

# Paul's Ponderings

The phrase "think on whatever is lovely" is found in Philippians 4:8. The original Greek word used here means pleasing, attractive, giving pleasure and describes something that is pleasing to God—something worthy of Him. Such thoughts bring people together in peace rather than separating them; something very needed today. The basic meaning of the word is 'that which calls forth love, love-inspiring,' and here it has the passive sense of lovely, pleasing, agreeable, amiable.



Paul Stasi  
Executive Director

# LOVELY

Filling our minds and hearts with God's love brings us together in unity and peace. As 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 says, love is large and incredibly patient and gentle to all. It refuses to be jealous when blessings come to someone else. It doesn't brag about one's achievements nor inflate its own importance. Love does not traffic in shame and disrespect, nor selfishly seek its own honor. Love is not easily irritated or quick to take offense, rather, it joyfully celebrates honesty and finds no delight in what is wrong. Love is a safe place of shelter, for it never stops believing the best for others. It never takes failure as defeat, for it never gives up.

Jesus Christ is our greatest inspiration for thinking on whatever is lovely: We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. He said, "I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples" (John 13:34-35). Thinking, and doing what is lovely never fails.

You show love by your faithful support of what we do. That allows us to show the love of Jesus to everyone who comes to us downcast and broken for help. We are so grateful, and privileged that we can minister through His love in this way! 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, request a FREE copy of "Is Giving on Your Bucket List?" 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:

- (6) 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
- Microwave New \$300
- Clothing, shoes, and accessories for men, women, and children for Thirtf Store
- (6) Music Stands

Urgent Needs

Contact: Angela Washington  
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(904) 421-5147

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# New Life NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2024

## Breanna "I'VE BECOME A NEW VERSION OF MYSELF"

Breanna lost her parents and grandparents – those she loved and loved her most – at a very young age. She blamed God and in her innocence, fell victim to those who led her astray. When her self-destruction almost ended her life, she rekindled her relationship with God. Now, as she rebuilds a stable life, she's grateful for the new identity you've made possible. Thank you for your prayers and continued support of hurting individuals like Breanna.

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# Breanna's STORY

"I've become a new version of myself"

Happy. Healthy. Safe. Carefree,

Sadly, these are not words Breanna would use to describe her childhood. From as early as she can remember, her story was one of sadness, confusion, loss and despair.

*"I was young when a lot of things happened to me," Breanna says. "My parents were gone and then my grandmother and grandfather died."*

She barely knew God, but she blamed Him. In her innocence and inexperience, it seemed the only thing that made sense. "Why would He keep taking away the only people who love me?"

Troubled and hurting, she was easily misled. By age 13, she was experimenting with drugs and alcohol, which, as she grew older, led her down a path of self-destruction.

After fleeing a toxic relationship, she was homeless at age 17. Struggling to survive and support her addiction, she did things she knew were wrong and was eventually incarcerated. When released three years later – with nowhere to go and no one to guide her – she rekindled nefarious habits and behaviors. And it nearly ended her life.

When she awoke from an overdose, she knew God had saved her. And she embraced the opportunity to come to the Mission.



**"My biggest challenge before coming to the mission was my unhealed trauma - my unhealed wounds."**

*"God brought me through all that because He has a bigger plan for me!"*

Yet while she knew it was right, the transition wasn't easy. She initially denied her addiction and rejected the staff's guidance and help. "But they were so welcoming and when I finally took the time to read and study the Bible, I knew I could work through it."

She joined our LifeBuilders program, where we equip individuals experiencing homelessness and addiction with tools and skills to live a substance-free lifestyle and become productive, self-sufficient members of society. In our faith-based environment, through God's love and grace, she is also healing from the pain of her past.

*"There was so much harm, physically, mentally, emotionally – things I've been trying to work through for years."*

After graduating a few months ago, Breanna moved on to our Workforce Development Program where local business partners provide employment experiences for our students. She is currently working at a restaurant while she saves money for her new beginning.

"The Mission has so many opportunities for us," Breanna says. "You can even start looking at school!" Breanna plans to pursue training in real-estate sales, a field that has always held interest for her.

But most important for Breanna, "the Mission has helped me find my real identity... the way Jesus looks at me... the woman He thinks I am."



## A SPECIAL THANK-YOU TO OUR 2024 GOLF SPONSORS!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 16th Annual Champion's Challenge at TPC Sawgrass!


### LIFEBUILDERS GRADUATION

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 at 7:00PM  
426 S. MCDUFF AVE.

*Reception immediately following the ceremony!*



**CLASS OF FALL 2024**

### THANK YOU, JEA!

We appreciate your contributions to our thrift store during your serve day and beyond. You are a blessing!



### PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep CRM in your prayers for:

- Men, women, and families in our programs
- Resources and finances needed for the Mission
- Staff and their families

# 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)387-4357 ext.224

# 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

