

STAR GOSPEL MISSION

The Newsletter of the Star Gospel Mission ♦ Charleston, South Carolina ♦ Fall 2018

Shining Brightly since 1904 *Transforming hearts and lives through Jesus Christ*



STAR GOSPEL MISSION

*Providing Over a Century of
Christian Service to Charleston*

474 Meeting Street
Charleston, S.C. 29403

www.stargospelmission.org

The Reverend
William K. Christian, III
Executive Director
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God Led Me Here

An Interview with Robert Ziade by Pastor Christian

Editor's note: Robert Ziade maintains dual citizenship in both Lebanon and the USA. He became a United States citizen in May of 2002.

Robert, where were you born and where do you come from?

I come from Lebanon in the Middle East. I was born and raised in a small town called Gourtentermos.

How long did you live there?

I was 24 years old when I left.

Could you tell me a little about your family?

My mother is a home maker and my father worked in hotels. He retired in the town I came from. I came from a big family with five brothers and one sister. They all still live in Lebanon. I'm married and I have two daughters. One is named Rebecca and one is named Mary. My wife's name is Christian.

Do they ever come here to visit you?

Yes, they come here often.

Do you miss being apart from them?

Of course, of course. I call them every single day.



Robert Ziade

When did you come to the United States?

To be honest with you I first came in 1989. I went to Mobile, Alabama and I was there for almost 16 years. Then I returned to Lebanon for a while. I returned to Charleston in August of 2015.

Did you come back here to work?

Of course, to work, to find a better quality of life, a better experience, a safer place to live.

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Were you not safe in Lebanon?

It's unsafe and also the economy is very bad right now, because the entire region and countries surrounding my country everything is going down, economically and politically. We were in a civil war in 1975. We're still suffering, still struggling from the aftermath of that war.

Are your wife, daughters and family safe over there?

Yes, they stay with my family and they're very close, they all protect each other.

Of course, to work, to find a better quality of life, a better experience, a safer place to live.

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A Word from the Executive Director



The Rev. Bill Christian
Executive Director

On April 24, the Star Gospel Mission entered into its 115th year of service and ministry to homeless men providing them with an opportunity to make positive, life-changing decisions and to reside in a good, safe, clean and peaceful Christian environment within the City of Charleston. At the Mission all sorts and conditions of men, from all walks of life, are given the chance to systematically modify their actions, behavior, conduct, attitudes and speech (the A.B.C.A.S. principle) in such a way that, by the grace of God and through the power of the Holy Spirit, they can experience a significant transformation and begin to follow a course on their life's journey that will lead them to a much brighter and far more productive future. In a word, the Mission enables these men to have a brand-new beginning, a fresh start, a new lease on life!

This past year our Board lost two of our finest members: Manly Eubank and Floyd Whitfield. I would commend to your reading the "In Memoriam's" written for each of them in this newsletter. (photos inside) Both men were committed Christian's and highly successful business men who served faithfully on our Board of Director's and provided wise leadership over their many years of service. To be sure, their passing has left a great void in the lives of all of us who knew and loved them!

This year our Board's primary focus has been that of engaging in the work of renovating a 1840's home that the Mission owns on Nassau Street (see photos). This will be the second home we've restored. As with our previous home renovation in 2013, this home will be divided into four studio apartments. Once construction is completed (early in 2019) it will enable us to provide transitional, low income and workforce housing for four additional men who meet the qualifications for residency.

In a word, the Mission enables these men to have a brand-new beginning, a fresh start, a new lease on life!

Another key initiative we've been working on is that of constructing a brand-new web site that will be informative, easy to navigate and also enable patrons of the Mission to continue to make online contributions.

Just a reminder that if you have not yet taken the opportunity to make your annual contribution (you can also make monthly contributions) it is my sincere hope that you will do so prior to the end of this year. Please use the envelope I've enclosed in this newsletter. Since the Mission is purely "faith-based", we rely on donations from individuals, churches, civic organizations, foundations and grants. None of the financial resources we receive come from local, state or federal government agencies. Since we are a 501c3 corporation, all contributions to the Mission are tax deductible and will be deeply appreciated.

May God bless you richly for your faithful generosity and please do remember to keep the Mission and its men in your prayers.

Faithfully yours,

The Rev. William K. Christian, III



Two families affiliated with F-3, Fitness, Faith, and Fellowship preparing for Sunday morning breakfast.



Families from John Wesley United Methodist Church preparing and serving breakfast for men at the Mission on the fourth Sunday of each month.



Volunteers from both F-3, Fitness, Faith and Fellowship as well as John Wesley United Methodist Church preparing and serving breakfast at the Mission on the second and fourth Sundays of each month.



You came here to work. What kind of work did you do in Lebanon?

I used to represent my government in other countries, especially in Yemen, the Arab Republic. I worked for the Lebanese Embassy in Yemen. My title was the Assistant to the Ambassador of Lebanon. As you say here, I was his right hand man. I used to fix problems for all the Lebanese who came to Yemen from Lebanon. I had a very high government position before I came here.

Why did you leave that position to come here?

I left it because we were at war in 1989 and we did not know what was going to happen in our country and I had a good opportunity to come here.

When you came here were you able to find employment right away?

No, it was not easy! It took six months until I had all my papers in order and was able to start working a regular job. After five years I started my own business; it was a used car dealership. I owned that dealership from 1990 to 2006.

When you came back to the USA in 2015, did you come right to the Mission?

When I came from Lebanon, I called Joe, your former manager, from the airport in New York. I said "Joe, I'm on my way from

New York to Charleston, do you have a bed for me at the Mission?" He said: "Yes, I do have one and I'll hold for you." That was in April of 2016.

When you arrived, what type of work did you start doing?

I started working in restaurants and I ran a business for somebody. Currently I'm the manager of a small business not far from the Mission.

I'm very happy with my life and I'm moving ahead in a good direction with a good future.

I must ask you, would you ever consider returning to Lebanon and working for the government again, since you had such a high position with them when you first left there?

No, I've not considered that, because here in this country I'm very satisfied with my work, my job, what I'm doing, and I'm very happy with my life and I'm moving ahead in a good direction with a good future.

When you first came here to the Mission, how long did you reside in the dormitory?

One year. Then you asked me if I wanted to move into one of the studio apartments behind the Mission, 89 Nassau Street, and I've now lived there for a year and three months. I'm very very happy there!

How would you describe the difference between living in the dormitory vs. having your own apartment?

You have your own privacy and a great deal of independence. You can come and go as you please. I understand the rules and I live by them because I was a government worker and I know that wherever you are you will always have rules and you have to abide by those rules.

What was the worship service experience like for you?

The thing is, this church is very close to my religion. I grew up as a Roman Catholic Christian, was baptized and confirmed in the church and my whole family are very devout Christians. I was taught the faith in my home from a little boy on up. I went to church every Sunday and usually I still go to church every Sunday and I pray every day. I know that God hears my prayers and that He keeps me safe in the world and shows me the way I should go.

So do you believe that God has His hand upon your life?

All the time, all the time! And my family too! But I have to keep praying, I cannot stop, if I stop, something will go wrong. And my wife prays every night before she falls asleep too.

What do you think the people around this city think of the Mission and what we do?

I hope the people understand that the Mission helps people, especially men, to help them get a new start, to put things right in their lives, to teach them the Gospel of God's love and how He wants them to live their life and serve Him.

So you really feel that God had His hand upon your life by leading you to the Mission?

That is the truth! I believe that God led me to come here, to stay in this place, to be safe, to start again in my life, for this opportunity, for my job, for my catholic faith, for everything I have. Thank God we have this place here in Charleston!

Thank God we have this place here in Charleston!

What would you say is the most important take away from living here at the Mission and then in your own apartment?

My economy, my job, I feel I'm growing because I don't have to pay a lot of expenses, and also my privacy.

If you bumped into another man on the streets of Charleston who was homeless, and he was looking for a good place to stay, would you direct him to Star Gospel?

Of course I would do that and, as a matter of fact, I tell many people about this place. I tell them the food is good, the place is very clean and not expensive, that they can save their money until they're ready to move into a place of their own. I tell them that here, in this place; they can even grow spiritually in their faith in God.

I tell them that here, in this place; they can even grow spiritually in their faith in God.

Do you send some of your financial resources home to your wife and children?

Yes, I send them money every month.

Is there anything else you'd like to say about your life, your family, your work, the Mission, anything at all?

Well, I want to say first of all, God bless America! And the second thing is, God bless the Star Gospel Mission and all those who live in it and serve it! And thank you for everything you did for me and for my family. God bless you! ∞



Volunteers from First Scots Presbyterian Church assemble for Spring cleanup and landscaping work day at the Mission.



Two families from John Wesley UMC serving Sunday morning breakfast.



Volunteers from John Wesley UMC assemble to do a Fall cleanup and landscaping workday at the Star Gospel Mission.



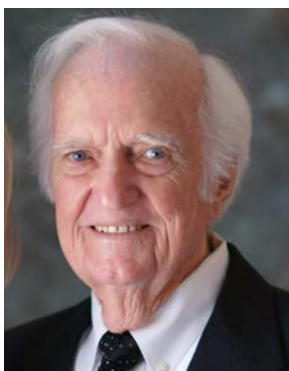
Students from Charleston Southern University gather to prepare and serve a Sunday evening dinner at the Mission.

In Memoriam**Graham Manly Eubank 1936 – 2017**

Long time faithful Board member, Graham Manly Eubank, passed away on October 28, 2017. He served on the Mission's Board of Director's for 17 years. Manly was born in Henderson, North Carolina, the son of a Methodist minister. He graduated from Wofford College and entered into the US Army. In 1969 he moved to Charleston and founded the Palmetto Ford Company. Manly was Chairman and founding member of CresCom Bank; President of the South Carolina Automobile Dealers Association; President of the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce; Commodore of the Carolina Yacht Club, and Chairman of the SC Governors Cup Billfishing Series Advisory Board. He was also a member of the Hibernian Society, the Charleston Club, the Country Club of Charleston, and several hunting and fishing clubs in the Lowcountry. Throughout his lifetime, Manly received many awards, including the South Carolina Automobile Dealer of the Year, and was named the top Ford dealership in 1987. In 1990 and 1991 Palmetto Ford was named as one of the top 100 Ford dealerships in the country. Manly was the recipient of the Time Magazine Quality Dealer Award in 1992. Manly gave of himself often and freely. Family, friends and coworkers all reaped the benefits of his sound advice, wisdom and positive outlook on life. He was known by all to be a very generous, humble and faithful Christian man who attended church and Bible study classes weekly. At the time of his death he was an active member of John's Island Presbyterian Church and had served on its Session. Manly is survived by his wife, Jan, two daughters, Burnam and Elizabeth, and one son, Graham. Manly's son Graham now serves on the Mission's Board. All of us who knew and loved Manly miss him greatly! May Manly's soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercies of God, rest in peace.



“I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.” John 11:25

In Memoriam**William Floyd Whitfield, Sr. 1928 – 2018**

Board member, William Floyd Whitfield, entered the nearer presence of the Lord on July 28, 2018. Floyd served on the Mission's Board of Director's faithfully for 22 years. Floyd was born in Townsville, South Carolina. After attending high school, Floyd entered the US Coast Guard where he served for six years. Upon receiving his honorable discharge from the Coast Guard, he worked for the railroad and then became a land broker and developer, ultimately becoming President of The Whitfield Company. Floyd was a self-made man who bought and sold thousands of acres of land throughout the Lowcountry, but was better known as a humble and extremely generous man who lived a very simple life. One of Floyd's most notable land holdings was that of Runnymede Plantation which abuts Magnolia Plantation and Gardens. He also owned an adjacent tract of land totaling 2,200 acres. Among his passions was Charleston Southern University where he served on the Board of Trustees for two decades. The Whitfields' financial support to the university includes the Whitfield Stadium Center, the Whitfield Center for Christian Leadership, the Singleton Baseball Complex and health science building. Whitfield and his wife of 69 years, Shirley, established the CSU Women's Council and established the W. Floyd Whitfield Endowed Scholarship, which will continue to provide financial support for students for years to come. Floyd was a faithful Christian man who believed that everything he did should honor God. He and his wife were long time members of Grace on the Ashley Baptist Church where he served as a deacon for many years. Floyd is survived by his wife, Shirley and three sons, William "Bill", Timothy "Tim", and James "Jim". All who knew and loved Floyd will miss him greatly! May Floyd's soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercies of God, rest in peace.

CURRENT MISSION NEEDS:

Men's clothing, pillows, twin size sheets, pillowcases, towels, washcloths, paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, cleaning supplies, used books and DVDs.



83 Nassau Street house being lifted above floodplain.



Stabilization work being completed on 83 Nassau Street.



L. to R. Dr. Tom Cook (Board Chairman), Pastor Bill Christian, Mayor John Tecklenburg, Sofie and Chris Leigh-Jones (Luxury Simplified), Doug Pinner (contractor).

Thanks to those who provide regular support to

STAR GOSPEL MISSION

- First Scots Presbyterian Church
- John Wesley United Methodist Church
- St. Philips Anglican Church
- St. Michael's Anglican Church
- John's Island Presbyterian Church
- Christ our King Catholic Church
- Grace Episcopal Cathedral
- St. John's Lutheran Church
- Second Presbyterian Church
- Bethel United Methodist Church
- St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
- Trinity United Methodist Church
- Harbor View Presbyterian Church
- The Cathedral of St. Luke and St. Paul
- Brookhaven Fellowship
- Post and Courier Good Cheer Fund
- The Exchange Club of Charleston
- Charleston Southern University
- The College of Charleston
- Ashley Halls Girls School
- The Verhagen Foundation
- The El Happa Foundation
- The Saul Alexander Grant Fund
- Morgan Stanley Financial Services
- Washington Light Infantry
- New England Society
- The St. Andrew's Society
- The German Friendly Society
- St. George's Society of Charleston
- Daniel Island Community Foundation
- New Hope Treatment Center
- Strickland Marine Agency
- McGuire & Company
- Royall Hardware, Inc.
- Haynsworth, Sinkler, Boyd
- Bi Lo Grocery Stores
- Trader Joe's



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Did you know? A brief History of the Star Gospel Mission:



**Star Gospel Mission
Sunday School Class photo**

-Circa 1920-

The Star Gospel Mission was established in 1904 in the old Star Vaudeville Theater. The theater was closed by the city fathers in 1902 because of the undesirable element associated with it. Following a dramatic conversion experience, Obadiah Dugan, a successful furniture dealer, determined to devote the rest of his life to serving people who needed spiritual, psychological and physical help. He founded the Mission after petitioning the mayor to let him use the theater as a shelter for homeless persons. On April 24, 1904, more than 500 people came to the Mission for its first worship service.

Dugan's heart went out to the poor, the homeless, and disenfranchised men and boys of the City of Charleston. He invited them to sleep in the old theater because they had no other place to stay. After continuing his mission work among the homeless at the Star Theater for 16 years, Dugan acquired the abandoned Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Church at 474 Meeting Street, which is where the Mission has been located ever since.

Following Obadiah's death in 1936, his son, The Rev. Ernest Dugan, a Methodist minister, continued operating the Mission. When Ernest retired in 1973, a third generation Dugan, Ernest, Jr., also a Methodist minister, became its director. Ernest Jr. retired in 1986, bringing the Dugan family's

86 years of leadership to a close. Under the direction of a Board of Director's and the leadership of J. Douglas Donehue, the work of the Mission continued until his death in 2006. In 1989, Doug was instrumental in assuring the Mission's survival and reconstruction in the aftermath of Hurricane Hugo. Upon Doug's death, The Rev. William Christian became the Executive Director. Under his leadership, the Mission is beginning a new chapter by expanding their influence in the community with the acquisition and development of additional transitional, low-income and workforce housing.