

"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

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"O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with all who love him and obey his commands, we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws . . . Give ear, O God and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, hear and act! For your sake, O my God, do not delay,"

Daniel 9:4-5, 18-19

## MOURNING MURDERS



"Moreover, No man knows when his hour will come: As fish are caught in a cruel net, or birds are taken in a snare, so men are trapped by evil times that fall unexpectedly upon them." Ecclesiastes 9:12

Mid-June was a violent time in North Minneapolis. There were three murders here between Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup> and the early morning hours of Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. Seven children were left without a parent, and two parents were left without a son – a relatively common occurrence here on the north side. A twenty-eight year-old mother of four young children was executed on N. Penn Ave. near 27<sup>th</sup> Ave. N., shot through the windshield of her car; a young father of two with another child on the way was killed at N. Penn Ave. and 35<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.; and a gregarious 18 year-old high-school basketball all-star was gunned down on Saturday evening while taking shelter under a tree from a sudden summer rain shower at N. Oliver Ave. and 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.

Prayer vigils sponsored by the PEACE Foundation and Mad Dads were held at each of the murder sites on Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. James attended all three vigils and was able,

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by God's grace, to encourage people through prayer, word and song. Facilitated by PEACE Foundation founder and City Councilman, Don Samuels, the vigils were a time for people within the community and those from without to come together and mourn the loss of life here while seeking to spotlight the brokenness of our community, the desire for change and the need for help.

At the first site, Don asked the group of about fifty gathered in a circle on the corner of N. Penn Ave. & 27<sup>th</sup> Ave. N. to pray and/or share as they felt led. James told about our family and the urban ministry calling God has placed upon Christ Satisfies Ministries and us. He described our vision and passion for a great revival here on the north side and revealed his hope that the Lord might use this ministry and the sharing of God's Word to draw people to Jesus and change hearts for the glory of Christ and the good of the church beseeching those gathered to pray that God would bring about a salvation and a great outpouring of His grace upon North Minneapolis.

The local news broadcast here on channel 5 carried a clip of him during their piece on the vigil and crime on the north side. Praise the Lord that attention was drawn to Christ through this television broadcast!

As the group of mourners moved to the various murder sites for prayer, Don continued to encourage them to express themselves in prayer, word or song. The Casting Crowns song, "The Voice of Truth," challenges people to examine themselves, step out of their comfort zones and truly lean on the Lord for faith and strength. By God's grace, James was able to share this timely song with the group gathered together on N. Penn Ave. & 27<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.

admonishing them to take a leap of faith, raise up the cross of Jesus and seek reconciliation with God among the lost especially in such hardened, crime ridden and needy places like North Minneapolis.

Hennepin County District Court Judge, Bruce Peterson, was standing next to James at the first two vigil sites. He was encouraged by James' words, song and prayers and by God's grace in our lives. Praise the Lord for his encouragement of James in his labor for the Lord and the work of Christ Satisfies Ministries on the north side. It was a blessing to see those outside our community join with us to remember these murder victims and their families and to see the people here as real people in need – not just crime statistics. Praise the Lord for His working in the hearts of many people around the City.

At the final vigil site that of 18 year-old Brian Cole the suggestion was made to pray for the killers. Don turned to James and asked him to beseech the Lord on their behalf. Mercifully, God empowered him to pour out his heart for their salvation and repentance. During this particular vigil, James was able to minister the Word to many young men and teen boys who were at the site. Praise the Lord for His use of cracked and broken vessels such as us. May He be glorified by the salvation of many!

Don and James discussed the possibility of meeting for future prayer times along with others also moved to beg God to work in a mighty way on the north side. As we know there will be no lasting change or any semblance of peace here until killers' hearts are removed and replaced by God with hearts of flesh softened to the indwelling presence of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Please join us in that prayer request of our good and gracious God who desires none to perish.

## BROADWAY DEBUT

On Friday afternoon, June 24<sup>th</sup>, a section of West Broadway Ave. in North Minneapolis was home to the gospel from 4-7pm. A rally for truth was the reason why – complete with live gospel rap music and a mega sound system to Jesus far and wide. friend to participate in this community. What a those who came to love the lost and preach Precious Savior! James mike and preach the prayer for grace, he began, "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed

*"God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. For in him we live and move and have our being." Acts 17:27-28*

carry the message of James was asked by a outreach to the blessing it was to see minister so anxious to the name of Jesus, Our was invited to grab a Word! With a quick

anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.” Thus, he began to share the truth from Acts 17:24-28 calling people to faith and repentance in the God they have offended yet who will mercifully save them if they trust in Him by His grace. Upon finishing, he took to the streets along with the others to minister to people one-on-one and hand out Bibles. They covered a five-block area of W. Broadway between N. Aldrich Ave. and N. Emerson. Ave. During that time James was able to share a much more complete message of the gospel with Will, 21, who was walking his baby along in a stroller. He listened intently as James shared the truth and seemed to be sobered by the message of the cross. Please pray for Will’s salvation and that God would sprout strong roots among the many seeds scattered that day. Remember, “. . . Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners . . .” (1 Timothy 1:15)



## DRIVING HOME THE WORDS OF LIFE

several on-going relationships with people in the area leading to deeper conversations and discussions of eternal things. With these deeper interactions becoming more and more the norm, he is now seeking to teach those people that he sees basic foundational truths of the faith.

He is seeking to help them grasp a simple understanding of the substitutionary atonement of Jesus Christ telling them of their need for zero sins in order to escape Hell and perfect righteousness in order to be accepted into Heaven. To this end, James shares the Law and God’s just punishment of its transgressors. Once people humble themselves, confess their violation of God’s law and just desert of His punishment, he shares the gospel of grace telling of Christ’s perfect obedience and His atoning death for their sins. They are enabled to see that to get the two things they need – zero sin and perfect obedience – they must trust in Jesus with a repentant faith. Praise the Lord that He has directed many to James to hear this clear message of salvation including:

- LaQuinn who came up to the van one evening as James was preparing to go out. Asking him if he would like a Bible and then engaging him in a conversation about the Law and God, James was able

to give him a ride and share the complete gospel with him along the way. This man seemed quite troubled and asked whether or not God would judge him here on earth. After their talk, LaQuinn prayed and asked the Lord for forgiveness. He also asked James to help him and teach him in the future.

- Teddy was returning from a memorial service for Brian Cole (see page 1) when James drove up to him and asked if he would like a word from the Lord. “I could really use it,” was his response. This teenager told James about the recent murder of his friend. He was very receptive to hearing the truth, and James was able to share the complete gospel with him. Teddy took a Bible and committed to reading the Book of John.
- Terrence came to our house one Friday evening. James had seen him on our street earlier in the week and had given him some tracts and a Bible. James questioned him seeking to find out what he knew about God. Terrence was wide open and asked many questions. The two spoke for quite some time. James told him about God’s Law and he admitted his violations of it and his deserving punishment.

Burdened by the increase in killings and violence in our community and the sheer numbers of young men/boys (and women/girls) that are hanging out on the streets engaged in drugs, crime, gangs, prostitution and plain old loitering, James has begun to expand the scope of Christ Satisfies Ministries’ evangelistic table ministry to include driving throughout the community several times during the week in an attempt to meet, minister to and reach more people for Christ. This tactic has been quite fruitful and has added to the increased opportunities the Lord has given to share the gospel.

As this evangelistic aspect of the ministry has developed over the past nine months, James’ goals have evolved as well. Initially, he sought to distribute tracts, Bibles and godly materials to people as they passed by or stopped at the table. Though that is still a large part of what he does while at the table, the Lord has given him much grace to develop

After sharing the saving gospel of Jesus with him, Terrence wanted to pray and ask for God's forgiveness. The two prayed together and James invited him to call or come over to talk more about the Lord. He was very thankful.

- A group of young boys (10-12) recently came up to the table with an interest in getting and reading some tracts and talking to James about the gospel. One in particular, Deveron, was sobered by the truth. He continually hushed his friends with cries of, "This is serious!" if they began to talk or get unruly while James was speaking.

once finished, James prayed for the group inviting any of them who wished to pray also and ask God to forgive them of their sins and save their souls. Weeping Deveron prayed and asked Jesus to forgive him of his sins. The following day, James saw him outside of our home. He shared that he had been reading his Bible and began telling James some of what he had read: Jesus talking to the woman at the well and offering her living water which was Himself, Jesus being the bread of life and more. James was greatly blessed and encouraged by God's grace in this boy's life. The two exchanged

phone numbers and Deveron expressed an interest in meeting for a future Bible study.

Praise the Lord for His grace in providing these opportunities to share His saving work with these people and others here in our community.

We continue to pray about beginning a Bible study in our neighborhood later this summer. We are hoping that many of these people who have had gospel seeds sown and relationships nurtured might be the initial attendees and core of the group. As we pray and dream about what God can and may do in the future we are very open to the possibility of a church plant here in North Minneapolis. Pray with us toward that end if it would be best to glorify Christ, bless His church and reach the lost.

*"But Jesus called the children to him and said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.'"*

*Luke 18:16*

## Prayer Requests

- Hadassah Hannah Mullen is scheduled to arrive by C-section on Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. Please pray for a safe delivery and that she would not suffer any complications from her heart defect (AV Canal) or her potential for Down Syndrome. Pray that we would trust the Lord and lean on Him for strength during this time.
- As both our family and the ministry continue to grow, please pray that God would raise up people to partner with us through both prayer and financial support. If you or your church has any interest and/or questions regarding Christ Satisfies Ministries, please feel free to contact us via the enclosed response card, e-mail or phone.
- Please pray for the salvation of souls here in North Minneapolis especially those mentioned in this newsletter as well as the other individuals reached through Christ Satisfies Ministries.
- Please pray that if the Lord would be pleased He would bring about a Bible Study here in our neighborhood later this summer as well as a future church plant.
- Please pray for our own spiritual integrity that we would consider obedience to God's Word from the heart first and foremost in and through all things.

### CONTACT THE MULLEN FAMILY

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