



5K Run 2K Walk



Father and daughter finish together!



Tommy Barron emcees!

Our 5 K is now history for 2017. We would like to thank the Runners, walkers, helpers and sponsors. Event sponsors were; WesBanco Bank, Inc., Summit Transport & Environmental, South Ridge Church, Kettering Investment Strategies,

Conley CPA Group, PLLC, Crystal Jacquez, REALTOR, GRI, GREEN, J. Phillip Burton, Financial Advisor -- Summit Brokerage Services. It takes many hands to make this event a success, thank you to all!

Awaiting the start of the race.



IN MAY 2017

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| |
|---------------------|
| 4387 Meals Served |
| 1228 Nights Lodging |
| 7 Men In Program |
| 5 Women In Program |
| 4 Families |
| 9 Children |

| |
|----------------------------------|
| 18 Crossroads Men and Women |
| 164 Items of Clothing Given Away |
| 6 Pieces of Furniture |
| 4 Household Items |



DIRECTOR'S CORNER



*George E. Batten
Executive Director*

The recent development of the war on homelessness in Fairmont illustrates the very core of the misunderstanding of homeless ministry. Union Mission is not primarily a social service agency. Union Mission is a recovery program for homeless people. In the course of ministry we find ourselves involved in social services. If we have given the impression that we are just a homeless shelter we apologize. We believe in recovery first.

Recovery first means we believe that homelessness has a root cause. We further believe that addressing this root cause will enable homeless people to recover and maintain housing. When short cuts are taken the homeless suffer. We are not, nor have ever been a government agency and we do not build on government funding.

The Association of Gospel Rescue Mission (AGRM) is a loose knit association of Gospel Rescue Missions. The Association does a yearly snapshot survey. The latest survey had 85 Mis-

sions responding that included 15,962 individuals. What the survey said was that an average of 35% seeking services at these Missions was homeless for the very first time. The average is over 5 years. This also means 65% of the homeless visiting Rescue Missions across this nation are chronically homeless, 32% percent have a mental illness, 12% were veterans and 80% want a spiritual emphasis.

Union Mission is here to provide the physical and spiritual bread of life. Real life change happens through Jesus Christ. You cannot force people to accept Christ but people cannot come to Christ unless someone points them to Christ.

Since 1872 Rescue Missions have been at the forefront of homeless ministry. Since 1937 Union Mission has been at the forefront in Fairmont WV. Why have we not been able to solve this homeless problem? People are becoming homeless for the first time at a rate of 35%. That glaring number points to a societal problem and not a failure of our ministry. Government services cannot stem the tide of homelessness because they cannot address the spiritual problems that lead to homelessness - problems like addiction.

Because of our unique outlook, we are poised for Ministry into the next decade. Matt 25:40 "...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

WEST VIRGINIA RESCUE MINISTRIES, INC.

2017

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Client Finding Hope

By Brandon Rohrbacher

“And He said: ‘Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.’” (Matthew 18:3, NIV)

These are the words Jesus spoke to His disciples when they asked Him who the greatest in the Kingdom would be. He answers by pulling a child aside and explaining that the greatest in the Kingdom will be one who is like a child. There are many applications that can be drawn from this, but one that stands out among the rest for me is the need we have for complete dependence upon God. A child has complete trust in their parents. They put all of their hope and all of their confidence in their parents. This is the way you and I must receive the Kingdom. We must lay down all of the good things we try to do to earn the Kingdom and receive it as little children, with complete dependence upon the grace of Christ.

The need for self-surrender, is important for all of us. It is uniquely crucial for the individual who is recovering from addiction and other life-dominating problems. Unless they are willing to come to the end of themselves and recognize their great need for help, they can never find victory over their struggles. A male resident in our Genesis Recovery Program is discovering this truth in his second-round at the Mission, and this has caused him to depend more on Christ this time. Through discussions with our Men’s Service Coordinator, this man has expressed many times his powerlessness over his addictions and his great need for Christ to set him free.

During a recent conversation with the Men’s Coordinator, this male client was asked what it means to be a Christian. The resident responded with answers like, “reading the Bible,” “going to church,” and “doing the right thing.” I find his answers intriguing because I believe these are the types of answers we give sometimes. We forget the amazing grace of God that motivates us towards good works and instead we focus on the works themselves. Our Men’s Coordinator proceeded to explain the gospel of Jesus Christ to this resident. The resident nodded along and his eyes seemed to be lighting up throughout the conversation. When asked if the resident wanted to put his faith in Jesus and live for him the resident responded, “Yes, I do.” The resident then agreed in prayer that God would help him to learn to live as His child from this day forward. Let’s pray for him and let’s pray along with him, that we too would continue to receive the Kingdom as little children.

Matt 25:40 “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

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NEEDS LIST

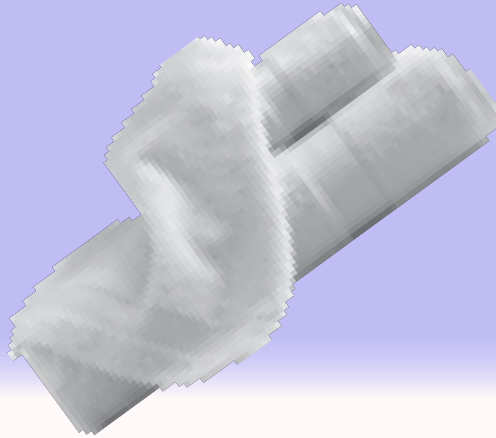
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