

Paul W. Kruse Biography  
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Paul Wesley Kruse, 60, lifelong resident of St. Louis area, spent his childhood in Florissant, then moved to St. Charles County and graduated from Francis Howell High School in 1965. He attended Southeast Missouri State College at Cape Girardeau. He served in the US Navy during the Viet Nam War as an airman and seaman, and was honorably discharged after two years active duty.

Currently Paul lives in Lake St. Louis with his wife Lana. They have four adult children and 10 grandkids, all in the area. Paul has run his own business for the past 18 years, called Christian Handyman, doing general home repairs such as carpentry, plumbing, electrical and painting.

Six years ago, while serving as deacon of his local church, he and his wife became a part of a group to establish a new church in Foristell, MO. Paul founded a Trucker Church ministry, with now more than 2500 truckers who have attended services and have heard the Gospel preached for over the 61/2 years. In March 2003, KMOV's Jamie Allman did a feature story on the Trucker Church Ministry, which was aired during the 10 pm newscast anchored by Larry Connor.

Because of the trucker ministry, Paul became aware of the lack of resources and gaps in service by local social service providers, for homeless men in St. Charles County. Last winter (Jan-Feb. 05) he began researching the homeless problem, became involved with the St. Charles County Continuum of Care group and started to do what he could to meet needs of homeless who were coming to him for help at the TA Truckstop.

In March, 2005, Paul founded the "First Step Back Home" Homeless Ministry, spawned by a \$1000 gift from a local business. Since that time by the grace of God and the Glory of the Gospel, he has helped more than 700 homeless in the area to get lodging, food, clothing, jobs, find transportation, and ultimately become self-sustaining again. We now assist all sorts of homeless, the chronic, critical, temporary, transient and working, usually referred to us by Sal Army, Sts. Joachim and Ann ,Churches, Hospitals, Police Departments, individuals, local businesses and Government etc. More than 50% of those he's helped achieved self-reliance. Support for FSBH has come totally from the community via businesses, community groups and individual contributions and none has come from the Federal or local Government. Awareness of his efforts has greatly increased from articles in the local newspapers and state level magazine publications.

Paul continues to run his home based business and work with the homeless on a daily basis, with the God given goal of becoming a full time 501c 3 not-for-profit homeless ministry. His hobbies include boating, tennis and travel. He serves as Benevolence Director for his church, West-Plex Community Church; and he continues to organize the weekly Trucker Church meetings.

Paul is a Viet Nam Vet and will always be partly ashamed of that war, but because of the Love and favor of God, FSBH is winning the war on homelessness and poverty. We are always praying that more people get involved and that the ministry grows to a national level resulting in the reduction of the disgraceful number of 3.5 million Americans who are homeless and many more who are not able to maintain self-reliance.

Paul also believes through experience and much research that the only answer to the homeless problem is that the people who are presently self-reliant commit to assisting those who are not and only these commitments and acts of Love will greatly reduce the poor, needy and eventually the homeless. In the mean time it will take large donations of time and money to significantly reduce the huge homeless problem we have!

Thank You!  
God Bless You!