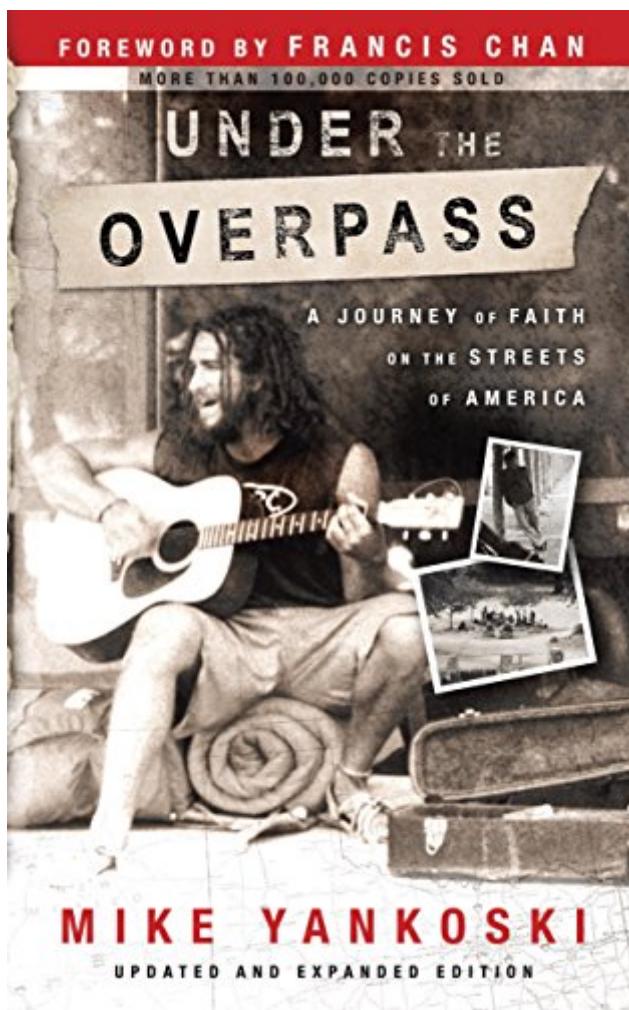


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# Under The Overpass: A Journey Of Faith On The Streets Of America



## **Synopsis**

An updated and expanded edition of the gritty, challenging, and utterly captivating portrait of the homeless crisis. Ever Wonder What it Would Be Like to Live Homeless? Mike Yankoski did more than just wonder. By his own choice, Mike's life went from upper-middle class plush to scum-of-the-earth repulsive overnight. With only a backpack, a sleeping bag and a guitar, Mike and his traveling companion, Sam, set out to experience life on the streets in six different cities— from Washington D.C. to San Diego—and they put themselves to the test. For more than five months the pair experienced firsthand the extreme pains of hunger, the constant uncertainty and danger of living on the streets, exhaustion, depression, and social rejection—and all of this by their own choice. They wanted to find out if their faith was real, if they could actually be the Christians they said they were apart from the comforts they'd always known—to discover first hand what it means to be homeless in America. What you encounter in these pages will radically alter how you see your world—and may even change your life.

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

This book gives a real face to homelessness and what people go through on the street. It No we can't snap our fingers and make life better for everyone, but we can do small things to help one person at a time. I appreciated the suggestions at the end of the book, they are practical and highlight the need to see the "person" not just the problems they are having.

I read this book to get a better idea of how to serve the homeless in my community. I have been consistent in making donations to a local center, but this book really opened my eyes. I realized how much we as a society ignore the homeless as if they are sub-human. It has changed how I interact with the homeless. This is a great book for anyone looking for a behind the scenes perspective of the homeless.

I bought the book because our church's senior high group was going on a mission trip and knew we'd be interacting a lot with people who are living on the streets. Mike's original book, Under The Overpass, on which this devotional book is based, told of his experience doing just that for several months. The devotionals describe some of his experiences and ask probing questions about how we help or react when we see people in need. It gave me and our students new eyes for the homeless. It also gives ideas of how to help in simple yet profound ways, which would be a great starting point for anyone who wants to help but is unsure of what to do.

I would like to respond to James Wallace. Perhaps you were disappointed in this book because you were looking for a point that the writer was not trying to make. This book is a snapshot of Mr. Yankoski's experiences. Everything I read or watch or do must be filtered through my experiences and spiritual life. With that in mind, this book knocked me back a few inches. When I opened the book I expected it to be "preaching to the choir." For the last 32 years I have either been living by the gracious hand outs of others or I have worked in Food Pantries and Soup Kitchens. I know what it is like to wonder how I will feed my child his next meal. I also know what it is like to cook at the Salvation Army on Sundays and load bags of food into trunks, carts, & backpacks on Mondays. But none of that knowledge is enough. Caring for the needy in the small ways; touching the people the Jesus touched the lepers; NEVER letting someone see you flare your nostrils when you pass them; caring for one another as automatically as breathing....these are the things that God applied to my

heart as I read this book.

It was real, it was touching. These guys put their hearts and their sweat into learning first hand how a homeless person lives. It was so encouraging to see these men walk the walk of Jesus along side the people Jesus would have sought to walk with. A blessing and w wake up.

This book really raised a lot of questions for me to consider about the homeless living on the streets of America. How do I see these people, do I notice them at all? How do I treat them if I do notice them? Am I kind or snobbish or down right rude?A whole other thought..... What if I lost my job ( happens all the time anymore)? What if I lost my home because I lost my job? Wow! Think about it the next time you are walking down the street and see someone that makes you want to cross to the other side of the street. It might be someone you once knew or later on IT MIGHT BE YOU!!!!This young Christian man and a friend spend several months living among and as one of the homeless in various cities in America. His experiences are eye opening, thought provoking, scary and some downright depressing. He will make some recommendations on how to respond to the homeless that you meet on the street every day.

I heard Mr. Yankoski on a Christian Internet radio station talking about his street-living experiences and the subsequent book that followed and was fascinated from the first word. Not only is the book hard to put down (I read it in about a day and a half but without interruption, easily could have in less than a day), but having Mike's real-life experiences as the main story makes for a highly educational read. My opinion of the homeless was not exactly very "Christian" before I read the book but now I see their situation very differently. Mike offer's quite an eye-opener into the some-times hellish living conditions the homeless face and the fact that most of them are not content to be there but have no other options.

Great read! Wow! What a journey...to actually walk away from a regular life "as we know it" and into the plight of the homeless...and most of all, relying on God's direction, protection and ultimately grace. Once I started I couldn't put it down! I work with homeless friends through a local "Church Under the Bridge" sharing the word of Christ. Mike's book was another inspiration for me! Re-energized again! Thanks, Mike!

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