

Something to think about.... **Here's the need**

What if you were a single parent with a child . You work full time for \$14.00 hr. You bring home roughly \$800 .00 per paycheck (bi-weekly).

Your bills:

\$1,000 .00 / rent    \$150 .00 / electrical    \$250 .00 / car payment

\$150 .00 / car insurance

So let's do the math :

You bring home about \$1,600 .00 a month & your bills average about \$1,550.00 (give or take).

You're making it, but barely. This doesn't even include groceries, internet, cable, cell phone, etc . (nor does it include child tax credit, or child support)

Now, it's a really cold December and you get a power bill for \$600 .00

How do you pay that? To put it simply , you don't. Because you can't.

So your power gets shut off. But you know what your lease says?

It says you get evicted if your utilities are terminated.

So now you're in court crying to a judge who doesn't care, & you have 10 days to get out.

Well you're in luck, because you found somewhere with 3 days to spare & it's only \$650.00 a month! But to get in, you must pass a background & credit check. Which you can't because you just got evicted. You've never been a criminal, but even if you could pass it, you're looking at \$1300 to move in, after paying the deposit & first month's rent.

Time's up ....

Landlord shows up at 7am with the police & changed your locks.

So, now you're living in your car with your 7 year old son & everything you need to get by.

You tried to get a storage unit, but you don't have a billing address so they won't sell one to you. So you could only take what would fit in your backseat.

You pay to shower at local truck stops & eat whatever can be cooked in a gas station microwave. Someone sees you & your son living like this & calls C.P.S; guess what happens next ??? They remove your child from your care.

As if this isn't devastating enough, you lose your job too. (Because "an employee losing their child reflects poorly on this company .")

So now, you apply for an apartment with the region where the waiting list is 3-7 years.

Then you go into Wal-Mart to put in an application.

When you get back to your car you see that your back window has been smashed & someone helped themselves to your belongings. Remember that it is December & really cold. Now you have damage to your only shelter.

You call your car insurance, who says your deductible is \$1,000.00

~ AND ~ they're going to increase your monthly rate since you're now

"high risk ." You call the homeless shelter as a last resort & all their beds are full.

I'll stop here ..... Because I think you get the point .

The people we work with everyday are these people .

**WE ARE THESE PEOPLE .**

We are all so close to homelessness & don't even realize it .

All it takes is : \* one unexpected bill 📄~\* one fender bender 🚗💥🚗~

\* one lay-off 📉~\* one house fire 🏠🔥, etc.

## PART 2 – The problem with the solution...

So a local church believes in helping and serving people. See Matt 25:34 below –

They provide a Transitional Housing Program with shelter, electricity, water and maybe some clothes or food to help in a crisis. But, there are a few basic rules, which you agree to.

You have to look for work every day (2 Thess 3:10), save money and be accountable. That's awesome for about a week. Then you resent being supervised, after all, you're an adult. You don't need someone telling you what to do. Your friends, (who are also in crisis, or maybe irresponsible) agree that those church people are being "controlling". Now they are stressing you out again, too much to handle so you resort to self-medicating with a little pot, alcohol, or whatever. It's no big deal, so you say. And you need personal comfort and support, so your new boyfriend or girlfriend decides to stay overnight. Again no big deal. Rules are for simple people, you have it all figured out. So now, you get "called into the office". You have 1 or 2 choices on how to respond...

1. Be defensive – protect your dignity, don't admit to attitude or behavior problems, you're just fine. They need to chill out.
2. Be humble and teachable – The root cause to crisis may very well be something besides a lack of money, or bad luck. I could be still, listen, embrace change and graduate this program to go on and succeed.

90% of people choose the first option and repeat the cycle.

### **BE PART OF THE 10%!**

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Matt 25:34 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.’<sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,<sup>36</sup> I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’<sup>37</sup> “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?’<sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?’<sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’<sup>40</sup> “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

2 Thess 3:10 - For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: **If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.** For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies.

1 Tim 5:8 - Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

**Galatians 6:5** says that "each one should carry his own load." Christians have a responsibility "TO" others. We all have a responsibility "FOR" ourselves. My personal responsibilities are something that only I can carry. These things are our own particular "load" that we must work out. No one can do every thing for us.