

Friends of the Mission,

As we make our way through the long days of summer, it seems like there are more people camping out, pitching tents, not actually going on a camping trip, but living in them in the parks and other public places in town. Just last week, I came into work one morning and a man was sleeping outside our building. When asked if he wanted to come in and consider joining our program that could help him out of his situation, he turned me down, he simply wanted to trespass and live on our property outside our building.

This makes me think about who really is homeless and should we even use the word anymore. According to HUD, the man sleeping outside the Mission is homeless and so are the people sleeping inside the Mission enrolled in our program. They lump in people who are being trafficked, fleeing abuse, or even couch-surfing for a sustained period of time into the definition of homelessness. In reality, the definition is so broad that it has lost its meaning, and some even see it as a derogatory word. Many social workers and advocates like using the word houseless or unhoused. They would say the reason for the change is the word homeless has become inseparable from a “toxic narrative” that blames and demonizes people who are unhoused when they are simply victims of the deepening housing crisis.

For me, I'm going to start using the term poverty more instead of homelessness because that speaks more to what people's problems really are, a poverty of relationships, not simply housing.

In his book “When Helping Hurts,” Dr. Brian Fikkert explains the far-reaching consequences of defining poverty incorrectly. He likens it to a doctor misdiagnosing an illness. Say you go to your general practitioner with chronic headaches, and the doctor gives you a pain reliever to treat the symptoms. But, in reality, the headaches were caused by a brain tumor. The doctor has not only not helped the problem, he's made it worse by delaying the treatment you actually need.

So to diagnose the poverty problem in our community, we need to be truthful and honest and strip away all the various symptoms that point to the real problem, the problem of broken relationships.



We are funded by generous donations from people in our community and we do not accept any federal, state, or local government funds

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Our God is relational. Scripture even teaches us that God is love and exists in perfect relationship within Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He's also made human beings in His own image and likeness, which means that we are all relational creatures by nature.

This means that relationships are not just something we do, relationships are the core of who we are and how we flourish. For this reason, our program is all about restoring wholeness to the Four Key Relationships: with God, with self, with others, and with the rest of creation.

Relational wholeness takes time and commitment. This is why our program utilizes a live-in discipleship approach, in which we commit to walking alongside and learning with our program participants for up to two full years (20 weeks at a time). Over the course of the program, relationships are restored to wholeness as we walk together as a micro-community, learning the truths of Scripture, participating in classes, and Bible studies. We also seek daily to serve one another and the broader community by putting our collective gifts and skills to work.

While growing together as a micro-community, we especially strive to develop and deepen our relationships with particular local churches – supportive communities to worship and grow with our participants even after they have completed the program.

By God's grace, as the Four Key Relationships are restored, we can begin to truly flourish – glorifying our good God as we enjoy Him together.

GIFTS FROM THE HEART

In honor of Jesus Christ

by Ken & Diane Capp

In honor of Harry Mattes

by Patricia Jensen

In memory of Jerry Armstrong

by Mary Armstrong

In memory of Eustace & Lorene Arthur

by Jillinda Arthur

In memory of Earl Best

by Nickolas & Lindsay Boosalis

In memory of Jason Bordeau

by Cheryl Schmidt

In memory of Bob Bowen

by Patricia Jensen

In memory of Wallace & Lucille Brill

by Robert & Judith Addington

In memory of My Brother Bruce

by Lynn Baker

In memory of Ardis Crumm

by Rene Owen

In memory of Carolyn Ferguson

by Gary & Nancy Payton

In memory of Clare Fiebelkorn

by Sherrill Hieber

In memory of Rochelle Roby Frymire

by Paul & Janice Roby

In memory of Michael Gallo

by Muriel Gallo

In memory of Reta Ganong

by Steve & Joanie Ganong

In memory of Debra Garrard

by John Garrard

In memory of Virginia Hausotter

by Sara Hunter-Bailey

In memory of Jami Anne Hawkins

by Roberta Hawkins

In memory of Billie Joe & Joan Hunter

by Dusty & Debbie Hoffman

In memory of Lynne Johnson

by Steve & Joanie Ganong

In memory of Lorna Kahnert

by Kari Donham
and by Barbara Donham

In memory of Norman McMahan

by Dorothy McMahan

In memory of Don Mitchell

by Eunice Mitchell

In memory of Louise O'Brien

by Cherri Cox

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In memory of Duane Shinn

by Dianne Carter

In memory of J. T. Smalley

by Diana Ianora

In memory of Dorothy Ullom

by David Ullom

In memory of Horst & Margaret Wauer

by David & Helene Uhreen

In memory of Garry Wilson

by Arline Wilson

In memory of Joyce Witham

by James & Marilyn Kelley

Thank you for equipping us to restore lives in our community!