

SEPTEMBER 2024

**TARGET
DAYTON
MINISTRIES**

GOD MIRACULOUSLY PROVIDED a beautiful church building with a 500 seat sanctuary to minister the gospel to the poor and homeless!

MIRACLE MISSION

Dear Friend,

25 years ago, Cindi and I answered God's call to do ministry for the poor and homeless in the inner city. We stepped out in faith, moved into the city and began part-time ministry! And God began *"to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine...!"* (Ephesians 3:20)

A small Nazarene church right across the street from a low-income housing complex allowed us to use their fellowship hall for our first evangelistic service and dinner on Saturdays. I preached my first real sermon to the poor and homeless that day and four people came forward to accept Christ as their savior at my invitation! It was the start of our MIRACLE MISSION!

We added a Sunday morning service with a free breakfast. Then we started a Friday night Bible study and dinner for the poor and homeless at the house we rented near the fellowship hall.

Several area churches partnered with us to provide some of the food, and God began to *"meet all our needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus!"* (Philippians 4:19)

Soon, the ministry grew way beyond... *continued >*



anything we could keep up with on a part-time basis, and a couple from our home church offered to underwrite our salary so we could go full-time. God did *"immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine..."* by providing a salary for us to serve in full-time ministry!



We renovated the little fellowship hall we were using, and Target Dayton expanded to eight evangelistic services a week with free meals afterward. By the end of our first summer of full-time ministry we were serving three or four hundred homeless people every week. And people's lives were being changed every day!

Friends, fellow believers and volunteers from local churches started making financial donations to help with our rapidly growing expenses. Money was donated to buy a 15 passenger Ford van so

we could pick homeless people up from area shelters. And a big church in Cincinnati donated money to buy our first school bus to transport the choir. And *"God made all grace abound to us... so that we had all that we needed to abound in every good work!"* (2 Corinthians 9:8)

By the end of our first year of full-time ministry, so many homeless people were coming to our services on the weekends that we didn't have enough room to serve them all. Sometimes every seat in our little building would be filled and my dear Cindi would have to apologize to big lines of homeless people and tell them we were out of space and could not let them in!

We began to pray hard for God to provide a bigger building! After 3 years of praying, the 38,000 sq. ft. church building we currently occupy became available and 100% of the purchase price was donated to the ministry to buy the building! With a huge commercial kitchen, five hundred seat sanctuary and a five hundred seat dining hall it was perfect for our ministry! Yet, Cindi and I worried about how we would afford to pay the bills in such a large facility! We were barely keeping up with expenses in the little fellowship hall!



God miraculously provided a 38,000 sq. ft. building and the money to buy it!

But we mustered our courage, prayed and asked God for a *"pressed down... running over"* miracle! We stepped out in faith and moved into that huge building... and we trusted God to *"meet all our needs!"*

Once again money was donated to buy additional shuttles and buses and the numbers of poor and homeless people attending our services multiplied! Soon the number of people we were serving in one night was more than what we used to serve in a whole week in our little fellowship hall.



God miraculously provided a whole fleet of shuttles and buses to transport the poor from all over the city!



God miraculously provided a commercial kitchen and a dining hall big enough to seat 500 people. Today we serve more people in one night... than we used to serve in a whole week!

Our expenses grew so fast, and got so big, that many months it looked impossible to keep up with all the bills. Like a \$3,000 gas bill that first winter! Many times we prayed, "Lord, we need a miracle to keep from having to shut down our services".

And every time, every month, God provided a miracle, and every bill was paid. By the end of our first year in the new building our annual expenses were almost four times as much as they had been the previous year! And miraculously, our annual INCOME was four times as much too!

When COVID-19 hit, stores and almost everything shut down in the city including churches and many ministries that help the poor. The poor and homeless were left struggling more than ever. People living in low-income apartments were left stranded without resources.

People needed our help more than ever, so we prayed and asked God for a miracle! Then we stepped out in faith and offered more on-site services each week than ever before! We started serving thousands of lunches out on the streets. And we started delivering meals to the poor right to their doors all over the city!

During the pandemic, Target Dayton delivered a quarter of a million free meals to the poor and served tens of thousands of lunches on the streets! And while donations went down in most ministries, our donations went way up, as "*God made all grace abound to us... so that we had all that we needed to abound in every good work!*" (2 Corinthians 9:8)

Today, 25 years later, Cindi and I have four full-time pastors with support staff to help us serve the poor and homeless. Multiple buses and shuttles transport the poor to and from our ministry daily. Tens of thousands attend our 6 services a week and are helped with free hot meals. We clothe them with winter coats in the winter and new shoes in the spring. And every day, homeless people surrender to Christ in an ongoing MIRACLE MISSION! *continued >*



This Christmas, thousands of poor and homeless people will attend our Christmas Day Crusade at the Dayton Convention Center and receive a lunch, gift cards and gospel materials! Many will open their hearts to Christ.

And we need more donations for that ONE DAY than we used to need for a WHOLE YEAR of ministry in the early days! Will you please pray with us that God "will meet all our needs..." once again? We need another miracle!



And will you prayerfully consider becoming a Christmas Day Crusade SPONSOR by making a special donation toward the \$200,000 cost of the crusade?

If you are not already a monthly supporter will you please pray about becoming one? Your monthly gift of \$25, \$50, \$100 or even more will make it possible for us to continue this life-changing mission for the poor and homeless. It's easy to sign up to start giving today!

Also, please join us at our annual Ministry Banquet, on Thursday evening, Sept 26, at 6:30pm. Come enjoy dinner, hear the choir sing, learn about exciting new plans, and receive a special Target Dayton gift. Bring friends from work or church if you can!

Together, let's keep believing God to do "immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine...!" (Ephesians 3:20) as we step out in faith and trust God for another miracle!

Pastor Mark & Cindi

YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE!

Through your service & monthly support...

YOU BRING THE POOR: You give them a ride to get the help they need...

YOU FEED THE POOR: You feed them with free hot breakfast or dinner...

YOU CLOTHE THE POOR: You clothe them with shirts, socks, shoes, hats, gloves & coats...

YOU SAVE THE POOR: You preach the good news to them & they are saved...

YOU DISCIPLE THE POOR: You disciple them & give them a place to serve Christ...



OUR GIFT TO YOU! Receive a free Target Dayton T-shirt with John 3:7 emblazoned across the back when we hear from you this month! Show your support of Target Dayton and share Christ's word everywhere you go!

Did you know that you can make a secure gift online at TARGETDAYTON.COM or by scanning this code?



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