

HIS *hands*

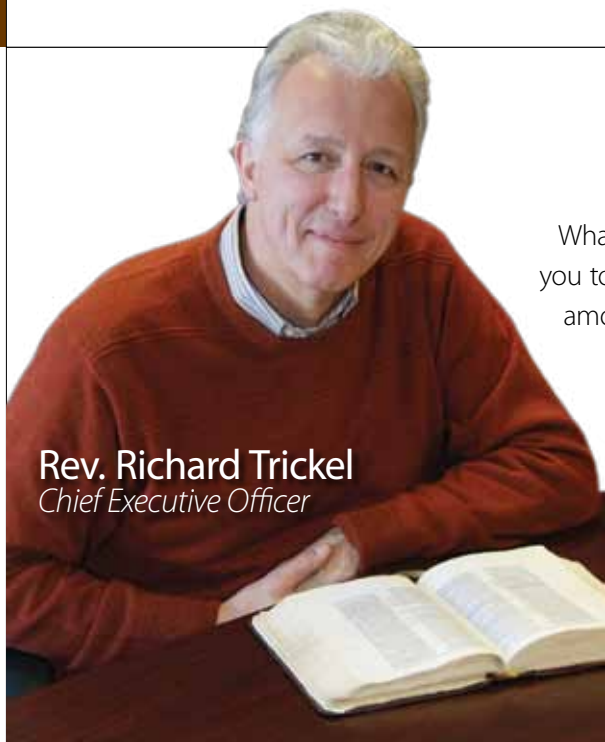
Reaching Hearts • Changing Lives

CHANGING LIVES through CHRIST

See how you help bring
true freedom to those
in prison!



Real Freedom Is Found in the Spirit



Rev. Richard Trickel
Chief Executive Officer

dear friend,

What's the hardest thing God has asked you to do? Where has He asked you to go that made you hesitate, if only for a moment? What if He sent you among the inmates of Ohio's prison system?

A long-time volunteer at The City Mission, Nic Roberto, had ministered to county jail inmates, primarily through the mail. When God called Nic to visit his brothers in prison, Nic didn't think twice. He overcame resistance from prison officials and marched right in, armed only with his Bible!

I know you'll enjoy reading Nic's story in this issue of His Hands. I think you'll also be interested to know that many of the men who come to The City Mission and enter our Crossroads program are ex-prisoners, transformed by God's grace through the ministry of people like Nic.

Further on, you'll see more examples of how our Inmate Outreach Services are helping men—and women—transition from a prison environment to become productive, faith-filled members of our community. Tim's story on page 8 is a wonderful example of someone who found a friend in Jesus Christ and overcame a lifetime of abuse, addiction and crime.

Inmate Outreach Services are a vital and very rewarding part of our work at the Mission—and I say "our" work because you make it possible through your gifts and prayers.

With your help, these men and women learn that they're deeply loved children of God and that they have much to contribute to society. Through you, they find a path back to their families and to leading fulfilling lives in Christ.

Thank you for seeing beyond their faults and failings, for recognizing their worth and for helping to provide them the tools to realize their potential. The state may set them free from prison—but you help to set them free from their past!

Sincerely,

Rev Richard Trickel

Now the Lord
is the Spirit,
and where the
Spirit of the
Lord is, there
is freedom.

2 Corinthians 3:17

Nic Brings Discipleship from Detention

You might not guess it to look at him, but Nic Roberto has spent a lot of years in prison... as a Jail and Prison Chaplain for The City Mission. Nic came to ministry late in life, but he's already served for over 30 years and he's not done yet, even with his 84th birthday coming up this October!

Nic's calling began when he gave his life to Jesus Christ on March 21, 1972. Not long after that, he began reaching out to neighborhood teens, arranging for them to spend time in The City Mission's gym instead of on the street. As Nic became more involved with The City Mission, he learned about our inmate outreach services and asked Chaplain John Wood if he could accompany him on his next jail visit.

Nic remembers that John asked him to speak to the inmates. Nic replied, "Get out of here, I'm no preacher!" But when Nic asked the men, "How many of you want to give your life to Jesus?" every hand shot up. After getting the same reaction three visits in a row, Nic says, "The Lord spoke to my heart. Okay, they're all saved, now what? Wow, I get it: discipleship!"

Nic sent monthly letters to the men who wanted to be involved in discipleship and connected them to a free Bible study correspondence course. He really wanted to visit the prisoners, but it was tough to get permission. In 1999, Nic invited



a prison official to The City Mission, and they discovered some common ground—helping newly released men to re-enter society. "This fit our mission perfectly," says Nic. "We call it discipleship."

That visit soon bore fruit—a promise that Nic would be welcomed at all the prisons in the state of Ohio! He was even given special permission to hold group meetings with the men.

Since 2000, Nic has made the rounds of state prisons for four months out of each year. IOS Manager Brent Richards now oversees the monthly letters and Bible studies.

Chaplain Brent now also takes on some of these City Mission Group Meeting visits since Nic and his wife moved to Walnut Creek, a retirement community, last year.

Nic doesn't consider himself retired, not by a long shot. "I'm not going to sit around," he insists. As long as the Lord has work for him, Nic is ready to serve. And, as always, Nic is never afraid to go where many of us would hesitate. He has a Black Belt in Judo, but he's never needed to use those skills. "I don't even think about (the danger)," Nic says. Like David facing Goliath, he knows God is with him!

See what Inmate Outreach Services is all about at www.thecitymission.org/nic



With your help, **spirits soar** behind bars!

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me...to proclaim freedom for the prisoners” (Luke 4:18). The City Mission’s Inmate Outreach Services let men and women in Ohio jails and prisons know that they’re free...free to be sons and daughters of God. And once they’ve served their sentences, your partnership provides a place for them to strengthen their faith and their life skills, paving a straight path of Reentry back into society. Take a look at how your gifts help!



Chaplain Nic Roberto (second from left) and other volunteers bring the Word of God to inmates in Ohio jails and state prisons on a regular basis.



It’s amazing what a difference prayer makes! One-on-one prayer and Christian counseling bring great comfort and hope to men in prison.



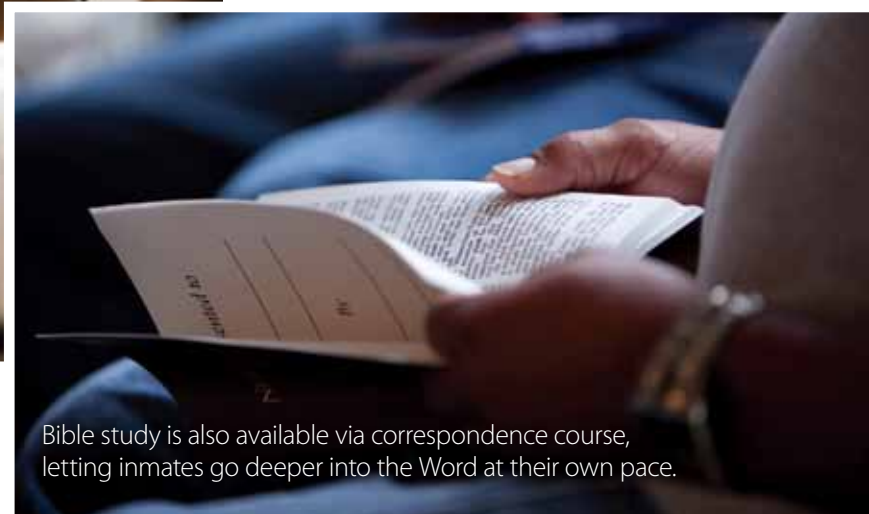
Every year, hundreds of men and women start their journey towards Christ through monthly correspondence provided by Inmate Outreach Services volunteers.



On-site chapel services and Bible studies offer inmates strength and hope along their walk with Christ.

In 2010, Inmate Outreach Services provided:

- 219 men’s chapel services or Bible studies to men, women, and juveniles incarcerated in the Cuyahoga County Jail or in Ohio prisons.
- 16 women’s chapel services or Bible Studies with 210 women in attendance.
- 26 juvenile Bible studies with 135 young people attending.
- 81 visits to state prisons.
- Monthly correspondence to more than 1,300 inmates.



Bible study is also available via correspondence course, letting inmates go deeper into the Word at their own pace.

Please join us **in prayer**

Laura’s Home Women’s Crisis Center

- Please pray for permanent housing and jobs for our long term clients as they allow their lives to be transformed by God.
- Pray for caring volunteers to work alongside our staff and share their values.
- Praise God for the compassion and commitment of the volunteers who already give so selflessly to Laura’s Home.
- Pray that our clients may have wisdom and discernment when dealing with those who may not have their best interests at heart.
- Pray that our addicted clients find the strength to move forward into lives free of drugs and alcohol.
- Pray for the women in our new Firm Foundations program, that they continue to learn and grow from the curriculum.
- Pray that the women in Laura’s Home hold on to the conviction that they have a future and that God is in it.

Inmate Outreach Services

- Pray for the success of our ongoing City Mission Group Meeting visits to 27 Ohio prisons, concluding this October.
- Pray that juveniles held in Cuyahoga County Jail on adult felony charges will find comfort and inspiration in our weekly Bible Study.
- Pray for God’s direction and guidance during our 20 to 25 monthly Chapels, Bible Studies and Group Meetings with incarcerated men, women and youth.
- Pray for God’s continued provision through generous donors of Bibles, Christian literature and

other resources (stamped envelopes, writing paper, reading glasses, etc.) to those incarcerated.

- Pray that God would provide volunteer IOS chaplains to help provide continued personal ministry to our fast-growing monthly mailing/fellowship list.

Pathways Family Outreach Services

- Pray that our ministry touches the lives and hearts of the kids and brings more of them to a relationship with Christ.
- Pray for a safe and successful completion to this year’s camp.
- Pray that we might attract enough students from camp to fill our clubs for the coming year.
- Pray that our ARTS stand out from all other youth programs in the city of Cleveland.
- Pray that all Pathways staff continue to grow in their appreciation of and commitment to this ministry.

Crossroads Men’s Crisis Center

- Pray that the men in Crossroads can find true and lasting freedom from their past addictions and poor choices.
- Pray for our staff, as they bring the love and compassion of Christ to our clients.
- Pray that we will continue to have the resources needed to lead our clients towards sober, stable lives.
- Pray for all those who serve men in crisis through their gifts of time, talent and treasure.
- And praise God for the volunteer groups who helped with the painting projects for the Crossroads Makeover!

memorial & in honor of gifts

If you would like to give a gift in memory of a loved one who has passed away, or in honor of a special occasion, please mail your gift and the name of the person(s) being remembered or honored to:

The City Mission • 5310 Carnegie Ave. • Cleveland, OH 44103

We will let your honoree or the family of the deceased know of your gift with a special card.

IN MEMORY OF:

(March 16 – July 21, 2011)

Our deepest sympathies are with friends who have lost loved ones. A memorial gift to The City Mission is a special way to offer hope to the needy in the name of a friend or family member.

David Anderson

Mr. & Mrs. David Brunton

Donald Andreano

Miss Lucille G. Wiltshire

Sally Belden

Ms. Marilyn Kornowski

Mr. David Bostwick

Retirees Breakfast Bunch

Dorothy Cassidy

Christopher Kelly

Dennis Chavayda

Retirees Breakfast Bunch

Marian Chilson

Mr. & Mrs. John D. Edmondson
First United Methodist Preschool/
We-e Program
Mary Haubold
Joyce Helen Lilie
Mr. & Mrs. Paul A. Loeffler

Gardner K. Christopher

Ms. Diana W. England, Ph.D.

Thomas Conner

Corinne Nagyoszy and Tillie Patete

Jeff Coons

Mrs. Frances Hewlett

Mary Fox

Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Krsulovic

Ray Genter

Retirees Breakfast Bunch

Ann Glavan

Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Krsulovic

Peter Goulis

Mr. & Mrs. Tom Baldassari
Diana Froberg
Mrs. Mary E. Georgalas
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph W. Koelliker
Mr. & Mrs. Roger J. Mittler
Dan and Kathleen Mulligan
Mr. & Mrs. Richard A. Nowak

Mr. & Mrs. Anthony J. Rumler
Jesse and Jane Swartz Jr.
Heidi M. Zimmerman
Nancy C. Zelei
Dragolas Family, Diane Cola,
Jenny Csiszar, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Papanikolaou, Chris and Artemmis Papouras, Thomas and Electra Ladas, Hallie Nunney, Karen Parker, Kutsar Family, Goldie Mack, John and Popie Papouras, Keith and Mary Ann Skok, Don and Joanne Gromen, Anna and John Psellas, Alexandra and Gary Paporizos, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Nolidis, Tom and Effie Papouras, Pashalis and Despina Tsilianidis, Jann and Steve Fredmonsky, Jolon Hanzel, Alex and Katrina Papadimoulis, Chris and Veena Papouras, Louise Melnik, Mike and Sia Papouras

Wilbert Woodward Henry

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas J. Sullivan

Mr. Howard D. C. Hill

Mr. & Mrs. Francis Wieteha

Kenneth Hirsh

Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Bonomo

Rose Hoeffler

Gary and Toni Owen

Robert R. Hussey II

Jason and Melissa Hammack
Joe Hohenfeld
George and Theresa Miller
Mike, Kelly, Stephen, Jacob,
Michael Rafko

Mr. Emil Jacobson

Mr. Don Jacobson

Mr. David Jacques

Mr. & Mrs. Henry T. Jacques

Mr. Thomas A. Kerr Sr.

Mr. & Mrs. Harry D. Mercer

Gloria Kretsch

Ann Cohen

Margaret Krivy

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Mr. & Mrs. David Turman

Nancy Woessner

Debbie Korb, Carol Chawansky, Amy
McKinley, Carol Singleton
Ms. Marianne Hocking

IN HONOR OF:

(March 16 – July 21, 2011)

A gift to The City Mission is a great way both to say "I Care" and to remember a birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion!

Helen Brooks' Birthday

Barbara Colombi
Betty Lewine

Lois De Boe's Birthday

Dave and Gail Herwerden
Phil and Ellen Schickel

Mr. Paul Cibula

Ms. Sarita C. Head

Lawrence Edward Gore's Birthday

The Gore Family

Beatrice Jones' 100th Birthday

Michelle A. Birtasevic
S. Kathleen Boring and Daniel Boring
William M. Higgins
Mr. & Mrs. William F. Higgins
Marcia L. Huston
Paul A. & Jane L. Jones
Vera N. McKinney
Kristie M. McKittrick
Mr. & Mrs. Forrest W. Silbaugh
Ann E. Smeznik
Grace M. Todd
James and Judy Votava
Karen S. Wilson

Linda S. Manthey

Bryan J. Manthey

Nellie May's Birthday

Mr. & Mrs. Edward D. Foley

Tim Misny

David C. Simpson

Elfrieda Patton

Mrs. Sophie S. Albrecht

Don and Dorothy Petrunia's 50th Anniversary

Petrunias of Warren, Cortland and
Youngstown, Ohio

Harriet Prochaska's 100th Birthday

Ms. Mary A. Thomas

Brent N. Richards

David and Brenda Tenison

Mr. William Scott Jr.'s Birthday

Virginia K. Novotny

Elaine Spoerke

Mrs. Shirley J. Harbeitner
Mr. & Mrs. David J. Ridenour
Frank and Barbara Sattler

Patricia Twohig, C.S.J.: 50th Anniversary

Anne Ryan and Barbara Keefe

Dr. John C. White

Jack and Maggie Lehman
Jodi Siciliano

God's Amazing Provision

by Michael J. Parry,
Chief Development Officer

In Psalm 23, King David describes how the Lord meets all his needs. And Paul, in thanking the believers at Philippi for their support, assures them, "My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." Again and again, The City Mission has witnessed God's generous provision in recent months:



- Significant estate gifts from donors who gave as they could during their lifetimes, and remembered The Mission in their estate plans.
- Planned Giving conversations with donors.
- A great response to Phase I of the Matching Gift Challenge, exceeding \$125,000 in gifts and pledges.

The leadership of The City Mission walks a fine line: we must be careful stewards of the resources God provides through his generous servants, but we must also be willing to walk by faith and trust that God is presently moving in ways unseen to provide for tomorrow's needs. The examples above suggest the role that Mission staff and volunteers can play in securing resources to continue this work:

- Educating our donors and sharing both the needs of the Mission and the results—the hundreds of lives transformed through the power of God's love.
- Encouraging our donors to show good stewardship of their resources after their passing by including The City Mission in their estate plans, and providing planned giving counsel.

I'm grateful for each and every donor to The City Mission, as they are truly channels of "God's Amazing Provision."



Give Your Time and Talent!

Would you like to do more to help our less fortunate brothers and sisters? The City Mission has plenty of opportunities to get involved!

Help paint the Crossroads and Banfield Buildings. Painting starts this month, Mondays through Fridays. It's a great daytime activity for groups of 20 or fewer.

Become an Evening Child Care Assistant. This ongoing monthly opportunity is ideal for church groups of five to eight people willing to minister to children in a wide age range. We need help on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday evenings from 7:30–8:30 p.m.

Provide meals for Laura's Home residents. We're looking for church groups, businesses or families, ideally in groups of five to ten, to supply and serve a monthly evening meal for women and children.

Reach out as an IOS Chaplain. This flexible opportunity allows individuals or even church groups to build mentoring Christian relationships with inmates through ongoing personal Christian ministry and possible group meeting visits to select prison groups of those writing to us and/or already receiving our monthly mailings.

Pack Christmas Gift Baskets. Get a jump on the Christmas spirit—we need a lot of volunteers to help bring some holiday cheer to our clients. Wrapping expertise not required!

Help out at our Client Holiday Banquet. Make the season bright: greet our clients and help serve Christmas dinner. Men, women and families are all welcome to help!

Please visit www.thecitymission.org/volunteer for a full list of current volunteer positions, or to learn more about how you can bless the men, women and children at The City Mission. Got questions? Email us at getinvolved@thecitymission.org.

You Helped Tim MOVE FORWARD!

Growing up in Cleveland's projects with a single mother and four older sisters, Tim's only male role models were his mother's boyfriends—all alcoholics, some abusive. One of these "role models" gave nine-year-old Tim his first glass of wine at a New Year's Eve party. By age 12, Tim was also smoking marijuana. "That was my comfort zone," Tim recalls. "I found a way to escape from my reality."

Tim's teen years were spent "in a drunken stupor." By 18, Tim had dropped out of school and moved out of the house after a fight with his mother's boyfriend. When he ran out of places to stay, he went to live with his sister in Georgia.

Tim soon had his first run-in with the law, spending 5½ months in jail. Released on probation, Tim returned to Ohio—without checking in with his probation officer. "I just wanted to move forward," Tim says, "but I was really moving backwards. I was just making things worse."

Back in Cleveland, Tim got a job and tried to build a solid life for himself. In 1996, he married and had a son...and then lost his mother, all within six months. "My emotions skyrocketed, then plummeted. Any strength that I had to keep moving forward just died."

Tim remembers this period as "the most reckless, craziest time of my life. I had no concept of doing the right thing. I didn't care about anybody else." Drinking became Tim's escape from his pain and responsibilities. It also led to more criminal behavior and seven years in Mansfield Correctional Institution.

During his incarceration, Tim accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior at a chapel service with IOS manager Brent Richards. "We built a friendship over the next 12 years," says



Tim. "He helped me with the spiritual side and gave me incentive to keep moving forward." Tim also was encouraged by Bible studies and twice-yearly visits from Chaplain Nic.

After he finished his Ohio sentence, Tim's probation problems in Georgia resurfaced and he served five more years in Georgia prisons. Tim continued in his faith and stayed in touch with Chaplain Brent. Upon his release, Tim returned to Cleveland and joined The City Mission's Crossroads supportive programming. Tim has found a church home where he shares in ministry opportunities. He has also returned to work. We thank God for Tim's ongoing success!

Tim also thanks friends like you who support The City Mission and its Inmate Outreach Services. Without your help in pointing him to Jesus, Tim says, "I don't think I would have turned my life over to God. I might not even be alive today."

Thanks to you, now Tim is truly moving forward!

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*Providing Help and Hope to
All People Through the Transforming
Power of God's Love*

