



# THE STAR NEWS

TRANSFORMING HEARTS AND LIVES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

## Bill's Story of Hope

Unlike many who seek help at Star Gospel Mission, Bill Miller didn't struggle with addiction or sleep in his car. Instead, he was grappling with a divorce, COVID and financial instability, and he was determined that none of these hardships would separate him from the person he loved most... his teenage son.

A mechanical engineer with a college degree, Bill worked for an out-of-state shipbuilding company until his contract ended. Instead of seeking another contract, he returned to Charleston to be near his son during his senior year in high school. "I wanted to support him," he says simply. "It was what I had to do."

Bill soon found a job as a security guard, but couldn't afford to rent an apartment. "I was low on money and needed a place to stay," he says. "It was the beginning of COVID. The divorce was financially unsettling and, well, \$12 an hour doesn't go very far."

At Star Gospel Mission, Bill quickly moved from our dorm into our Transitional Housing apartments. There, he was able to save for the future, while spending lots of time with his son. And he didn't have to worry about meals or where he'd sleep the next night.

"Coming to a faith-based place was positive, and I enjoyed the Sunday morning services," he says today. "I don't know what would have happened if this place hadn't been here."



On a Monday in mid-October, Bill's son boarded a bus for basic training and a stint in the Army. A few days later, Bill headed for Pascagoula, Miss., to work as a senior electrical engineer for naval and coastguard vessels. But his thoughts are always with his son. "He's my wingman," Bill says with a smile. "I'm proud of him!"

**Thank you for helping provide the housing Bill needed at Star Gospel Mission while he supported his son and became financially stable. Please pray for them both as they head out on new adventures!**



# ★ From the Executive Director

interns sort out the documents needed to help a Mission Guest get a copy of his birth certificate.

- Smelling delicious meals delivered several days a month, by local churches and faith-based fitness groups.

- Touching the lives of *formerly* homeless men, by giving them a safe place to sleep, sufficient nutrition, and a supportive community.

- **And knowing that *donors like you gave sacrificially to ensure the needs of our community are met!***

The truth is, my first eight months are only a tiny part of Star Gospel Mission's fruitful 117-year history! And as a native Charlestonian with family roots on the eastside, the Mission's legacy makes me even more determined to seeing lives transformed, and more people reached with resources that promote mental, physical, economic and spiritual well-being. As 2021 comes to an end, I want to thank you for your partnership

and prayers for Star Gospel Mission. Thank you for giving us the resources to say "Welcome! Come on in!" to those who come to our doors, seeking our help. And if the Lord leads, would you please consider making a final year-end gift to the Mission so we can end the year financially strong and ready for 2022?

### Many lives depend on it.

Finally, if you'd like to engage more fully in our work, please email me at [marion.platt@stargospelmission.org](mailto:marion.platt@stargospelmission.org). I would be delighted to talk with you about opportunities to help us serve others.

Dr. Marion Platt  
Executive Director

Greetings, Friends!

Just about eight months ago, I was called to the chair of Pastor & Executive Director at Star Gospel Mission, and it has already been one of my favorite adventures in my twenty years of ministry.

When I look back over those months, I remember witnessing so many extraordinary moments:

- Hearing a Star Gospel Mission team member say, "Welcome! Come on in!" to someone who felt lost and completely alone.
- Watching a grandmother cry with relief when she received help with groceries.
- Listening to our Trident Tech



Brian cooks a delicious meal for guests

## January-September 2021 Because You Gave

9,600 Meals Served

6,720 Nights of Shelter

Hundreds of Lives Transformed

Thank you for helping SGM make a positive impact on our community.

**TAKE NOTE!** You can make an impact on the lives of our guests by donating canned soups, coffee, ground beef, tuna, frozen veggies and new or gently used coats. **Bring your donations Monday-Saturday to 474 Meeting Street. Thanks!**



# “I just want to give back”

Shakeia, a student at Trident Technical College, had already chosen a place to intern when she saw something on her computer screen during Zoom class that reminded her of childhood.

“I saw this picture and heard something about a Thanksgiving giveaway. It sounded familiar, and I thought, ‘That’s where my grandmother used to get gift cards for Thanksgiving!’”

Her cousin confirmed that Shakeia and her ‘granny’ stood in line at Star Gospel Mission each Thanksgiving to receive gift cards for food. “It was early in the morning, and I would tell my grandmother I was cold and tired, and wanted to go home. But wherever she went, I went, too. I was ‘Granny’s girl,’ and I was stuck to her like glue!”



Shakeia, front and center, with her grandmother and cousins

Shakeia’s mother died in April 2019 from kidney disease, and her beloved grandmother passed away in April 2021. “It had always been the three of us, so this has been an adjustment for me,” Shakeia says.

The memory of those days waiting in line with her grandmother were so precious, she decided to intern at Star Gospel Mission instead of her earlier choice. “I thought of this as a sign that I’m supposed to intern at the Mission,” Shakeia explains.

During her internship, Shakeia is organizing this year’s Good Cheer Fund gift card giveaway with

her grandmother in mind. “I’m organizing a way for the giveaway to be easier for senior citizens. A lot of people, including senior citizens, would be in line before the sun was up to make sure they got a card. Now with COVID, it’s even harder. I want to make it easier for them.”

“I want to learn all I can from Dr. Platt about compassion,” says Shakeia. “I want to advocate for people and speak up for those who can’t. That’s what I did for my mother when she was going through kidney failure and what I want to do now. I just feel like it’s what I’m meant to do. I want to give back.”



Shakeia discusses program policies with Jim, the Mission’s General Manager



THANKS,  
SEA TURTLES!

## Volunteer Spotlight

The mission of **Sea Turtles Ministries** is “to train and equip leaders to be disciples who are disciple-makers.”

In September, members of the group volunteered at SGM, removing old furniture, painting walls, and sorting and framing photos to create a “history alcove” where visitors can view our 117-year history!

To learn more about this unique ministry, visit [seaturtleministries.org](http://seaturtleministries.org) or contact Erin Didyoung at (803) 240-8401.

# Top Volunteer Needs



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

## BREAKFAST PREPARATION:

Bring your skillet skills to our kitchen once a week or once a month to provide a home cooked breakfast for our guys.

## SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP TEAM:

Help lead our clients in worship; sign up for a one-time gig, quarterly or monthly.

## WEEKLY GROUP COUNSELOR:

Lead a weekly AA or other support group session. We'll train you to serve.

## CASE MANAGEMENT:

Assist our clients to locate and navigate social service resources, obtain official documents like driver's licenses and birth certificates, apply for housing and more. We'll train you to help.

Founded in 1904, Star Gospel Mission has always relied on the gifts of compassionate individuals, businesses, churches, civic groups and private foundations to fund our efforts on behalf of homeless men and the hurting in Charleston.

## Ways to Give

Your year-end gift will help provide food, shelter, utility and rental assistance, and other resources for people experiencing hardships in our community. Please prayerfully consider making a tax-deductible gift before December 31, 2021.

### We can accept contributions of:

**CASH:** Your financial gifts assist men who need encouragement, guidance and structure along with essential services such as a safe clean 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 assets to the Mission, and we'll issue a receipt for tax purposes. You determine the value of the gift. Please contact us before making the donation.

**BEQUEST THROUGH WILL:** Make a bequest to Star Gospel Mission of a dollar amount, specific property, a percentage of your estate or the remainder of your estate after taking care of your loved ones.

*Please discuss these and other planned gifts with your tax attorney or financial planner before giving.*

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU IN 2022!**

The plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.

Psalm 33:11



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