

Paul's Ponderings

The Apostle Paul, in Philippians 4:8 said that to find full joy in Christ, we must focus on the things that are pleasing to God. He says if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, that we should think about such things. He then gives us a list: "Whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, or admirable." These terms are all focused on God-honoring perspectives, most of which I have covered in the past few Ponderings. Today, we will focus on being admirable, or being highly regarded with a good reputation.



Paul Stasi
Executive Director

ADMIRABLE

Admirable means having qualities to incite wonder, esteem or reverence. It conveys a feeling of approval or the act of looking on or contemplating with pleasure. There are many ways we use this term. We admire things and people. When someone builds a new home, we admire it. We admire star athletes, talented actors, gifted artists and musicians, charismatic leaders, or eloquent pastors.

Paul is saying that things that are admirable are worthy of our praise, but when he uses the word praise, he is equating it with the idea of worship.

The question then is: what is the object of our wonder, admiration, or awe? Maybe we should ask "Who?" instead. As we examine these words in detail, the object of each ultimately is God Himself. Our thoughts should be directed towards that which is admirable, and further, directed to the source of all talents, beauty, eloquence, or insight-God.

Our challenge to those in our programs is to teach them how to focus on that which is admirable, true, honorable, beautiful, respectful, pure and holy. What we focus on grows. There is neurological evidence for this. Jesus said, "Remain in me, as I remain in you," (John 15). And, Paul said in Romans 12, "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Focusing on God and His goodness helps take the focus off problems.

It is only through your partnership that we can help in this way. This is discipleship. It's what Jesus called us to do (Mt. 28:19), and you are part of that discipling!

Thank you!

Make a Difference in the Here and Now

Jack Reynolds started his bucket list late in life, becoming the oldest man to get his first tattoo at age 104. He ended his record-setting run at 107 as the oldest man to guest star on a TV show. Jack used each event to raise money for a cause close to his heart, making a difference in the here and now.



If generosity is a "someday" item on your own bucket list, there's no need to wait. Use your retirement assets to give now. Here's how:

- Give your time. Consider volunteering with an organization you love, including CRM.
- Share your earnings. You can use your retirement earnings to bless others and save on taxes. When you make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to CRM, your retirement assets will change lives.

Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'" Don't wait until "someday" to give. You have an incredible opportunity to meet needs now.

For the full version of this article, contact Angela Washington at 904-421-5147 or 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:

- (4) AEDS \$1,500 each
- ECG Machine \$5,000
- 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
- Bus Passes
- Clothing, shoes, and accessories for men, women, and children for Thirft Store
- (3) Music Stands

Urgent Needs

Contact: Angela Washington
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(904) 421-5147

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New Life

NEWS

OCTOBER 2024



Christopher "I WAS SHOWN GRACE"

Scars from a painful childhood sent Chris on a journey of destructive behavior that ultimately led to his arrest. When faced with the choice of the Mission or prison, his decision changed his future. Your gifts have given Chris – and so many others – the guidance and grace to overcome their challenges and build a new life in Christ. We're grateful for your partnership and pray for your continued support.

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CHRISTOPHER'S STORY

"I WAS SHOWN GRACE"

Abusive instead of loving. Dismissive instead of attentive. Critical instead of understanding.

Chris' stepfather was anything but a positive influence in his life, instead afflicting the young boy with pain, confusion and self-loathing.

As he grew older, Chris sought out those who made him feel he belonged – who made him feel good about himself. But sadly, he found them in all the wrong places.

"I was hanging out with the wrong crowd," he says, "doing wrong things that led to bad decisions with drugs and alcohol."

As he grew into adulthood, those poor choices prevented Chris from building a stable life... until he met a woman whose love and understanding made him want to change his ways. They married, and he worked hard to be the man they knew he could be. "But then everything fell apart again. I fell back into my old habits, but worse."

The marriage ended, and without that anchor, Chris felt he was set adrift. He traveled in his van, doing whatever was necessary to support his addiction until finally he crossed the line. He broke into a construction trailer.

Chris was arrested and faced a litany of charges that could have landed him in prison. Instead he was offered the opportunity to serve probation at the Mission. And he made the choice that changed his life:

"I said I'd do whatever I had to do to stay out of prison. But during my time here, I've actually had a closer relationship with God."

In our LifeBuilders Program, we're addressing all of Chris' needs from social, educational and economic, to emotional and spiritual. He's beginning to understand, from a faith-based perspective, the personal challenges in his life. "I wasn't loving myself so I wasn't able to love someone else properly. Now, I have a better connection to God, a better connection to myself and it's helping to heal that inner child."



Yet, the transition wasn't smooth sailing. At one point he strayed and was concerned his probation would be rescinded. But Chris was amazed at how Mission staff responded to the situation, encouraging him to ask for God's forgiveness.

"They didn't want to punish me, they wanted to help me. That opened my eyes to what a beautiful thing it is to be shown grace."

As he completes the holistic requirements of our program, Chris works in our warehouse handling food donations, where he is pleased to have become the "go-to guy" others count on. He's honing these virtues of responsibility and accountability to use toward a career in construction when he leaves our care.

Before coming to the Mission, Chris says, he was trying to drink away all his bad feelings and emotions. Today, he loves himself and knows being sober will help him fulfill what he's called to do for God, society and his family.

And he wants to tell others that it's never too late.

"Seeing the variety of ages that we have here..."

If you do mess up, don't give up.

Just keep going. God's a forgiving god.

And the Mission is a place of grace."

Save the Date

10TH ANNUAL

DIFFERENCE MAKER'S GALA

May 1, 2025

If you'd like to serve on the committee

CONTACT

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crmdevelopment@crmjax.org

CITY RESCUE MISSION HAS RECEIVED A
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
GRANT FROM



This funding is helping to prepare our students with essential skills and training to be successful in the workforce!

Thank You!



HAS PROVIDED
CITY RESCUE MISSION
WITH A GRANT FOR
HUNGER RELIEF

The money will provide much needed food assistance for those in need!

5K

THANK YOU,
CELEBRATION ATHLETICS
AND GLOW!

In honor of National Women's Health & Fitness Day, Celebration Athletics (Celebration Church) and GLOW Ministries came together to host a 5K fundraiser walk at Celebration Church on Saturday, September 28th! Fundraising efforts went directly to benefit CRM's Life Builders program!

Shoebboxes of Love

Help City Rescue Mission spread **HOPE** and *JOY* this holiday season. CRM is now collecting shoeboxes filled with hygiene items to distribute during our annual Christmas Meal to our neighbors in need.

Simply fill a shoebox or like-sized box with items from the list below, wrap it in a blanket, and drop it off at the location listed below:

- ✦ Soap/Washcloth
- ✦ Shampoo/Conditioner
- ✦ Toothbrush/Toothpaste (no mouthwash, please)
- ✦ Dental Floss
- ✦ Deodorant
- ✦ Razor/shaving cream
- ✦ Chapstick
- ✦ Lotion/Sunscreen
- ✦ Wet Wipes
- ✦ New Socks
- ✦ A Small Devotional
- ✦ Band-Aids
- ✦ Comb/Brush
- ✦ Nail Clippers

Please do not put money or gift cards in the box. If you wish to make a donation for us to purchase items, send it to the address below.

DRIVE DATES
OCT. 1 - DEC. 16

DROP OFF:
City Rescue Mission, 426 McDuff Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32254

CONTACT (904) 421-5147 or
Volunteers@crmjax.org

THANKSGIVING

Turkey Drive

CITY RESCUE MISSION IS ASKING FOR YOUR HELP TO COLLECT TURKEYS 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

