

The Church Downtown



Downtown Cleveland



REV. M. E. TROTTER

Fred W. Ramsey, Welfare Director of Cleveland, and other concerned government and church leaders sensing the need for a spiritual center in the downtown district asked Mel Trotter, (known as "The Dad of Mission") of Grand Rapids, Michigan to establish a branch in Cleveland. Following a public mass meeting led by Mel Trotter, the first year's budget (\$5,000) was raised. George W. Soerheide, a former assistant to Trotter, was placed in charge. The Mission opened its doors at 1135 Superior Avenue in an abandoned saloon. The glasses that had been left behind by the barkeeper were used to administer relief.

(Forty-First Review Report of Floating Bethel and City Mission Work Cleveland, Ohio 1/1/1909)

*1318 St. Clair Ave.
(second official building)
1913-1926*



The 1318 East St. Clair location

*The City Mission's
First Bus*



*George Soerheide
The first Superintendent
1910-1945*



Reaching Hearts... Changing Lives

Harry Banfield, who had joined the Mission as a Youth Director in 1970 became executive director in 1985. He helped the Mission find its current home at 5310 Carnegie Avenue. During his time the Camp added new cabins and a gymnasium.



Jane Addams School



Groundbreaking with the Banfields



Construction of Pathways



Banfield Building



In 1991 The City Mission purchased its present location due to renovations to the Grand Arcade and downtown area. This move allowed The City Mission once again to address the ever changing needs of the disadvantaged, by enlarging and refining existing programs for youth, homeless men and neighborhood families, with each department having its own distinctive facility on a common property. The Mission obtained the former Blonder's Building, the old Jane Addams School and a nine suite apartment building. They renovated three existing buildings and replaced the Jane Addams School with a building designed for youth activities and a men's facility.

The Downtown Arm of the Church

In 1964, in order to make way for the Bond Court development, the Mission moved to 408 W. St. Clair Avenue. With the move, larger dormitories were built to accommodate the increasing number of transients. An entire floor was designated for Youth Clubs and a small gymnasium for recreation was added.

408 W. St. Clair Avenue



Under Clifton Gregory's leadership the Women's Auxiliary was introduced. Clifton Gregory's wife, Angeline, spearheaded the formation of the Women's Auxiliary which supported the work of the Mission through service and fundraising. In 1981, Angeline Christian Home was birthed to serve women in crisis. "Angeline" means "a messenger from God showing mercy." Gregory is quoted, "The women we particularly want to reach and help are those who have been forced to the streets by adverse circumstances, are inexperienced and hopeless."



1970 Proclamation from
Mayor Stokes on hosting the
International Union of
Gospel Missions



Proclamation from City on
opening Angeline Christian Home



A Door of Hope for the Hopeless



II Corinthians 5:17

"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things become new." This provision of God's love through His Son is the core of our outreach, and the reason for all that we do. Any man or woman, boy or girl, no matter how deep in sin and degradation he or she may have fallen, can be changed by the power of Christ!

January 10, 1978
Clifton Gregory

October-1910

October-1960

THE CITY MISSION GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Fifty Years of Genuine Christian Service

HELP US CELEBRATE

By attending any or all of the following meetings:

Wednesday, October 20th at 7:30 P. M.
at the Church of the Open Door, Elyria, Ohio
The City Mission Addresses and City Mission Evangelist

Thursday, October 26th at 7:45 P. M.
at The City Mission
BY DONALD W. HARRIS, Speaker

Friday, October 27th at 6:30 P. M.
GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY BANQUET
BY CLYDE J. LOHMEYER, Speaker

Remember the 750 donors for Golden Annivers and before

Sunday, October 29th at 3:00 P. M.
ANNUAL MEETING BALLY
BY JAMES H. COOPER, Speaker
at The City Mission

Monday, October 30th at 7:45 P. M.
SACRED CONCERT
BY THE CHURCH MUSICAL ENSEMBLES
at The City Mission

The City Mission volunteers will supply the food at every event except the banquet and will also assist at the banquet. Meeting of The City Mission Women's Auxiliary, Tuesday, October 9, 1978 with Mrs. James Cooper at the dining room, meeting at The City Mission, October 9 at 7:45 P. M.

ALL WELCOME!!



THE CITY MISSION
MAJOR 1-1801

801 ST. CLAIR AVE. N. E.
Cleveland 14, Ohio

The City Mission's 50th Anniversary Flyer
introducing the banquet



Clifton Gregory
and his wife Angeline



Soup, Soap and Salvation

No Law but Love. No Creed but Christ

New ministries were introduced, including a daily radio program and the Christian Companionship Club for the discipling of young adults who formed gospel music teams with names like "The Jail Birds" and "Gods Sky Pilots". They ministered in 28 services a week at the city-run shelter for the homeless, The Wayfarer's Lodge, jails, radio, churches and even out-of-state engagements. Mr. Soerheide, The City Mission Band, The Boosters' Chorus, teams and individuals conducted over one hundred meetings in 1915.



Mr. and Mrs. Soerheide



The expanded ministry at 801 St. Clair Ave.



"The Jail Birds Trio"



Under Soerheide's leadership the mission expanded and moved to 801 St Clair Avenue in 1926. At this location the Sunday school swelled to over 400 children.



The City Mission Band



Serving Cleveland Since 1910



Under the leadership of Rob Cathcart in 1997-1998, vast improvements were made to our camp, Grand Valley Christian Center, and a commitment was made to increase the involvement of community, church, and individual volunteers.



Rob Cathcart
1997-1998



Laura's Home opened in 2002



Tim Campbell
1999-2003

Tim Campbell was the director during the planning phase of Laura's Home. In 2002 The City Mission extended its outreach to women and children with a long term facility named Laura's Home. Angeline Christian Home merged their services with Laura's Home in 2005.

