

# Paul's Ponderings

Compromise can mean to give up something to settle a disagreement. Compromise can be used in negotiations where both parties agree to give up something and settle on something in between their original desire.



Paul Stasi  
Executive Director

It can also refer to the belief that "this is just a little sin. I'll just ask for forgiveness; I'm covered by grace." The Bible says that compromise can lead to disobedience and God's discipline.

Both Exodus 34:12-16 & Acts 5:29 give some examples on compromise that still apply today. In Exodus it says to "be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land, or they will be a snare among you." In Acts, the apostles continued to preach the gospel when the Sanhedrin forbade it. Peter replied, "we must obey God rather than humans." They would not compromise.

Both examples are applicable today. You may have heard about the national lawsuit against big pharma due to overdose deaths from opioids. Substantial amounts of money are being distributed to states and cities for recovery programs. City Rescue Mission has been on the frontline of helping people with this addiction for many years and has never accepted city money. However, I believe we have the right to this financial assistance as we continue to save lives every day.

Through a competitive bidding process, we were awarded funding through the city. However, when I received the contract, it had language that would force us to compromise our constitutional, statutory, and legal rights that enable us to operate consistently with our beliefs as a religious organization in hiring practices and service provision. Although they slightly modified the language, it remained ambiguous and left room for confusion. I would not sign the contract. So, we left a significant amount of funding on the table because we would not compromise.

This could have been a new funding source for many years, but we stand on our beliefs and have faith that God will provide. This is why we are SO thankful for you! We could not do the work to which God has called us without your gifts and offerings. May God bless you for supporting our ministry!

## There's No Time Like the Present When It Comes to Your Will

Don't have an up-to-date will? Here are five (somewhat silly) reasons to keep putting it off:



- You love giving your money to the government.** The state will gladly distribute your assets just the way you want.
- You want your long-lost Aunt Gertrude to inherit everything.** Surprise! You didn't even know you had an Aunt Gertrude.
- You want your youngest child to forever be known as "unnamed future children."** Your parting gift: an identity crisis.
- You like family conflict.** Surely your loved ones will sort it all out—and stay on speaking terms.
- You prefer none of your estate gets used to do good.** You won't be around, so why does it matter?

And three God-honoring reasons to do it now:

- You want to care for your family.** A will saves them heartache and hassle.
- You want to share what really matters.** Pass your faith and values to the next generation.
- You want your will to support the causes you're passionate about.** A gift in your will to City Rescue Mission sustains our work for years to come.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "5 Reasons You Shouldn't Create a Will (and 3 Reasons You Should)" 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.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

City Rescue Mission is in need of the following:

- (4) Full size mattress and boxspring set \$1,000 each
- (38) Blinds \$75 each
- (2) Ninja Professional Food Processors 850 watts \$230 each
- (2) Hally Stainless Steel tables for prep 30"x48" \$162 each
- (12) Spanish Bibles \$22 each
- Bus passes for 1 week \$40.60 each
- Adopt a dorm room
- Clothing, shoes, and accessories for men, women, and children for Thrift Store



[CRMjax.org](http://CRMjax.org)



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# New Life NEWS

FEBRUARY 2025

## RICK REBUILDING A CRUMBLING FOUNDATION

Rick's life came crumbling down after the COVID pandemic. He lost his job and his connections with his family – and then experienced homelessness. At the Mission, he's building a new foundation on God's Word that will give him the strength to weather any storm. He's looking forward to giving back and sharing hope with others through his story – made possible by gifts from friends like you.

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# RICK'S STORY

## REBUILDING A CRUMBLING FOUNDATION

**"It's all come together, and the biggest takeaway is that faith has been imparted in me."**

Not all stories of homelessness are spurred by a toxic upbringing or a single tragic event. Sometimes the homeless experience creeps up on someone, like a thief in the night, when they least expect it. In Rick's case, it was brought on by something that is, sadly, very common in America... loneliness.

Before coming to the Mission, Rick led a very normal life. He had a happy childhood, achieved a college degree, got married and started a family and lived in a nice home. Rick is a great father – his three children are his whole world. When they were young, he worked from home so he could be available for them. He took them to school, coached their sports teams and attended every school play.

As Rick's kids grew up, he and his wife grew apart. They eventually divorced and he soon found himself engulfed in the guilt and shame of a failed marriage.

"I felt like I let my kids down."

At that point in life, he didn't have the strong faith or community ties to give him hope and offer support. Instead, he turned to alcohol to numb his pain and despair.

Then, as if things couldn't get any worse, the pandemic hit and he was laid off from his job, robbing him of the only thing meaningful left in his life. His alcohol consumption spiraled out of control, eroding his physical health, and he was hospitalized. When released – out of money and essentially homeless – he called the only person he thought might help him: his estranged brother.

"I'd cut off contact with him and my kids because I was just too embarrassed to talk to anybody. It was just so isolating."

By God's grace, Rick's brother took him in while he attempted several treatment programs. When he achieved no lasting

results, his brother had another idea. His church had volunteered at the Mission, so he was familiar with our LifeBuilders Program and convinced Rick to check it out.



Rick was skeptical at first. But when he met one of our faith-based counselors, he felt God's love emanating from the man's heart... and knew he'd come to the right place.

"He had a presence about him that I can't define."

Although Rick attended a faith-based school as a child, he had never built a relationship with God. During his experience in our LifeBuilders Program, he learned

this spirit-guided connection is what was missing in his life – and at the center of his loneliness.

"The instructors really hit home with the things they were saying and the lessons they were teaching."

In addition to Rick's spiritual healing, our holistic, grace-oriented program addressed his long-term emotional, medical, social, educational and economic needs, too, as we do with all students in our care.

Today, Rick is employed at the Mission as a truck driver. He enjoys volunteering and continues to attend our Bible studies. Like a ripple effect, he's sharing what he's learning about God with his now adult children, who have welcomed him back into their lives. And he's grown closer to his brother through their mutual love of the Gospel.

As he continues to build his independence, he plans to grow in his faith, and maintain the positive connections he has made here. He is grateful to the Mission for helping him build a new foundation that is stronger than ever.

"They saved me from a terrible potential life... but more importantly, I was able to get my family back, and that's the most important thing."

**SAVE THE DATE!**

*"A Night at the Opera"*  
Featuring Katherine Kincaid  
Mezzo-Soprano

# 10th Annual Difference Makers Gala

**May 1, 2025**

Southbank Hotel | Jacksonville Riverwalk

**CONTACT**

**ANGELA WASHINGTON**  
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awashington@crmjax.org

### Sponsorship Opportunities

- ◇ Title Sponsor \$25,000
- ◇ Diamond Sponsor \$10,000
- ◇ Emerald Sponsor \$5,000
- ◇ Sapphire Sponsor \$3,000
- ◇ Ruby Sponsor \$2,000
- ◇ Individual Tickets \$200

## HOPEBUILDERS' CIRCLE

Our Hope Builders Circle provides extraordinary support each month for people recovering from homelessness, substance abuse and poverty in our care. Simply put, they make it possible to care for those in need, every step of the way!

- ◇ **Wise Stewardship.** Your dollars go directly to food, shelter, recovery.
- ◇ **Automatic donations.** With your monthly commitment, we can process your gifts more efficiently, save postage and printing costs, and reduce the amount of mail you receive from the Mission.
- ◇ **Results!** Your monthly gift means more help for more people. Each quarter you'll receive a receipt, plus our latest CRM newsletter with reports of the people your gifts support.

Men, women and children experiencing homelessness need YOU!

Please – become a monthly partner now!

Contact (904) 421-5147

## BE THE SOLUTION SERIES

Please join us

for an Educational Series on the issues of homelessness.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

10AM - 12PM

or

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19TH**

10AM - 12PM

CRM McDuff Campus  
Mission Chapel  
426 S. McDuff Avenue  
Jacksonville, FL 32254

**RSVP by Feb. 14**

**KAITLIN PADGETT**  
(904) 421-5218  
kpadgett@crmjax.org

## SAVE THE DATES!



- ✓ **March 18 at 6pm:** Volunteer Orientation
- ✓ **March 28 at 7pm:** LifeBuilders' Graduation
- ✓ **April 24 at 9am:** Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast
- ✓ **May 1:** 10th Annual Difference Makers Gala
- ✓ **August 28:** 17th Annual Champion's Challenge Golf Tournament

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

**TENISHA BRADHAM, CRM  
LIFEBUILDERS MANAGER**



For 14 years, Tenisha Bradham has been a cornerstone at City Rescue Mission, dedicating her career to helping individuals transform their lives. With a Master's degree in Counseling, specializing in substance abuse and mental health from Nova Southeastern University, Tenisha's expertise and passion shine through in her role as LifeBuilders Program Manager.

The LifeBuilders Program is a 12-month residential recovery program that equips participants to live clean, sober, and independent lives. Success is measured by program completion, maintaining sobriety for a year post-graduation, and securing employment for at least a year. Tenisha emphasizes, "We're giving them the quality care they need so that when they leave City Rescue Mission, they're equipped to succeed."

Tenisha embodies the balance of compassion and strength needed for front-line work. She brings the seriousness required to tackle the immense challenges of addiction recovery while radiating joy to uplift our students as they face a most daunting task - sobriety.

Tenisha is often the visionary behind the aesthetic of the events for our students, whether its monthly birthday celebrations, movie nights, or other themed parties. She always finds a way to infuse creativity and care to make students feel special and valued. Tenisha's inspiration to serve comes from her grandmother, who worked with the Head Start program and served her community selflessly. Growing up, Tenisha witnessed the profound needs of low-income families and developed a deep compassion for those struggling. "I was always at work with her and could see the needs of the people," she recalls.

When she's not working, Tenisha is an adventure-seeker who loves international travel, crafting, and getting lost in a good book. Her dedication, both professionally and personally, is a testament to her drive to make the world a better place.