

The Homeless Outreach

1308 Van Buren Drive
Ft. Washington, Md. 20744

Telephone
(301) 292-2911

March, 1990

"I see violence and riots in the city, surrounding it day and night, filling it with crime and trouble. There is destruction everywhere; the streets are full of oppression and fraud.... But I call to the Lord God for help, and he will save me. Morning, noon and night my complaints and groans go up to him, and he will hear my voice. He will bring me safely back from the battles that I fight against so many enemies. God, who has ruled from eternity, will hear me and defeat them.... Leave your troubles with the Lord, and He will defend you!" Psalms 55:11, 16-19, 22

As the violence increases in the District of Columbia, regularly we hear of drug busts and murders on the same streets, in the same neighborhoods, where we minister to the homeless and poor. The words of the psalmist in witness of violence and crime are the same words communicated verbally or in silence by young and old who live in poverty in Washington, D.C. today. As the psalmist cried, "But I call to the Lord God for help, and He will save me," the promise is eternal, to be proclaimed to the 10,000 plus homeless in this city.

The greatest gift The Homeless Outreach has provided has been the hope and promises of God. Since April 1988 we've distributed 5,414 New Testaments, Bibles and Scripture booklets. Recently, at the funeral service for our friend "Big John" Young at CCNV, I was blessed as I watched homeless people reading from the Scripture booklet "God Is Always With You." The Homeless Outreach previously gave 250 of these to "Big John" for people at the shelter. We were able to give away a total of 2,250 of the booklets, all given to us by the American Bible Society.

The following (as well as Psalm 55) is an excerpt from "God Is Always With You:"

"God sent His own Son into the world as a homeless wanderer.

Jesus knew what it felt like to be outside the mainstream of society. He felt the loneliness and powerlessness of the poor and weak. But he knew that those whom society values least were loved and valued by God, and said over and over that they would hold a special place in God's kingdom."

Thank you to all who have helped provide the Scriptures through your donations. Please continue your support. While we're giving so many Scriptures away, we could give so many more, if available.

May God bless you,

Linda Shuhy

With Many Thanks:

To Waldorf Hardware. Remember what it was like to set up housekeeping and all the "basics" you needed? Thanks to the generous contribution of Waldorf Hardware, The Homeless Outreach has been able to provide a good start to many poor and formerly homeless families in the Washington area. From clocks, vegetable peelers and coffee pots to hair dryers, pie plates, and can openers, to security lights, workbenches and toys, the list goes on and on. All in all, 107 boxes of

housewares were donated to the Homeless Outreach by Waldorf Hardware. In turn, the items were sorted and distributed to Project Liberty, CCNV, and the Office of Emergency Shelter and Support Services of the D.C. Department of Human Services. Many families who are transitioning from the shelters for the homeless into apartments will benefit from these items. We wish to extend our sincere appreciation to all the staff at Waldorf Hardware, including Mr. Leroy Jones, Manager, and Greg Chapman, who was instrumental in the arrangements. It is only because of groups such as Waldorf Hardware that we are able to serve the poor in the area. Please join us in sharing. You will be blessed beyond words.

Louise Stellabotta

To D&E Software. For the donated sofa, which is very much appreciated at the Community for Creative Non-Violence. Many at this shelter have expressed their gratitude for the timely gift.

To all who have donated coats, blankets, shoes and clothing. We have been able to help hundreds of people this past month.

Cheltenham United Methodist Church
Ministers to the Homeless

Cheltenham United Methodist Church is about 115 years old. A once rural church on a quiet country road, it now stands just off a very busy highway, in a rapidly developing suburban neighborhood. To say that life has changed around Cheltenham would be a mild statement. Even though the population and traffic have increased, Cheltenham's mission remains constant: to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This has taken many different directions over its long history. Recently there has been a renewed interest in hands-on help for the needy. As several members came together to share their concern, we found many ways we, and others in the church, could serve.

Our first attempt to participate in the Potato Project was unfortunately the first time the truck didn't arrive on schedule.

Nevertheless, one man went back the next day and was of tremendous help in getting the potatoes from truck to table. We hope there will be growing interest in this project in the coming year.

A call for used clothing was met by overwhelming response, resulting in several trips downtown with heavy clothing for those on the streets. Men's suits and dress clothing were given to the prison for those being released. Women's and children's coats went to the Hughesville Shelter, and the remainder to the United Christian Mission in Forestville, which serves local needy.

Last month we asked the congregation for help in making sandwiches for the street people. Not knowing what the response would be, we set a low goal of 400 sandwiches. About 30 people (all ages) stayed after worship one Sunday and within 45 minutes 700 sandwiches were packed and ready to deliver. With the enthusiasm and willingness shown on this first attempt, we have set a new goal of 1,000 for the next delivery. The men who deliver our sandwiches also have been delivering the sandwiches from another church which makes over 2,000 each month.

As we see it, these are very practical ways of sharing the Good News: "For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger, and you invited me in; naked, and you clothed me; I was sick, and you visited me; I was in prison, and you came to me.... Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of mine, even the least of them, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:35-36, 40).

Janet Kaye
Area Coordinator

The Homeless Outreach Ministries
of Clinton Christian Assembly

The second Monday of each month, Clinton Christian Assembly makes bologna and cheese, and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. A "sandwich money" offering is received from our people to

purchase the bologna, and Jim Henderson buys the bologna. We have two families that each furnish 50 loaves of bread. The Safeway Store at Marlton also gives us bread. One family buys 20 pounds of peanut butter. Jelly and sandwich bags are donated also. About 25 volunteers, adults and children, meet at the church and make sandwiches "assembly line" style. On our last sandwich day we made 2,891 sandwiches, and since August 1988, the church has made a total of 40,385!

We also contribute items for the homeless children's parties held monthly at CCNV. We were able to purchase nearly sixty complete outfits for the children's Christmas party. Many of our members attend the parties, volunteering as helpers, lunch servers, and even a clown.

In addition, we gather clothing for the homeless and have a food pantry.

Lorraine Schleuning
Area Coordinator

Did you know we have a
Children's Ministry?

That's right! Once a month, The Homeless Outreach buses about 50 children (thanks to National Church of God's bus ministry) from the Pitts Hotel, a temporary homeless shelter, to the Community for Creative Non-Violence. There, we have the privilege of ministering not only to their physical needs, but to their spiritual needs as well.

It's hard work -- the kids get rowdy at times, and let's face it, dealing with 50 children is not glamorous work! But one thing I can say with certainty: This is the most satisfying and rewarding ministry I have ever participated in.

What a blessing to see these children grow in the Lord, month after month. At our last party, the children held their own "talent show," singing by heart the Scripture songs we'd taught them! The heart of

each worker was touched to see how God's word is being planted in each one of these tender young lives through song, teaching, activities, puppet ministry, clowns, and whatever other means we can find to communicate the love of Jesus to these children.

Our next party is scheduled for March 17th. If you are able to attend the party and help with the children, you are welcome and needed! Please contact me at 868-5743 if you need more information or directions to CCNV.

We will be giving the children school supplies at the March 17th party. Believe it or not, some of these children are not able to attend school simply because they don't have the required school supplies. Let's keep these precious children in school. Any donations of school supplies (especially paper, pencils, pens, glue, and crayons), or cash donations, would be greatly appreciated.

Victor Flores
Area Coordinator

Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of mine, even the least of them, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:35-36, 40)