

LET US BE THE HANDS AND FEET

LITTLE CHILDREN, LET US STOP JUST SAYING WE LOVE PEOPLE;
LET US REALLY LOVE THEM, AND SHOW IT BY OUR ACTIONS. 1 JOHN 3:18

- **FAST AND PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE HOMELESS IN OUR COUNTRY**

Every year some 3,000,000 men, women and children find themselves on the streets of our cities. At any moment, there are more than 700,000 people who are homeless in the United States alone. Most shockingly, according to **the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions** (<http://www.agrm.org>) the fastest growing segment of the homeless population is children. Spend some time fasting and praying on behalf of those who are homeless in our country. Ask the Lord to move in your heart as He guides you in an appropriate response to the needs of your homeless neighbors.

- **FIND YOUR LOCAL HOMELESS SHELTER AND VOLUNTEER NOW AND THEN AGAIN IN THE NEW YEAR**

Go to the **Association of Gospel Rescue Mission's Website** (<http://www.agrm.org>) and use their "Map Search" feature under the "Missions" tab to locate the closest Rescue Mission. Ask them if you and some friends from your church or home group can come and volunteer this holiday season. But make a commitment to helping at least once in the new year as well—people will be in need then too. Go with an open mind and an open heart. Ask God to help you see these men, women and children the way He sees them: unique, broken, unconditionally loved.

- **COOK A PANCAKE BREAKFAST WITH SOME FRIENDS FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE AT A LOCAL CITY PARK**

Get together with some of your friends and fellow church members to make a pancake breakfast for the homeless people in a local park. Make sure you do this in a public area, during daylight hours to help mitigate any potential danger. And bring a big thermos of coffee and another of hot chocolate, especially if you live in a cold climate. Make sure you know about your local homeless shelter or rehabilitation facility so that you can encourage people to find out more about how they might get off the streets with that organization's help.

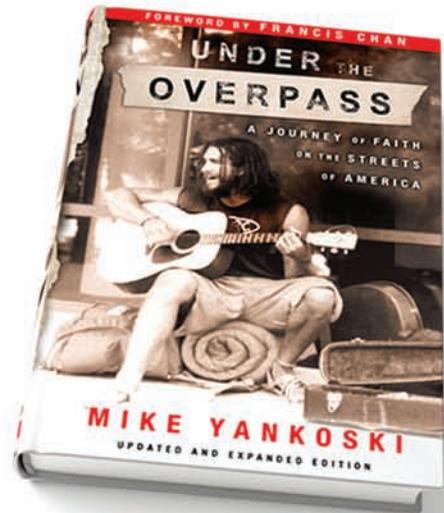
- **BUY GIFT CERTIFICATES TO LOCAL RESTAURANTS / COFFEE SHOPS FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE PANHANDLING**

You'd be amazed at how much a simple act like this can change someone's day. And, by providing someone with a gift certificate instead of cash, you're helping minimize the chance that they would use your generosity for something like drugs or alcohol. Buy several of these cards and keep them in your purse or wallet, or even in the glove-box in your car, so that when you see someone on the sidewalk or freeway on-ramp, you can respond with love and compassion instead of pretending like they don't exist.

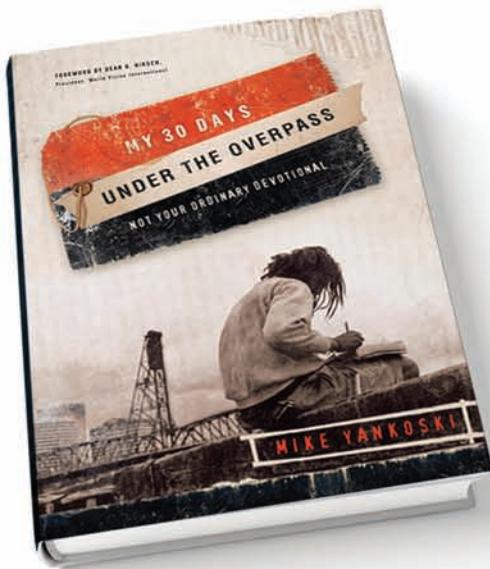
- **THROW A CHRISTMAS PARTY AT YOUR CHURCH FOR THE HOMELESS IN YOUR AREA**

Remember the passage in Luke where Jesus commands us to throw a party and, instead of inviting those who might repay us, to "invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind" (Luke 14:12-14)? What about taking Jesus literally this Christmas and throwing a Christmas Party for the homeless in your area? See if you can use your church building for this. Cook a big meal, invite as many people from the streets as you can, and include those staying at your local **Gospel Rescue Mission** (<http://www.agrm.org>). Feast. Sing. Pray. It just might be the most meaningful Christmas Party you've ever experienced.

RESOURCES



By his own choice, Mike's life went from upper-middle class plush to scum-of-the-earth repulsive overnight. With only a backpack, a sleeping bag and a guitar, Mike and his traveling companion, Sam, set out to experience life on the streets in six different cities. They wanted to find out if their faith was real, if they could actually be the Christians they said they were apart from the comforts they'd always known. Mike and Sam's story is gritty, challenging, and utterly captivating. What you encounter in these pages will radically alter how you see your world—and may even change your life.



My 30 Days Under the Overpass is not a devotional you will read in your quiet time, then carry on with your day. It's something you'll actually do—all day, every day—because these thirty days will rock you. Intense reflection on God's thoughts and feelings toward the poor, broken, and downtrodden to change you—right now.

For more information, visit UndertheOverpass.com