

Friends,

A lot has changed over the past 65 years since the Mission was founded but one thing has not. God still changes lives and restores people to wholeness as they turn to Him in faith. That is why the Mission opened its doors in 1959 as a place to reach the lost and gather the reached, and over these years we have seen thousands of lives restored.

In the late '50s, if someone was transient they knew they could visit the Mission and receive care and compassion from local Christians. Back then it was rare to see people camping in public parks and on sidewalks, and if they did, they were sent our direction where they could get help. For the most part, the community supported us, Christian and non-Christian alike. Everyone recognized that the Mission was capable of being on the front lines addressing this social problem. On top of that we didn't and still don't cost the government a dime to operate.

Today is much different. The Homeless Industrial Complex is in full force. There are government bureaucracies, nonprofit agencies, government contractors, homeless advocacy groups, and even land development companies aligned to solve the homeless problem which they wholeheartedly believe is a lack of housing. Even though there is lack of credible evidence, the problem is getting much worse. They influence government policy and ignore any other approach that is proven to work. In the end, the Homeless Industrial Complex is a machine that costs millions and millions of dollars to run and it steamrolls anyone who gets in its way.

To better understand how the Homeless Industrial Complex started, we need to look back a quarter century when President George W. Bush created an initiative to end homelessness. He tasked HUD (Housing and Urban Development) to encourage local communities to develop their own plans to end homelessness within 10 years. It was this, and the millions upon millions of dollars that it would take to fulfill these plans, that started the Homeless Industrial Complex.

In 2008 the State of Oregon released its 10-year Plan to End Homelessness followed by Jackson County's own plan a year later. All of these plans come from the point of view that homelessness is primarily a housing problem, and low-barrier or no-barrier shelters must be built until enough permanent housing can be provided. It comes from the belief that everyone has a right to housing, and if you can't provide it for yourself, the government has the responsibility to provide it for you.

About a decade later legal precedent was set when the city of Boise, Idaho was sued by some homeless individuals that chose to set up camp in public space instead of accepting help from the local mission. The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that municipalities can not enforce public camping ordinances unless there is shelter space for every homeless person. And these spaces cannot require participation or sobriety.

This ruling had a detrimental effect on the homeless crises as more individuals chose to camp out in public spaces instead of accepting help from missions and agencies that were there to help. This effected cities large and small, up and down the West Coast as they scrambled to adjust established laws and seek both federal and state funding to build low-barrier shelters and permanent supportive housing.



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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And then in 2018 the city of Grants Pass was sued on the grounds of breaking the 8th Amendment to the Constitution. Lower courts agreed that the city was practicing cruel and unusual punishment because homeless people had no low-barrier shelter to go to and therefore had the right to camp in any public space.

But a few weeks ago, the Supreme Court of the United States overturned that lower court ruling and stated: *The Constitution's Eighth Amendment serves many important functions, but it does not authorize federal judges to wrest those rights and responsibilities from the American people and in their place dictate this Nation's homelessness policy.* In other words, the Supreme Court ruled that local communities have the right to develop homelessness policy as well as enforce it without courts interfering with decisions they make.

Because of this ruling, many organizations that are highly invested in the Homeless Industrial Complex are up in arms. For example, the state agency OHCS (Oregon Housing and Community Services) calls the decision: *devastating, out-of-sight, out-of-mind positions that criminalize sleeping or sheltering in public spaces only exacerbates the experiences of homelessness.*

The National Homelessness Law Center calls it: *a profoundly disappointing ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court today decided that the U.S. Constitution does not protect homeless people against cruel and unusual punishment, even when they have no choice to sleep in public using things like blankets or pillows.*

And the National Coalition for the Homeless says: *Cities are now even more empowered to neglect proven housing-based solutions and to arrest or fine those with no choice but to sleep outdoors.*

Personally, I think the Supreme Court decision was the right one and hopefully helps cities like ours to better help people in need without the threat of being sued. But ultimately it doesn't matter because we have a much greater call than solving the homeless problem in 10 years.

As for the Mission, we continue to reach the lost and gather the reached in our community like we have for 65 years. We rely on God to do His work in the hearts and lives of men and women as they turn to Him in faith just like He has always done.

Thank you for your  
continued support!  
Joan Bark

## GIFTS FROM THE HEART

**In honor of our Lord Jesus Christ**

by Barbara Carse

and by Ken & Duabe Capp

**In honor of Nancy Payton**

by Lucy Stubbings

**In memory of Earl Best**

by Nickolas & Lindsay Boosalis

**In memory of Fred & Naomi Billings, Sr.**

by Fred & Aurelia Billings

**In memory of Wallace & Lucille Brill**

by Judy Addington

**In memory of William "Bill" Cox**

by Cerri Cox

**In memory of Sharon Eccleston**

by Joanie Ganong

**In memory of Jack Endrikat**

by Sun Oaks Neighborhood

**In memory of Bud Erskine**

by Joan Erskine

**In memory of Tom Erskine**

by Joan Erskine

**In memory of Mark Erskine**

by Joan Erskine

**In memory of James Estep**

by Vivian Estep

**In memory of Rochelle Roby Frymire**

by Paul & Janice Roby

**In memory of Pete Hale**

by Darlene Hale

**In memory of Jean Hammond**

by Wes McNiel

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

by Dusty & Debbie Hoffman

**In memory of Glenda Kaiser**

by Gary Kaiser

**In memory of Ruth Martin**

by Pam Pingle

**In memory of Ed Mayer**

by Lynn Casad

**In memory of Ronelda McCollum**

by Kathleen Frazier

**In memory of Heidi Meyer**

by Bruno Meyer

and by Mark & Karen Delladio

and by Judy Allen

**In memory of Don Mitchell**

by Eunice Mitchell

**In memory of Lee Moon**

by Jenny Clark

**In memory of Mary Myrick**

by Nancy Mitchell

**In memory of Billie Ray Nering**

by Ken & Diane Capp

**In memory of Rev. Donald Oberlander**

by Melody Stevens

**In memory of Patricia Piter**

by Steve Piter

**In memory of Helen Prince**

by Cheryl Schmidt

**In memory of Jack Salter**

by Judy Salter

**In memory of Nancy Scafani**

by David Scafani

**In memory of Duane Shinn**

by Dianne Carter

**In memory of Garland Shinn**

by Glenda Riffle

**In memory of Marjorie Skeen**

by Big Ken & Sandy Skeen

**In memory of Horst & Margaret Wauer**

by David & Helene Uhreen

**In memory of Garry Wilson**

by Arline Wilson

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