

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION FOR EFFECTIVE MINISTRY TO THE HOMELESS

TYPES OF HOMELESSNESS

- 1.) Living on the Streets
- 2.) Living in Shelters
- 3.) Living doubled up (multiple families living in one household)
- 4.) Couch surfing (going from place to place friend to friend no place of your own)
- 5.) Living place unsuitable for human dwellings (no lights, water or heat or air in the home)

BEST PRACTICES FOR HOMELESS OUTREACH

- Be prepared to cover social conditions and issues (many homeless people lack hygiene, and have limited resources for personal care).
- Act respectfully and loving. (don't invite someone to your church if you really don't want them to come more harm done if they do and the congregation is not warm and loving)
- Do outreach with a partner or group.
- Approach and engage with relationship building. (Hello my name is..... I am a.....I attend.....May I pray for you....may we pray for you.....give eye contact, shake the person's hands, hug those who show body language that a hug is what they need. Don't shake a person's hand who tries to hug you.....Don't give money. Don't be angry if someone tells you no...it not about you.)
- Don't be alarmed by illegal behavior or immoral acts. (You are not the police or God if it is not a danger to you or someone else don't make a personal alarm about it.)
- Be observant if there is danger or becomes dangerous use the following rules: alert, hide, inform, counter-act, evacuate, don't go into alleys or unlighted areas)
- Don't carry personal items with you like cell phones or purses. Don't wear expensive visible jewelry or clothing.
- Do what you say you are going to do. (if this is a one- time deal say and you decide you want to do follow up then give the times you will and stick to them)

PLACES FOR OUTREACH

- 1.) Homeless Shelters
- 2.) Places where homeless people hang out
- 3.) Parks
- 4.) Under Passes
- 5.) Court house steps
- 6.) Down town churches with steps
- 7.) Social Service Agencies

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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