



Helps Ministry

(TheLord1)

November 2007 – Present

Acts 20:35 Jesus said: *"I have shewed you all things,
how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak,
and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus;
how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive."*

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INTRODUCTION

This ministry is to be of encouragement, inspiration and resources for those that are in need. Jesus has helped us in one way or another in our lives. So it is important to give back and share the love of God with others. We have been driven within to have this feeding for the homeless at Fairmont Park, Riverside, CA on every Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. In prayer, that it will enhance the Kingdom of God. We have a time for sharing spiritual food, (Word of God) plus home cooked nourishment for the body as well.

This ministry began November 2007, on Thanksgiving. We assisted with another ministry (Jim Ward, Vision Plus Church) that was already feeding the homeless. Our helps were in buying the food, preparing and serving. As time went on, eventually the Lord released us and we started feeding on Tuesdays. This was an excellent break, for now there are two days during the week where the Word of God, food and supplies can be shared. Our ministry is a bit different then normal. We have the homeless helping us in setting up, serving and if anyone has something to share they can. Our Motto is, "We are here to help one another through Jesus Christ". Just as we are there to help, we pray that the Lord touches your heart to help in any way that you can. Either in prayer, donations (monetary, supplies, clothing, food) or your time, would be greatly appreciated. May God Bless You Richly For Your Donation.

Our website is <http://thelord1.org>

FACTS ABOUT HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness and poverty are inextricably linked. Poor people are frequently unable to pay for housing, food, childcare, health care, and education. Difficult choices must be made when limited resources cover only some of these necessities. Often it is housing, which absorbs a high proportion of income that must be dropped. Being poor means being an illness, an accident, or a paycheck away from living on the streets. Also mental illness, domestic violence, lack of affordable health care, addiction disorders and it goes on. Homelessness results from a complex set of circumstances that require people to choose between food, shelter, and other basic needs. Only a concerted effort to ensure jobs that pay a living wage, adequate support for those who cannot work, affordable housing, and access to health care will bring an end to homelessness. That has not happened.

Two trends are largely responsible for the rise in homelessness over the past 20-25 years: a growing shortage of affordable rental housing and a simultaneous increase in poverty. Persons living in poverty are most at risk of becoming homeless, and demographic groups who are more likely to experience poverty are also more likely to experience homelessness. Recent demographic statistics are summarized below.

AGE

In 2003, children under the age of 18 accounted for 39% of the homeless population; 42% of these children were under the age of five (National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, 2004). This same study found that unaccompanied minors comprised 5% of the urban homeless population. However, in other cities and especially in rural areas, the numbers of children experiencing homelessness are much higher. According to the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, in 2004, 25% of homeless were ages 25 to 34; the same study found percentages of homeless persons aged 55 to 64 at 6%.

GENDER

Most studies show that single homeless adults are more likely to be male than female. In 2007, a survey by the U.S. Conference of Mayors found that of the population surveyed 35% of the homeless people who are members of households with children are male while 65% of these people are females. However, 67.5% of the single homeless population are males, and it is this single population that makes up 76% of the homeless populations surveyed (U.S. Conference of Mayors, 2007).

FAMILIES

The number of homeless families with children has increased significantly over the past decade. Families with children are among the fastest growing segments of the homeless population. In its 2007 survey of 23 American cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors found that families with children comprised 23% of the homeless population (U.S. Conference of Mayors, 2007). These proportions are likely to be higher in rural areas. Research indicates that families,

single mothers, and children make up the largest group of people who are homeless in rural areas (Vissing, 1996).

As the number of families experiencing homelessness rises and the number of affordable housing units shrinks, families are subject to much longer stays in the shelter system. For instance, in the mid-1990s in New York, families stayed in a shelter an average of five months before moving on to permanent housing. Today, the average stay is 5.7 months, and some surveys say the average is closer to a year (U. S. Conference of Mayors, 2007 and Santos, 2002).

ETHNICITY

In its 2006 survey of 25 cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayor found that the homeless population is estimated to be 42 percent African-American, 39 percent white, 13 percent Hispanic, 4 percent Native American and 2 percent Asian. (U.S. Conference of Mayors, 2006). Like the total U.S. population, the ethnic makeup of homeless populations varies according to geographic location. For example, people experiencing homelessness in rural areas are much more likely to be white; homelessness among Native Americans and migrant workers is also largely a rural phenomenon (U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1996).

VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Battered women who live in poverty are often forced to choose between abusive relationships and homelessness. In a study of 777 homeless parents (the majority of whom were mothers) in ten U.S. cities, 22% said they had left their last place of residence because of domestic violence (Homes for the Homeless, 1998). A 2003 survey of 100 homeless mothers in 10 locations around the country found that 25% of the women had been physically abused in the last year (American Civil Liberties Union, 2004). In addition, 50% of the 24 cities surveyed by the U.S. Conference of Mayors identified domestic violence as a primary cause of homelessness (U.S. Conference of Mayors, 2005). Studying the entire country, though, reveals that the problem is even more serious. Nationally, approximately half of all women and children experiencing homelessness are fleeing domestic violence (Zorza, 1991; National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 2001).

VETERANS

Research indicates that 40% of homeless men have served in the armed forces, as compared to 34% of the general adult male population (Rosenheck et al., 1996). In 2005, the U.S. Conference of Mayors' survey of 24 American cities found that 11% of the homeless population were veterans – however, this does not take gender into account (U.S. Conference of Mayors, 2005). The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans estimates that on any given night, 271,000 veterans are homeless (National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, 1994)

PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

Approximately 16% of the single adult homeless population suffers from some form of severe and persistent mental illness (U.S. Conference of Mayors, 2005). According to the Federal Task

Force on Homelessness and Severe Mental Illness, only 5-7% of homeless persons with mental illness require institutionalization; most can live in the community with the appropriate supportive housing options (Federal Task Force on Homelessness and Severe Mental Illness, 1992).

PERSONS SUFFERING FROM ADDICTION DISORDERS

Surveys of homeless populations conducted during the 1980s found consistently high rates of addiction, particularly among single men; however, recent research has called the results of those studies into question (Koegel et al., 1996). Briefly put, the studies that produced high prevalence rates greatly over represented long-term shelter users and single men, and used lifetime rather than current measures of addiction. While there is no generally accepted "magic number" with respect to the prevalence of addiction disorders among homeless adults, the U.S. Conference of Mayors' number in 2005 was 30%, and the frequently cited figure of about 65% is probably at least double the real rate for current addiction disorders among all single adults who are homeless in a year.

EMPLOYMENT

Declining wages have put housing out of reach for many workers: in every state, more than the minimum wage is required to afford a one- or two-bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent.^{[1](#)} (National Low Income Housing Coalition, 2001). In fact, in the median state a minimum-wage worker would have to work 89 hours each week to afford a two-bedroom apartment at 30% of his or her income, which is the federal definition of affordable housing (National Low Income Housing Coalition 2001). Thus, inadequate income leaves many people homeless. The U.S. Conference of Mayors' 2005 survey of 24 American cities found that 13% of the urban homeless population were employed (U.S. Conference of Mayors, 2005), though recent surveys by the U.S. Conference of Mayors have reported as high as 25%. In a number of cities not surveyed by the U.S. Conference of Mayors - as well as in many states - the percentage is even higher (National Coalition for the Homeless, 1997).

MYTHS ABOUT HOMELESSNESS

It is a tragic aspect of our culture that homeless people, in addition to suffering from the hardship of their condition, are subjected to alienation and discrimination by mainstream society. It is even more tragic that alienation and discrimination often spring from incorrect myths and stereotypes which surround homelessness. The following examines some of the myths and the realities about homelessness.

Arrest Records of Homeless People

Myth: Homeless people commit more violent crimes than housed people.

Fact: Homeless people actually commit less violent crimes than housed people.

Dr. Pamela Fischer, of Johns Hopkins University, studied the 1983 arrest records in Baltimore and found that although homeless people were more likely to commit non-violent and nondestructive crimes, they were actually less likely to commit crimes against person or property.¹

The report findings are summarized below.

% of crimes against person or property 25%

% of all other types of crimes 75%

Crimes committed by homeless people 35%

Crimes committed by non-homeless people 65%

The Magnet Theory

Myth: Setting up services for homeless people will cause homeless people from all around to migrate to a city.

Fact: Studies have shown that homeless people do not migrate for services. To the extent they do move to new areas, it is because they are searching for work, have family in the area, or other reasons not related to services.

A recent study found that 75% of homeless people are still living in the city in which they became homeless.²

The Chronic Theory

Myth: Homeless people are a fixed population who are usually homeless for long periods of time.

Fact: The homeless population is quite diverse in terms of their length of homelessness and the number of times they cycle in and out of homelessness.

Research on the length of homelessness states that 40% of homeless people have been homeless less than six months, and that 70% of homeless people have been homeless less than two years.³

Other research on the length of homelessness has identified three primary categories of homeless people:

- transitionally homeless who have a single episode of homelessness lasting an average of 58 days,
- episodically homeless who have four to five episodes of homelessness lasting a total of 265 days,
- chronically homeless who have an average of two episodes, lasting a total of 650 days.⁴

Homeless Population Demographics

Myth: Homeless people are mostly single men.

Fact: Families constitute a large and growing percentage of the homeless population.

A recent study found that families comprise 38% of the urban homeless population.⁵ Other research finds that homeless families comprise the majority of homeless people in rural areas.⁶

Employment

Myth: Homeless people don't work and get most of their money from public assistance programs.

Fact: Homeless people do work, and a relatively small percentage of them receive government assistance.

A nationwide study by the Urban Institute in 1987 found that only 20% of 1,704 homeless people received AFDC, GA, or SSI.⁷ A study done in Chicago found that 39% of homeless people interviewed had worked for some time during the previous month.⁸

Substance Abuse and Mental Illness

Myth: All homeless people are mentally ill or substance abusers.

Fact: Around a quarter of homeless people are mentally ill, and about 40% are alcohol or substance abusers, with around 15% suffering both disabilities.

Koegel has researched the prevalence of mental illness among the homeless population and found "between 20% and 25% of those homeless people studied have at some time experienced severe and often extremely disabling mental illnesses such as schizophrenia and the major affective disorders (clinical depression or bipolar disorder)."⁹

James Wright, of Tulane University, has studied the prevalence of alcohol and other drug abuse among the homeless population. He finds that 38% of homeless people are alcohol abusers, as opposed to 10% of the general population. He furthermore finds that 13% of homeless people are drug abusers.¹⁰ The Center for Mental Health Services states that between 10 and 20% of homeless people suffer "co-occurring severe mental and substance use disorders."¹¹

1. James Wright, Memo to NLCHP: *Transiency of Homeless Substance Abusers* 1 (March 11, 1997)

2. Martha Burt, *What We Know About Helping the Homeless and What It Means For HUD's Homeless Programs* Testimony presented to the Housing and Community Development Subcommittee of the Banking and Financial Institutions Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives 1 (March 5, 1997).

3. Dennis Culhane, Testimony presented to the Housing and Community Development Subcommittee of the Pamela Fischer, *Criminal Activity Among the Homeless: A Study of Arrests in Baltimore* 49 (January, 1988).

4. Banking and Financial Institutions Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, Figure 3 (March 5, 1997).

5. U.S. Conference of Mayors, *A Status Report on Hunger and Homelessness in America's Cities:1996* (1996)

6. Yvonne Vissing, *Out of Sight, Out of Mind: Homeless Children and Families in Small Town America, 1996* (1996).

7. Martha Burt and Cohen, *America's Homeless: Numbers, Characteristics, and Programs that Serve Them* 43 (1989).

8. Peter Rossi, *Down and Out in America* 40 (1989).

9. Paul Koegel, *Causes of Homelessness*, *Homelessness in America* 31 (1996).

10. James Wright, *Homelessness and Health* 68 (1987).

11. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Mental Health Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *Integrating Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services for Homeless People with Co-Occurring Mental and Substance Use Disorders* 1.

Sadly to say, these figures have increased since the time of research.

ORDER OF FEEDING

(Times may differ somewhat depending on how God's timing is and what needs are requested)

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Arrival | Between 2:00 p.m. and 2:15 p.m. |
| Set up | Between 2:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. |
| Word of God/Prayer | 2:30 p.m. |
| Feeding | 2:40 p.m. |
| Clean up | 3:10 p.m. |
| Prayer amongst Helpers | 3:30 p.m. |
| | |
| | |

When we have our feedings, it really depends on how God orchestrates the feeding. There are times we have clothing, supplies to hand out or those in need of individual prayer or just need someone to listen to them. Then our times will fluctuate. For those that are homeless that assist in serving, I try to give them something special for helping. They do not receive something every week, but they are willing to help out with or without something given to them.

WORD OF GOD SHARED

(summarized)

Each week God gives us something to share with his people. His has given us the story about Abraham, how God had tempted him regarding his son. To take him up to the altar to present him as a sacrifice. How Abraham was obedient to God till the end, and God had a ram in the bush instead of Abraham sacrificing his son to God. This is referring to Obedience to God and how He always blesses us in the end through our obedience. Genesis 22:1-18

The story how Lucifer, (angel of worship) and 1/3 of the angels were cast out of heaven for trying to overpower God. The remaining angels did not follow only because they had one chance to mess up with God and they did not want to take that chance. Revelations 12: 7-10 Satan was not destroyed because if he was then we would not have a choice on who to serve. God gave us a free will. For today we have a redeemer. Who is Jesus, who died on the cross for our sins. If we do mess up we can always go to Jesus for repentance. Revelations 20

The ABC's of Salvation. Romans 10:9-10 How God accepts us as we are. There are no differences in person with God. We have all sinned, and come short of the Glory of God. Romans 3:22-23. That once we accept Him as our Saviour, the old man is crucified and in time or right away the outer sins will be removed. Then that will give Jesus the gateway to heal the broken hearted, the damages within and the inner man.

HOT MEALS PREPARED

(samples)

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Fried Chicken | Enchilada Lasagna |
| Mashed Potatoes & Gravy | Refried Beans |
| Green Beans | Mexican Rice |
| Salad | Tortillas |
| Dinner Rolls | Chips & Homemade Salsa |
| Dessert, Drinks | Dessert & Drinks |
| | |
| Baked Chicken | Spaghetti |
| Scalloped Potatoes | Egg Rolls |
| Corn | Corn |
| Salad | Garlic Bread |
| Dinner Rolls | Dessert, Drinks |
| Dessert, Drinks | |
| | |
| Meatloaf | Turkey |
| Mashed Potatoes & Gravy | Rice & Gravy |
| Collard Greens | Green Beans |
| Corn Bread | Rolls |
| Salad | Salad |
| Dessert, Drinks | Dessert, Drinks |
| | |
| | |

ITEMS NEEDED

(FOR THOSE IN NEED)

| MEN | WOMEN | CHILDREN* |
|---|-------------------|---------------|
| Socks | Socks | Socks |
| TShirt | Bras | Underwear |
| All Clothing | All Clothing | All Clothing |
| Razors | Razors | Books |
| Warm Hats (seasonal) | Feminine Products | Toys |
| Gloves (seasonal) | | Vitamins |
| | | |
| | | |
| GENERAL NECESSITIES | | |
| Blankets | Tents | Toothpaste |
| Toothbrush | Deodorant | Toilet Paper |
| Trash Bags | Bibles | Sleeping Bags |
| Brushes | Combs | Shampoo |
| Soap | | |
| <p>Some of these items I can get at Big Lots for reasonable prices, Big 5 for the camping equipment when on sale. If anyone has access to food banks, that is another source.</p> | | |

Long Term Goal

The ultimate outcome of this ministry is to be an organization that will have a shelter to assist crisis-oriented emergency situations all the way to full self-sufficiency, such as shelter, resources for jobs, training and spiritual guidance. We have to start somewhere and this is our start. Pray for us as we pray for you. I am sure one of the reason why helping and giving is on my heart is because of where God has brought me from and I want those who are lost and alone to know that there is hope in Jesus.

You can go to different site online to read about what God is doing.

<http://thelord1.org>

<http://youtube.com/passionettez>

<http://blogtalkradio.com/thelord1>

http://www.pe.com/localnews/riverside/stories/PE_News_Local_R_townfolk01.284895a.html