

Out of the Sky

Imagine sitting at home one evening in Cold Bay, Alaska, a town of about 88 people. You're about to eat dinner when there's a deafening roar overhead. Knick-knacks shake, dogs bark, and neighbours start pounding on your door.

Soon the whole town is gathered at the old WWII airstrip. There sits an airliner, stopped short on its flight from Los Angeles to Tokyo by smoke in the cabin.

As the shock wears off, you wonder what the 220 strangers are going to eat and where they're going to sleep. That's when the town swings into action. Everyone offers hot meals and warm blankets to the frightened passengers—many of whom are travelling home to Japan and don't speak much English.

This actually happened about a year ago. If you had been there, you probably would have pitched in. It was obvious that those people needed help—a true emergency literally dropped right in front of you.

But a crisis isn't always that easy to spot. It's not as if passenger jets land on your street every day with tired and hungry people on board. Still, there are people around you who need real help. The problem is, they just sort of blend in. Single parents struggling to raise their kids and work full time. More people living past age 85 these days, which means more people living in nursing homes and spending time in hospitals. And at last count, there were more than 200,000 homeless teenagers in the US.

Someone might say, "I'm barely making enough at my part time job. Why should I put myself out for somebody else?" But as Christians, we have pretty high motivation. Jesus' words in Matthew 25 remind us of our responsibility: "I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat, . . . I needed clothes and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me" (vv. 35-36,40). Christians care for people around them because it shows their love for their Saviour, and it lets Jesus show His love to those who don't know Him.

Ask God to give you a chance to help someone. And be ready, because if you're serious God will respond to your request. You never know when an opportunity might drop out of the sky! —TC

REFLECTION

- Can I think of a few practical ways I can meet someone's emotional or material needs today—without even spending a dime?
- How can that kind of help open the door to talk about spiritual needs?
- What are people's greatest need?

Needy people need Jesus.



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Central Mountains Baptist Church

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REAL HELP 4 REAL PROBLEMS

We can open the window on the issues in two steps:

1. _____ the problems of _____,



17 years



Kids



Office Worker



Jessica: Swept away



CEO

(2 Peter 1:3) ".His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,"
(Psalms 139:1-4) "O LORD, You have searched me and known me. {2} You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. {3} You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. {4} For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether."

(Psalms 139:12) "Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You."

(Psalms 86:15) "But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious,



Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth."
(2 Corinthians 1:3) "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,"
(Psalms 56:8) "You ... Put my tears into Your bottle; Are they not in Your book?"
(John 8:21) ".. I am going away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin. Where I go you cannot come. ""

2. _____ God's _____ for our problems,

(John 8:24) ""Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins. ""

(John 3:18) ""He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." "

(John 3:36) ""He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him. ""

(Romans 10:9) .. if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

(Romans 10:13) "For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. ""

(John 1:12) "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: "

(Acts 2:38) "Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." "

(John 14:26) ""But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you." "

(Acts 2:21) "And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved. ""



(Matthew 11:28) ""Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." "

(Isaiah 41:10) "Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand. ""

(Philippians 4:6-7) "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; {7} and the peace of God, which surpasses all

understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

(Psalms 23:4) "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;

For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."

(James 1:2-4) "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, {3} knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. {4} But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."

(1 Corinthians 10:13) "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."

(2 Corinthians 9:8) "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work."

(James 1:5-6) "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. {6} But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, .."

(Psalms 27:10) "When my father and my mother forsake me, Then the LORD will take care of me."

(Psalms 42:5) "Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him For the help of His countenance."

(Psalms 41:3) "The LORD will strengthen him on his bed of illness; You will sustain him on his sickbed."

(John 14:1-3) ""Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. {2} "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. {3} "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

