



*"Thank you, Lord, for saving my soul.
Thank you, Lord, for making me whole."*

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November 2011

Dear Friends:

We often sing this old "Thank you, Lord" song with the children in the afterschool program at the Mission, particularly at mealtimes. They know that they have a lot to be thankful for -- volunteer tutors who come to help them, good food, friends, families, a support system at the Mission, and especially the love of Jesus.

Like the children, we have many reasons to sing "Thank you, Lord" as well. He continues to provide the resources needed to operate the Mission. He provides strength and courage for the staff here and volunteers to help in so many ways. He continues to provide opportunities for us to minister to people in need. He gives us the right words to say in difficult circumstances. He graciously opens his Word to us and enables us to share it with others.



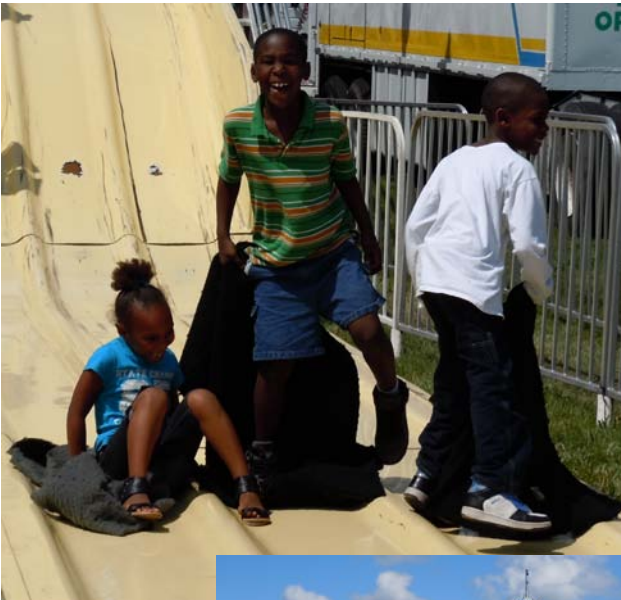
Some of the regular guests during our morning coffee hours, like these three, have been coming to the Mission for years. They develop close friendships and find support here. The woman on the left recently died suddenly after an epileptic seizure. We never know when we will be seeing someone for the last time and have our final opportunity to talk with them about Jesus.

As we look around during the morning coffee hours at the Mission and see so many people in need, we are sometimes almost overwhelmed. We are currently averaging over 150 people here each morning and we are seeing an increasing number of people with serious mental health needs, addictions, physical and medical problems and deep spiritual issues. Still, we are thankful to God for the ministry he has given us.

Your faithful support is essential to continue the ministry here. Please give as generously as you can especially during this Thanksgiving season.

Sincerely,

Kenneth E. Mitchell
Executive Director



Spending an afternoon at the Sangamon County Fair, the children enjoyed the giant slide and a boat ride. They watched motorcycle tricks and stood on top of the biggest piece of farm equipment they had ever seen (the tires were huge).



Holding a chicken at a farm is a new experience for one of the children (and it's a little scary). They were also able to milk a goat, pet a horse and eat some goat's milk ice cream.

Summer Fun

A variety of summer activities enrich and motivate the children involved in the Mission's afterschool tutoring program. When they have trouble concentrating on homework during the school year, they often tell each other, "You may not be able to do summer fun next summer." They look forward to activities like these all year.



The children pose on the stone turtle after visiting the zoo.



A hot sunny afternoon at the home of a long-time tutor included swimming in the pool, roasting hot dogs over a fire and making sticky, gooey s'mores. The children really enjoyed the swimming (it was difficult to get them out of the pool).

