



Christian Caring Center-Pemberton, Inc

Location: 378 Lakewood Road, Browns Mills, NJ 08015

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 385, Pemberton, NJ 08068

Phone: (609) 893-0700

Monthly Newsletter

www.christian-caring-center.COM

FROM YOUR DIRECTOR

FEBRUARY, 2004

1 John 4:7-8 "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love."

Last month I wrote to you about the Code Blue situation that we have been working on. Enclosed you will find a newspaper article about some of our people. We are still working on getting a shelter during extreme weather and a shelter for all year, as I have been for the last twenty years. Many of you have been asking what you can do. Lee Taylor has put together eight specific ways to help. I really believe that we can all do at least one of these, especially number 5. Prayer is where the power and direction from God comes from. In the above verses, it is where we get to know God and the more we know God, the more we know what love is. I want to encourage you to seek the Lord on what He would have you do. Maybe you can even share it with your Pastor or Sunday School Class and see what the Lord wants you all to do. God bless you for all that you do in this ministry.

Abiding in Him,
Madelyn C. Mears-Sheldon

Eight Ways to Help the Homeless

written by Lee Taylor

What do you do when you see someone holding up a sign, "Will Work for Food"? Do you roll down your window and give them money? Do you pretend you didn't see them? Nobody likes to be confronted by the homeless - their needs often seem too overwhelming - but we all want to treat them fairly and justly. Here are some simple guidelines to equip you to truly help the homeless people you meet:

- 1. Never give cash to a homeless person.** Too often, well-intended gifts are converted to drugs or alcohol - even when the "hard luck" stories they tell are true. If the person is hungry, buy them a sandwich and a beverage.
- 2. Talk to the person with respect.** Taking time to talk to a homeless person in a friendly, respectful manner can give them a wonderful sense of civility and dignity. And besides being just neighborly, it gives the person a weapon to fight the isolation, depression and paranoia that many homeless people face.
- 3. Recognize that homeless people (and their problems) are not all the same.** The homeless are as diverse as the colors of a rainbow. The person you meet may be a battered woman, an addicted veteran; someone who is lacking job skills...the list goes on.
- 4. Share God's love whenever you can.** If Jesus were walking the earth today, He would certainly spend time with the homeless. He would speak with them, heal them, and help them. Today, Jesus chooses to work through those who believe and follow Him.
- 5. Pray for the homeless.** Exposure to the elements, dirt, occasional violence, and lack of purpose all drain years from a person's life. God can use your prayers and the brutality and the futility of life of the street to bring many of the broken to Himself.
- 6. Take precautions for your own safety.** Some living on the streets are criminals and fugitives running from the law. Always be prudent while talking with street people. Stay in areas where other people can see you. Don't take unnecessary chances.
- 7. Encourage the homeless to get help through the Christian Caring Center.** The Christian Caring Center offers immediate food and clothing to the homeless. The Christian Caring Center networks with many agencies that offer long-term rehabilitation programs that deal with the root causes of homelessness.

8. Support the Christian Caring Center. The Christian Caring Center receives some government funding but is mostly supported by caring individuals, churches, businesses, and civic groups who see the value of sharing their resources with the less fortunate.