

"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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"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"
(Matthew 25:40)

The Son Shines In North Minneapolis

We tried it in June and it rained. Twice. Now we were set again to do another yard giveaway at our house. A yard giveaway is just like a yard/garage sale except everything is free. Many people had donated all kinds of goods for the event – clothing, quilts, shoes, baby items, microwaves, tables, books, household items, etc. Checking the weather forecast on the internet Friday night we were greeted with not just an icon for rain, but one for thunderstorms! We awoke to gray, cloudy skies. Invoking the Lord to show favor to us and bring the sun even just for a couple of hours, we continued to prepare for the day. In His great mercy the clouds parted, the sun shone and it turned out to be a perfectly wonderful day for the giveaway – blue skies and a cool breeze. "He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous." (Matthew 5:45) Perhaps today in God's providence, He will use us to bring some of the evil and unrighteous into His Kingdom.

These yard giveaways have been the most profitable outreach for ministering to our neighbors and those who live in the surrounding area. The August giveaway is the third one that we have held, and by God's grace it was the best thus far. Many people came to look through the merchandise and take those things that could benefit their families.

A few friends and supporters of Christ Satisfies Ministries joined in the day's activities setting up and breaking down



James, Dan, Destiny and Jozeca packing up after the giveaway

tables, helping folks find specific items and, most importantly, talking to them about Jesus. There were many, many opportunities to share the gospel with people and point them to the things of eternity. A Bible, tract, or godly book was distributed to all who came.

In God's great providential working of all things for His glory and our good, we received our Here's Life Inner City sponsored Power Packs that same day. Power Packs are new backpacks filled with school supplies suitable for elementary school children. In addition, we had Bibles and godly books to go along with them.

The yard giveaway proved to be the perfect venue for giving away the Power Packs. We began the day with 30 backpacks and distributed all of them in the course of 3 hours. Praise the Lord for His provision and grace. James had the Power Packs in the back of our van and would bring kids or parents with a need for

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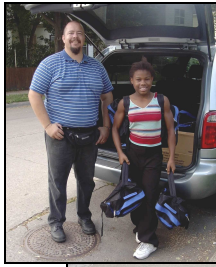
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James delivers the Word of Life and some Power Packs



one over to the van to get it. This provided an opportunity apart from the yard giveaway area to sit down with people and share the Truth in an in depth manner. It was very fruitful and approximately 15-20 people were given a full gospel presentation.

We thank God that He has seen fit to provide opportunities for Christ Satisfies Ministries to share the love of Jesus with many people through both the sharing of the Word and providing material help. Our neighborhood is poor. Most people don't have a car let alone two. Their norm is to travel by bus. Some have no phone in their homes, no stoves. Many are always looking for some kind of work – mowing lawns, shoveling snow, painting projects. In the past, we've experienced kids looking to do these types of odd jobs for "extra" money. Here men are seeking this

work to feed their families or pay the rent. It is a hard place, North Minneapolis. Praise the Lord for His grace in calling us here and preserving us thus far. He has given us grace to be shining lights here in our community and to be reminded often of the endless riches we have in Christ Jesus, Our Lord and Savior.

Bullets, Breakthroughs & Bible Study

Saturday night at the Mullen house: Dinner finished, kitchen (almost) cleaned, the family listens to a drama on CD about Jesus' life. Dad takes the children into the bedroom to get them ready to settle down for a good night's sleep (Lord willing) while Mom sets up the computer to do a little administrative work before bedtime. A fairly typical Saturday evening until the shots ring out. Even though the CD is blaring the sounds of first century Jerusalem, Mom has gotten quite used to identifying THAT sound – gunshots. Pop, pop, pop, pop, pop. "I think I heard shots," she says as she ducks and runs into the bedroom. "Get Phoebe. Call the police," says Dad. "Well, I'm not sure." "If you hear it again, call." Before returning to the computer there are more. This time Dad hears them coming from the alley behind our house. He calls 911 as we huddle on the bed around our sleeping babies. "Let's pray." We pray for grace; we pray for protection; we pray bullets would hit us before our children. We pray the police officers would be protected and

perpetrators arrested. Time passes; all is quiet. We resume our activities with a heightened sense of our surroundings. Life goes on. But, we all sleep in one bed tonight (except the littlest one who is in her crib). As Mom gets into bed, the questions come, "Why are we here?" "What about the children?" Then, the words of Jesus once again come to life: ***"Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows (Matthew 10:28-31)***

Then, other questions come to mind: *"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone*

preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent?" (Romans 10:14-15) How can they hear without someone preaching to them? How can they? They can't.

So, God has raised up Christ Satisfies Ministries here in North Minneapolis a hard, poor, dark, violent place so that the Word can be heard. He has bolstered us, protected us, blessed us and provided for us. Over and over He has given us opportunities to share the gospel even with the hardest of souls.

As James drives around our community and approaches different pocket groups of young men (drug dealers, gang members, "troubled" youth) with words from the Lord, he gets a variety of responses. Some are suspicious. Some are polite. Some are threatening. Some are friendly. The Lord has given him the grace to be persistent in loving these young men (and some young women too), praying for them and continuing to approach them in an effort to build a bond of trust that

will open the door for conversation, relationships and teaching. It has been a blessing to see how God works on the hearts of people even in His common grace.

Recently, the leader of a group that hangs out at the end of our street has asked James to come by to talk with them again about the Truth. The other day he even asked James for a Bible! This summer there have been two particularly hard, closed groups with whom James has had trouble connecting. Both groups were callous and nasty telling him to “get out of here” and even taking off as they saw his van approach. By God’s grace, he has continued to reach out to these young men. Finally, there was a breakthrough. One of the guys from the group off of Penn Avenue North called out to James as he drove by one day and around even after they had told him they weren’t interested. With tears in his eyes, James said that he loved them and wanted to tell them about Jesus. The man responded, “Don’t cry! I’ll take a Word from the Lord.” He broke from the rest of the group, came over to the van and took a door and now some of the others have taken tracts as well. The other group on Queen Avenue North was utterly hardened consistently refusing to accept tracts until recently. By God’s grace, one of the young men was finally willing to approach the van and take a Word from the Lord. He even said, “Thank you!” These particular spots are areas where these men are dealing drugs and doing their business. Praise the Lord for His grace and mercy in opening these doors. Please pray that He will continue to build these relationships and provide opportunities for His truth to go forth.



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All of this and more is the setting for the launch of our Bible Study. By God’s grace, this study, which we’ve been praying about for months began on Tuesday, August 29th. The plan is for it to meet weekly at our home. It is open to all in our community from the guys on the street to the families in our neighborhood. For weeks James has collected names and numbers from people who have expressed some interest in attending. With fliers and cell phone in hand, he encourages those he has met to come and learn more about the Lord. The format of the study is a walk through the Bible from creation to Christ. The first meeting was a great blessing. James and another dear brother, Matt, are leading the study. Five men came for the first meeting and, Lord willing, that number will continue to grow. Please pray with us that the Lord will use this study to change hearts and save souls.

WORSHIP & RECOVERY

One summer day James met a man we’ll call “H” outside of our home. H is a new believer and he and James began a discipleship relationship. As they met and their friendship developed James learned more and more about H’s testimony. He was a killer. A serious killer. High up in the Chicago gang culture, he was now here in Minneapolis. He was brutally attacked but the Lord spared his life. Beaten with a baseball bat on the side of his face and then shot in the same place he lost an eye and now suffers with many physical infirmities related to this assault. During a recent time in jail is when the

Lord revealed Himself and His saving grace to H. His fruits of being a true believer are many and the Lord seems to be growing him greatly and giving James the great privilege of participating in H’s growth and sanctification.

In need of housing, H recently joined a group of men in an area recovery program home. As a result of these providential circumstances, James has been invited to lead a Sunday church service at the recovery house.

This great and unexpected blessing has given James an

“In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction.” For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine.”

2 Timothy 4:1-3

opportunity to reach a number of men who are seeking answers. The Lord has provided many of those answers through James as he shares God's Word with them. We trust the Lord will use both this weekly service as well as the Tuesday night Bible Study which some of the men from the recovery house attended to share much truth with these souls. Please pray for their sanctification, salvation and growth. Pray for James to faithfully preach the Word and share Christ's love with these men and their families.

JULY HOMELESS OUTREACH

In July, James along with two other brothers, Dave and Christian, ministered to some of the homeless here in Minneapolis. Partnering with another local ministry, Oasis of Love, we were able to give food, blankets and Bibles to some of those who are living on the streets.

Targeting the area just outside of downtown near the 94 freeway, the men from CSM were able to talk with a number of homeless people and give away more than a dozen care packages. James was even able to see and minister to some of the same people he met during our previous homeless outreach this past winter.

Pray with us that the Lord would save many of these people and that He would preserve and protect them as they live out on the streets of our city.

Note About CSM

Christ Satisfies Ministries is currently investigating and working toward becoming its own tax-exempt organization either through a 501(c)(3) or some other tax-exempt status. Therefore, there will be a period of time whereby contributions to CSM will not be tax deductible. We trust that this will only be for a short while. Please pray for continued wisdom and insight as we take these steps forward with this ministry.



Prayer Requests

- Thank you for your continued prayers for our precious daughter, Hadassah Hannah Mullen. She was born on July 7th and weighed 6lbs. 10oz. She has Down Syndrome and a heart defect (AV Canal). On Tuesday, October 24th she is scheduled to undergo open-heart surgery at Children's Hospital in Minneapolis. Please pray that the Lord will be merciful to us and work through the surgeons to heal her heart.
- Please pray for wisdom as we proceed forward with organizational changes for the ministry.
- Please pray for wisdom regarding the possibility of launching a church plant here in North Minneapolis.
- Please pray for great fruits in both the church service at the recovery house and the Bible Study that meets on Tuesday evenings.
- Please pray that the Lord will continue to protect and sustain us in this hard and dark place and for the salvation of our children – Trace, Titus, Phoebe, and Hadassah.

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