

Friends,

Do you ever read online reviews? I do, especially when I travel, or order something online. I know that they are very subjective, so I typically throw out the very best and very worst comments and hopefully this helps me make a good decision.

With that said, I received an email the other day from a business that removes bad reviews.

It stated: I'm emailing you today because I noticed you have 48 bad reviews for the Medford Gospel Mission on Google. Most of them are unfair and our software has determined are illegitimate and I want to help you remove them and make your online presence look trustworthy.

Shocked and concerned I poured over the Mission's reviews and I was pleasantly surprised that on average we ranked 4.1 out of 5. I was able to read people's good experiences along with others bad experiences because they have been recorded online for all to see. The interesting thing is, for a price, businesses can pay someone to hide bad experiences and elevate good experiences, all for the sake of boosting their reputation.



I'm not all that concerned about the Mission's online reviews, but this got me thinking. What if our personal lives and what people say about them were chronicled online for anyone to see? How would people review our lives? What would they comment on? Would they only look at the negatives? How would this effect us?

Truth be told, all of our lives are filled with both good choices and bad, things that we are proud of and things that we regret, both accomplishments and failures. And we don't have the luxury of hiring someone to erase parts of our lives that we regret; they are a part of us.

But we can be comforted that in some mysterious and glorious way, *for those who love God all things work together for good.* (Romans 8:28)

God doesn't erase our past, he uses it for our good and His glory and that's so much better than hiding it away, putting on a false front, or trying to forget it.

Here at the Mission our restoration process starts with a clear understanding of the Gospel. In order to be restored, people need to understand that they no longer have to be defined by their past, their poverty, being homeless, or what others say about them. They are defined by their relation to Christ.

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

**JACKSON CAMPUS**  
125 West Jackson Street  
Medford, OR 97501  
541-779-1597

**DONATE ONLINE:**  
[medfordgospelmission.org](http://medfordgospelmission.org)  
**DONATE BY MAIL:**  
PO Box 1172 Medford, OR 97501

**BARTLETT CAMPUS**  
534 North Bartlett Street  
Medford, OR 97501  
541-772-2931



**Learn about Christ-Centered poverty alleviation and how you can be involved in the relational restoration process. Poverty 101 Workshops Nightly 5:30-6:30**

**Find out more: [medfordgospelmission.org/learn](http://medfordgospelmission.org/learn)**



So the question isn't, why is everyone against me? It's, if God is for me, who can be against me?

This is the beauty of the Gospel, that God is really for us, and despite what we are up against, God is not against us.

This effects how we respond to our challenges, struggles, disappointments, and difficulties. If God is for us, nothing can be against us. Not even the very things that cause poverty in the first place. Not broken systems. Not broken people. Not erroneous stories of change. Not destructive practice. And not even the devil. Nothing can be against us.

With this in mind, we help men and women to face poverty, homelessness, unemployment, and any struggle that comes their way with a great peace and confidence knowing that even at those times, God is not against them but very much for them in Christ Jesus.

So if our lives were chronicled and reviewed online for anyone to comment on what would they say? They would say that we belong to Christ and He is very much for us.

*What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.*

~Romans 8:31-34~

*Thank you for your continued support!*  
*Jan Bull*

## GIFTS FROM THE HEART

**In honor of our Lord Jesus Christ**

Ken & Diane Capp

**In honor Diana Ianora**

by Robert Covey

**In memory of Jerry Armstrong**

by Mary Armstrong

**In memory of Corrine Belau**

by Betty Hunter

**In memory of Earl Best**

by Nickolas & Lindsay Boosalis

**In memory of Brien Blankenship**

by Janice Blankenship

In memory of Brice Brandt

by Frances Brandt

In memory of Russ Cooley

by Ken Casteel

In memory of My Sister Deb Joy

by Ellene Lynn Baker

In memory of James Estep

by Vivian Estep

In memory of Don Evans

by Kate Evans

In memory of Lu Lull

by Joyce Lull

In memory of Buck Fixsen

by Joyce Lull

In memory of Steve Fixsen

by Joyce Lull

In memory of Patricia Fixsen

by Joyce Lull

**In memory of Rochelle Roby Frymire**

by Paul & Janice Roby

**In memory of Ernie Gallo**

by Muriel Gallo

**In memory of Estelle George**

by Tim George

**In memory of Richard Gordon**

by Rhonda Gordon

**In memory of Ellen Gregg**

by Jim Gregg

**In memory of Quinn Halstead**

by Lynn Casad

**In memory of Gene Henry**

by Charlotte Henry

**In memory of Dian Hunter**

by Jim & Marilyn Kelley

**In memory of Billie Joe & Joan Hunter**

by Dusty & Debbie Hoffman

**In memory of Lynne Johnson**

by Joanie Ganong

**In memory of Glenda Kaiser**

by Gary Kaiser

**In memory of Alice King**

by Rob & Deb Waddell

**In memory of Pat Lee**

by Robert Phillips

**In memory of Ronelda McCollum**

by Kathleen Frazier

**In memory of Bill McDonald**

by Diana Ianora

**In memory of Bill McTaggart**

by Lori McTaggart

**In memory of Billie Ray Nering**

by Ken & Diane Capp

**In memory of Ethel Olson**

by Allan Olson

**In memory of Ina Pearson**

by Jeff & Jen McFarland

**In memory of Gerean Pflug**

by Grace Roberts

**In memory of Patricia Piter**

by Steve Piter

**In memory of Sharon Plumlee**

by Jim & Marilyn Kelley

**In memory of Helen Prince**

by Cheryl Schmidt

**In memory of Rick Reher**

by Carol Reher

**In memory of Goerge Russell**

by Suzanne Russell

**In memory of Jack Salter**

by Judy Salter

**In memory of Nancy Scafani**

by David Scafani

**In memory of Jerry Scheid**

by Jackie Scheid

**In memory of Garland Shinn**

by Ruth Daw

and by Pam Pingle

**In memory of Duane Shinn**

by Dianne Carter

**In memory of Marjorie Skeen**

by Big Ken Skeen

**In memory of Doug Stanley**

by Margo Homeier

**In memory of Horst & Margaret Wauer**

by David & Helene Uhreen

**In memory of Lon Wells**

by Ruth Wells

**In memory of Garry Wilson**

by Arline Wilson

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