holiday is the occasion for a special dinner at our men's transition house and with the children and tutors in the afterschool program. Both groups look forward to these special dinners every year.

Visit us online at
www.WSMission.org

We will also deliver Thanksgiving food baskets to a number of the families of the children and youth who participate in Mission programs. The baskets are provided during the week before Thanksgiving as part of a community-wide program. We are thankful for these special ministry opportunities.