



THE STAR NEWS

TRANSFORMING HEARTS AND LIVES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

The Gift of Hospitality

WHEN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARION PLATT was first introduced to Samuel, he was impressed. At their first meeting, Samuel spoke about his goals—what he wanted to become and what he wanted to build for himself. Marion knew immediately he would be a great addition to the Star Gospel Mission's program.

Samuel came to the Mission because he was struggling to find affordable housing in the downtown Charleston area. He had stayed in communal housing before in different cities and felt comfortable coming into the Mission.

"I was always more of a recluse in the past," explains Samuel. "But since coming to Star Gospel Mission, I am becoming more accustomed to being part of a community and sharing meals. I see this as a means of spiritual growth."

"Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."
Hebrews 13:1-2

Marion says Samuel is deeply thoughtful and disciplined, and an excellent example for other Mission guests.

"I was thrilled when he told me he was interested in our transitional housing. He has taken advantage of everything Star Gospel Mission has to offer, from coaching and casework to all the life skills opportunities and every chapel meeting. I am certain he will continue to do well in the program."

Samuel is often observed enjoying times of silent meditation and prayer. He explains that he has been able to care for his physical, mental and spiritual health better now that he has stable housing.

"My deepest gratitude to Pastor Marion, the Mission staff, the brothers here, and the Charleston community for continuing the ancient custom of offering hospitality to the stranger at the door."



FROM THE Executive Director

My dear friends,

Here in Charleston, we know all about “southern hospitality.” We pride ourselves on good home cooking, unhurried conversation and treating our guests like family. It’s second nature. But the Bible calls us to take it a step further: as believers, we are called to show that same hospitality even to “the least of these.”

In Matthew 25, Jesus says, “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me ... as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.”

Since 1904, Star Gospel Mission has been welcoming in strangers, offering them a hearty meal, a safe night’s sleep and the tools they need to transform their lives. Here, hospitality is *life changing*.

The last couple years have been tough. Political tension, economic insecurity and Covid-19 have impacted us all. **But through the generosity of our donors and volunteers, Star Gospel Mission’s doors have remained open to welcome in strangers who desperately need our help.**

I am so grateful to be a part of this Mission and this wonderful Charleston community that refuses to forget *about the least of these*. Because of your partnership, we have continued to see lives and hearts transformed by the love of Christ.



Friends, I want to thank you for your partnership and your prayers. Because of your sacrificial giving, we have provided hundreds of individuals this year with resources to promote mental, physical, economic and spiritual well-being. As 2022 comes to an end, I humbly ask you to consider making a generous year-end gift to ensure this vital ministry can continue.

The holidays are a great time to visit the Mission. I invite you to take a tour, meet the people you are helping, and allow us to shower some of our southern hospitality on you! To learn more, just email me at marion.platt@stargospelmission.org. I look forward to hearing from you!

Gratefully,

Dr. Marion Platt
Executive Director



Recognition from the Charleston Leadership Foundation

STAR GOSPEL MISSION is honored to be recognized as a Charleston Leadership Foundation Associate Organization. Only fully vetted, Christian nonprofits in the Charleston area receive this organization’s stamp of approval. CLF’s mission statement is to “bring together local Christian leaders to minister to the community and change lives.” We are grateful to be included in this powerful network of like-minded ministries!

Board Member Moment

AS OWNER OF PALMETTO FORD, Graham Eubank is a busy man. But since 2014, he has gladly shared some of his spare time serving on SGM's board of directors.

"It's so rewarding to see the success stories of the men that come through, and also the transformation and growth of Star Gospel Mission over the past couple years," says Graham.

Graham's dad, Manly Eubank, served on the board before him and would always tell Graham stories about men who were down and out, yet were able to get their lives back on track with the help of the Mission. Now, he is happy to be following in his father's footsteps.

Graham is confident that under the excellent leadership of Executive Director Marion Platt and the board of directors, Star Gospel Mission is ready to take things to the next level. He looks forward to seeing the plans for growth and expanded facilities carried out to help more folks who need a helping hand.



"I invite anyone and everyone to come see what Star Gospel Mission is all about—how the Mission changes lives!"

Volunteer Spotlight

IAN GIANCURSIO HAS felt God calling him to work with people in need his whole life. In August, he reached out to Rev. Marion Platt at Star Gospel Mission and began leading worship for Sunday chapel services.

"It was absolutely wild to see the way God made it clear in my heart to offer to play," Ian says, "and it's been amazing to see the relationships I've made with the guys there."

Ian appreciates the "come as you are" atmosphere at the Mission and that the love of Christ is shown to all, regardless of their story.

In 2015, Ian earned a degree in finance but soon realized God was leading him down a different path. He moved to Charleston and started a band that toured for two years, then later performed as a solo pop artist.

Ian says, "I have seen God use my music pursuits in various amazing ways, like at Star Gospel. Leading worship on Sundays is so clearly something God has confirmed in my heart."



Top Volunteer Needs

Contact Dr. Marion Platt at marion.platt@stargospelmission.org or (843) 722-2473 to learn more about volunteering at Star Gospel Mission.

- **Breakfast Preparation:** Help our residents rise and shine with a hearty, home-cooked breakfast. Sign up for once a week or once a month.
- **Case Management:** Assist our clients to navigate social service resources, obtain official documents like driver's license and birth certificate, apply for housing, and other critical needs. We will provide all the training you need to serve.
- **Sunday Morning Worship:** Bring your musical talents to our worship team for Sunday morning chapel service. You can serve one time, every month or once a quarter.
- **Group Counselor:** Lead a weekly life skills group or other support session. No experience necessary—we will provide the training.

WAYS YOU CAN GIVE

GOD USES YOUR GIFTS to raise up men who can raise up their communities. You make a difference.

Since 1904, Star Gospel Mission has relied on the gifts of compassionate individuals, businesses, churches, civic groups and private foundations to fund our work with those in need in Charleston.



Your year-end gift is critical, providing food, shelter, utility and rent assistance, and other resources for people experiencing hardship in our community. Please prayerfully consider making a tax-deductible gift before December 31, 2022.

- ★ **Cash:** Your financial gifts assist men who need encouragement, guidance and structure along with essential services such as a safe bed, daily meals, hot showers and clean clothing.
- ★ **Appreciated Stock, Bonds or Mutual Funds:** Avoid capital gains tax and deduct 100 percent of the value of your contribution when you transfer stock directly to the Mission.
- ★ **Non-cash Assets:** Donate a car, boat or other non-cash asset, and we will issue a receipt for tax purposes. You determine the value of the gift. Please contact us before making the donation.
- ★ **Bequest through a Will:** Make a bequest to Star Gospel Mission of a dollar amount or percentage of your estate, or any specific property after taking care of your loved ones.

"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and the Lord will repay him for his deed"
Proverbs 19:17

Please discuss these and other planned gifts with your tax attorney or financial planner before giving. Questions? Contact marion.platt@stargospelmission.org or call (843) 722-2473

Thank You **FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU IN 2023!**



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