

*“GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THAT I HAVE COMMANDED YOU. AND BEHOLD, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, TO THE END OF THE AGE.” ~MATTHEW 28:19~*



FEBRUARY 2025

VOLUME 66 NUMBER 2

At the end of every year both the state and federal government release reports on the state of homelessness. These reports often boast in what was accomplished and what needs to be done in the year ahead. The latest report from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) reported that there has been an 18% increase nationwide this past year following an 11% rise the prior year. Statistics show that nationally things are getting worse, much worse. The report also boasts about the millions upon millions of dollars spent to address the problem.

In our state, the governor extended Executive Order 24-02 (Emergency Homeless Response) which enables the state to aggressively spend for the third year in a row boasting that, “We must stay the course on what we see working.” The problem is the course that we are on obviously isn’t working, and the numbers of homeless people continue to increase.

You may be wondering where they get these numbers. It’s a good question. The number of people experiencing homelessness is determined by a yearly census, a Point in Time (PIT) count. Annually communities across the country count homeless people using a survey designed by HUD. And they use these numbers to determine how much money each community receives to spend on housing-first and low-barrier sheltering as well as services that support them.

This year the PIT count is for Sunday, January 26th. The following week people (census takers) will go out canvassing areas where homeless individuals are known to hang out, asking them where they slept on the 26th, as well as other questions like: Do you have addiction problems? How long have you been homeless? What nationality are you? What is your sexual identity? Are you fleeing from an abusive relationship?

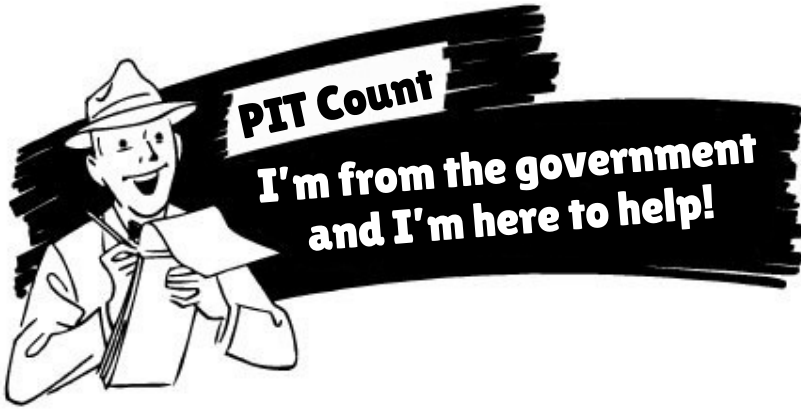
For the individual being counted it can be a dehumanizing process because it brings to the forefront the suffering the person is experiencing without a real solution within reach. Over the past twenty years that they have been conducting the PIT, one thing has remained static, people feel dejected from the experience.

I have talked to many individuals over the years who have grown apathetic from the PIT experience, hearing the same questions year after year, being told that the government needs these figures so they can understand the problem and know how to allocate resources. And for them, the people who are suffering, things are only getting worse.

This reminds me of a speech that president Ronald Reagan gave 40 years ago. He was speaking to a group of farmers at the Illinois state fair. Knowing that the government’s long history of instilling haphazard policies had a negative effect on their industry he started his speech saying...

**Medford  
Gospel  
Mission**

*Reaching the Lost & Gathering the Reached*



“The nine most terrifying words in the English language are ‘I’m from the government and I’m here to help.’”

In a similar way by endlessly counting homeless people and asking them questions, the government is saying we are here to help, trust us with your problems, we know what is best for you.

But there is a much better question, one that is never asked by a PIT census taker, one that can bring real lasting change. It’s a question that we at the Mission ask every day. What is your relationship with God?

We ask this because Jesus came to seek and save the lost. And our community is full of people that are lost, separated from God and His people, individuals in desperate need of a right relationship with God.

It’s easy to be discouraged when politicians boast in their spending and promise the moon. But remember, the state of poverty in our community isn’t hopeless because God will continue to restore lives through the work of His people until He returns. And by His grace, the Medford Gospel Mission will continue to reach the lost and gather the reached and make an incredible difference for Christ in our community.

## GIFTS FROM THE HEART

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

**In memory of Earl Best**  
by Nickolas & Lindsay Boosalis  
**In memory of Melvin Boyd**  
by Judith Boyd

**In memory of Vern Burns**  
by Lunette Fleming  
**In memory of Gene Covic**  
by Bernice Covic

**In memory of Roy L. Eyman II**  
by Roy & Samantha Eyman  
**In memory of Max Froome**  
by Alan & Nicolene Buchta

**In memory of Rochelle Roby Frymire**  
by Paul & Janice Roby

**In memory of Steve Ganong**  
by Joanie Ganong

**In memory of Gary Hamblin**  
by JoAnne Hamblin

**In memory of Jean Hammond**  
by Wes McNiel

**In memory of Norm Homeier, Sr**  
by Margo Homeier

**In memory of Billie Joe & Joan Hunter**  
by Dusty & Debbie Hoffman  
**In memory of My Dad J. T.**  
by Diana Ianora

**In memory of Ken Janike**  
by Debra Har

**In memory of Glenda Kaiser**  
by Gary Kaiser

**In memory of Joshua Kingery**  
by Larry Kingery

**In memory of Jim LeRoy**  
by Ken Casteel

**In memory of Betty Mazzei**  
by Robert Rath

**In memory of Ronelda McCollum**  
by Kathleen Frazier

**In memory of Gayle Mentgen**  
by Debbie Waddell

**In memory of Don Mitchell**  
by Eunice Mitchell

**In memory of Roy Morrison**  
by Jim & Marilyn Kelley

**In memory of My Mother**  
by Lynn Baker

**In memory of Norm Mounts**  
by Margo Homeier

**In memory of Billie Ray Nering**  
by Ken & Diane Capp  
**In memory of Evert Pederson**  
by Dan Clem

**In memory of Helen Prince**  
by Cheryl Schmidt

**In memory of Jim Ronda**  
by Connie Ronda

**In memory of Nancy Scafani**  
by David Scafani

**In memory of Jerry Scheid**  
by Jackie Scheid

**In memory of Billie Schott**  
by David Schott

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

**In memory of J. T.**  
by Arlene Smalley

**In memory of Judith Weston**  
by Jim & Marilyn Kelley

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

WE ARE FUNDED BY GENEROUS DONATIONS FROM PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY  
AND NEVER ACCEPT FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDS

**Donate in a way that’s best for you:**

**ONLINE:** medfordgospelmission.org

**BY MAIL:** PO Box 1172 Medford, OR 97501

**COME BY OUR JACKSON CAMPUS**

125 W Jackson Street in Medford

**Medford  
Gospel  
Mission**

Reaching the Lost & Gathering the Reached