

# GoodSam Gospel *messenger*

2307 Hull Street, Richmond, VA 23224  
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## “Reminders of Why We Serve”

Taken from GSM February 2002 Newsletter

Norman, a truck driver, was headed by train to Florida when he ran out of money in Richmond. He was trying to escape all the people and triggers that he believed were the reason for his problems. Looking for a place to stay and some work, he headed out in search of work to fund the rest of his trip. Unable to find work and in need of lodging, he was directed to Good Samaritan Ministries by another agency.

After deciding to stick around and hear what the Chaplain had to say, Norman accepted Christ as his Savior and decided to enroll himself into the rehabilitation program. Norman has since been working to restore the life that he ruined due to drug and alcohol abuse. Norman says he is “thankful for what the Lord has done for me” and is grateful for the help he received from the ministry.

Norman only has a couple of months remaining and then he plans on following whatever path the Lord has for him.

*Norman’s story is 15 years old and he and Pastor Mike are still in contact. But Norman is just one of thousands who have come to GSM for help, looking for something better for their lives, and a way out of the darkness. That something is actually a someone... Jesus Christ! Our mission is to meet the physical but our utmost goal is to share the love of Christ with each and everyone!*

## Welcome! Lighthouse Baptist Church

Lighthouse Baptist is located in Brookneal, VA. Pastor Frank Gooch and his congregation recently added GSM to their missionaries/ministries they support. Pastor Mike preached a revival and homecoming there in June. He had a wonderful time of fellowship with Pastor Frank and his sweet congregation. We are excited to have them as part of the GSM Family!

## Every Day Needs

### BIBLES

King James Version  
(Large & Regular Print)

### Men’s Hygiene Products

Soap, Shampoo  
Shaving Cream, Disposable  
Razors, Toothbrushes,  
Toothpaste, Non-alcoholic  
Mouthwash, Underarm Deodorant,  
Foot Powder

### OTC Medicines

Aspirin, Ibuprofen, Cold/Allergy  
Meds, Antacids

### Clothing

Underwear (Shorts/T-shirt) /  
Socks / Belts

### Cleaning Supplies

Laundry Detergent, Dryer Sheets,  
Dish Detergent, Lysol Spray &  
Wipes

### Food Items

Coffee, Creamer, Sugar, Canned  
Goods, Breakfast Cereals



*Friends...Summer is a time when things slow down in the GSM office a bit, so we try to catch up on projects from our "To Do" lists. One of my staff recently cleaned out a file cabinet and found a stack of newsletters from the early days of GSM. I thought it would be interesting to share a "re-run" with you in this month's newsletter. We've had a grand time walking through the beginning years. What has been constant in all our newsletters is the power of Christ to change lives. I hope you enjoy this quick visit to the past.*

This message is from May 1993, Volume V, No. 5

## **MIKE'S MESSAGE**

It seems as if everyone is talking about what to do regarding the homeless. This view is from some one who was homeless for twenty years.

### *Our Solution to Homelessness and Poverty*

To really help, a program is effective only when it has an ultimate objective (purpose), a cohesive structure (plan), and a redemptive message (prospect). Here's ours.

Our purpose is to salvage ruined individuals and repair the breakdown of society. Most of the homeless, at least 85%, have a problem with addiction of some kind. We will work with a person for no less than 90 day. It takes 30 days just to get to the norm. We also hope to lead a person to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Our aim is character recovery, not clinical correction. Our goal is for every convert to become a contributing citizen to our society, not to become dependent on the program. We reduce crime through rehabilitation of drug-motivated criminals - pushers, thieves, muggers, etc., and increase the number of tax-paying, productive citizens. We also support families threatening to disintegrate.

Our plan is to rehabilitate through applying the Biblical principles of the work ethic - teaching responsibility, accountability, and dependability. Contact with persons needing our services is established through our shelters which serve men, women, and families. Referrals are also made by pastors, social workers, parole officers, and others familiar with our program.

Our residential discipleship program incorporates the Overcomers' program. Overcomers is a Christian ministry that provides material for use in group meetings of alcohol and other drug abusers. Its message is victory over addiction through Christ. Chapel and church attendance is mandatory. Participants are evaluated weekly, and are not into a position that would cause defeat. People are dealt with individually.

Withdrawal from drugs and alcohol is accomplished "cold turkey" with supervision and counseling by on-site staff. Work is an essential part of the rehabilitation process. Members are required to work at shelter-related duties.

Without skills and references, rehabilitated people will fall right back into unemployment on the streets. The graduates of the discipleship program can step up to our work training program. We pay a full week's wage while acting as an employment agency to find work for them. Work program participants move out of the group homes into furnished apartments in our complex and begin to resume financial responsibility. They pay room and board out of their paychecks, and the fees paid for their services help cover some of their overhead. We call this "paying your own way". We are currently in the process of setting up an automotive repair shop where we can train people to earn more than minimum wage to properly support a family.

Our prospect is great! We help by defining what faith in Christ can and must mean in one's life - if any be in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new (II Cor. 5:17).

Approximately 90% of the discipleship program members complete the program. In the year that we have instituted the work training program, we have placed 75-100 people back into the work force.

Because we are a religious organization, we do not receive any government or United Way funds, but rely entirely on the contributions of churches, businesses, organizations and individuals who share our concern and commitment to help the lost, the least, and the forgotten. Thank you for caring!

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**T***he Annual Banquet was a great success. A big thank you goes to Gospel Baptist Church for allowing us to use their brand-new, commodious fellowship hall, which we filled to capacity. Another big thank you goes to the Ladies Auxiliary of The Good Samaritan Inn for all the hard work they put into preparing and serving the delicious roast beef dinner. We heard heart-warming testimonies from program members, inspirational music, and an encouraging word from our own Mike McClary. Although it poured down rain, there was a warm glow inside. If you missed it, plan on joining us next year!*

# Commonwealth Christian Academy

For those of you who have been supporters of GSM for many years, you will remember that we opened a private Christian School 21 years ago. The school was established to provide an affordable Christian education to those parents who wanted a safe and caring environment for their kids.

At its onset, the school was under the umbrella of Good Samaritan Ministries. Eight years ago we broke it away from GSM as an entity to stand on its own....and it has.

We've had struggles over the years but the school is standing strong as a beacon of light for the community and its students.

We don't often mention the school in the GSM newsletter mainly because we do not want our donors to think that we are dipping twice into your pockets...not a bad idea...but not our intention. Through donations and fund raisers, CCA meets all its own needs and expenses these days and we praise God for this blessing.

So why mention it now? We wanted to share the great year the kids had. Six of our students competed in local, regional, and national competitions this past school year. While we were a small group, we held our own.



At Regionals, CCA was awarded "The Christian Character Award for 2017." The votes for this award came from all the other schools participating in the event.

In addition, we wanted to ask you pray for CCA and to spread the word. We are an Accelerated Christian Education curriculum school. Our tuition is set at \$6,000 for the year with many scholarships available for those needing assistance.

Would you help us spread the word? CCA is a safe, fun, and exciting place for children to grow in wisdom and strength and most important...in Christ!

For more information 804-612-9146  
[www.commonwealthchristianacademy.com](http://www.commonwealthchristianacademy.com)

## Catching Up...

- Thank you to all our donors who participated in the spring BoD Matching Funds Campaign. It was another successful year. Thank you to our Board of Directors for their hearts for this ministry and their willingness to sponsor this campaign.
- We had four men graduate the 12-month program, two in June and two in July. All four men are employed. Two are now on staff at Good Samaritan and living with their families in our Pilkington Apartments. The other two work for local businesses and rent apartments at our Clopton Terrace Apartments. We are truly proud of these men and their accomplishments.
- The Youth Group from Calvary Park Baptist Church in Elkins Park, PA was with us for the 28th year. The kids and leaders power washed the fence surrounding our Pilkington Apartments, they replaced the wooden fence on Hull Street, and the ladies worked at our Thrift Store. On Wednesday evening, they presented an amazing Youth Choir special. One of their boys played our pipe organ and another played the violin. It was an awesome service and we thank them from the bottom of our hearts for their dedication to GSM!
- Pastor Mike and his wife have been traveling to a few of our supporting churches. They have been to Brookneal, VA, Meadville, PA, and Vernon, PA. Pastor Mike would love to come and give your church an update. Call the office at 804-231-9995.

### Special Gifts

In Memory and Celebration of  
**Joy Williams**  
By her parents Clyde & Mary Williams

In Honor of  
**Scott & Melissa Brannan**  
By Joyce Hall



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## GSM Executive Staff

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Mrs. Nita McClary, Admin & Finance Director



Calvary Park Baptist Church, Elkins Park, PA Youth Group  
28 years of service to Good Samaritan Ministries ~ June 2017

Visit our website at [www.gsamministries.com](http://www.gsamministries.com) to see the projects the kids and leaders completed this year!