HOPE CHAPEL | GAWLER | GUEST SPEAKER

HELP US, JESUS

Three Prayers for the Broken in Our Community

Pastor Mike G | Lighthouse City Mission | Sunday 18 October 2026 | 9AM Gawler

Big Idea: *We will never carry what we don't love. And when we see the broken in our community through heaven's eyes, they aren't a project, a department, or a mission strategy. They are family. And family changes everything.*

About Pastor Mike Guglielmucci

Pastor Mike G is the founder of Lighthouse City Mission, a mission organisation based in Port Adelaide that exists to shine the light of the gospel in the darkest places of the community. Mike, his wife Amanda, and their family quit their jobs, sold their home, and have given everything they have to serve those living on the margins - feeding up to 10,000 meals a week from their centre.

Mike visited Hope Chapel Gawler on 18 October 2026, bringing a word he described as the most excited he has been to preach in over ten years.

> *The prophetic word Mike brought for Hope Chapel: "You are called to carry his presence. God is anointing and setting apart the worship of this house. And you are called to carry the broken - to be a beacon of hope and light in this community and every community where you are planted."*

Main Scripture - Mark 2:1–5, 10–12

> **Mark 2:3–5** *They came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, Son, your sins are forgiven.*

> **Mark 2:10–12** *But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins - he said to the paralytic - I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home. And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, We never saw anything like this.*

A famous story from childhood Sunday school - flannel graphs and all. But Mike invited us to look again at the cultural weight of what actually happened in this room. When we do, the magnitude of this moment becomes clear.

The Cultural Context

To us, four men carrying a sick friend to Jesus sounds like a generous idea. But in first-century Jewish culture, the decision to touch this man was an act of radical, costly love.

Under the Mosaic law, a paralytic man was considered ceremonially unclean. Anyone who touched him, his bed, his mat, or his garments became unclean themselves. It is what the law called guilt by association. By carrying this man, these four men were aligning themselves publicly with the divine judgment that had, in the eyes of their community, come upon him.

No stranger would have done this. The only people who would take this risk were those who had no choice - family, or close friends known publicly as his companions. These were men who loved him. And love moved them past every obstacle.

We will never carry what we don't love.

The Comma That Changed Everything

Mike shared a moment from his own reading of Matthew 25 that he says changed his family's life and was the catalyst for Lighthouse City Mission.

> **Matthew 25:35–40** *For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me ... Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.*

Mike read this for forty years thinking the King was addressing his brothers and sisters - the family of faith - about caring for those in need. But in a different translation, the comma landed differently. And it shifted everything.

> *He is not calling the church his brothers and sisters. He is calling the man in prison his brother. He is calling the one with no clothes his sister. He is calling the hungry, the thirsty, the sick, the beggar, the lame - his family.*

When Mike understood this, he realised: what the church calls a mission department, what we call an opportunity, Jesus calls family. These are not people we help because we have more than them. They are family members the Father is asking us to go and find.

"God is saying: I miss my children. Can you go and get your brother and sister? Can you go and feed your brother? Your brother and sister is in prison. Can you please go and tell them that I love them?"

That is why the children in the Lighthouse City Mission centre call the rough-sleeping community Uncle Benny, Aunty Anthea, Aunty Kylie, Uncle Travis. Not strangers. Not projects. Family.

Three Prayers - Help Us, Jesus

Mike structured this message around three prayers - three shifts in how we see, what we remember, and what we believe. Here they are:

Prayer 1 - Jesus, help us see what you see.

Our perspective of the broken in our community will determine whether we carry them. When we see them through heaven's eyes - as family, not as a project - it moves us from option to obligation. It changes proximity. It changes priority. If your brother was in need and you had something that could help him, would you walk past? Or would you go out of your way? Our perspective shifts our proximity.

Prayer 2 - Jesus, help us remember what you have done.

Why did the four men push past every obstacle - the stairs, the crowd, the roof - without giving up? Because in Mark chapter 1, they had seen him do miracles. The whole city was at the door. They had seen it with their own eyes. And their hearts leapt: what about Travis? What if he could do that for Travis? Our experience with Jesus will determine how far we carry the broken. When Mike was moving ovens through his wrecked centre this week, lifting miracle after donated miracle, he heard it again: he has done it before. He will do it again. Our experience shifts our expectation.

Prayer 3 - Jesus, help us believe.

Mark 2:5 says that Jesus saw their faith - and spoke to the paralytic. Not to the four men. He saw the faith of the carriers and healed the broken. Our faith journey, our willingness to push through, our expectation of what God can do - has a direct impact on the broken in our community. When we keep believing and keep carrying, Jesus meets the one being carried. Our faith shifts outcomes.

A Family, Not a Crowd

The passage says the paralytic could not reach Jesus because of the crowd. The crowd was not hostile. They were not wicked. They had gathered because they loved Jesus and wanted to be near him. But their proximity to Jesus had become an obstacle for someone who needed Jesus desperately.

Mike said this plainly to Hope Chapel: may we never be so consumed with our own encounter with God that we block the broken from getting to him.

We can either carry people or prevent people - all by our priorities.

The difference is not about whether we love Jesus. The crowd loved Jesus. The difference is whether we come primarily to receive, or whether we come aware that there are people outside the room who cannot get to him yet - and we might be the ones who carry them in.

Reflect: *Which are you right now - family or crowd? Do you come to Hope Chapel to receive, or do you come carrying someone with you, even in prayer?*

What This Means for Hope Chapel

Mike said he sat with Pastor A two weeks ago. He wept in the car park of the Elizabeth building - moved by what he sensed God was doing and calling Hope Chapel toward. His word for this house was clear:

God is positioning Hope Chapel to be a beacon of hope and light in its communities. Not just a gathering place, but a lighthouse. The broken in Gawler, in Elizabeth, in every place Hope Chapel is planted - they are not a mission strategy. They are family.

And the question is not whether we can help. The question is whether we love them enough to carry them.

Reflection & Discussion Questions

Use these on your own during the week, or with your LifeGroup.

1. Mike said the comma in Matthew 25 changed his life. Jesus calls the hungry, the homeless, the prisoner his brothers and sisters - not the churchgoer. How does that reframe the way you have thought about mission or community service?

2. "We will never carry what we don't love." The four men in Mark 2 carried the paralytic because he was their friend, their family. Who in your community do you feel that kind of love toward? Who are you currently carrying, even in prayer?

3. Mike described the crowd as people who loved Jesus but inadvertently blocked access for the broken. Is there any way in which your engagement with church has become more about what you receive than who you are carrying in?

4. The four men had seen the miracles in Mark 1. That witness gave them the faith to push past every obstacle. What has God done in your life that you need to remember today - something that shifts your expectation for what he can do again?

5. Jesus saw the faith of the carriers and healed the one being carried. What would it look like for your faith - your belief that God moves - to become a gift to someone else in your community who is broken?

6. Mike's family sold their home, quit their jobs, and gave everything to this work. That is an extreme response, but it was born from a revelation. What is a first step you could take this week to close the gap between the church and the broken in your community?

Key Scriptures This Week

- Mark 2:3–5 - They came, bringing a paralytic carried by four men - and when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic: Son, your sins are forgiven
- Matthew 25:40 - Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me
- Mark 1:32–34 - That evening at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick - and the whole city was gathered at the door, and he healed many
- Luke 4:18 - The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor
- Matthew 5:14 - You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden
- Isaiah 58:6–7 - Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to let the oppressed go free - to share your bread with the hungry