

GoodSam Gospel *messenger*

Monthly Newsletter of Good Samaritan Ministries, Ltd. | 2307 Hull Street | Richmond | VA | 23224-3639 | 804-231-9995
www.gsamministries.com

A Message From Pastor Mike

I'm So Confused

John 12:8 "For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always."



A pastor told the following story: "I was telling someone the other day about an experience I had in my first pastorate. A lady came into my office, asking for help. She looked desperate. She was dressed in dirty, old clothes. She had a baby in her arms. She was a single, unwed mother. She was 15 years old when she became pregnant and had run away from home. She'd been gone for 2 years but the night before coming to my office she decided to return home to her parents--baby and all. She told me she came to the church hoping I could give her money for a bus ride. I hesitated. The church usually tries to help people like this, but as a general rule, it's usually best not to simply give away money. Besides, I only had ten bucks in my pocket. There was no money around the church. Normally,

with cases like this I'd call the treasurer of the local minister's fund. All of the ministers in our town tried to use a common fund for things like this. But it was 5:00 on a Friday and I knew I'd have trouble getting the money from the minister's fund. Then the baby started crying. I finally gave her what money I had and wished her well. About a week later, I saw her. I was at the Salvation Army visiting the minister there – you know they call ministers "Captains" in the Salvation Army. He and I were talking when I caught sight of her in the far corner of the room. So I asked the Captain, "You know that girl?" "You bet I do," he told me. "Let me tell you. She has quite a scam. Every Friday, she has a baby sitting job and she takes the baby she's caring for and drives around town from church to church giving ministers a sob story and asking for money. And if the ministers show any hesitation at all, she'll reach down and pinch that baby on the behind. Makes the baby cry!" I looked at the Captain and said, You know, it's hard to believe

anyone would fall for that!" With this story in mind I ask this question, "What are Christians supposed to do with the poor?" You see a homeless man. Not that unusual. He was panhandling. Again, not that unusual. He was at an intersection going from car to car with a can in his right hand collecting donations and a cell phone in his left hand pressed up to his ear. One of the frustrations of poverty is the struggle of whom to help. But that is not the only frustration with dealing with the poverty around us. Another is the feeling of being overwhelmed. We notice the homeless man asking for a handout who has a cell phone. We become irritated at seeing people in front of us in the grocery store buying food with food stamps and then driving away in a Lexus. Again, my question "What are Christians supposed to do with the poor?" To that question you often want to just raise your hands in frustration and say, "Nothing can be done. There are too many of them." Sometimes we want to say – "The poor always ye have with you." Which might be an

interesting thing to say. Because this is what Jesus says. So, our tendency is often to close our eyes to them and ignore them. Become frustrated because we can't tell the poor and needy from the lazy and conniving. This is not a burden, "for the poor always ye have with you." It is a gift. You always have the poor with you, you always have before you opportunities to give, you always have before your opportunities to serve God. This is the key to understanding Jesus saying. Service to Christ is a joy. This is the answer to what we are to do with the poor. We serve them with joy. We give to them, not with a grudging heart, but with generosity and pleasure. But this is also the answer to much more. This is the answer to how we deal with almost any situation. When you give to GSM you know your gift will go to helping the poor by giving them a hand up, not a hand out.

- Pastor Mike

A MESSAGE TO OUR DONORS

We at Good Samaritan know that this time of year a majority of our donors are inundated with requests for help. Organizations asking for your support seem to come out of the woodwork. While GSM is part of the group asking for support, know that the organization we use for our mass appeals does not share your information with others. Our donor list is extremely important to us and we consider it privileged information. We do not share this list with others! We take no federal, state, or local government funding, we must find those people who have a heart for what we do and want to help further our work for the

Kingdom. We never want any of our donors to feel like they have to give. While we understand that multiple requests are sometimes irritating, stop and say a prayer for GSM and then toss the packet in the trash. We're really okay with that. We've actually been known to send back a donation or two when someone tells us that they have pressing needs. We never want anyone to be hurt by giving. Remember that the Lord honors those who give over and beyond what they think they can afford. He returns the blessings many times over. A heartfelt thanks to each of our donors for your faithful support over the past 32 years. We make a great team... God, Good Samaritan, and You!

Yes! Here's my gift to put food on someone's plate this Thanksgiving. Use any remaining funds to feed and care for people through the winter.

I'VE ENCLOSED A GIFT OF:
 \$15.76 for 8 meals.
 \$31.52 for 16 meals.
 \$47.28 for 24 meals.
 \$63.04 for 32 meals.
 \$_____ food and care for as many as possible.


→ Email my gift receipt to: _____

To use your credit card or give online, please see other side. Please make checks payable to Good Samaritan Ministries. Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law.


Sample Sample
Milwaukee Direct Marketing
675 North Barker Rd Suite 130
Brookfield, WI 53005-5917

9999 180110
Please correct your name and address if necessary.

Every Day Needs...



- Soap
- Shampoo
- Disposable Razors
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Non-alcoholic Mouthwash
- Foot Powder
- Deodorant
- Aspirin, Ibuprofen
- Cold/Allergy Medicines
- Antacids
- Laundry Detergent
- Dryer Sheets
- Dish Detergent
- Lysol Spray & Wipes
- Clothing
- Underwear
- Socks
- Belts
- Coffee, Creamer, Sugar
- Canned Goods
- Breakfast Cereals
- Bibles (KJV only)
- Antacids
- Laundry Detergent
- Dryer Sheets
- Dish Detergent
- Lysol Spray & Wipes



LOCAL 4-H CLUB GETS EARLY START ON GIFTS OF HOPE

The 4-H name represents four personal development areas of focus for the local youth of the organization: head, heart, hands, and health. ... The goal of 4-H is to develop citizenship, leadership, responsibility and life skills of youth through experiential learning programs and a positive youth development approach. We were happy to have them serving at Good Samaritan Ministries in the month of October. Boxes were put together for the men living at GSM with basic hygiene needs that will be given out as a part of GSM's Christmas Gifts of Hope. Thank you 4-H for your support!





VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

This time of year, GSM receives many calls from our donors who are looking for ways to get involved over the holidays. We so appreciate your hearts and your desire to serve. The contact for our holiday events is Debbie Walkuw. 804-231-9995. Here are a few ways that you can help:

Operation Drumstick: You can help by donating items for the boxes. As we are still in the grips of the Covid Pandemic, this year we will not be asking for in person assembling of the boxes, but your donations are gladly accepted.

Thanksgiving Dinner: Because of the pandemic challenges, we will not be having an open house dinner to the public, but will be serving the men, their families, and the staff of GSM this year.

Gifts of Hope (Christmas): Adopt a GSM participants family for Christmas. We provide a list of their family's wishes and needs and you get the joy of giving Christmas to their family.

Christmas Dinner: Again, because of the pandemic challenges this year, we will only be providing dinner to the men, their families and the staff of GSM..

We appreciate all your support and your volunteer services throughout the challenges this year during the pandemic and want to give thanks to all of you. We ask for your patience and prayers as we continue the ongoing saga of the Covid virus.

In Memory of:

Pastor Thomas Farmer

Former Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church
Jackie & Mary Horrocks

Timothy P. Michael

Kulla William Ficare

Gloria & Allen Davis

Crystal D Grady

Ben Maymes

Jackie & Mary Horrocks

In Honor of:

Robert L Priestley

Vietnam Veteran 1946-2000
Toni Priestley

Luke Matthews

Kelly Curtis

Walter Ampey & Rosetta Dabney

Cynthia Thompson

Ministries of GSM

Southside Thrift Store

Clothing, furniture, and much more
4680 N Southside Plaza, Richmond, VA
804-232-7228 to donate or for more information.

Good Sam Auto Sales


Quality used autos
2307 Hull Street, Richmond, VA
804-231-9995 ~ John Konek for more information to
donate or purchase.

Affordable Rental Housing

Clopton Terrace Apartments
8 W Clopton & 2635 Midlothian Tpk.
Midlothian Townhomes
2701 Midlothian Tpk. & 10 W 27th St.
804-231-9995 ~ Debbie Walkuw for more information

Job Work Program

Job training for our participants
2307 Hull Street, Richmond, VA
804-231-9995 ~ John Konek for more information.



GSM Executive Staff

Dr. Michael D. McClary, Executive Director
Rev. John Konek, Operations Director
Rev. Mike Saunders, Men's Program Director
Mrs. Nita McClary, Finance/Administrative Director

Good Samaritan's Annual Operation Drumstick

Operation Drumstick is our annual outreach to the community around us which focuses on needy families with children who are still living at home and those with additional difficulties during the Thanksgiving holidays. We once again reach out to our donors and supporters for help in putting together Thanksgiving dinner boxes for those in need. We do make sure the families who receive the boxes are truly in need. We do hope that you will give this opportunity prayer and thought. Thank you for your faithful giving and support.

Basic Thanksgiving Needs

Frozen Turkey
Boxed Stuffing
Bag of White Potatoes

Dinner Rolls
Fresh Pie
Bag of Sweet Potatoes

Dinner Napkins
Canned Vegetables
Disposable Roasting Pans

Canned Cranberry Sauce
Turkey Gravy (jar, can, pack)