

# Paul's Ponderings

The concept of being "praiseworthy" is deeply tied to the nature of God and His works. To be praiseworthy means to be deserving of admiration, approval, and honor—and in Scripture, God alone is the ultimate example of this.



Paul Stasi  
Executive Director

## Praiseworthy

Psalm 145:3 says, "Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom." Here, the psalmist declares that God's greatness is beyond human comprehension and that He is deserving of all praise. In every part of creation and throughout history, God's works reveal His unparalleled power, wisdom, and love. His creation is beautiful, His promises are faithful, and His grace is boundless. This is why He alone is praiseworthy.

Believers are called to reflect this understanding of God's worthiness by giving Him glory. Jesus Himself modeled a life that honored and praised the Father. In John 17:4, He says, "I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do." Jesus' life of obedience to God was a testimony to what it means to live in such a way that God is honored.

As followers of Christ, we are also called to live lives that reflect God's praiseworthiness. Philippians 1:11 exhorts believers to "be filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God." When we live in a way that reflects God's goodness—through love, kindness, humility, and faithfulness—we become vessels through which others can see God's praiseworthy character.

Every part of our lives, from the smallest tasks to the biggest decisions, should be done with the aim of bringing glory to God, thus making our lives a testimony to His praiseworthy nature. In our praise, we not only honor God but also invite others to join in worship of the One who is worthy of all glory.

As our students proceed through our programs, they grow closer to God, and our hope is that they live to the glory of God throughout their lives. One man in chapel this week said, "what I have learned at CRM will be forever embedded in my heart." It is only through your generous giving that this is possible. We thank you so much for your commitment to changed lives.

## Living and Giving Made Simple

When stuff and schedules are out of balance, it clutters our soul and makes it challenging to serve others. Here's how to live lighter:



**1. Seek solitude.** Thomas Edison said, "The best thinking has been done in solitude." Turning down the noise level in your life—your phone, TV, and commitments, to name a few—results in a mind at peace and a heart open to give and serve.

**2. Streamline schedules.** Remember, every time you say "yes" to something, you're saying "no" to something else. This clarifies what (and who) deserves the gift of your time.

**3. Spend wisely.** Acknowledging all I have is a gift frees you to give to others locally and globally.

**4. Strengthen relationships.** There are three strong themes in Proverbs: trust God, care for others, and live as a person of peace. Living according to these concepts can simplify your actions, rooting them in love.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy by contacting Angela A. Washington at (904) 421-5147 or [awashington@crmjax.org](mailto:awashington@crmjax.org) - Visit [crmjax.legacywill.org](http://crmjax.legacywill.org) to bless your family with an up-to-date will.

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City Rescue Mission is in need of the following:

- 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 Thirtf Store
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[awashington@crmjax.org](mailto:awashington@crmjax.org)  
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CITY RESCUE MISSION

# New Life NEWS

DECEMBER 2024

## ARTHUR "GOD PUT ME IN THE RIGHT PLACE"

Experiencing homelessness, cold and alone, Arthur was searching for a way out of his heart-rending existence when he met a good Samaritan who guided him to our doors. In our LifeBuilders Program, Arthur continues to heal physically, emotionally and spiritually and learning to put God first in everything he does. He's looking forward to helping others by sharing his story of transformation – made possible by gifts from friends like you.

ARTHUR'S STORY

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2024

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# ARTHUR'S STORY

## "GOD PUT ME IN THE RIGHT PLACE"

Arthur woke up in the woods, as he did many mornings, while he wandered lost, experiencing homelessness and controlled by addiction. He stumbled through the dark and the cold, battling the elements and his inner demons. Every day was a struggle to find his next meal – let alone a shred of hope. Frantically searching for a way to escape the deep hole that had become his reality, he pleaded with the Lord to intervene.

"Please God, help me, I gotta get out of here."

Arthur's life didn't always look this bleak. At one time, he had it all: a good job, a nice house, a wife and four beautiful children. Then Arthur and his wife divorced. Heartbroken and alone, Arthur started looking for love in all the wrong places and befriended those who, with their own interests in mind, lured him into addiction.

His life spiraled out of control, and he lost his home, his family and all his possessions. Looking back, he shares today, his mind became so clouded he couldn't see what had been missing – a relationship with God.

One day, while Arthur waited to board a bus, a woman noticed the distress in his eyes and offered to pray with him.



**"I went from riches to rags by not putting God first in my life."**

After their prayers, the good Samaritan brought Arthur to the Mission.

That was just 12 months ago, and Arthur says, "my life has done nothing but gotten better in one year's time."

In our holistic LifeBuilders Program, Arthur's healing has come full circle, from dental work and care for other physical needs to life-skills development and a growing understanding of the Scriptures. In our Bible-focused classes, Arthur has learned,

"we have freedom from addiction – we have the cure book." Perhaps the biggest lesson for Arthur has been to put Christ first and everything else will fall into place.

"If you do what you're supposed to do, put a little extra into it, trust in God, I think I'm going to be okay. I think we're all going to be okay."

Arthur served as a dorm monitor, helping others who have lost their way get their lives back on track. At 61 years old, "God is showing me I still have life left," he says. He shares his story of the trials and tribulations he experienced so God could bring him to where he is now.

"Before I came to the Mission, I was broken, hurt and sad. Now, I'm happy, spiritually filled with God, and I can't wait to wake up every day and tell Him thank you... how much I love Him... and ask what I can do for Him."

Looking ahead, Arthur hopes to work on staff at the Mission so he can continue to show others

through his testimony that the love of God – and help from friends like you – can change their lives. He also looks forward to rebuilding relationships with his children and grandchildren and being a godly role model for his family.

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## JUDY GOODMAN

At City Rescue Mission, volunteers are the heart of our work, and Judy Goodman exemplifies what it means to serve with love and purpose. Before retiring as a secretary from the Duval County Public School system, Judy came across a newspaper article highlighting CRM's dedication to helping Jacksonville's homeless population. "This touched my heart, and I knew I wanted to become a volunteer," Judy shares.

Since March 2022, Judy has spent her Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10:30 AM to 1 PM in our kitchen, prepping meals, serving food, and doing whatever is needed to keep things running smoothly. Her presence is a comfort to the many students she sees weekly: "My heart has always been sensitive to serving others. I believe God opened the door for me to work in the kitchen. You have to feed the body to feed the spirit."

Judy's dedication shines through her attention to detail and her willingness to step up. One of her first mentors, Felter, encouraged her to ensure everyone received vegetables with their meals—a rule she still follows today with a smile and a playful nudge. "If one of the students says they don't like vegetables, I reply, 'You know the rule. You have to try at least one.'"

Working alongside food service leaders like Andrew and Sonja has been a source of spiritual growth for Judy. "Andrew inspires me with Godly wisdom and insights, and Sonja's calm demeanor reflects the peace of Jesus when serving a multitude of people," she says.

Judy also finds joy attending LifeBuilders graduations, where she witnesses students' spiritual and personal growth: "Hearing their testimonies deepens my appreciation for the programs at CRM."

Beyond the Mission, Judy leads an active life. She's a member of the Arlington Newcomers Club, volunteers with the United Way Reading Pals program, and supports juvenile restorative justice initiatives. She's also a proud mom and grandmother to two sons and two grandsons who are here in Jacksonville.

Judy encourages others to find their place of service at CRM: "Each of us has been given talents by God that could help others. Inquire about opportunities, pray about it, and see where God leads you!"



# Save the Date

## 10TH ANNUAL DIFFERENCE MAKERS GALA

### May 1, 2025

If you'd like to serve on the committee

**CONTACT** ANGELA WASHINGTON  
(904) 421-5147  
crmdevelopment@crmjax.org

# SAVE THE DATE

## 17th Annual Champions Challenge

IF YOU'D LIKE TO SERVE ON THE COMMITTEE

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Because of you, we have been able to feed and clothe the needy and homeless, giving them gifts of compassion. If you would like to find out about other ways that you can help CRM, contact **Sherrie Mack** at (904) 387-4357.

## Visit CRM Thrift!

# 12 Days of Christmas Sale

DECEMBER 10	Books 15% off
DECEMBER 11	Jewelry 15% off
DECEMBER 12	Homegoods 15% off
DECEMBER 13	Kid's clothes 15% off
DECEMBER 14	Handbags 15% off
DECEMBER 15	-Closed-
DECEMBER 16	Toys 15% off
DECEMBER 17	Books 15% off
DECEMBER 18	Jewelry 15% off
DECEMBER 19	Homegoods 15% off
DECEMBER 20	Kid's clothes 15% off
DECEMBER 21	Handbags 15% off
DECEMBER 22	-Closed-
DECEMBER 23	Toys 15% off

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