

"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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"Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should." Ephesians 6:19-20

## ~~THE TERRIBLE~~ TRIUMPHANT TWOS

October 24<sup>th</sup> marks the second birthday of Christ Satisfies Ministries! Like parents of young children, we can't believe how fast the time has flown. It seems like "just yesterday" we talked, prayed and planned about taking that leap of faith to launch out into full-time, vocational ministry. As we took that step we found that the road ahead was not a smooth, neatly paved path but rather a bumpy boulevard dotted with potholes and sprinkled with detours. Our God, however, is faithful. As the Sovereign Ruler over all things, ALL things -- not just the "good" or expected or planned for things, our Perfect Father has taught and trained, carried and comforted, blessed and benefited us through the various trials we've encountered pursuing this calling He has placed upon us.



The book of James states that we are to "consider it pure joy" whenever (not just sometimes) we face trials. Those trials will be of many different types, and they have been orchestrated to test our faith and develop our perseverance or endurance. Strong's (NAS version) defines this perseverance in part as "the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose." We praise the Lord that His work in our lives through this ministry has, indeed, grown us in this area of endurance and dependence upon the Lord and has steadily increased our desire to pursue His Kingdom and His righteousness.

Our eyes have been opened to the difficulties of urban ministry and the web of destruction that sin renders in the lives of many people. Messy would be a fitting word. Many of those we minister to in North Minneapolis participate in levels of sin that are not necessarily as prevalent in the suburbs or more affluent parts of the City. As a result, the concentration of many people engaging in deeper degrees of wickedness in closer proximity to one another produces a darker, more needy environment. It also provides Satan with a playground for his work and many willing pawns to participate in the pursuit and spread of darkness.

In our short time here we have seen many evidences of that darkness. The various trials that we have experienced surrounding our pursuit of Christ Satisfies Ministries have exposed sin in a variety of forms and from a variety of sources. We trust Satan's desire in that was to discourage and deflate; we praise the Lord that His purpose was for our good and the good of the church to strengthen and prepare us for the continuing battle that lies ahead as we pursue His Name and Fame to the lost and also to those who know and serve the King.

*Christ Satisfies Ministries is a non-profit project of Congressional District Programs, a 501© (3) corp.*

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We were welcomed to the neighborhood two years ago with threats that bullets would come through our doors by a gang member who lived down the street. Eventually, James got to befriend this young man, Dee. When James ministered to the community from a table set up on the corner of Knox & 26<sup>th</sup>. Dee was a frequent visitor taking tracts and talking with James. He would even come over to the back door to grab something for James if he needed it – a book, some medicine, a drink, etc. In talking with another young man recently, James learned that it's possible Dee was shot and killed.

About a month prior to embarking on this ministry full-time, James was brutally assaulted on that same corner while sharing the gospel. The Lord spared him from any serious injuries and even used the gang members and dealers on the corner, who were attempting to convince his assailant to stop, to encourage him as they told him not to let this guy frighten or deter him. Another young man, Antonio a.k.a. Trouble, who James talked with daily at the table was shot in the chest on that corner across from our house one spring night in 2006. He survived and the Lord used that situation to open many doors for James to minister the Truth to him, his family and friends during his week-long stay on the pediatric ward of North Memorial Medical Center. Since then James learned that in a gang related incident, people looking for him killed his younger brother, and his family sent him back to Chicago.

We've experienced a drive-by shooting just outside our home, gunshots sounding off outside our house as we fall to the floor and dial 9-1-1, S.W.A.T. teams raiding apartment buildings behind us and houses across the street. James has encountered tormented drug dealers and strung-out prostitutes who curse and even blaspheme God.

Our doorbell has rung at midnight with a desperate young man involved in gangs and drugs claiming that someone was going to kill him and asking for a ride home; our phone has rung with a steely request for the promised drug debt payment that James offered to make for a man who frantically claimed that he was going to be killed for the six dollars he owed a dealer. James paid the debt and was able to warn the collector of God's coming judgment.

We've seen the police with guns drawn and with police dogs walking on our block searching for suspects; we've been e-mailed by our police officer friend to be careful because there was a bold rapist who attacked a woman just up the block from us during the day and outside. Just today the neighbor's pitbull got loose and attacked a man across the street from our house. He's been taken to the hospital and the authorities have confiscated the dog.

Opposition to our ministry has come from what seemed to us an unlikely source, the church. We've seen firsthand the lack of support many churches have for stateside missions and experienced a level of bureaucracy seemingly more indicative of the federal government than the local church in attempting to have an open dialogue with some in leadership about ministry on the northside. Even long-time friends have abandoned our cause and us due to the influence of those not properly exerting authority.

Are we defeated? No. Christ is our Victor! We can do all things through Him who gives us strength. "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. . . . If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:28, 31) Through these difficulties and trials, the Lord has drawn us nearer to Himself and one another, has given us a greater love, compassion and empathy for the lost and a greater desire to make Him known to others. The blessings borne from all this drives us to strive onward and upward. We are grateful for the partnership we have with our home church, Family Baptist. Working side by side to pursue the lost in a hard and difficult environment is bearing fruit both in the body of Christ and our community. Please continue to pray with us for a mighty awakening here in North Minneapolis. We desire to see God glorified as sinners turn from darkness to light and exit the kingdom of darkness entering into the splendor of the Savior.



Some images from CSM: loading the car with Boxes of Love, Friday night Bible Study, praying with friends at a Yard Give Away, pizza and fellowship time at the Cross & the Community (Thursday night outreach).

*"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:23-25*

## SHARPENING THE SAINTS

Since our move to Minnesota in October 2003, it has been our great desire to be used of the Lord for the building, rooting and grounding of the saints in whatever capacity He should see fit. When Christ Satisfies Ministries was born two years ago that desire became one of the three foundational branches of the ministry.

The one-on-one discipleship meetings that James has throughout the week with different men as well as the weekly Bible Study which meets in our home on Friday evenings continue to provide opportunities to open God's Word and point people to a deeper consideration of Christ and His ministry. Currently, James meets with eleven men at various times during the week to pray and pour over the Scriptures. This rich time of fellowship has been a great blessing to his soul and has enabled him to grow in his own walk as well as to exhort and encourage others to deepen their relationship with the Savior.

This past year the Friday night Bible Study has pondered the offices of Christ, God's purpose, plot and person – a study of the King and Kingdom theme presented throughout the Old and New Testaments – and has recently embarked upon a study of biblical & redemptive history.

It has been a great privilege and blessing to see people's eyes opened to more and more of God's glorious Truth. As we have been confronted in our own lives by the truth of Scripture and the hard choices demanded when you purpose to follow it, we are thankful for God's great mercy and grace. He works in us a desire for understanding and then strengthens us for the war zone against the Truth. We trust His giving us the opportunity to communicate this with other individuals hungry for the Lord will prepare them to walk worthy of the calling of Christ and to step out in faith in what can sometimes seem a lonely stand for the Truth.

## ***Helping Hands Bless Us***

The Lord has blessed with a new, barn-red paint job for our home. It came courtesy of Rebuilding Together, a non-profit organization which makes repairs and improvements to existing homes owned by the elderly, low-income families, the disabled and others with needs.



About thirty volunteers descended on our house one beautiful fall Saturday last month. James had an opportunity to work alongside them and even share a bit of the ministry with some. The day began early fueled by some hot coffee donated by our local coffee shop, The Bean Scene (located at W. Broadway & Penn Ave.), and continued into the early evening as the house was painted, our fence finished and repaired and various indoor projects were completed.

We are grateful to the Lord for providing this opportunity to fix up our home and make it even more available for use in the ministry. Already we have had many more opportunities to speak with people in our neighborhood as they comment on the new, bright paint job. Praise the Lord for the myriad of ways in which He opens doors and encourages us.



## School Days with Praise

Christ Satisfies Ministries was able to deliver thirty PowerPacks to kids in our community just in time for the start of the school year. PowerPacks are backpacks filled with school supplies and evangelistic gospel materials. They were provided by Here's Life Inner City, the urban ministry arm of Campus Crusade for Christ, which distributed thousands of PowerPacks to children and teens in the Twin Cities through the work of inner city churches and ministries.

At CSM we were blessed to drive around our neighborhood after church on Sunday, 9/2, and deliver these materials. We began by going to the same homes where James picks up people for our Thursday night outreach, The Cross and the Community, which meets at our church, Family Baptist.

At one house near 6<sup>th</sup> St. N & 30<sup>th</sup> Ave. N we were able to give backpacks to three young boys. Near Farview Park we met Destiny and

Icy who were still in need of school supplies for Tuesday's start back to class. Deanna and Duana who also live near the park and often come to the Thursday night service were grateful for the gift and excited to see us in their neighborhood. Our young neighbors across the street whose mom, Cece, has sustained a serious brain injury from a drive-by shooting, were happy recipients of the backpacks. We even had two ladies driving down the street pull us over to ask for the packs. "What does she have to do to get one?" the passenger asked for her friend, the driver. "Read the information about Jesus!" we replied.

We are grateful for the opportunity to minister to the people in our community with this practical gift and to further develop relationships begun at the Thursday night outreach. Please pray that the Lord would save many throughout the Twin Cities and that He would use the materials and opportunities provided by HLIC to open doors and hearts to His saving gospel of grace.

### Contact the Mullen Family:

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Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
 And his courts with praise;  
 Give thanks to him and praise his name.  
 For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;  
 His faithfulness continues through all generations.  
 Psalm 100: 4-5

### PRaises & PRayer REQUESTS

#### Praise the Lord for:

- Many opportunities to speak the Truth for the salvation of souls and the sanctification of His body
- His continued protection of our family
- Committed supporters (both prayer and financial) of Christ Satisfies Ministries

#### Please Pray for:

- The salvation of our children: Trace (15), Titus (4), Phoebe (almost 3) & Hadassah (1). Also for our spiritual growth and fruitfulness
- James who will be teaching & leading the following: Discovery Sunday School class beginning 10/14 and a weekly prayer meeting for the community beginning 10/20
- James as he preaches at Family Baptist Church on Sunday evenings (10/14 & 11/25) and as he travels to northern California the first weekend in November to speak at a local church
- An increase in partnerships so that we meet our financial support goals
- Much fruitfulness for the ministry & us
- Anne as she hosts a new moms group in our home beginning 10/18
- Anne as she undertakes a book writing project for CSM
- The October yard give away outreach (10/27). Nine college students will be staying with us and ministering at the outreach that weekend