

"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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"One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city.' So Paul stayed for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God." (Acts 18:9-11)

SLIPPIN', SLIDIN', SANCTIFYIN'

The Lord has dropped a lot of snow on us as February slid into March. Twenty or more inches at our house! As this last (?) remnant of winter 2007 melts away and spring hovers on the horizon, people have begun to stir onto the streets in greater numbers no doubt enjoying the milder temperatures of late and the stretching hours of daylight.

This means more people to talk with as James drives around our community and mans the CSM table at Penn Ave. N. and 26th Ave. N. Evangelizing the community this way is a core ingredient of Christ Satisfies Ministries' local/community outreach efforts.

The coming celebration of Jesus' resurrection and the rebirth we see in God's creation during the spring are in drastic contrast with the downward slide of our community. Violent crime rises. Our pastor made mention of a NY Times report of north Minneapolis placing on a list of high crime areas in the U.S. – one in which the violence is increasing.

In addition to the effects of crime in our community, sliding real estate values combined with other economic factors have united to create a foreclosure nightmare. In Minneapolis alone there were over 3,000 homes foreclosed in 2006. Statewide the figure was 5,995.

This total is a 167% increase over the 2005 numbers. Nationwide the increase in foreclosures for the same period is 49%.

The northside, unsurprisingly, has the highest number of foreclosed properties within the city. For our zipcode there are 1,538 foreclosed properties listed on www.RealtyTrac.com. As reported on Minnesota Public Radio (2/7/07) Minneapolis mayor, R.T. Rybak stated, "We're here in a part of north Minneapolis (a stretch along Penn Ave.) that unfortunately has seen the largest number of foreclosures in our city and it's one of the reasons why foreclosure is the number one housing issue in the city right now."

More and more prostitutes are visible along Penn Ave. and in other parts of the Jordan community, drug dealers in groups up to a dozen perch along Lyndale Ave. There is discouragement among those who've been working to revitalize the area from a secular standpoint. Increasingly, law-abiding and hardworking residents give up and depart.

What hope is there??? JESUS CHRIST!!!

He is our (and the world's) only hope. In this prime field of despair, He is raising up disciples of His Word who desire to reach the lost. Christ Satisfies Ministries is blessed to be here at such a time as this. Join us as we pray for a great revival here.

Christ Satisfies Ministries is a non-profit project of Congressional District Programs

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A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A DRIVE-BY MISSIONARY

"The wages of sin," began James. "Is death," finished Derrick outside of the McDonalds on Broadway and Dupont Ave. N. Not necessarily what James was expecting to hear as he shared Truth with this steely eyed, taking-care-of-business young man one recent Wednesday afternoon.

Earlier that day while driving around the community near Lyndale and Broadway, James approached two men in an alley offering a Word from the Lord. As he finished talking with them, a man named Earl stopped him and began bombarding him with the details of his bondage to drugs and his current plight – some dealers were going to kill him that night if he didn't come up with the cash for his drug debt. Six dollars. *Could this be for real? A six-dollar death sentence?* Stranger things have happened. Last summer a boy was killed along Broadway for his t-shirt.

Unable to get Earl to move beyond the subject of the six dollars to Jesus, it was time to redirect. James took out a business card, gave it to Earl and told him to have the dealers call him and he would pay the \$6 debt if this plea was valid.

Obviously relieved, Earl continued to relate his story of struggles: his mother was recently murdered (likely drug related), he had survived a stabbing in the chest and now this latest threat. He inquired about treatment centers, and James offered some assistance should he truly want to seek change. Thankful, Earl took the card with the guaranty and went on his way.

A few more turns around the neighborhood and James came in for the day. Telling me of his encounters, we speculated whether or not Earl was for real. I began meal preparations in the kitchen while James went into the other room to study.

Moments later the phone rang, and I answered it. Though I didn't recognize the voice, I rightly assumed it was someone from the streets.

"What is your name?" "What will you be wearing?" "I'll be there in twenty minutes." I wondered aloud, "Who was that?"

The guy collecting Earl's debt had called in the promise, and my husband was off to get six dollars from the bank and spare Earl.

"O, God spare me and my children," I pray. Titus wants to know what I am looking at as I watch James get into the car and drive away. Wiping away a tear, I call out, "Just watching daddy get into the car." Time for the children and I to eat our peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Much of our pre-lunch prayers are pleas for dad's protection, Derrick's salvation and the food. Tearfully, I read through Psalm 91 and beseech the Lord to make good on His promises.

What if they harm James, take his wallet and come to our house? Logistically, how will I get all three children to safety? Should I call if I don't hear from him at a certain time or will I be like Romeo in the

"Because he loves me," says the Lord,

"I will rescue him; I will protect him,

for he acknowledges my name. He

will call upon me, and I will answer

him; I will be with him in trouble, I

will deliver him and honor him. With

long life will I satisfy him and show

him my salvation."

Psalm 91:14-16

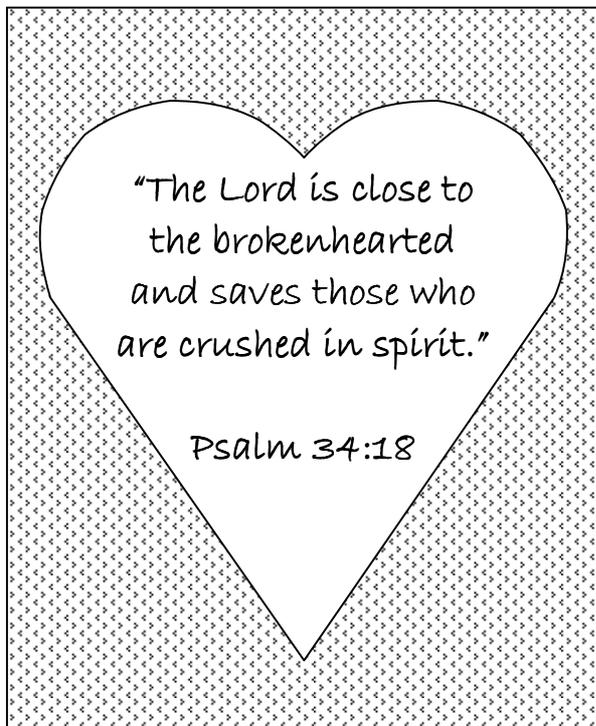
Bard's love story who trying to intervene in the fight between Tybalt and Mercutio inadvertently contributes to the death of his beloved cousin? OK, if I don't hear anything by a certain time, I will call our dear brother and friend who is a Minneapolis police officer here in our precinct and tell him what has happened. Philipians 4:6-7 comes to mind, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Yes, Lord, I've gone over the top (maybe). Please help me to keep focused on You and Your glory.

I go to the bedroom to get my stuff together – just in case I have to go somewhere in a hurry. Then I hear it. The familiar turn of the lock on the front door accompanied by the happy cries of, "Daddy's home!" "I sought the Lord and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears." (Psalm 34:4)

Derrick, the debt-collector, heard the Truth, read for himself of the perfection required to enter heaven, and recounted that the wages of sin are death. James settled the \$6 debt and asked him to relay a message to Earl: "Christ loves him, and I love him. Christ does not condone his sin. This won't happen again." Derrick promised to deliver the message.

Derrick saw the gospel and was shown his own lacking in light of God's perfect standard. He saw Christ's love in action. "Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved – and that by God." (Philippians 1:27-28)

Please pray for the salvation of Derrick and Earl. Pray for the many James meets and interacts with who are bound in their sin. Pray for deliverance from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light.



MENDING BROKEN SPIRITS

A recent addition to Metro Hope Ministries' family of Christ-centered recovery facilities in the Twin Cities is Healing House located in north Minneapolis. The residential program offered there is designed by women to treat women. According to their literature, it is the first residential Christian ministry that serves women without asking them to abandon their children. The four main areas targeted by Healing House are: prostitution, women leaving prison, addictions of all types and chronic poverty.

This new addition to the northside has been a great resource and encouragement to Christ Satisfies Ministries. James has had a number of opportunities to lead Bible Studies there for the women in residence and has recently been

requested to open the Word to them on Friday mornings through the end of April.

Currently, James is leading them on a walk through the Bible. This week they will be digging into Abraham.

The Lord has been working in the hearts of these women some recent converts mingled with longtime believers. Recently in a powerful prayer time following the Flood message, some of the women spontaneously exulted the Lord in praise and worship. Their time came to a close with a hymn and much thanksgiving for the grace and mercy of Our Savior.

It is a great blessing for James to meet with, teach and pray for (and with) these dear sisters each week. Please join us in thanking the Lord for Healing House and beseeching Him to do a mighty work in the lives of each woman and child who are there seeking His healing hand.

“Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. She said to herself, ‘If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed.’ Jesus turned and saw her. ‘Take heart, daughter,’ he said, ‘your faith has healed you.’ And the woman was healed from that moment.”

Matthew 9:20-22

“On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!’” Luke 24: 1-6



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PRAISES & PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise the Lord for the many opportunities to speak the Truth for the salvation of souls and the sanctification of His body.
- Praise the Lord for His protection of our family.
- Praise the Lord for the many committed supporters (both prayer and financial) of Christ Satisfies Ministries.
- Please pray for much fruitfulness for the ministry & us.
- Please pray for the following new believers: Howard, Dominique, Anthony and Drew. All are from hard backgrounds and circumstances (crime, drugs, poverty, violence, etc.) Pray for growth in the Lord and for grace as they seek to build new lives in Christ.
- Please pray for CSM's upcoming outreach to our neighbors (Easter bags donated by Here's Life Inner City.)
- Please pray for the salvation of our children: Trace (14), Titus (3), Phoebe (2) and Hadassah (8 months).

