



## ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE

*“To the weak I became weak to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.”* 1 Cor. 9:22

**TOUGH WORDS** for the average Christian. Christ himself after His baptism set the pace chose homelessness, hunger in a desert to know and experience our pains, neglects, and struggling trials on earth.

**Last month was a focus on Fulton County crimes.** The news reporters always focus on 3 answers **WHY so much** homelessness, gangs, misappropriation of funds, murders, robberies, rapes, burglaries, and sexual abuse. Atlanta’s homicide is rate at 31.48 per 100,000 residents.

**Poverty:** How is it that downtown Atlanta in its height of wealth coexist with a notable poverty rate of 21.2%, surpassing the state average of 13.3%? Poverty produces idle hands to broken relationships to unemployment to homelessness to substance abuse to criminal activities.

**Gangs:** With broken family structures, there rose an estimated 30,000 gang members under 150 different gangs names. With no disciplined guidance they created their own “unstructured family” with drug, and human trafficking, robberies, murders, rapes, burglaries, and abortions.

**Police Resources:** Now Atlanta has to contend with a shortage of police officers relative to its population, with just 1.7 officers per 1,000 residents. This understaffing leaves the police force overwhelmed by the high crime rate, coupled with challenges as low morale, corruption, and community distrust.

All the above statistics are under the umbrella of a demonic spirit “allowed by God” to bring Fulton County in the end of their self reliance to show the county neglecting to spread the Spirit of the Gospel allows the prince of darkness to dominate over Light. God is crying out to His church and their resource ministries to be His voice, His hands, and feet to dispel that darkness.

## “ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER **FOR GOOD** TO THOSE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS **PURPOSE**”

*“if any of you wants to be my follower you must give up your own way and take up your cross and follow me.”*

Matt. 16:24 How amazing our God is to give us all dominion and authority in heaven to displayed Him on earth. Secret: Remove our focus of all earthly possessions and our selfish ambitions.

**God can reverse homelessness** from no purpose, no resources for survival, no direction, no backup plan, no family or friends to turn for help. We truly don’t realize how beautiful is His Light of hope until we experience wicked darkness. He molds us all through the most horrendous circumstance. Diamonds are only created under the most intense pressure and heat.

There is no way to account for the amount of wealth, prayers, and services people have anonymously given to Fulton Co. homelessness. The most significance long term assistance has been the **Atlanta Union Mission** beginning in 1938 at the end of the Great Depression. They have been the hands and feet of Jesus to the least, the last, and the lost for 82 years. Their perseverance has paid off to such a struggling Fulton County. These figures below display their efforts God has accomplished at the heart of Fulton Co.

**FULTON CO. HOMELESSNESS ON THE DECLINE**  
**2022 partners for home data** noted numbers are based on an annual one night survey and a no 2021 report was taken.

	Unsheltered	Emergency shelter	Transitional housing
2015	1037	1688	1592
2016	838	1782	1443
2017	681	1567	1324
2018	740	1146	1190
2019	719	1656	842
2020	939	1319	982
2022	640	724	653
	<b>GWINNETT CO. HOMELESS</b>		
2023	277	633	353 (under 18 years old)



# “THE WHO’S WHO IN REENTRY”

## 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Better Chances Symposium

November 3, 2023 Salem Missionary Baptist Church – Lilburn, GA



**Garland Brooks, Trevor Hunter**



**Bridge The Gap Ministries**



**Timothy Upchurch**



**Michael Hale**



**Ann McQuillen, Tabitha Skindzier**



**Curtis Minter**

So often all we see in the lives of the homeless people in their present state of hopelessness. **But it was only a “snapshot” not a “motion picture”.** God’s perspective is the exactly the opposite. His interest is a **lifetime motion picture** redeeming investment into eternal human beings from their beginning to their graduation day at deaths door.

The platform set November 3<sup>rd</sup> displayed what the mighty hand of God has done to these men and women released from jail that were wasted, torn, scared to homelessness by sin.

**GGRA Mission** through 60+ members and partners see beyond their immediate needs as a former incarcerated person’s release to the heart of their problem which is the problem of the heart. Through their patient care of love and forgiveness they bridge that gap to our Lord’s redemptive power of grace and mercy. Some have already received God’s grace in jail. They just need a place of support to get them back on their feet into a society that is not willing to trust them for the errors of their past records.

**Senator Nikki Merrier – Opening remarks**

**Pastor Richard B. Haynes – Invocation**

**Ondrei McCullough - GGRA President**

**Bridge the Gap Ministries – Gold Partner**

**Better Chances Testimonials:**

**Michael Hale, Curtis Minter**

**LifeChangers Legacy – Gold Partner**

**Better Chances Testimonials:**

**Tabitha Skindzier, Ronald Schuble, Lori A. McQuillen**

**Presentation of Better Chances Award Winner**

**Sutton Family – Gold Partner**

**Better Chances Testimonials:**

**Timoth Upchurch, Trevor Hunter, Garland Brooks**

**Recognition of Symposium Sponsors**

**Ondrei McCullough - GGRA President**

**Closing remarks & Special recognitions:**

**Russell Gray – GGRA Founder Emeritus**

# WEARY AND WEAK AT THE TOP

**BRINGS WEARINESS AND LOSS BELOW**

The leadership load that governmental, and pastoral leadership carry is **far more than most members and citizens can imagine.** Exodus 17:11 *When Moses's lifted hands in prayer grew weak,* the Israelite battle with the Amalekites was losing. Leaders are folks just as we are with the same trials, temptations, pains, disappointments, doubts, fears, internal struggles that no one sees.

Only when they fail in these areas, their judgment calls, and personnel relationships with their staff will affect thousands of people who trusted their righteous, integrity, and correct decisions.

Our sister Fulton County mayors, commissioners, and pastors are still struggling with the weight of criminal crisis and homelessness. Enclosed is a list of Fulton Co. mayors. in need of your prayers, phone call and/or letters of **encouragement to lift their hands high.** They need God's wisdom and courage to call their county churches and leaders together for a cooperate earnest prayer against the prevailing spiritual demonic criminal and homelessness .

**Darkness only prevails when good folks do NOTHING !**

**THANK YOU SINCERELY FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND FINANIAL SUPPORT. IT IS OUR FUEL TO RECLAIM LIGHT OVER DARKNESS.**

**YOUR ONE CALL OR ONE LETTER HAS MORE POWER THAN WE CAN IMAGINE !**

**(mayors on back page)**

# FULTON COUNTY MAYORS IN NEED OF PRAYER

<u>Municipal</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Zip</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Atlanta	Mayor	Andre	Dickens	5563 Trinity Ave SW	Atlanta	GA	30303	404-330-6100
College Park	Mayor	Bianca	Broom	3667 Main St.	College Park	GA	30337	404-767-1537
East Point	Mayor	Deana	Holiday	2757 East Point Street	East Point	GA	30344	404-270-7091
Fairburn	Mayor	Mario	Avery	56 Malone Street SW	Fairburn	GA	30213	770-964-2244
Hapeville	Mayor	Alan	Hallman	3468 North Fulton Avenue	Hapeville	GA	30354	404-669-2100
Palmetto	Mayor	J. Clark	Boddie	509 Toombs Street	Palmetto	GA	30268	770-463-3377
Sandy Springs	Mayor	Rusty	Paul	1 Galambos Way 5440 Fulton Industrial Blvd.	Sandy Springs	GA	30328	770-730-5600
South Fulton	Mayor	Khalid	Kamau		South Fulton	GA	30336	470-809-7721
Union City	Mayor	Vince	Williams	5047 Union Street	Union City	GA	30291	770-964-2288