

"In 2024, 18,836 people experienced homelessness in Chicago on a single night, according to the city's Point-in-Time (PIT) Count. This was more than a 200% increase from 2023."

"I need a blanket . . ."

On a single day last month, 1,000 people received a **Homeless Care Kit**. Volunteers from churches and the Police Department helped us fill the kits with a blanket, hat, scarf, gloves, socks, toiletries and gospel literature. Our Church Partners who minister to the homeless on a regular basis distributed the kits.

While a single blanket won't protect the homeless who live on the street from the cold weather, it brings a smile to their faces when they encounter someone who cares. **Pastor Hugh** from Mission of Faith Church met **Louis** and asked him what he needed most. He responded, "I need a blanket". Pastor Hugh handed him a kit. Louis pulled the blanket out of the bag and a huge smile came over his face.

When Pastor Hugh told Louis about Jesus, he said that he knew Jesus but had strayed away. Louis admitted that he was carrying around a load of shame, guilt, bitterness, and resentment. Pastor Hugh reminded Louis of God's love and forgiveness and encouraged him to cast all of his cares upon the Lord.



Pastor Hugh may never see Louis again on this side of heaven, but Louis heard of God's love and he experienced it. Not only was Louis ministered to by the things he received in the kit, he felt seen and cared for as Pastor Hugh prayed for him. Pastor Hugh said Louis "was overjoyed to receive a blanket....something that so many of us take for granted." Please pray for Louis and the thousands of men, women and children who are experiencing homelessness. In our country.

A visit with John . . .

We were in Orlando for 11 days last month, attending two different meetings. In between the meetings, we visited John in Miami at Everglades Correctional Institution. Getting in to see John the first day was frustrating. After spending over half of the visiting hours outside waiting, we finally got in. While we were lamenting (aka complaining) to John about the inefficiency of the system, he grabbed our hands and said, "Let's pray!" He thanked the Lord for allowing us to be together for the time we had. His gratitude, *like Louis who received the blanket*, humbled us. We take a lot for granted.

We don't take you for granted! Thank you for your prayers and faithful support. We thank the Lord for you often.

Milton & Cynthia