



OPEN DOOR MISSION

Your Generosity At Work!

N • E • W • S

Good News INSIDE...



Operation Kingdom
Assignment3



ODM graduates
give thanks3



Elmer gives thanks
to God4

Unless my life changed, I'd end it...



Open Door Mission helped bring healing and renewal to Marquis, pictured here with his 7-year-old daughter, Grace.

Marquis had decided life wasn't worth living. He'd been drinking since age 11. In high school, he did cocaine and LSD. Later, he started abusing crack and heroin.

In addition to landing him in jail, his addictions destroyed his marriage and estranged him from his children. As Marquis became more lost and out of control, the anger grew in his heart. "I was hitting a wall and falling further and further," he says.

He Found Direction

Then in November of 2004, Marquis came to Open Door Mission, hungry in body and soul.

He received a hot meal, and found direction and a sense of purpose in our nine-month

DoorWay Recovery Program.

Things fell into place for Marquis. God's word began to resonate in his daily life. He found a job at the East Texas Food Bank through volunteering during the Gulf Coast hurricanes. And his anger gradually dissolved.

A Family Reunited

After graduating from DoorWay, Marquis reached out to his ex-wife and children. His visits with daughter Grace, age 7, and stepson Micah, age 11, have increased, and he's even planning a road trip with the kids.

"It's really great. I have the Lord in my life and He directs my steps," says Marquis.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

~Matthew 5:6

The Miracle of a Meal



A meal is the beginning of a new life for Open Door Mission clients.

MY VIEW

A Message from Rick Hill



Summer is in full swing. And while warm weather is usually good news for our city's homeless, it can also be a killer. Overexposure to heat and unbearable humidity puts a lot of pressure on those living and sleeping on the streets.

That's why Open Door Mission offers refuge to the needy every summer—a place to escape from the heat, have a meal and a cool drink, receive water, a shower and medical support if needed.

In preparation for scorching weather, we have an extra stock of bottled water and fluids on hand, but we can always use more. Specifically, the Mission needs donations of:

- Bottled water and athletic drinks
- Insulated plastic bottles
- Popsicles and frozen treats
- Gel packs
- Sunscreen and moisturizer
- Caps, sun visors and T-shirts

Thank you for your support and prayers that help us quench the physical and spiritual thirst of hurting men like Marquis, Elmer and Clarence—whose stories of transformation you'll find in this issue of our newsletter. Together we'll make this a summer of love and hope for those in desperate need of God's healing word.

Richard H. Hill, Jr.

Richard H. Hill, Jr.
Executive Director

P.S. To see more examples of your generosity at work, visit our website at www.opendoorhouston.org.

"Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love... for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things."

~Psalm 107:8-9

Clarence reveals, "The Mission saved me"

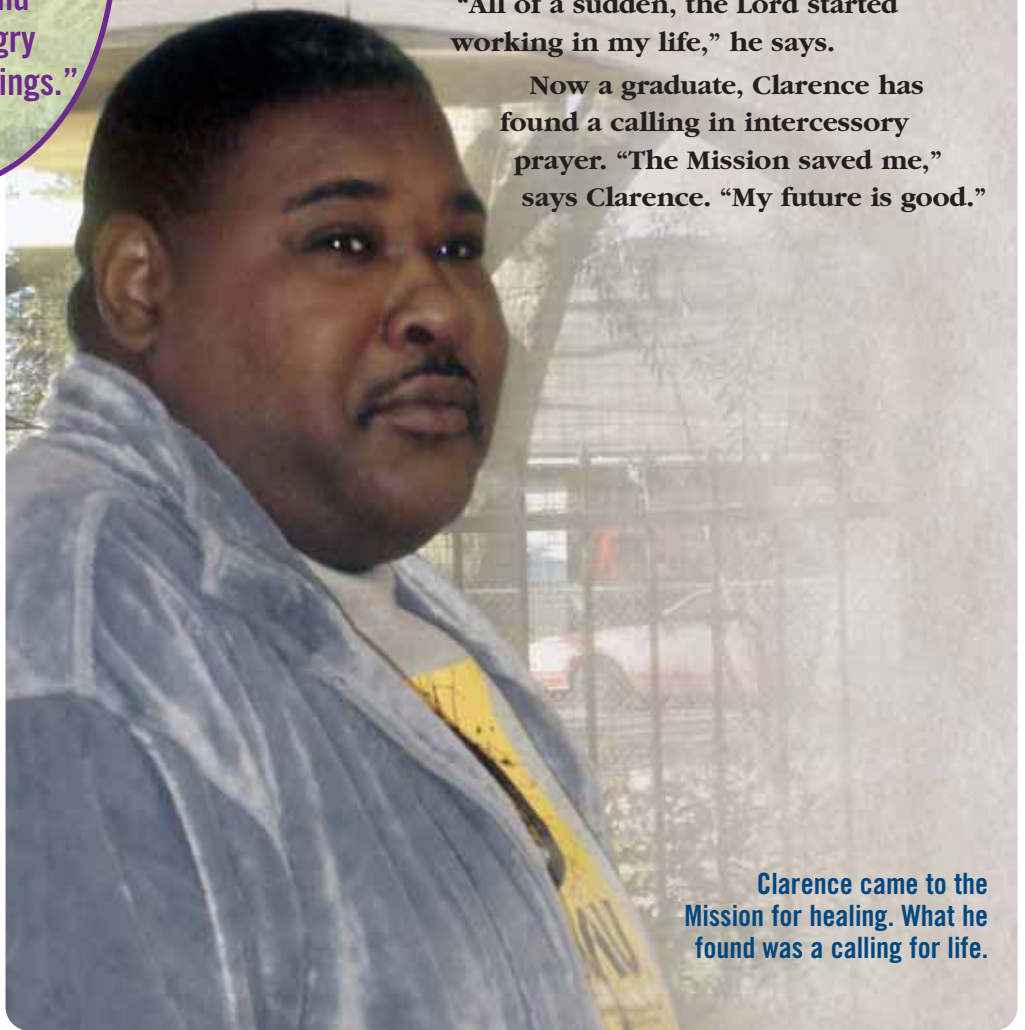
Clarence had every opportunity to grow up a healthy and productive young man. He had a loving, religious family, played football, and graduated from high school. But at 15 he took a perilous step into darkness when he began to drink.

After graduating from high school, he lost his appetite for everything except drugs and alcohol. After years of substance abuse, Clarence's health began to fail. He had heart problems and fluid buildup in his legs and lungs.

In search of help and a place to lay his head, he came to Open Door Mission's Russell M. Scott, Jr., MD Convalescent Care Center. Later, he entered the DoorWay Recovery Program.

"All of a sudden, the Lord started working in my life," he says.

Now a graduate, Clarence has found a calling in intercessory prayer. "The Mission saved me," says Clarence. "My future is good."



Clarence came to the Mission for healing. What he found was a calling for life.

OPEN DOOR MISSION

Visit us online at
www.opendoorhouston.org

Our door is open to you 24 hours a day, seven days a week—and you never have to leave your home! Simply visit us online at www.opendoorhouston.org to connect with our ministry and learn how your faithful support is changing lives. You'll find information on upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, prayer requests, wish lists, and more. Drop in anytime!

A Band of Brothers



Pictured (left to right) are Tony, Bill, staff member Terry Palmer, Tommy, outing organizer Mr. Andy Valadez and Simon at the Toyota Center.

It was like something out of a Mark Twain story. Give a man \$100 and see how he'd use it to further the Kingdom. Would it merely be spent and gone, or could this modest sum be used to change lives forever?

The challenge, called Operation Kingdom Assignment, was issued by The Fellowship at Cinco Ranch Church. Andy Valadez was one of 66 people in the congregation to accept.

After turning his \$100 into \$300, Andy gave the money to a woman who was helping the homeless. But he wasn't satisfied, so he decided to reach out to Houston's homeless himself. After making some calls, he was surprised how the pieces fell into place. Soon he'd arranged a night on the town that included a limo for the evening, dinner at O'Rourke's Steakhouse, and tickets to an Aeros hockey game—all donated.

“Someone asked me, ‘Hey, did you organize all this?’ and I said ‘No, God did. I just made the phone calls.’”

~Andy Valadez

One call to Rick Hill at Open Door Mission, and the final piece of his assignment came into play. Seven men were chosen for a whirlwind evening of fellowship, feasting and fun. The event included coverage by the *Houston Chronicle* and KPRC Local 2.

The evening so moved Andy that he's taking his assignment to a whole new level. “I'd like to see these men find mentors, get cars, homes, training, medical help [and] clothes,” he says. “They're my brothers now.”

For the men who participated, the event was a huge success. Vietnam War veteran Bill Adams said: “It made me feel happy to be part of men—to share a meal and fellowship. I'd like to say thank you and God bless. I feel honored.”

Anyone interested in helping these men and others may contact Lindsey VandeZande at 713-921-7520, ext. 214.

DoorWay Graduates Embark on a New Life

DoorWay graduates give praise to God and thanks to friends who've helped them rise from the ashes of despair to reclaim their lives. Carl, now a waiter in one of downtown Houston's hotels, and Edwardo, a student and tutor at Houston Community College, have this to say:



“I see my future as successful, as long as I keep God first!”

~Carl



“Open Door Mission has not only given me direction in life and understanding in God, but also has given me a chance to return the blessings to others.”

~Edwardo

Another heart opens at ODM



Elmer was a middle school dropout and drug addict who couldn't hold down a job. Though he grew up in a religious home with a loving mother and three siblings, he strayed from the church as a teenager and lost himself on the streets. His only graduations were from drinking to smoking marijuana to popping pills to shooting heroin.

As his substance abuse escalated, Elmer's life got out of control. He ended up spending days on the streets and occasionally staying with family and friends.

“Every day I wake up and thank God for another day!”

~Elmer

“I got tired of waking up in the morning, looking in the mirror and seeing myself that way,” says Elmer.

Desperate and uncertain about his future, Elmer came to Open Door Mission, where he got a bed, clothes and a meal. These simple gifts opened Elmer's heart. He joined the DoorWay Recovery Program, and is now learning to read. He also works in the Mission kitchen, and hopes to go to culinary school someday.

“It's been a blessing for me,” he says. “Every day I wake up and thank God for another day!”

**Meals.
Shelter.
Clothing.**



From June 1 through August 31, we will provide:

- 52,250 meals to Houston's hungry
- 20,000 nights of shelter to the homeless
- 2,700 articles of clothing to the needy

Thank you for helping make these small miracles possible!

Here's my special gift for Houston's neediest men:

\$25 \$50 \$150 \$ _____

To give a gift by credit card, visit us online at www.opendoorhouston.org, or call 713-921-7520, ext. 213

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