

Christ Satisfies Chronicles

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OVERCOMING EVIL WITH GOOD

What do you think of when you hear the word pimp? Flashy clothes, big car, powerful? Mean, abusive, exploiting? How about lost, troubled, hurting?

Sometimes it makes people uncomfortable to view criminals with compassion. Our challenge as Christians is not to excuse behavior and actions as the world often does when attempting to tackle those on the fringe but to remember that Christ came to save not the healthy but those who are in need of a doctor.

We are called to hate the sin while loving the sinner with the Savior's love. Only Christ's love and gift of a new heart will bring about a reformed and redeemed life. Without such a profound, inner change any reform is, at best, temporary. As citizens of heaven, our desire for change in those

around us must be one that is eternal in nature.

The challenge is to keep that perspective on a day to day basis and not be influenced by the world (and Satan) that just a change in behavior, circumstances, economics, geography, etc. is enough to solve the problems of communities like ours in North Minneapolis.

At Christ Satisfies Ministries, we are grateful that the Lord continues to spur us on through His workings and the encouragement of the body to pursue eternal changes in the souls around us.

One such soul is Cameron. He is a middle-aged man who lives in an abandoned house and works near Lowry Ave. N. near 6th St. N. He is a pimp, which means he profits from and "protects" women who sell their

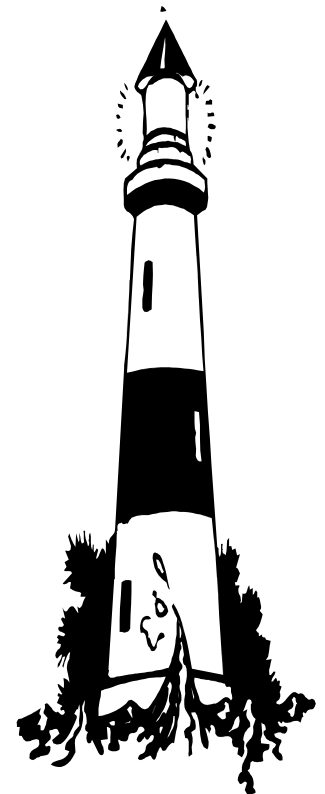
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"While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and 'sinners' came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners?'' On hearing this, Jesus said, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.'

Matthew 9:10-13

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THE RETURN OF THE CROSS & THE COMMUNITY

Last summer and into the fall Christ Satisfies Ministries and Family Baptist Church launched an outreach in our neighborhood called The Cross and the Community. It was a distinctly urban animal. People would

meet at the church around 6pm for a brief time of prayer and then partner up and head out onto the streets to invite people to a church service later that evening at 7 o'clock. James and Pastor Lee alternated

preaching duties from week to week. The service featured a time of praise and singing followed by messages that were evangelistic in nature. When the service concluded everyone headed into the gym for

pizza and fellowship.

Initially, we prayed that the Lord would bring ten people to the church. James invited people in the days leading up to

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HEAVENLY WEAPONS

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bodies on the streets for cash. For over a year James has attempted to minister to him and share the words of life. Continually, his response has been antagonistic and nasty — cursing at James, yelling “get away from me,” never accepting a tract. Occasionally, he would allow some of the prostitutes who were working for him to take a word from the Lord that James was offering.

This man stood out as one of the nastier people James has encountered while ministering the gospel to individuals here on the northside.

That was until one Sunday morning just before Christmas.

James and another brother were driving the church bus around the community before Sunday school inviting people to church when they spotted this man. With a quick wave, they continued on their drive. The Lord moved James to suggest buying him some breakfast at the nearby Burger King. With a breakfast sandwich in hand, they returned to the corner where he had just been, but he was gone. Around the block they drove and on their second approach they spotted him in his bright orange signature jacket. James pulled up the church bus and Nick jumped out with the breakfast, a bit leery at first after hearing James’ description of their

turbulent interactions. To Nick’s surprise, the man accepted the bag of food with a slow grin that quickly blossomed into a full-fledged smile followed by a sincere “thank you” and hardy “Merry Christmas.”

Thus was born a new era in ministry to this hardened and hurting individual. During the months since that morning in December, James has seen Cameron many times. He is friendly toward James and has taken many tracts. He has been open to the gospel, even excitedly greeting James one day showing him the New Testament that he was carrying in his pocket! James has had the opportunity to share the gospel with him as well as give him information on the New Hope Center, a Christian-based recovery program. Recently, James and Nick were able to bring him another Sunday morning breakfast. He was genuinely grateful for the meal and the kindness. One of Cameron’s latest prayer requests has been for change in his life.

About a week ago, James was driving in the area where Cameron lives and works. He saw Cathy, a prostitute who works for Cameron, and she informed him that Cameron was in jail. Perhaps his time in jail will be used of the Lord to draw Cameron to Himself. Maybe he will show up in one of James’ jail Bible Studies.

We long to see what the Lord might do with this hurting soul. Pray with us that the Lord will show His power, grace and mercy in saving this man and giving him a new life.

James’ desire is to minister in a greater way to those individuals who the Lord brings along his path who demonstrate a particular openness to the gospel message. Rather than just drive up and talk with them on the streets, he is seeking opportunities to invite some to go with him for coffee or a meal and sit down somewhere so that more focused conversation can occur and he can begin to really get to know and befriend some of the people in our community who he routinely sees during his daily travels on the streets and share the gospel in a deeper and fuller way with them. Please join us in prayer to that end.

“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does.” The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world.”

2 Corinthians 10:3

GIRLS HEAR TALES OF THE CITY

Just the other evening, the night of our great spring snowstorm, (3/31) Anne had the opportunity to visit with seven young girls who were 12-13 years old and three moms. The occasion was a neighborhood outreach hosted by some dear friends who live in Eagan, MN.

Invited by the hostesses (a mom and daughter team) to share a testimony of the Lord’s work in her life and Christ Satisfies Ministries in North Minneapolis, Anne spoke to the group about our family’s call into urban ministry and some of the vari-

ous experiences we have had reaching out to people in our community during the past two and a half years. She was also able to present a computer slide show of photographs depicting various outreach efforts and ministry experiences on the northside. Within that context Anne shared the saving gospel of Jesus Christ with the girls and moms. It was a blessing to meet these young ladies and moms and tell them about all that the Lord is doing just north of them in the City.

Hearts were provoked through the stories shared and questions raised. God’s great mercy, love and might were lifted up. Pray that the Lord would work in the hearts of those present and draw them to Himself.



PREPARING FOR THE LONG HAUL

Each week James visits the Hennepin County Adult Correctional Facility in downtown Minneapolis to conduct one-hour Bible Studies for the inmates on Monday, Wednesday and Friday in conjunction with the ministry of Missionary Evangelism to Corrections (MEC). These have

been blessed times of digging into the truth of God's word, sharing the in-depth gospel of Jesus Christ and examining self through books like 1 John. It has been a fruitful experience with many opportunities for him to minister to hurting men and helping them sort through the Bible. Recently, Scott, one of the men that he had worked with extensively for

the past two months at the jail who is a believer, was released. James invited him to our church, Family Baptist, and encouraged Scott to call him. Scott joined our church family on Easter Sunday for services. The following day he was scheduled to enter Lino Lakes Correctional Facility to serve an 18-month prison term.

James was greatly encouraged by Scott's desire to visit the church and soak up truth. He and Scott were able to meet on Easter in the late afternoon/early evening just prior to his entrance into the prison. For four hours that night, James was able to present foundational, biblical



Truth to this brother who was facing the difficult challenge of a prison term. His desire to be in the Word and fill up on Scripture is a great testimony to God's grace in his life. We trust the Lord will use this trial in a mighty way in Scott's life strengthening him and conforming him into the image of Christ. Hopefully, he will be used in mighty ways for the furtherance of the gospel at Lino Lakes. Please pray with us to that end and for continued opportunities to minister to this man.

Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to serve the gospel.
Philippians 1:12

"Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act. Do not say to your neighbor, 'Come back later; I'll give it tomorrow' — when you now have it with you."

Proverbs 3:27-28

WEEKLY OUTREACH TARGETS NORTHSIDE

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the ministry launch. That first evening last fall about twenty people from the community came to the church! Each week the Lord was faithful to answer the prayers of the saints by bringing in people from the street to hear His Word — 20, 40, 50 people would come on these Thursday evenings. Grandmothers and gangsters, kids and seniors. The Lord brought a great variety of people in to hear the Truth.

We are excited to be launching The Cross and the Community again at

the end of this month. Thursday, April 24th is the planned start date. We are excited to see what the Lord might do in our community by pouring out His Spirit through the preaching of His Word.

Please pray with us for the Lord's blessing upon this ministry endeavor. We need committed brothers and sisters with hearts for the poor, lost and hurting who are willing to faithfully show Christ's love to those who come and participate in this outreach. Pray that the Lord will bring people with open hearts who

desire change and that He would be pleased to save souls. Ultimately, we desire a great awakening here in north Minneapolis. Pray with us to





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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

Praise & Prayer Requests

- Praise the Lord for His faithfulness in providing for the needs of both Christ Satisfies Ministries and our family.
- Praise the Lord for continuing to open doors of opportunity to reach people for Christ in North Minneapolis.
- Praise the Lord for the men James meets with throughout the week. They are a great source of encouragement and a testimony to God's great work in the lives of individuals.
- Pray that many would come and participate in The Cross & the Community outreach at Family Baptist Church beginning Thursday, 4/24.
- Pray for this month's outreach to gang members and drug dealers scheduled for Saturday, 4/26 from 4-6 pm.
- Pray that for opportunities for James to visit churches and share with them what the Lord is doing in North Minneapolis through CSM.
- Pray for increased opportunities to minister to the lost and hurting and to develop deeper relationships as the Lord leads.
- Pray that our family would seek to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and to honor Him in all that we do.
- Pray for the salvation of our children Trace (15), Titus (4), Phoebe (3) and Hadassah (21 months).

LESSONS LEARNED

For the past six months, James has been teaching a Sunday School class at our church. Each week about eight people, many from the New Hope Center, a Christian-based recovery program, meet to study and discuss fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith utilizing a curriculum *Fundamentals of the Faith*, developed by Grace Community Church home of Dr. John MacArthur, Jr.

The bent of the class is always evangelistic, and those who have been attending faithfully are growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

James is greatly blessed to have this opportunity to dig into the Scriptures and share with others what the Bible has to say on such topics as Christ, the Trinity, salvation,

sanctification, God's sovereignty and many other foundational issues. Praise the Lord for the fruit in the lives of those who are participating in this class and desiring to know God in a deeper way.

In two weeks this course will be finished and a new class will begin, James will be delving into the topic of prayer:

- **What does the Bible teach about it?**
- **How can we do it without ceasing,?**
- **Who should we pray for?**
- **and more**

Please join us in asking the Lord to bless and prosper all who participate in this upcoming time of study about and practice in the godly discipline of prayer.

"You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance. Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good."

Titus 2:1-3