

**FIRST STEP BACK HOME**  
**Faith Based, Christ Centered**  
**Christian Homeless Ministry BLESSED BY GOD**  
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**CHRISTIAN WITNESS**

- I glorify God in all that He has done in this ministry.
- Jesus Christ is my Savior and Lord of my life and all that I do.
- God is my Father and the Bible is my guide.

**Ministry Motto: “People Loving People”**

“Take a risk and make a sacrifice to reach out and show God’s Love to the poor and homeless today.

Encourage them to believe the Gospel!”

The World’s Motto Should Be:

“One person can’t help everyone, but anyone who is self-sufficient can help at least one person become the same.”

**Ministry Supporting Verses:**

- The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge of the Holy one is understanding (Prov. 9: 10)
- For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3: 23)
- For the wages of sin is death and the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6: 23)
- If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10: 9)
- Love God with all your heart, soul and might. (Deut.6: 5)
- Love your neighbor as yourself. (Matt. 22:39)
- Let us not love with tongue or word, but with actions and truth. (1 John 3:18)
- No man has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. (I John 4: 12)
- If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7: 14)
- If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need and has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? (1 John 3: 17)
- Bear one another’s burdens and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. (Gal.1: 2)

- (Eph 2:8-10) For by Grace we are saved through faith-that not of yourselves, it is a free gift of God-not by works , so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
- God talk without God acts is outrageous nonsense. (John 2: 17)
- Therefore go and make disciples of all nations. (Matt.28: 19)
- The whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love others as you love yourself." If you keep biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other!(Gal 5:14)

Remember: Love God, Love others, bear each others burdens, believe the Gospel and make disciples of all nations. This, many believe, is God's ideal plan for our lives!

We are living in wicked sin by ignoring our poor and homeless brothers and sisters. All our wealth should be spent on helping each other achieve self-sufficiency.

### **The Poor and Poverty:**

- The term poverty level is misleading.
- Common sense tells you that not being self-sufficient IS living in poverty.
- The American dream is now just becoming self-sufficient, instead of obtaining luxuries.
- The Department of Economic Development has reported 64% of the people in the adjoining 7 counties to St. Louis are not self-sufficient.( see chart on following page) A living wage is now \$15 per hour per a household of 2.
- A household of 5 needs \$51,000/ year or \$25/ hr. just to make ends meet.
- There are not many people at Wal-Mart and K-mart who are making this amount of income.
- This is a crisis in my mind that is getting worse rather than better.
- People need to start Loving People or this situation will never get better. Social and Government agencies are overwhelmed with cases, under staffed and always low on funding. "We the People," need to step up and help with the problem!
- 3 million people in Missouri are doing well while the other 3 million are not self-sufficient. That means 50% of our neighbors are living in misery and suffering form their poverty situation.
- In a perfect world and in obedience to God's word we should be "bearing one another's burdens". In the Greek "burdens" means "a crushing load". To me poverty would be one of the worst "crushing loads" a person could have.
- And the 3 million who are doing well should be helping the 3 million who are not self-sufficient. Help can be given in many non- threatening and Loving ways.
  - Transportation
  - Donations
  - Food and Clothes
  - Jobs
  - Shelter
  - Permanent Housing

- Fund Raising
  - Volunteering as an Adopt-a-Homeless Family
  - Job Leads
  - Bible Study
  - Friendship/Fellowship
  - Benefit Search
  - And much more...
- I believe helping and loving others is the only way God will heal our land and the sinfulness, poverty, suffering and homelessness will be reduced.

### **Three Levels of Poor People Living in Poverty:** FSBH definition

1. Those who have recently become non-self-sufficient, making less than \$15 / hour per household.
2. Those who are depending on Gov. benefits and other programs to barely survive.
3. Homeless

### **Three Levels of Homeless:** FSBH definition

1. Working- have job, food, transportation, temporary shelter, but no home. Basically living in motels.
2. Critical- have food, temporary shelter, but no job or transportation.
3. Chronic- have no food, shelter, transportation or job.

### **Theme of FSBH Ministry:**

Showing the love of God to the poor and homeless by face-to-face, personal intensive casework with them.

Encouraging people who are doing well to love and care for poor people who are willing to help themselves.

This is the only way, I believe, God will heal our land of suffering.

### **CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS AND WHO CAN BE HELPED**

One Third of the homeless are mentally ill. Two thirds of the homeless have no to low Self-sufficiency skills. One third can become self-sufficient and the remaining one third are not able for various reasons. Therefore, I can only help the one third who are able to work and keep a job.

### **My Background and How I Became Involved with the Homeless.**

- Helped build and start a non-denominational Christian Church in Foristell, Mo. Westplex Community Church.
- Became outreach deacon for the church.
- Started a truck stop ministry for truckers in Foristell, Mo. Five years later now, over 2300 have heard the Gospel preached in our services.
- Tried to find resources for single homeless men who came to me there for help.

- Discovered there were no provisions for them anywhere in St. Charles County.
  - Developed plan to help the homeless become self-sufficient in a relatively short period of time.
  - Had meeting with community council of St. Charles and started a program for the homeless and named it “First Step Back Home.”
  - Received funds from various community organizations and corporations.
  - Began paying for motel stays, finding food pantries, locating temp employment agencies and working out transportation problems with them.
  - Became the subject of many local newspaper articles, which brought in many more donations and more calls from the homeless for help. Also won the focus St. Louis, Whats Right With The Region, award for outstanding citizen involvement in the area of racial equality and social justice.
  - Discovered the ONLY WAY homelessness can be reduced is by the everyday ordinary person who is self-sufficient themselves, to become active in this program and assisting many more homeless to a state of self-sufficiency.
  - “People loving people” is the message I am trying to get out to people which has been in the bible and our duties for over 2000 years.
  - Divine miracles start to happen when God sees us living in obedience to His word especially; “ Love others as you love yourself.”
- **Intake Information and Qualifications for Acceptance to FSBH Program:**
- I can only help those who are willing and able to WORK.
  - Those who can’t work are referred to other agencies. I pray for them and put them in God’s hands.
  - Cannot be actively using drugs or alcohol.
  - Cannot have current warrants for their arrest.
  - Need all info on past prison or jail records if applicable.
  - Must be mentally stable and educated enough to obtain and hold an \$8 -10/hr. job.
  - Must be physically able to work 40 hours per week and lift 80 pounds.
  - Must not have any outstanding traffic tickets.
  - Child support debt if any should be under \$5000.
  - Gov. or any other assistance must be under \$250 per week for intense full time casework.
  - True marital status and responsibility to family, if applicable, must be disclosed.
  - Must have 2 forms of I.D. These may be obtained with help from FSBH if possible.
  - Children must have birth certificates, soc. sec. numbers and also plan for day care, possibly through DFS or crisis nursery.
  - All outstanding debts must be disclosed.
  - List of family members and/or friends who may be able to help.
  - Past housing and work history.
  - 95% of those who have applied have been accepted.

## **Goals of FSBH:**

- To show the love of God to the homeless and help them become self-sufficient as soon as possible, helping to move them up the different levels of poverty to self-sufficiency, one step at a time.
- To insure after explaining the Gospel they have been invited to receive Jesus Christ as the Savior and Lord of their lives, now and eternally.
- To have homeless who have seen and experienced the love of Christ and success in life through FSBH, pass on this love to others less fortunate!
- To challenge those who are able, to choose at least one simple, single little task to help the poor and homeless and show the love of Christ to them today.
- Help at least 1/3 of the total homeless population become self-sufficient. The other 2/3 have severe mental illness, drug or alcohol abuse or just don't have the Faith and determination to make it.

## **Keys for Success in Becoming Self-Sufficient:**

Pray to God in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ. There are no atheists in foxholes. So the poor and homeless are very receptive to God's word and turn to Him for their every need. This is good advise for all of us.

## **SELF-SUFFICIENT**

The ability to earn an income, that covers all debts incurred at the end of every month, for the basic needs of the household.

## **OPTIONS FOR THE HOMELESS**

The only sources of income for the homeless is; Government benefits, charity or employment.

- Job/career: a persons most valuable assets are his Christian Spiritual beliefs and his ability to earn an income.
- Better job or two jobs with a goal of earning at least \$15 per hour per household.
- Budgeting: Have tomorrow's rent in hand today and the long term future.
  - Always seek ways to increase income.
  - Need to decrease temporary housing expense while searching for permanent housing.
  - Do whatever it takes to save money for permanent housing, utilities, car, savings etc.
- Living expense should be as follows:
  - 20% food
  - 30% housing and utilities
  - 25% transportation and maintenance.
  - 25% health and welfare.
- Continue searching for better and cheaper transportation and housing, while at the same time better and higher paying job.

## **The FSBH Plan and Program**

1. Provide immediate shelter to the homeless who qualify—usually motel rooms.
2. Provide food, clothing, medication, access to area phones (phone card or cell), transportation when available for immediate needs (bicycles at first).
3. Provide Christian counseling, explaining the love of God and the gospel. Invite clients to church and Salvation for their souls.
4. Provide job counseling and leads. Usually temporary employment agencies -- 32 in St. Charles County alone. See copy of yellow pages under employment agencies.
  - Give survival budget counseling. ( see keys to success above)
  - Don't buy food, clothing, etc. you can get free or at a discount.
  - Earn tomorrow's rent today for the rest of your life.
  - Save money for car, apartment, home etc.
5. Explain social services and Gov. benefits available to the homeless: DFS, SOC. SEC, SSI etc.
  - MHTF Grant- pays first and last month's rent for working homeless when they have completed 4 full weeks of steady employment and have the pay stubs for proof of employment.
  - Ticket to work program for disabled.

### **SELF-SUFFICIENCY**

Plan your work and work your plan, but don't let your plan work you, be well organized!

- Provide 3 days motel time.
- Set a goal of 15 job applications daily. Starting with the temporary employment agencies, first is Labor Finders in O'Fallon. Then call the 30 other temp agencies in the phone book. Labor Finders is the only temp agency I know of that pays daily so this is the best place to start. Then go to all businesses most likely to pay at least \$8 per hour. Start with the ones you may have skills that pertain to their business.
- If client can get job at Labor Finders, they will take home about \$50 a day. The motel expense for 1 is \$32 per night. That leaves \$18 left per day to save for car, apartment etc. Client can survive on this with free food, clothing etc. FSBH will provide gas money for a while if has own car.
  - Client will need one full time and one part time job at \$8.00 per hour in order to progress toward a living wage of \$15 / hr. per household.

- Client needs to continually search for cheaper housing, advanced education and higher paying job/jobs.
- If client doesn't have 45 applications for employment turned in to businesses at the end of the 3-day period, a job or a strong lead for one, then no more motel time is provided.
  - Client can job search on his own, but FSBH can't invest any more time or money in client until a job is secured. Some non-expense benefits may be provided by FSBH when available if client completes 15 applications for employment per day.
  - When client gets work FSBH will continue to provide shelter for 3 more days so he can save money for paying own bills.
- FSBH will help client to obtain car or other transportation if he keeps job, pays own shelter, gets own food from food pantries/ Churches etc. and saves money towards apartment or house.
  - We will also help with car repairs if funds are available and client can't afford the repairs.
  - FSBH will help with other unexpected expenses if funds are available and client can't afford them and remain self-sufficient.
- Health and dental issues are addressed at local hospital ER or FSBH if there is no other resource and funds are available.
- Free education for the homeless is provided by the local community college.
- Some trade schools will work with FSBH and the homeless also so they may receive training.
- The Career Center and other job and educational resources are also available.

Adopt-a-homeless volunteers are recruited to help with all the above. Liability and sacrifice is explained in full and a release form is provided and signed. Without risk and sacrifice there is no love.

Jesus Christ took a risk and made a sacrifice for His believers. We should do the same for those we see in need, so we may live a Christ like life!

## **Success Stories – See client detail report**

### **Pit Story**

- A man fell into a pit
- Optimist said, "You'll get out."
- Pessimist said, "You'll never get out."
- Mathematician said, "That pit is very deep."
- Subjective person said. "I feel for you down there."
- Pharisee said, "Only bad people fall into pits."
- Newspaper reporter wanted the exclusive story on the pit.

- IRS agent asked the man if he was paying taxes on the pit.
- Self-pitting person said, “You haven’t seen anything until you have seen my pit.”
- Psychologist said, “Your mother and father are the blame for your being in that pit.”
- Self-esteem therapist said, “Believe in yourself and you can get out of that pit.”
- Objective person said, “It is logical someone would fall down there.”
- Jesus, seeing the man, took him by the hand and lifted him out of the pit!

### **Closing:**

- I am a Vietnam Vet and sort of ashamed we lost that war, but by God’s grace and love I am way ahead and totally winning this war on poverty and homelessness. Praise God for all He has done! Show the Love of God that is within you, to someone less fortunate than yourself today!  
Please pray for more people to join the war on poverty and homelessness.
- “It would be a changed world if everyone would attend to the sorrows and suffering of others plain before them.”
  - (McClaren)
- “Where there is suffering there is duty.” (President George Bush)
- “All it takes for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing.” (Burke)
- “Now that you are a Christian, go do something about it.” (Charles Spurgeon)

### **FINAL MESSAGE**

**Because God is love, the most important lesson He wants you to learn on earth is how to love. It is in loving that we are most like Him, so love is the foundation of every command He has given us: “The whole Law can be summed up in this one command: “Love others as you love yourself”.” (Galatians 5:14 TLB) Rick Warren- The Purpose Driven Live.**