

Christ Satisfies Chronicles

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"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." 2 Timothy 4:1-2

MINISTER OF TRUTH

On Sunday, January 13th, James was officially recognized as a Licensed Minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Minnesota. Our pastor, Lee Ormiston, officiated at a brief ceremony which occurred at the closing of the Sunday morning worship service at Family Baptist Church.

Pastor presented James with a framed certificate stating he has given evidence that God has called him into the gospel ministry. Now James is licensed to preach the gospel as he may have opportunity and exercise his gifts in the work of the ministry by Family Baptist Church.

Pastor Lee, the FBC Deacons and three members

of the Christ Satisfies Ministries Advisory Council were present to lay hands on James affirming his calling to the ministry and to pray for the work he's currently involved in and future opportunities to spread the Truth.

Pastor Dave Whiteford, Chaplain for the Hennepin County Adult Detention Center and minister at Family Baptist, had encouraged James to pursue this opportunity for licensure as a means of increasing both his ministry opportunities with jails, prisons, recovery facilities and other institutions and his

credibility among those who may engage his services.

After meeting and interviewing with our pastor and three members of the deacon board to review his theology and doctrinal positions and their examination of his life and walk their recommendation was made to the church



Pastor Lee, the Deacons of Family Baptist and members of the CSM Advisory Council pray for James.

body to proceed with licensing him. In December church members affirmed that recommendation and voted to proceed forward with the process culminating in this month's ceremony, which publicly recognized and commissioned James to labor under the authority and ministry of Family Baptist Church.

He is greatly humbled and honored by God's great mercy in giving him the privilege of being recognized as a called and licensed minister of the saving gospel of Jesus Christ.



**"Love never fails."
1 Corinthians 13:8**

ENCOURAGING BIBLICAL THOUGHT

James was invited to preach at the Salvation Army's Adult Rehabilitation Center in downtown Minneapolis on two Wednesday evenings in December. This biblically based addiction recovery program is home to men in various stages

of the recovery process. He was privileged to speak to those who are in Level 3 of the program and are preparing to graduate and return to the community.

The topic of their meetings revolved around actively thinking on the

Lord, overcoming the flesh and walking by the Spirit. all of which are much needed skills that the Lord continues to hone throughout the sanctification process.

James was blessed to meet with these men, pray with them and en-

courage them toward biblical principles, which will be useful in their struggle to overcome the past and forge ahead in their walk with Jesus.

Please pray that the Lord would strengthen the individuals who are completing this and other recovery programs around our city. Pray also that He would continue to open doors of opportunity for CSM to minister within this realm.

TOURING THE FRONTLINE

December afforded many opportunities to share the work of Christ Satisfies Ministries with others who are currently in or preparing for ministry as well as with those who are already familiar with CSM and support the Lord's work through our efforts here in north Minneapolis.

As friends came into town for Christmas, James had the opportunity to take several of our visitors out into the community and show them a little bit of what life is like on the streets of north Minneapolis.

A dear friend and mighty young man in the faith, Collin, who is himself a missionary with Campus Outreach, a ministry that reaches out to college students, joined James one

morning. He is in his second year of ministry with Campus Outreach at Radford University in Blacksburg, VA, just down the road from Virginia Tech, which was the scene of brutal campus shootings last year. Though the demographics between their mission fields are different, James and Collin were able to share stories of God's amazing grace in reaching the lost and in challenging them in their own walks with Christ. As they drove through the streets of our community, stopping to share words from the Lord with the gangsters, drug dealers and prostitutes they were encouraged by the truth of Scripture that Jesus came to seek and save the lost.

"When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore to send out workers into his harvest field.'"

Matthew 9:36-38

James also had the opportunity to take our dear friend, Andy, who is an elder at Sovereign Grace Church in Youngstown, OH, on a drive through our neighborhood and show him the various people and places where he ministers and evangelizes. This tour of north Minneapolis was a great time for the two of them to reflect on God's grace in both their own lives and ministry.

It was a sweet time of fellowship with both of these fellow laborers and a reminder that the harvest is ready and waiting for frontline workers. Pray for the continual raising up of faithful servants for ministry.

IMPROMPTU GOSPEL OUTREACH

Just a few days before Christmas the Lord providentially opened the door for James, two local brothers in the Lord, Nick and John, and Nick's visiting brother-in-law, Eric, to spontaneously partner together to share the message of Christ.

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us.
We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."
2 Corinthians 5:20

Eric, a recent graduate of The Masters' Seminary who is currently working on his Masters of Biblical Counseling at The Masters College in southern CA, was given the neighborhood tour and a description of CSM's community outreach.

As the Lord would have it, many young men dealing drugs and affili-

ated with gangs were on the streets as these four traveled around the community. When James pulled the van up to the different groups of youth hanging out on corners and in front of houses Eric would fling open the side door of the van and boldly, yet lovingly, exhort the young men to take tracts and look to the Lord Jesus and His saving gospel. There were many opportunities that day for the sharing of Truth here in north Minneapolis.

CHALLENGING THE INDIFFERENT

"I'm good."

"I'm fine."

"I'm OK."

"No thanks."

Guess what question elicits these blasé responses.

"Would you like a word from the Lord?"

Romans 1:18 quickly comes to mind, "The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of

men who suppress the truth by their wickedness," Frighteningly, James encounters many, many people who display utter indifference to God and to their own future existence as he drives through our community ministering to our neighbors.

Prompted by the Holy Spirit along with the reality of the life's fragility in such a crime and violence ridden environment, James and two men who regularly join him in street ministry around our community have lovingly stepped up their challenge to those they meet who respond

"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered.
"No one is good — except God alone."
Luke 18:19

with such apathy toward the gospel. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," and others verses which point to man's sinful nature and his need for a Savior, kindle their desire to confront in love and encourage these young men and women to think about things eternal.

Please pray that the Lord would afford more opportunities to reach into the lives of the people in our community and that He would get a hold of hearts and change them.

FROZEN, FALLEN AND FORGOTTEN

On one of the coldest nights of the year thus far, James and three other saints set out to minister to prostitutes in our community. With the temperature averaging -7 degrees, these four drove around between the hours of

9 pm to midnight seeking to distribute care packages, warm burgers and the gospel. Amazingly enough on such a cold night they actually made contact with

nine different women who were working the streets! Christ Satisfies Ministries has had several outreaches to women who are engaged in selling their bodies — most to support a vicious drug addiction. In the Lord's providence, this bitter cold January night brought out the most women of all the outreaches thus far even those that have taken place in the heat of summer.

The evening's strategy was to bathe the entire operation in fervent prayer beseeching the Lord for opportunities to speak the words of Truth with compassion and love to these lost and hurting souls.

As James maneuvered through the streets, Dan and Curt took turns riding in the front passenger seat speaking out to those the group approached. Diane remained in the back of the van praying and waiting for an opportunity to step out and speak to any of the women who showed a deeper interest in hearing about Jesus. Before the night ended she was given that opportu-



Getting care packages ready for January's outreach to prostitutes in north Minneapolis.

nity.

About half of the women approached were with pimps. One of them, Oosman, took two care packages to give to the women with him. Most of them were high and spun

out on drugs, pacing from both the frosty night air and the fierce affects of the narcotics in their blood. The one common denomi-

nator between these women was their bondage to sin and Satan. His death grip has them by the throat. Beyond that they represent a broad variety of people. There were young and not so young. Two were named Michelle. One an 18 or 19 year-old Caucasian girl; the other on the streets in her fifties. There were younger African-American women and those who have been on the streets for years. One lady named Denise shared that she had nowhere to sleep. "I'm out here day and night," she revealed.

After each encounter James, Dan, Curt and Diane would pray and cry out to the Lord for the different women they had just met often with tears. The plight of these women is truly dreadful. Once I joined James on a prostitute outreach. It is very, very sad. These women are spent shells of the vibrant creatures God created them to be. Your imagination races with thoughts, ideas and images of what their days and nights hold. The reality of the dan-

ger surrounding their existence becomes palpable. You begin to consider the far reaching tentacles of what goes on inside the cars that circle the block and pick up these women to turn a trick. Unknowing wives, girlfriends, mothers and children. It is a devastating display of sin's downward spiral.

Near the end of the evening, as the last care package was given to a woman named Michelle (the one in her fifties), Diane's open door appeared. This "working woman" graciously accepted the hot burger and care package. She also was willing to listen to the gospel. Circling the block, James returned and Diane got out so that she could spend some time talking with Michelle in a more intimate way. Curt followed her with the van close by. Michelle was clearly drugged up and had a difficult time standing still, but she listened to what Diane had to say about getting off the street and only being able to do so by the saving strength of Jesus. The Lord gave much grace as Diane worked hard to share Truth with this soul. Though she showed some interest in the things being said, in the end she told Diane that she had to do what she had to do — bondage.

Please pray for both Michelles and all the other women CSM encountered that cold Saturday night: Celeste, Dee, Maria, Denise and Tracy. They were given the message of the saving gospel of Jesus Christ. They were given information on The Healing House, a Christian-based, residential recovery program for women right here in north Minneapolis. Pray that the Lord would soften their hearts and draw them to himself and out of the pit. Pray for a spiritual revival within our community.

"When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, and as she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, 'If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is — that she is a sinner.'"

Luke 7:37-39

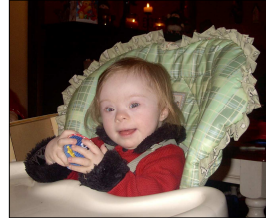


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*"Therefore go and
make disciples of
all nations,
baptizing them in
the name of the
Father and of the
Son and of the
Holy Spirit, and
teaching them to
obey everything I
have commanded
you."
Matthew 28:19-20*

Thank you for all of your prayers for Haḏassah and the rest of our family during the time in early January. We praise the Lord and grace toward us in healing her illness and hospitalization in early January. We praise the Lord and grace toward us in healing her sickness, she continued to those who came into her rooms — doctors, nurses, patients and family — the use her, even at such a young age, to point us and others to His goodness and grace. May she continue to shine for the King.



MINISTERING TO THE NEXT GENERATION

James had the blessing of speaking to and ministering with young people on three separate occasions recently. In mid-December he was able to visit with the Student Venture group in White Bear Lake. This was the second time he was met with and taught this group of high school students. Gathered in the family room of the home where they regularly meets were approximately 25-30 young people. The students heard his testimony of God's grace working in his life through the ministry of the Word. Challenged to dig in deeply and meditate on the precious jewels of Scripture, the kids took time to slow down during the rush of December and consider their own walks with the Lord. It was a blessed time for James and he looks forward to visiting with them again.

In mid-January James was invited to speak to a group of junior and senior high school students at

CrossPoint Church in Coon Rapids, MN by Pastor David Johnston. He was able to share his salvation testimony and teach the students about biblical meditation and actively thinking on God's word.

James always enjoys opportunities to minister to young people and point them toward the Lord.

CrossPoint church members along with their pastor have accompanied James and others on some of Christ Satisfies Ministries' recent outreaches to the homeless. The love for the Lord, the Body of Christ, the lost and the downtrodden move Pastor Dave and this ministry to pursue outreach opportunities. It is encouraging to see this shepherd instilling this type of Christ-like love into his flock especially the young people.

Last weekend, James joined others in our church in welcoming a group of seven young

men from Northland Bible College in Wisconsin. They came to north Minneapolis for a weekend of urban ministry.

James took two of these college students, Ben and Vinny, out with him to get a firsthand look at the evangelistic/outreach arm of Christ Satisfies Ministries. Both young men have a desire to pursue vocational ministry in the future and this trip to our church, Family Baptist, was designed to acquaint them with a first hand, urban ministry experience.

James had a wonderful time ministering with Ben and Vinny. The three of them prayed together while ministering in the community imploring the Lord to do a mighty work in the lives of people here in the city. The two visitors rotated their time in the front seat of the van so that both could engage in handing out words from the Lord, talk with the people out and about on the streets and see hands-on urban ministry.

"How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."

Psalm 119: 9-11