

# University Community News

Volume 9

*Restoring hope . . . one life at a time.*

Issue 2

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## UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY MINISTRIES "2013 RESTORING HOPE BANQUET"

# SAVE THE DATE!

## Thursday, September 26, 2013

I am sure that by now all of you have been wondering why you have not received your invitation to the annual UCM Restoring Hope Banquet. The reason is because we are making some (what I believe to be) nice changes this year. But before I go any further I would like to say a special "Thank You" to the Tampa Airport Hilton Hotel for their kind and gracious service given to University Community Ministries for the past five years. We have truly enjoyed not only their amazing service but the beautiful and elegant atmosphere they created for our event.

This year the UCM Board decided that it was time for us to do something different, so we not only moved the date of the UCM 2013 Restoring Hope Banquet to Thursday, September 26, 2013 but also changed the venue to the Embassy Suites Tampa USF located at 3705 Spectrum Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33612.

Please put the date on your calendar and watch for your invitation, which will arrive at your home sometime in August, 2013.

We look forward to seeing and fellowshiping with you at the banquet!

America Van Gorp, Committee Chairman of the UCM Restoring Hope Banquet and The UCM Board

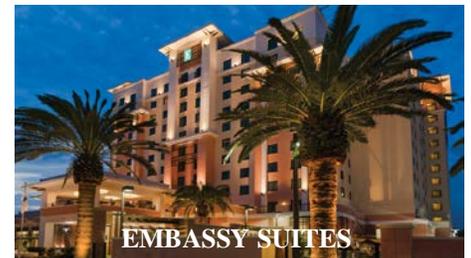
UCM is all about *"Restoring hope . . . one life at a time"*.



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EMBASSY SUITES



## OPERATION JUMPSTART (Homeless Community Outreach Program)

**My Story**  
By George Bell

My name is George Larry Bell and I would like to expound on the ins and outs of my life. First of all, I was born in Tupelo, Mississippi and have two



sisters and one brother. I came to Flint Michigan as a baby. As I grew up in Flint, I did those things that your ordinary child would do, a lot of negative things that kept me away from pushing toward Jesus and how He wanted me to be.

As I grew up, I realized that my dad had a gift; he was a natural auto mechanic with no training. I began to help him by passing him tools when he was in a position where he could not reach them. Soon I learned to do certain minor repairs and some that were not so easy. I soon lost interest in the repairing of automobiles and started trying to figure out what I wanted to do in life. Little did I know how hard it would be to figure anything out without God!

Through AARP I learned a lot about household maintenance and appliance repairs and eventually established a small clientele. I really liked repairing appliances and houses, yet I wanted to try my hand at Business Administration. So I earned a two year Associates Degree and the knowledge I obtained through the studies, I only used for personal reasons.

My attitude at the time was really out of control. I had a few scrapes with the law, but got past it all and started with what I call scab jobs for four years - working for temporary agencies, subsidiary companies who dealt direct with GM and plastic mold injection presses.

Have you ever heard the saying, "My how time flies when you are having fun!?" I am now 62 years old, have been living in Tampa four months with a very small social security check, needing a part-time job to stay afloat. I was directed to Tampa for purpose of employment. When I first arrived here I stayed at the Salvation Army for five or six days and had to sleep on the streets for three days. I did not like that at all. I was then directed to a place called New Beginning where I slept on the floor; it has always been my knowledge that you have to go through something to get to something.

At New Beginning I heard about a group that was serving breakfast on Saturday mornings at the corner of Bird and North Florida Ave. This was my first encounter with the UCM Operation Jumpstart (OJ) Program that brought a brand new perspective to my life. I believe God wanted me to go through these things to direct and connect me with a ministry that I would enjoy and really have the need to want to do His work. You see, OJ had a special breakfast every Saturday morning and I could always count on hearing God's word. (However, the sausage, grits and eggs were also a blessing.) All of this was my cue to begin something righteous by getting involved with the ministry and to give my time to help someone else as I have been helped.

God has kept me in very good health all the way through the years, and I believe He knew that I would need to be able to do work later in life. Since I have been in Tampa, I have met an up-right man who has helped bring me from a reckless escapade of a life to a more meaningful life (I actually met him through the UCM OJ Program). As I begin to open my eyes, I see what Jesus wanted me to do all along. You see my goals are to have peace and joy and I know that this can't happen without the Lord. This is why I try my best to help out doing the Lord's work every week, like helping to feed the homeless and whatever I can do for the ministry.

The Lord is the best boss I could ever have - because through my giving Him all the praise and glory, He pays me overtime in peace and joy.

Your brother in Christ Jesus,  
George Larry Bell

## HOMELESSNESS HITS HOME

By Brigid Q. Morgan

The scripture, Matthew 25:35 has always been a favorite of mine.

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.*

*Then the righteous will answer him, Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you or thirsty and give you something to drink?*

*The King will reply, "Truly, I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."*

Being a part of the OJ team has always been a personal pact between me and the Lord. Being a former missionary to Alaska, it was always about 'around the world' . . . little did I know that 'across the street' would become an integral part of my life.

It happened when my older sibling ended up 'on the streets' of Tampa. My own brother, now homeless due to drugs and mental illness. During this time of turmoil, as I would drive through the city looking for him, I would pray that someone would take that verse to heart.

In the meantime, I know one is not to make a deal with God, but I told the Lord that if He took care of my brother, I would reach out to those who are in the same situation; the hungry, mentally ill and hurting. I look back and I see that God kept His part of the bargain and I plan to keep mine.



Not everyone chooses to be homeless and it is Operation Jumpstart's passion to serve and help those homeless individuals of Tampa Bay.

## OPERATION JUMPSTART VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By Mary Pass

It is with joy and gratitude that we share with you, as the newest members of UCM

Operation Jumpstart (OJ) Program. We are Paul and Mary Pass.



We introduce ourselves as a couple who have each lost our mate. Widow and Widower in our early 40's was not an easy path. Through much adversity and struggle, we feel that God has brought us together as a couple. We just celebrated our first anniversary.

It has been our united prayer to give ourselves in service as we cannot express the overflowing blessings that we have received from our loving Savior. We understand how precious life is and not to wait for "someday" to serve God.

In January of this year, we passed by Florida Avenue and saw OJ in action. We stopped and asked questions about the ministry. We were encouraged to attend the monthly planning meeting to gain better understanding of what OJ was about.

At our first meeting we immediately felt connected. What a beautiful, diverse group of followers. It is obvious that the Love of Jesus Christ is the firm foundation that drives the direction of the team. Preparing a delicious breakfast with the intentions of sharing a glimmer of hope to someone in need is a privilege and honor. More than just providing a meal, it is the

desire of OJ to offer encouragement through God's word and prayer.

Working with the team is not work at all. It is fellowship with God's family and our answered prayers. If you have been looking for an opportunity to serve the Lord, come and visit. Don't wait for "someday". Thanksgiving to God for what He has done, what He is doing and what He will do.

John 13:34-35

*"A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. All men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another."*

In Christ

Paul and Mary Pass

If you would like to help with the OJ Program or feel called to this kind of ministry, please contact America Van Gorp (813-390-0271) or Jerome Van Gorp (813-334-3709) or via email at [info@UniversityCommunityMinistries.org](mailto:info@UniversityCommunityMinistries.org).

## 2013 BOWL FOR HOPE



The *2013 Bowl For Hope* fundraising event was a tremendous success. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual bowl-a-thon which we have hosted at Splitsville Lanes at Channelside. A total of 28 people participated in the bowl-a-thon this year.

Each bowler solicited sponsors for their two games of bowling and as of this publication, we have collected **\$16,000** in net proceeds from the event! Each bowler received complimentary food and drinks and enjoyed a wide variety of raffle prizes throughout the two hour event.



It was a great team effort and a big thanks goes out to all of our volunteers, participants and sponsors/donors. The following companies and individuals were an event and/or lane sponsor for this year's event:

USAmeriBank (Event sponsor)

Bill Edwards/Edwards Group

The Radiant Group, LLC

Automated Petroleum

Newspaper Printing Company

CCF&N Insurance

David & Becky Ogburn

Citylife Church

Academic Alliance in Dermatology

Morgan Automotive Group

Jerome & America Van Gorp

Dr. Shah/Carrollwood Medical

Tampa Title Company/Gary Gibbons

AEC Services, Inc.

Seven One Seven Parking Services

American Metals Supply

Also, a special thank you is in order for Guy Revelle, owner of Splitsville, who once again provided a great venue for our fundraiser. We give all praise to God for all of the success of this year's event!

## FRIENDSHIP BRIDGE LUNCHEON

**When:** Saturday, May 18, 2013  
at 12:00PM

**Where:** Citylife Church, Tampa

**Bring:** Vegetable Side Dish for 4

## NEEDS

UCM needs your time and talents – volunteer today! Call the UCM office at (813) 935-8400 or email us at [info@universitycommunityministries.org](mailto:info@universitycommunityministries.org) and let us hear from you!



## YOU CAN HELP

Join UCM in *Restoring hope . . . one life at a time*. As a supporter, you will receive our quarterly newsletter with important messages about our programs as well as success stories about the people we serve. UCM is a non-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible.

**YES**, I would like to partner with UCM in *Restoring hope . . . one life at a time*. Enclosed is my gift to UCM in the amount of:

\$500    \$100    \$250    \$50    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 One Time    Monthly    Quarterly    Annually

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone/Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in becoming a volunteer.

### Planned Giving Options

Please consider a gift to UCM in your will or estate plan.

Please send me information about naming UCM in my will.

I have already made provisions for UCM in my estate plans.

**Thank you. Make checks payable to:  
University Community Ministries, Inc., PO Box 280024, Tampa, Florida 33682.**

## University Community Ministries, Inc.



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