

# Paul's Ponderings

Pure is an interesting word and used in so many ways today. At its core it means something that is not mixed with any other substance or material, free of contamination, and without any extraneous and unnecessary elements.



Paul Stasi  
Executive Director

# PURE

Purity, according to biblical language, is to be morally clean, without blemish, or as above, free from contamination. Purity was essential in Old Testament sacrifices – meaning the sacrifice had to be physically perfect, without blemish or fault. Anything less than that was unacceptable to the Holy and Perfect God. That is why only Jesus could be that spotless lamb sacrificed for the sins of the world.

The Bible covers many areas of pure living, including physical, moral, and spiritual. God wants people to live purely in their interactions with others, and that purity should shape their thoughts, words, and actions. Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8). This verse suggests that a pure heart makes people fit for God, and that people with impure hearts can't experience God's presence. Psalm 51:10 says, "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me". Other verses in Luke, Corinthians, and Ephesians talk about how God wants people to live purely in thoughts, words, actions, and interactions with others.

A pure heart reflects doing what God wants and is more than just external behavior. It's an internal purity of soul that's marked by transparency, honesty, and a desire to please God in all things. A pure heart is truthful and doesn't engage in deceit, such as willfully doing one thing while pretending to do another. A pure heart seeks only the Lord and makes Him the sole goal of life. A pure heart has no hidden motives or guile.

As our students go through the program, a series of classes have to do with character transformation, marked by these matters of purity above.

It is thanks to your faithful gifts that we can continue this great work of transformation here at City Rescue Mission. You are so needed!

## 5 Questions for Making Your Will

According to Caring.com's 2024 Wills and Estate Planning Survey, only 32% of Americans have a will in place.



Creating a will is one of the most important things you can do to bless your loved ones. It's a meaningful way to communicate what's most important to you and cultivate a legacy of generosity in your family.

Your first step? Pray. "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans" (Proverbs 16:3). Next, answer the following questions to guide your planning:

- How do you want to be remembered? Pick three attributes and build from there.
- What are the most important lessons you've learned? Your wisdom will inspire future generations.
- What values do you want to pass on? Document the principles that guide your decisions.
- What stories do you want to share? Share your personal faith, as well as family history.
- What people and organizations embody the values you've now identified? Use this list to find your executor, guardian of your children, and beneficiaries of your estate, including ministries that matter to you like City Rescue Mission.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "5 Questions to Ask Before Making Your Will" by contacting Angela Washington at 904-421-5147 or [awashington@crmjax.org](mailto:awashington@crmjax.org). Visit <https://www.crmjax.org/ways-to-give/leave-a-legacy/>.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

City Rescue Mission is in need of the following:

- (7) AEDS \$1,500 each ◀ Urgent Need
- McDuff Campus exit doors \$22,000
- New Life Inn Campus Kitchen exit doors \$10,000
- Homes of Hope Roof \$15,000
- (1) 5,000 BTU Window AC units with heat \$500 each
- Refrigerator New \$1,000
- Electric stove New \$800
- Microwave New \$300
- Clothing, shoes, and accessories for men, women, and children for Thirft Store
- (6) Music Stands

Contact: Angela Washington  
[awashington@crmjax.org](mailto:awashington@crmjax.org)  
(904) 421-5147

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### Board of Directors

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# New Life NEWS

AUGUST 2024

## TIFFANY "I HAD TO MAKE A CHOICE"

Tiffany turned to alcohol to ease the anxiety that stemmed from her traumatic childhood. Over time, her habit turned to substance abuse, and she relied on family members to support her and her three children. When that assistance ended and her little ones were taken from her, she had to make a choice. At the Mission, with generosity from friends like you, she's changing her life and building a new one for her children, rooted in God's Word. We're so grateful for your continued support.

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# Tiffany's STORY

## I HAD TO MAKE A CHOICE

In a household dominated by her mother's battle with substances, Tiffany's childhood was toxic and chaotic. Without the attention and protection she needed, she fell victim to bullying by other children and older siblings. And at only age 11, she was sexually abused by a relative she'd never before had reason to fear.

"I never felt comfortable in my own skin after that happened," she says. "And I started withdrawing."

As Tiffany grew older and was forced to take part in more social interactions, she began using alcohol to calm her anxiety and bolster her courage. But the relief was only temporary. Despite witnessing her mother's painful struggles, she was driven to seek more powerful substances.

**"I started trying different medications, just to feel something," she says. "I enjoyed it because I could forget a lot of the things I didn't want to remember."**

Her self-destructive behaviors led to unhealthy relationships, and at 16 she became pregnant with her first of three children. Now battling her own substance abuse and with no means of support, Tiffany and her little ones lived with her parents who, for nearly a decade, raised her children as their own. Then Tiffany's mother died.

Her father continued to provide for them until his own health failed, and the children were sent to live in other homes. Still grieving her mother's death, frightened by her father's decline and devastated by the loss of her children, Tiffany knew she had to make a choice.

**"I had to get my life straight – get myself together for my own kids. The only thing I had left to hold on to was God."**

And she sought Him at the Mission.

"I felt there was a long journey ahead of me, but I was hopeful. My plan was to just find myself so I could get my kids back."



Tiffany had believed in God since childhood, but because of her adversity, she felt He had abandoned her. "He seemed distant; I thought He was angry with me." But in our faith-based environment, with the care of our Christian counselors, she realized He'd always loved her, embraced His forgiveness and asked Him to guide her life.

"Now it seems kind of simple just to turn to God... to put Him first."

Tiffany excelled in our LifeBuilders Program, a holistic curriculum that addresses the long-term emotional, spiritual, medical, social, educational and economic needs of our students.

"They give you many tools for success and help you prepare mentally for the world, which can be overwhelming."

She recently earned her GED and is hopeful to attend college in the future. But most important to her now is the case plan for being reunited with her children, which includes parenting classes, stable housing and

steady employment. She also hopes to reconnect with family members she's been estranged from for many years.

But until that time comes – and even when it does – she knows she has a family here at the Mission.

**"They have loved me through all the ugly and not so good days and shown me grace. They have endless amounts of grace. I have a support system here and I'm grateful."**



## SPOTLIGHT | MARK ANDERSON



Mark Anderson wears many hats at City Rescue Mission. One of these roles is Chair of the Board of Directors. Along with other church members of Mandarin Presbyterian, Mark has also volunteered his time for the past 3 years doing weekly Bible study sessions with the men in our programs and serving wherever there is a need. He provides spiritual guidance and encouragement, instilling hope and purpose in the lives of those needing transformation. Mark's leadership shows a profound commitment to the success of City Rescue Mission in the longterm and his contributions resonate deeply with both staff and residents.

However, Mark's generosity extends far beyond volunteering his time. Mark is also a legacy gift giver, ensuring that his resources continue to impact the lives of those served by City Rescue Mission long after he is gone. This commitment reflects his belief that generosity should be both a principle and a practice. It's been important for him to set this example for his family.

"In 2046, we will be 100 years old. My hope for each one of us is that we pray about giving monies today that will allow City Rescue Mission to continue to open its doors for those that are in the most need another 100 years from now. For me, leaving a legacy gift is an easy choice. I see it weekly, the difference that City Rescue Mission makes in the lives of men and women."



Mark Anderson lead a beautification project with other faithful volunteers from Mandarin Presbyterian Church at CRM's McDuff Campus this year, helping to transform the exterior of the mission and making it a more welcoming space.

## GET INVOLVED

MISSION

# WARM FEET

**DROP OFF**  
September 3 - November 8

**DROP OFF LOCATION**  
426 S. MCDUFF AVE.  
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32254

WWW.CRMJAX.ORG  
VOLUNTEERS@CRMJAX.ORG (904)421-5147

**DONATE SOCKS FOR THOSE IN NEED**

## THANKSGIVING

### Turkey Drive

CITY RESCUE MISSION IS ASKING FOR YOUR HELP TO COLLECT TURKEY TO FEED OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED THIS THANKSGIVING!

Turkey donations can be dropped off between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday - Friday at either:  
**New Life Inn: 234 W. State Street or**  
**CRM's McDuff Campus: 426 S. McDuff Avenue**  
**SEPT 23 - NOV 15**

Turkey gift card donations are accepted. Contact Angela Washington with any questions or for more information.

Awashington@crmjax.org or  
(904) 421-5147



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### LifeBuilders Graduation

Friday, September 27, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.  
 CRM McDuff Campus | Mission Church  
 426 McDuff Avenue S., Jacksonville, FL 32254  
 Class of Fall 2024  
 Reception immediately following

### Thanksgiving Meal

Wednesday, November 27, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.  
 CRM State Street Campus | New Life Inn  
 234 W. State Street Jacksonville, FL 32202

# VISIT

## CRM THRIFT

CITY RESCUE MISSION

All proceeds go directly to help fund our mission and transform the lives of the homeless, needy, and addicted here in Northeast Florida.

### NEW HOURS

Monday - Friday | 10am - 6pm  
 Saturday | 9am - 6pm  
 7200 Normandy Blvd. Jacksonville, FL 32205