

Friends of the Mission,

This is the time of year that many people become sentimental about our country. If you're like me, you think about the liberties you hold dear, like the First Amendment to the Constitution. This amendment gives us the right to believe what we believe, and to teach what we want to teach. It gives us the right to not be caught up in the ever-changing ethic of the day, and helps us keep a biblical ethic which is timeless.

So here is the question for you: How does what you believe affect others in our community that think differently from you?

As Christians, God commands us to love God and our neighbors. The Bible tells us what this love looks like. We don't define it, or we risk disobeying God. The Bible informs us on how we should think and what we should do.



*Love the Lord your God with  
all your heart and with all your  
soul and with all your mind  
and with all your strength...  
Love your neighbor as yourself.  
There is no commandment  
greater than these.  
~Mark 12:30-31~*

When it comes to our ever-increasing homeless problem, how you think about it may be drastically different from how your neighbor thinks about it.

As far as I can tell, there are only four ways to think about the homeless problem:

**Optimistic:** This is looking to the entitlement system to fix the problem. In short, it is spending our way out of the problem. The optimist thinks some day we will build enough housing for everyone that no one will have to camp on the greenway or in our parks.

**Pessimistic:** This way looks at the optimist and says, "It's never going to work!" The problem is, the pessimist doesn't offer an alternative solution. They are faced with living with the problem or finding another place that doesn't have the same problem.

**Delusional:** This thinking ignores the problem and acts as if the problem doesn't exist.

**Realist:** This is a realistic view of what the problem is and a desire to work towards a solution. Realistically, the Mission has developed its own system that works, and we attempt to work side by side with those in our community that have embraced the entitlement system.

We are funded by generous donations from people in our community, and we do not accept any federal, state, or local government funds. Also, we do we seek any funding that would restrict our religious liberties in any way.

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The problem in doing this is that you cannot work too long within their system before you realize the system itself works counter to what you believe and what you value. So working within the system means we work alongside people that think differently than we think. Appreciating them for what they bring to the table, realizing we may be solving a very different problem, yet knowing we both care for people in a very different way.

Our differences really boil down to what we believe and what we value. We believe that God really saves, and when He does, He changes lives. This is put forth in the Word of God and drives us to do what we feel we are called to do.

Our values on the one hand flow out of our beliefs, and they motivate our actions. The Mission values relationships, empowerment, and transformation. It is these three values that help us work with others in our community while not compromising our beliefs.

It is because of our core beliefs and values at the Medford Gospel Mission that for more than 60 years in our community we have been able to reach thousands of people and help bring them out of hopelessness and despair.


As our community continues to change and the problem with homelessness increases, we can look to a document written by our founding fathers almost 250 years ago that protects our beliefs and operations.

More importantly, we can look to the Word of God, a much older and timeless document, inspired by God Himself, that tells us what and why to believe as well as Who to believe.

May the Lord continue to strengthen us in our testimonies of joy and hope in these chaotic days.

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

*~Romans 12:2~*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!  


# GIFTS FROM THE HEART

**In honor of Jesus Christ**  
 by Ken & Diane Capp  
 and by Ken & Diane Capp

**In memory of Jerry Armstrong**  
 by Mary Armstrong

**In memory of Harry & Corrine Belau**  
 by Beth Hunter

**In memory of Earl Best**  
 by Nickolas & Lindsay Boosalis  
**In memory of Norman Bishop**  
 by Breta Jo Smith

**In memory of Wallace & Lucille Brill**  
 by Robert & Judith Addington

**In memory of Jami Anne Burk**  
 by Roberta Hawkins

**In memory of Dave Damon**  
 by Steve & Joanie Ganong

**In memory of Buck & Steve Fixsen**  
 by Patricia Fixsen

**In memory of Robin Hicks**  
 by Judy Allen

**In memory of Billie Joe & Joan Hunter**  
 by Dusty & Debbie Hoffman

**In memory of Pat Lee**  
 by Robert Phillips

**In memory of Lu Lull**  
 by Joyce Lull

**In memory of Christopher MacLeod**  
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**In memory of Le Roy Maloney**  
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**In memory of Wade Parker**  
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**In memory of Patricia Piter**  
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 by Skip & Carol Rheault

**In memory of Duane Shinn**  
 by Dianne Carter

and by Garland & Roberta Shinn  
**In memory of Karen Siebrecht**  
 by Robert & Lynn Casad

**In memory of Griff Wilder**  
 by Pattie Wilder

**In memory of Daureen Willard**  
 by Steve Carr

**In memory of Garry Wilson**  
 by Arline Wilson