



the Soulwinner

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ONE SOUL AT A TIME

Mark 15:16 — King James Version 1611

Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature

Promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Inner City

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Past Issues of *The Soulwinner* can be obtained from jartworks.net

Living on the Street In Albany

Can anything be done for a homeless man?

For many years I have frequented the downtown Albany, NY district and handed out tracts and church invitations as well as conducted business on the bus route. I frequently have seen a man there living on the street, and much about him remains a mystery to me. I have always known there to be vans and other programs for outreach to help people like him, and there is also a mission in Albany that I have been to myself that will always help you if you have an ID. Unfortunately for this man, nothing has ever been done for him that I know of, and I always see him living on the street. By living on the street, I mean I've never known him to have a bath or to sleep anywhere but right in a small corner in a building. And he's been like this all through the cold winter.

I tried talking to him a few times and he thought I was an attorney, but I explained to him that I had the Gospel of Jesus Christ for him. He didn't quite understand that and after awhile I realized the only thing he ever really responded to was a few dollar bills that he could use to stop in a lunch place and get something to drink or eat. That is about where I've left it with him. I'm not sure of what else to do.

A man can never say why a man is homeless, and for us to criticize the homeless, as some pastors do, is not right. It is possible that the man is mentally ill, but I still wonder why there are so many outreach programs that can not help him.

It is more a question of *love*. When Jesus said to love one another, he did not make a distinction between the material possessions of men. And if you look



This is one of the alcoves where the homeless man can be found sleeping in downtown Albany. Even though it has three walls to protect from him the wind, he still can be found here on very cold winter nights.

to the end of Acts 4, you see that in the church of Paul's day the wealthy sold what possessions they had to help the poor so that no one was in need. Where in the world would you find that today?

People pass this man all hours of the day as he usually can be found in the center of commerce. Whether or not people stop to give him an alms I am not sure, but there is a general lack of love for him as for many years now he has been in this state.

The man lives in such a way that no one would want to live. He sleeps in the cold in winter, and he has nothing to do all day long besides collect cans. In your prayer time, try to remember him and others like him.

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