

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." Matthew 28:19-20



CHRIST SATISFIES

Volume 2, Issue 2— March 2006

"Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence..."

Genesis 6:11

Called to Combat

North Minneapolis home to Christ Satisfies Ministries is also home to much crime. At this point in the year (statistics available for 3/13/06) there have been ten murders in the City of Minneapolis. Seven of them have occurred here in North Minneapolis. The age range of these 10 victims was 15-28 years old with the average age being 23. Nine of the victims were male and one was female. Eight of those murdered were African-Americans, one was White and one was from an unidentified ethnic/race group.

On Thursday, March 2nd, there was a drive by shooting right outside our home on the corner of James Ave. N. & 26th around 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Anne had just placed the children down for naps on the far side of the house and went back to the living room to sit on our comfy green chair by the window and read. Moments later three shots rang out. She went off the chair and onto the floor, took a look around and then looked out the window to see a young African-American boy crouched low to the ground running past the house on 26th Street. On the other side of 26th there was another, older man carrying his young daughter and walking toward the store where James' table is set-up. She ran back to the kitchen to look out the window and see if James was at the table and if there was anything else

going on outside. By then James was on the phone calling 911 to report the shooting. He then came running into the house to check on Anne and the children who were fine. James saw the boy who had been crouching and running, clearly the target of these shots, head down the alley behind our house. Shortly thereafter the police came, searched the area and spoke to the man who was with his daughter. He had seen the vehicle, which held the shooter. Seemingly, no one was hurt. Since that time, James has heard repetitive gunfire approximately five times while inside our home.

We raise these concerns to show you that thoughts of the eternal are definitely on the forefront of many minds in our community including our own. The Lord has used this kind of information and these situations to continually remind us why He called us here to this combat zone – not for our own comfort, but for the glory of Christ, for His Kingdom and out of love for a group of people who, for the most part, have been set aside and overlooked by the universal church.

The realities of life here in our neighborhood create a sense of great urgency in our desire and mission to reach the lost that live

VIOLENT CRIMES STATISTICS FOURTH PRECINCT (North Minneapolis)

March 7-20, 2006

Homicide 2

Rape 1

Robbery Person 37

Robbery Business 4

Aggravated Assaults 17

Domestic Aggravated Assaults 10

Christ Satisfies Ministries is a project of the National Heritage Foundation.

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and work here. The Lord has greatly blessed this desire and has made James' table/evangelism ministry quite fruitful. He has been setting up the table in the parking lot of the corner convenience store diagonally across the street from our house (Knox Ave. N. & 26th) since just before Thanksgiving 2005. In late December, he began to log the different people he speaks to, prays for and gives various types of words from the Lord to including: Bibles, pocket New Testaments, tracts, sermon tapes, and godly books. Just last week he did a count and discovered that the Lord has graciously allowed him the opportunity to minister to many, many people in these past three months handing out over 525 pieces of literature to individuals who have come to the table and willfully accepted the materials he had to offer! Praise the Lord that His Word does not go out void (Isaiah 55:11). Many included in this number are people who have received multiple pieces of material. James' location is in a heavily trafficked area (the store, 2 bus stops and the corner where the gang members/drug dealers hang out) with frequent visitors from a variety of life circumstances: men, women, children, working class, the elderly, and the criminals.

By God's great grace and mercy, He is bringing an average of about 15 people to the table each day that James is out there. He has been able to really see some fruit in the relationships he's building with many of the guys on the corner. Recently, the Lord has opened opportunities for him to teach some of them about the image of God in man and the powers of the soul (understanding, emotion and will). One guy, Troop, even returned a couple of days after their conversation on the soul to ask for clarifications and to clear up his understanding of what they discussed.

Other fruits that will hopefully encourage you and spur you on to pray, pray, pray include:

- A crack addict who recently sat down with James at the table, poured out his heart and asked for counsel. He is in a "relationship" with a woman who is a sex addict and is supplying him with the drugs. During their conversation/counsel James shared with him the biblical understanding of true repentance.
- A guy who was sitting on the steps of a boarded up, vacant house two doors down from our house. He was tripping and in a pretty bad state. James was able to go and talk with him and share the gospel. At first the guy was laughing. As James continued to give him strong warnings from Scripture, he quieted down, began to sober up and then asked James to pray for him. He did and then gave him a Bible.
- When James asked one of the guys from the corner who regularly takes the Chick tracts if he read them, he responded that he did, "every night before I go to bed."
- Another guy from the corner, Dee, recently took a tract, stood and read it, then came back to get another one.

We are just in awe of God's great grace shown in blessing this ministry to these people in our neighborhood in such a short time and opening so many doors for the glorious gospel of Jesus to be spread forth. Our desire is to start a neighborhood Bible Study this summer specifically targeted toward the guys on the corner who are dealing in drugs and death on a daily basis. James has had the opportunity to mention that desire to a couple of them, and they expressed an interest in being a part of it. Praise the Lord! We know it sounds ridiculous: a Bible Study to young men who are actively and unabashedly engaged in a life of crime, drugs and sin, but "Is the Lord's arm too short?" (Numbers 11:23). Join us in praying for the Lord's mercy on these and others here in North Minneapolis and beseeching Him for a great revival here in our community!

Lifeless and Lonely: Walking the Streets

On the night of Saturday, March 18th, we had the Christ Satisfies Ministries monthly outreach. This month our attention turned to the prostitutes who live and work in our community. Through the initial research we have done on this area, we have learned that prostitution and other sex related industries both legal and illegal are a grave problem here in this city as in most others.

A startling statistic that was read over and over again in several different sources is that the average age of entry into prostitution is 14 years old! Many of these young girls are runaways and/or homeless and are preyed upon by those who deceive them with promises of money, "love," and security. The reality is

that most prostitutes are in bondage in a variety of areas: drug addiction, violence from both pimps and johns (apparently many also experienced physical and sexual abuse at home), poverty, and, of course, being held captive by the "ruler of this world," Satan.

"When the Pharisees saw this, they asked His disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?' On hearing this, Jesus said, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy not sacrifice,' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.'"

Matthew 9:11-13

As we drove around the streets of North Minneapolis (Lowry between Lyndale and Penn) looking for women who were "working" our hearts were grieved that these individuals made in the image of God had fallen so far into the depths of this sin laden world. We understand more and more the passage in Luke 19:41 where Jesus looked out over the City of Jerusalem and wept.

We were out driving for about three hours from 8-11 pm and the Lord gave us the grace and privilege to give His Word to three different people: two female prostitutes and one apparent male prostitute.

First we met Laurie. She was walking on Lowry near the corner of Colfax Ave. N. swinging her large purse. We approached her and gave her a Bible, a pocket New Testament, a tract and

information from Breaking Free, an organization based in St. Paul that helps women to get out of prostitution. It provides various types of training, has a safe house as well as a transitional housing program. They graciously gave us materials to distribute.

Awhile later we saw a man who clearly appeared to be soliciting in the same area as Laurie. Though he was defensive as we spoke to him, by God's grace he accepted the Bible and other materials before going on his way. We also were able to meet and minister to Stacey. She was also traveling up and down Lowry much of the time that we were out on the streets driving around. We met up with her at Lowry and James. As she approached our van and we shared with her our purpose for stopping and talking with her – to give her a word from the Lord and point her toward Jesus – she turned her head to the side and would no longer look at us. It was very sad causing us to weep and cry out to the Lord for her and the others engaged in such activity both those we met and those we didn't but know exist. Praise the Lord; Stacey took the Bible and other literature.

Pray with us as we pray for these lost souls. As the Lord gathered Israel to Himself again and again after her harlotry and as He called the prophet, Hosea, to go after his adulterous wife, Gomer, and reunite with her and love her, pray that the merciful and loving Lord Jesus Christ will draw these souls to Himself and move them to repent and believe in His promises of salvation.

The Lord has placed upon our hearts four groups of people to minister to repeatedly throughout the year as we do our monthly outreaches: our neighbors, the homeless, prostitutes and gang members/drug dealers. Please pray that the Lord would open up doors and opportunities for His Word to go forth among these people and for our wisdom and protection in ministering to them.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ❖ Please pray for the grace of God to enable us to walk by the Spirit so that we will be faithful to love one another and our children.
- ❖ Please continue to pray for Anne and the baby during her pregnancy. Baby Mullen is due in late July. Pray also for the salvation of Trace, Titus, Phoebe and baby.
- ❖ Please pray that we would minister the Truth in word and deed to our neighbors and those in the community around us.
- ❖ Please pray for continued fruits in each of the ministries in which we are involved.
- ❖ Please pray that we would meet our financial support goals for Christ Satisfies Ministries.
- ❖ Please pray for the growth of the body that James is involved in teaching and discipling.
- ❖ Please pray for salvation of the lost in our neighborhood.

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