

HAVEN OF REST

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF "THE CHURCH ON THE SLAB"

Homelessness: A Reality Check

There will always be homelessness. There will always be people living on street. The problem won't be eradicated, despite the best efforts of people and State and Local government policies. Homelessness, and the accompanying reasons for it are complex. We work with homeless veterans, elderly and the working poor. The stories of how people got to this place are as diverse as the stories you'd get from talking to those in neighborhoods in Hurst or Southlake. At **The Church on the Slab**, we offer an open hand to people-- where they are. That open hand can be a hot meal-- it can be clothing-- it can be spiritual guidance and counseling-- it can be arranging a meeting with the homeless veterans association of Fort Worth -- it can be driving them to the VA and helping them complete paperwork.

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Working with Us

We are pleased to receive the support of **American Airlines, American Eagle, Tom Thumb/ Krogers, Panera Bread, ACE Copy/HQ** and the Dallas-based creative services/television production Company, **Media 13.**

In addition to these groups, non-profit, faith-based entities support us monthly: **First United Methodist Church** –

Grapevine, Arlington Heights United Methodist Church, Fellowship Church of the Parks/ St. Matthew Presbyterian Church and others.

Our work demands a community of partners. We're pleased the employees of **Bell/ Textron** are with us.



TWO OF OUR CARETAKERS lived her for over three years. We've helped them get off the street.



DANIEL is a regular at The Church on the Slab. His Mom and his Aunt have lived on the street and are now working to get our of shelters.



A **HOMELESS MAN** gets a cup of cold water.

Working with Others — The Church on Slab makes a Unique Commitment

We have a commitment to sharing with other groups. Toward that end, **The Church on the Slab** has provided over 200 pairs of the shoes and helped obtain 1,000 pounds of rice for the Massaquoi Children's Home in Monrovia, Liberia.

We are working with Guy Joachim, leader of the International Basketball Federation of Haiti, to gather shoes, basketballs and other items (toothpaste) to support youth in Haiti. Although life remains difficult in Haiti, children should be allowed to play and enjoy aspects of their youth--despite the sufferings. Basketball, we've found, is a remarkable tool and conduit to reach young people and we're committed to helping in this area. During this year, area

AROUND THE GLOBE



CFR Basketball Courts -
Near Port-au-Prince, Haiti

* St. Pierre Basketball Court,--
near Port-au-Prince, Haiti



basketball coaches dedicated their personal time to present basketball clinics and training sessions, with proceeds going to **The Church on the Slab**. We're using funds to support activities at the Slab and the work in Haiti.

Is it important that non-profit organizations are also at the leading edge in terms of giving back and supporting other causes? We say, 'Yes.'



MONROVIA, LIBERIA - A CHILDREN'S HOME



The Massaquoi Children's Home has one laptop computer for 160 children who live there and attend school. We weren't able to help with the laptops because the Children's Home has only one generator.



The Founder, "Mother Massaquoi," pleaded with us to send rice, shoes and undergarments. The parents of the kids above were killed during the civil war. Many of the kids in this photo witnessed the murder of their parents.

Did you Know?

In the United States, 40% of homeless are veterans--but, veterans comprise only 34% of the general adult population in the United States. On any given night 200,000 veterans across 50 States are in shelters or living on the street.

WILL YOU HELP PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE



Mr. Darrell Phy
USAF Veteran & Slab Volunteer

Many who served our Country are in less than ideal conditions. We choose to meet this need at a fundamental level. Last winter, we worked with American Airlines and American Eagle to obtain blankets. One may ask: "Why not just get people off the streets?" Clearly, that's our first choice-- but sometimes, it is not possible for every person. So, we get the men and women blankets--and, when possible, sleeping bags.

Our focus is simple-- we meet the needs of people **where they are.**

Another example is water. Many of us love other bottled water. And, take it for granted, often spending \$1.29 or more for a small bottle. For veterans, living on the street, water is a luxury. It is a precious item that everyone craves. If one lives on the street, it is not possible to slip into a restaurant

and get a glass of water-- nor, is it possible to go into a store and buy a bottle for \$1.29. (Because you don't have \$1.29). Thus, we spend a lot of resources each week making sure water is available.

Supporters may look condescendingly at street people, asking: "Why don't they just pull themselves up by their bootstraps--or, why don't they go to their families?" We've found that many -- to whom we provide water, clothing, food and guidance-- have no place to turn.

Each month, we fund the cost of portable toilet-- it's a hardship on us to pay for this, but we believe it serves an essential role.

It is a matter of respect. Just because people live on the street, it does not mean they are to be looked down upon, or impugned. The irony is there are many in our society who are two paychecks away from being homeless. It's closer than any of us care to admit.

And, as it relates to veterans, we believe society shares a common responsibility to support those who've served-- both in combat and non-combat capacities.



1. Food
2. Clothing, Gently Used
3. Paper Goods
4. Adopt-a-Bill
5. Hygiene Kits
6. Sleeping Bags
7. Good Shoes
8. Help with infrastructure
9. Paper Goods
10. Support

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Cherryl Wallace, a native of Kalispell, Montana, is the Senior Pastor and Director of Operations at **The Church on the Slab**. Through her leadership, the group provides **720** hot meals each month and distributes clothing to homeless veterans, elderly and the working poor of Ft. Worth and Tarrant County. Contact her at: churchontheslab@att.net

VETERAN ON THE TEAM

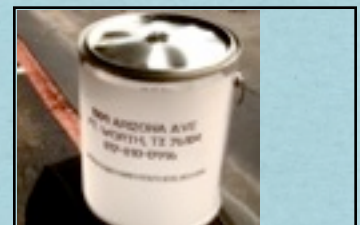
Darrell Phy (photo above) was an aviation maintenance technician, working on the F-4 'Phantom' during the Vietnam conflict.



PENNY JARS

We support this work is through "Penny Jars and distribute them to interested group, asking them to toss in spare change-- and, once a month, bring the jar back to **The Church on the Slab**. Philosophically, we do this because a 'penny,' in the world of coins, is considered worthless--something left under a couch or between seats in car -- many of those we serve are considered,

by society, as having limited value. We resurrect pennies. We resurrect hope in the lives of people.



Will the problem go away if we ignore it?

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The Church on the

Slab is able to provide meals, clothing and support -- in a large part -- because of our volunteers. Those who helps



range from age 15 to age 83. The common aspect is that they are interested in making a difference in our Country.

THE FUTURE

An aspect of our vision is to have a

van or a truck to help with the pick up of supplies-- and, to upgrade our kitchen with commercial equipment so that we can expand our meal service to one additional day per

week. The primary focus, however, is to sustain the work. We've found that the needs are many, but the laborers willing to consistently help are often few.

1,128	Tarrant County Residents living in Shelters
838	Tarrant County Residents living in Transitional Housing
195	Unsheltered Residents
337,105	Number of Homeless Children in Texas
50th	Texas' National Ranking in terms of homeless kids
20	Percent increase year-over-year in number of people identifying as Veterans--who are homeless

THE CHURCH ON THE SLAB

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<http://isyourheartpure.org>

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