

"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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"He said to me: 'It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars – their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

This is the second death.'" (Revelation 21:6-8)

## LOVE SLAYED THE BEAST

It was mid-June, just a couple of weeks before the arrival of our precious Hadassah when James was outside in our yard on 26<sup>th</sup> Street. A young man with beads and braids in his hair was walking by. James gave a "Hello" and "Praise the Lord." The young man responded with an "Amen!"

That was the beginning of our relationship with this person. Who was he? A guy from the neighborhood, a visitor, a gang member, a law-abiding citizen? Little by little his story emerged. Broken family, foster homes, gangs, drugs, crime, prison. Here it is:

James meets lots of people on the street as he goes through the community passing out tracts and Bibles and encouraging them to look to the Lord Jesus. Very often he gives people his card and encourages them to contact him to further talk about Jesus. Most don't. But this time was different. Corey\* called.

He knew about Jesus having learned about Him in prison and called himself a Christian. James began to meet with him going for coffee and talking about

the Lord. Though he was attending church and professed to be saved, it became clear through their meetings that he didn't have a solid understanding of Christ and His saving work on the cross. James shared with him from the Scriptures about Christ's incarnation, His atoning work on the cross, the imputation of His perfect righteousness to us and the complete forgiveness of sin for all who believe in Him. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God." (John 3:16-21)

With great peace and joy, Corey embraced

\* Names have been changed

the indescribable gift (2 Corinthians 9:15) of the Father who had been calling him back home and working on his murderous heart in a great way for the past year.

One of four boys, Corey's life growing up in Chicago was a textbook example of someone headed for great trouble. Turmoil reigned in his home from the beginning. When he was two the boys were first placed in foster care with an aunt for 18 months. They returned to their mother and about a year and a half later when the boys were playing with matches she disciplined them by putting a knife to their necks. The boys were taken out of the home for three months and then returned. Later on that year, mom brought them to a hospital, left to go to the store and never returned. Thus began the cycle of foster homes. Though never split up the four boys were shuffled about in the foster care system for the next eight years with all of its detriments and deficiencies: caregivers who wanted the income, not the children; men who molested; drugs and alcohol introduced. When Corey was 8 his mom began to visit having worked through the courts to reinstate her parental rights first with supervised visits, next came weekend visits and by the time he was 12 she had full custody of the boys once again.

By now quite hardened by his own sin and that of others, Corey had turned to regular use of alcohol and drugs and had even begun to sell drugs on the streets. After about a year of hanging around the guys in the gangs, when he was 12½ - 13 things became more official. He was "branded"/initiated into the

gang and entered a time of probation which included being tested for loyalty, courage, ability, and skill in the dark business of their world. During this time the older gang leaders took him under their wing, providing him with all he needed – food, shelter, clothing, money, drugs, "friendship." He excelled in the business at hand quickly becoming an expert at selling drugs, collecting the cash, carrying out assaults (with fists, baseball bats and golf clubs) and performing hold-ups.

The day soon came for him to repay their "kindness." A gun was placed in his hand and he was told that it was time to payback all the favors that had been done for him. He was to perform an execution. His first killing. By God's great grace and mercy, the victim was not where expected and both he and Corey were spared this great evil for now.

He traveled around the city within the gang ending up in an area that was particularly hard, one where guns were commonplace among the members, a necessity. Without one there was no chance of survival in that world. Within the first two days in that new area Corey was shot at two separate times. The first was when going to a convenience store for some cigarettes, milk and cereal. A guy from the opposition let go 8 shots from a handgun at him. By God's amazing grace, he wasn't hit. Some people inside the store were. He called his gang friends who came and picked him up only to rebuke him for leaving the house without the gun provided for him. The next day at a different store he pushed the door to enter. While doing so he

slipped and fell down just as a car came by shooting at him with a semi-automatic weapon. This time they let out 30 shots. Again, God spared his life.

As he continued along in this life of crime, moving up among the ranks of the gang and gaining the reputation of a warrior who could and would kill, the leaders used him ruthlessly to carry out their assaults and executions. By now he was extremely paranoid knowing that everywhere he went he caused trouble and that there was nowhere to escape from its repercussions. (The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion. Proverbs 28:10)

Just days before his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, he was arrested. He was sent to kill the person who was his first execution attempt a few years before. This time the victim was found. Those who sent him kept the gun and turned it and Corey into the police. He was tried as an adult and served 9 years, 3 months and 2 days in the state penitentiary. His ruthless reputation followed him inside and he chose to defend it switching weapons from guns to knives and continuing a similar, murderous lifestyle while serving his sentence.

Released sometime in 2000, he had to start over so to speak in the gang ranks "proving" himself and his reputation to the younger leaders who had come through the ranks while he was in prison. This took a scant 24 hours. After 70 days out on the street, Corey was back inside. The counsel he received there from others in the gang was to slow down, move from the

frontline, hands-on work to the monetary end of things, recruiting others to come under him. Upon his release 19 months later, he took that advice and within 5 months had 9 guys working under him selling drugs and turning over cash. Again, Corey was a powerful figure among the gang members and within their culture. By this time he was responsible for approximately 25 murders including ones committed both outside and inside prison.

One day a call came from someone he knew looking to make a large buy. He personally left the house to take care of it. He woke up 23 days later in the hospital. Upon awakening, his doctor gave him a graphic illustration of his injuries. Putting a glass in a plastic baggie, the doctor smashed the glass and told Corey "that was your face." His attackers – those who had contacted him about the drug buy – had held him and tortured him for three days seeking the location of his stash of drugs. They had decided it was time to put Corey out of business and take over for themselves. In the end, his face was bashed in 10-13 times with a baseball bat – it was shattered, his collar bone was broken, he was shot in the face and lost one eye, shot in the chest and left for dead. By God's grace, a nurse found him and performed a tracheotomy on the spot and got him to the hospital where he underwent two emergency surgeries. Thus far he has undergone a total of five surgeries with more upcoming. In addition to Corey, the attackers found the safe house where the drugs were stashed took them and killed the young woman who lived there.

After three months in the hospital recuperating, Corey

checked himself out. Six months after that he came to Minneapolis. His purpose in coming to the Twin Cities was twofold: he needed some more surgeries and he wanted things in Chicago to chill out. He was hoping people would think that he was either dead or in jail. In the fall of 2004, he was arrested here in Minneapolis for third degree assault and served a sentence of 18-20 months getting released on June 8, 2006, just a week or two prior to meeting James.

He shared with us that while he was in prison here in Minnesota he was very rebellious trying to fight and test his limits. Most of

*"Therefore, if  
anyone is in Christ,  
he is a new creation;  
the old has gone, the  
new has come!"*

*2 Corinthians 9:15*

his time was spent in the hole (solitary confinement). But, there he had time to think about God. One day he asked the guards for something to read. His request came after the library cart visit for the week so they gave him a Bible. Praise the Lord! He tossed it in the corner, but it was pulling him. He'd put it on a shelf or hide it under something, but it continued to "call" him. His neighbors talked about the Bible and God. God had pursued him into the hole. There was nowhere for him to run to now. Corey would pick up the Bible, flip it open and read. This reading grew and he was compelled to read more and

more of the Scriptures. Someone would give him a verse to read. These times would comfort him.

He began to pray in addition to reading the Bible. He would ask for forgiveness and began to bargain with God for certain things. Soon he began to relax and started trusting Him more. Yet, he didn't want other people to know that he was reading the Bible. He would listen to the conversations that took place around him. However, he didn't know the specifics about Christianity; he didn't know the gospel. After trifling with Islam and the Jehovah's Witnesses, he asked God to reveal true religion to his heart. God graciously seemed to be working on Corey's heart through His Word during all those months in solitary. In December of 2005, he had nothing or so he thought. Little did he know the power behind the Scriptures. As he read through the Old and New Testaments, Corey called out to Jesus.

Released in June, he didn't know where to go or what to do. He had nothing. A friend arranged for him to spend three nights at the Harbor Lights shelter in downtown Minneapolis. Once the three nights were over it cost \$8 per day to stay at the shelter. He didn't have it and was off. His friend continued trying to arrange something more long term. Corey spent his fourth night out of prison sleeping on a bench near the Mississippi River in the Camden area of town. He was crying out to the Lord for help. The next day his friend put him in touch with a local, north side pastor who arranged for him to live in some housing the church had available for the next month. He's moved on

now to a place in south Minneapolis.

This brings us up to the time of his first encounter with James outside of our home. James explained the full gospel to him. He had never heard it. Now, Corey learned about Jesus' work on the cross and how He was sinless yet bore the punishment for all of our sin. He learned that if he truly put his faith and trust in Jesus Christ as the ONLY way to salvation and reconciliation with God he would be transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light.

As we sat at our dining room table listening to his story for this article, Corey shared with us that he had started out with nothing and that God has given him everything he needs. As he says he's, "Banking all my hopes in Jesus." Amen!

Obviously, we didn't know him before; we only know his own testimony of what his life was

like. Yet this convicted murderer who has killed roughly 25 people between the time when he was 12 years old and just entering the gang life until he left Chicago in 2004 to come to Minneapolis, truly shows many fruits of salvation by God's great mercy and grace.

Having had no family of his own – he doesn't even know where his mother and brothers are these days – he has adopted us and calls us his family. We are honored. He just loves Titus, Phoebe and Hadassah bringing the older children teddy bears and slipping them dollar bills for treats. He has come to church with us a number of times in addition to still attending the church pastored by the man who arranged for his housing back in June. Corey has an earnest hunger for the Word and has begun memorizing Scripture. He attends the Tuesday night Bible study held at our home and has recently begun meeting with James three days a week for 5 hours

each day to study the Word, learn about Christianity, and evangelize. His first outing was on a Thursday night a couple of weeks ago to the Mall of America. James said that he was hooked and couldn't wait to go out to minister the Word to people again. This program was approved by Corey's counselor in lieu of a job-training program, which the counselor didn't think was appropriate at this time since he still has some surgeries to undergo and is not yet ready to pursue work. Praise the Lord for His perfect timing.

When asked what if he was told that he would have to return to Chicago and go back to his old lifestyle, he said, "I couldn't, James. That is not me anymore." In response to an inquiry about his future, he stated, "I'm at such peace now. If God would have it, I just want to spend my time handing out words from the Lord." Please pray for Corey and his growth in the Lord.

## MISERY WALKS THE STREET

Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> marked Christ Satisfies Ministries second outreach to prostitutes in our community. This past summer many more women and girls were visibly selling themselves on the north side.

James and Dan prayerfully drove the streets for a couple of hours that night approaching women and sharing the good news of Jesus with them. Each one they spoke with received a Bible, tract and information from Breaking Free, an organization that helps women get off the streets.

The first woman the two encountered was on Lyndale Ave. N. with her pimp. After receiving the materials, he told them that they had just been talking about God earlier that day. James and Dan were able to plant some gospel seeds with Camile who was walking along Broadway. Another poor soul along Broadway was Dana. She appeared very weary and downtrodden from her life of sin. She received the Word and clutched it to her heart. Yolanda was hard, nasty at first until the mention of God's Word. She received the package of Scripture thankfully and told James and Dan, "God loves you!" Sue stood out on Lake St. in a long, white fur coat. She approached the van and was surprisingly eloquent and sober. She accepted the Bible, tract and other information.

Many tears were shed over these women that Saturday night. Their lifeless eyes and weary faces betray the death that their bondage to sin begets. Please pray for their salvation.

### CONTACT THE MULLEN FAMILY

Christ Satisfies Ministries

P.O. Box 11954, Minneapolis, MN 55411 612-522-4320 jamforChrist@msn.com

