

In my room...

[Continued from page 4]

Today I'm in my room freezing. It's 9 feet by 12 feet and part of an old grainery building in rural Northern Kansas. I'll be here awhile. It's rained since 4:00 a.m., is now sleeting and freezing rain, and this afternoon and this evening will change to snow. Wind speeds have been 20 to 30 miles per hour out of the north most of the night and will increase to 40 miles per hour late this afternoon and evening. Then it will get cold. Praise God for this abandoned building that's my home 'til the storm blows through.

There are no windows, just a door. Praise God there is a door. My tiny flashlight supplies light to write by. Praise God this building is fairly tight and there are only two tiny holes in the roof. Of course, I laid my sleeping bag down under one of the leaks. Praise God I don't have to deal with large wind chills as my feet are already very cold. My sleeping bag isn't adequate for the conditions.

Two-thirds of the time arrangements have been made for me to stay in someone's home or a church building. Tonight and tomorrow night I will stay here in my room, praying that I don't get frost bit. Many of the places I usually stay would be inadequate today and I'd probably die.

From December 12, 2002, to March 2, 2003, I was taken care of by the Twin Falls Church of the Brethren. I escaped the dead of the winter even though that part of the world didn't have much winter during that time. Of course, one never knows how the winter season will be beforehand.

Yes, I've slept in temperatures as low as 5 degrees F. and walked in the snow, but 'til now it's been elevation related. Once I returned to lower elevations the conditions were much less snowy and cold. This part of the U.S. is the lowlands. It's been kinda cold in Kansas much of the past month and I'll be walking Nebraska and

Iowa all winter into springtime.

Praise God Brethren churches are much closer than the 500 miles in between Twin Falls, Idaho, and Grand Junction, Colorado. Hopefully, I won't have to deal with real winter much as Christian brothers and sisters and others take me in. There will be times like now where I'll have to deal with winter like those that are truly homeless.

Please pray for us. Please pray we will find safe, warm, loving places to stay. Please don't forget about us when the Christmas season is over. It's still cold. It's still lonely out here.

Please reach out to us. I can't explain how good I feel when this happens. It is uplifting beyond words when someone is nice to me.

Please break through your fears, selfishness, busyness, and judgment to have relationships with those that Jesus speaks about in

the Bible often. Not only do the homeless' lives depend on this, but so does yours.

'Til the next time . . .

In Christ's love,

Don

Miles to date: 7,996

Money picked up along road: \$628.86

Unsolicited money given by motorists: \$685.44

P.S. I've ordered a new sleeping bag good to -30 degrees F. Hopefully, this will keep me from freezing to death this winter. I can't order up your love, it only comes from letting it pass from God through you to others. God is Great!!

The official Walk website is www.brethren.org. Then just click on keyword Walk Across America. Once you're into the Walk website click on any words that are not black and white and more information will appear.

Hunger and Homelessness in America's Cities: A Sixteen-Year Comparison of Data

Indicator	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
HUNGER																
Increase in Demand for Emergency Food	19%	19%	22%	26%	18%	13%	12%	9%	11%	16%	14%	18%	17%	23%	19%	17%
Cities in which Demand for Food Increased	88%	96%	90%	93%	96%	83%	83%	72%	83%	86%	78%	85%	83%	93%	100%	88%
Increase in Demand by Families for Food Assistance	17%	14%	20%	26%	14%	13%	14%	10%	10%	13%	14%	15%	16%	19%	17%	18%
Portion of Those Requesting Food Assistance who are families with Children	62%	61%	75%	68%	68%	67%	64%	63%	62%	58%	61%	58%	62%	54%	48%	59%
Demand for Emergency Food Unmet	15%	17%	14%	17%	21%	16%	15%	18%	18%	19%	21%	21%	13%	14%	16%	14%
Cities in which Food Assistance Facilities must turn people away	62%	73%	86%	79%	68%	68%	73%	59%	50%	71%	47%	54%	46%	33%	32%	56%
Cities which expect demand for Emergency Food to increase next year	85%	89%	100%	100%	89%	100%	81%	96%	96%	92%	96%	84%	71%	100%	100%	87%
HOMELESSNESS																
Increase in Demand for Emergency Shelter	13%	25%	24%	13%	14%	10%	13%	11%	5%	3%	11%	12%	15%	13%	19%	13%
Cities in which Demand increased	93%	89%	80%	89%	88%	81%	80%	63%	71%	59%	72%	69%	76%	81%	88%	80%
Demand for Emergency Shelter Unmet	19%	22%	19%	15%	23%	25%	21%	19%	20%	27%	26%	25%	23%	37%	30%	30%
Cities in which Shelters must turn people away	67%	59%	70%	74%	75%	77%	72%	82%	81%	88%	67%	73%	56%	44%	56%	84%
Cities which expect Demand for Shelter to increase next year	89%	93%	97%	100%	93%	88%	71%	100%	100%	100%	93%	92%	72%	100%	100%	88%
Composition of Homeless Population																
Single Men	49%	46%	51%	50%	55%	43%	48%	46%	45%	47%	45%	43%	44%	40%	41%	41%
Families with Children	34%	36%	34%	35%	32%	34%	39%	36%	38%	36%	38%	36%	36%	40%	41%	40%
Single Women	13%	14%	12%	12%	11%	11%	11%	14%	14%	14%	14%	13%	13%	14%	13%	14%
Unaccompanied Youth	5%	4%	3%	3%	2%	4%	3%	4%	3%	4%	3%	7%	7%	4%	5%	5%
Children	25%	25%	23%	24%	22%	30%	26%	25%	27%	25%	25%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Severely Mentally Ill	25%	25%	28%	29%	28%	27%	26%	23%	24%	27%	24%	19%	22%	22%	23%	23%
Substance Abusers	34%	44%	38%	40%	41%	48%	43%	46%	43%	43%	38%	31%	37%	34%	32%	30%
Employed	23%	24%	24%	18%	17%	18%	19%	20%	18%	17%	22%	21%	26%	20%	22%	17%
Veterans	26%	26%	26%	23%	18%	21%	23%	23%	19%	22%	22%	14%	15%	11%	10%	10%