

Christ Satisfies Chronicles

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Divine Appointments & Opportunities

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As the days grow longer and the cold winter winds give way to the warmer breezes of spring opportunities to meet and talk with people increase for James as he ministers around our community. Today, May 6th, was a particularly fruitful day here in North Minneapolis.

Driving around the neighborhood to share the message of Jesus, James first met Shawanda. She is a prostitute who works along Penn Ave. N. James has ministered to her before. Today she wasn't interested in another Word from the Lord

saying that she already had the tract he offered. The lifelessness in the eyes of most of the women James encounters who are living this lifestyle is haunting and greatly affects James and the others who sometimes minister alongside him. Shawanda was no exception. Already familiar with the Healing House from a previous encounter with James, she thanked him for the encouragement to seek help. James reminded her that Jesus wants to help her and loves her. Promising to lift her up in prayer, James drove on beseeching the

Lord to intercede in this woman's life.

Just a few blocks down the street he met Anne who is also a woman working the streets in North Minneapolis. Unfamiliar with the blue van and the bold preacher, she first thought she had a potential customer. James' offer of a tract and a Healing House flyer were accepted with thanks, and he was able to open a door for future ministry to this woman.

The Lord planned a special meeting for James after talking with these women. Turning down Fremont Ave. N., he noticed a young man

walking down the street. Because this encounter was so sobering to James reminding him of the urgency in the Lord's calling to preach the gospel to those who are perishing, we decided to highlight the details in the box just below.

(Continued on page 2)

"Hey, man, may I give you a Word from the Lord," James offered his typical opening query to the young man walking down Fremont Ave. N. in the baggy jeans, oversized white t-shirt with the tight cloth wrapped around his head.

"No, man, I'm done with all that!"

"OK," James responded, yet an uneasiness settled in. The Lord pressed upon him that this was NOT a "normal" response to his usual opening question. Pulling back up to him, James lowered the window and softly asked, **"What do you mean by that?"**

"Last night I burned my Bible and tried to commit suicide. I'm miserable. God doesn't work! He doesn't answer my prayers. I'M DONE WITH GOD!" came the hurt, desperate, conflicted, needy response. Wasted and wired, tired and tormented was Timel, this young man who only hours before planned to go to sleep and never again wake up at least not here on earth. Timel explained that after burning the Word, he took a bottle of pills and went to sleep expecting and hoping never to wake up. His plans were foiled, however, when he woke up vomiting.

"You'll never be done with God, Timel. You will either suffer His wrath forever in hell or experience His wondrous blessings forever in heaven." James calmly and soberly shared.

Shocked at this reality, Timel paused. James parked the van, got out and went over to him. **"God didn't let me kill myself last night and go to hell. Maybe, He even brought you here today,"** he pondered aloud, considering all that had occurred to him in the past 24 hours.

James told Timel about Jesus' easy yoke and shared the full gospel of salvation with him. **"You need to go Christ's way through His Word."**

Handing Timel a new Bible and his card, James encouraged him with the message of God's love and urged him to cry out to Jesus. The two parted ways and Timel left with a new hope and an invitation to turn to Christ. Please pray for the salvation of this young man and the many others like him who don't know the Lord.

eVANgelizing

(Continued from page 1)

After this sobering encounter with God's providence, James met Giz who was walking along Washington Ave. N. It was beginning to rain and James asked him if he would like a ride somewhere. Wary he said, "No." James shared that he was a preacher and asked him to at least take a Word from the Lord.

After taking the tract, Giz changed his mind and got into the van. He was heading to a recording studio a few blocks away to rehearse with his rap group. Professing to be a Christian, James asked if he was familiar with the Christian rap artists, The Ambassador and Shy-Linn. Giz knew of one of them and said that he had even considered pursuing music that was Christian but chose the secular route. James reminded him that Christ calls us to an obedient faith and to follow him as Lord in all areas of life even music. Giz received this challenge in a humble and reflective manner and told James that he just might give him a call to meet with him again.

After dropping off Giz at the studio, James headed back into the neighborhood. This time as he drove up Fremont Ave. N. he saw Pierre walking in the rain. James offered him a Word from the Lord. Pierre recognized him from the table

ministry that James previously had on the corner of Knox Ave. N. & 26th Ave. N. James offered him a ride and he accepted. Once in the van, James was able to share the gospel with him even reviewing the law and Pierre's lack of obedience to it. After their conversation, Pierre understood his need — the fact that he is a sinner, law breaker and that the penalty for that sin is death and hell. Intellectually, he "got it" understanding his just desert of hell. Just

"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

2 Peter 3:9

as James was about to tell him the good news of Christ and the grace He offers to sinners, Pierre's friend came up to the van to meet him. As Pierre went to leave, James gave him a Word from the Lord and shared that Christ's grace and mercy was available to him.

On the last leg of James' drive around the neighborhood this afternoon, he went by one of the current drug corner hotspots, Lyndale Ave.

N. and 22nd Ave. N. Despite the rain, five young men were out on the corner doing business. These guys know James quite well as he regularly stops and talks with them. Seemingly their consciences are convicted when "the preacher" pulls up. This is seen in the fact that often they will see him, roll their heads and say, "Oh, man," or "Oh, no." On this particular day, 4 of the 5 did just that and began to walk away from the corner, heads turned hiding their faces. One, however, approached the car, said "Hello," and received a tract. This was Pinky. James met him even before we moved into our house on James Ave. N. & 26th Ave. N. He lived on the other side of 26th and was the lead drug dealer on our corner. Apparently the Spirit did not leave the other men alone. Three more followed Pinky's lead and came to the van, greeted James and asked for tracts. The fourth man is a professed atheist and will not accept tracts or anything from James.

Please pray with us for the salvation of Shawanda, Anne, Timel, Pierre and Pinky & the guys as well as for the growth of Giz. Pray that James would hear from those who took his information and be used of the Lord to communicate Christ's love to these individuals in the ways which best minister to their needs. Pray that the Lord would bring a great revival to the northside awakening hearts and souls to His glory, grace and mercy.

Pastoral Tour of the Neighborhood

One afternoon last month, James had the privilege of giving three visiting church leaders from Missouri a tour of our community. They accompanied him on his daily evangelism route.

The two pastors and one elder were in North Minneapolis planning for a summer missions trip for the youth in their church. They will be teaming up with Family Baptist and its various ministries to provide the kids with various opportunities to serve in an urban environment, learn about

urban ministry and grow in their own relationship with Jesus Christ.

James was so blessed to have these men join him that April afternoon and minister to the downtrodden and troubled youth here in our community. These men earnestly prayed and beseeched the Lord on behalf of the drug dealers, gang members, prostitutes and other people they saw on the streets as they drove along with James in the van. They joined him in greeting people as the van pulled up alongside

groups and individuals offering lost souls. Words from the Lord and encouragements toward the gospel truth.

Greatly encouraged and educated during their tour, they are planning to reserve one day of the summer missions trip for some on the team to work with James. Praise the Lord for this future opportunity to work with young people and challenge them to step out of their comfort zones for Christ. Pray that the Lord would bless these plans and work in mighty ways in the lives of these students for His glory.

Outreach Team Connects with Troubled Youth

On Saturday, April 26th, James and four other friends of Christ Satisfies Ministries joined together for a monthly outreach to the gang bangers, drug dealers and troubled youth of our community — those who are hanging out on the corners and porches of our neighborhood engaging in actual criminal activities or just general aimlessness.

The five were able to meet and talk with fifteen people during their time out on the streets. They would stop the van at various groups of people and exit the car in order to walk up and talk with them in a more intimate, one-on-one manner than of-



ten occurs during the course of James' daily van drives.

Several of the men and women approached were open to taking a Word from the Lord. Some even asked for specific prayers:

- Aaron requested prayer for humility.
- Johnny asked for prayer regarding a home and work.

Shawanda, a prostitute in the community who James has ministered to in the past, accepted prayer from the woman in the group who also encouraged her to consider going to the Healing House (a Christ-centered, residential program for women) for help in getting off the streets. A couple of the men approached were open to hearing about Jesus even taking the Bibles

and Words from the Lord offered to them. One young man, a drug dealer named Luther, wanted a ride. Little did he know that rides are one of James' favorite ways to minister practically to the people in the neighborhood. Transporting someone in the van definitely makes for a captive audience! James was able to present God's plan of salvation to Luther during that time while the rest of the outreach participants prayed for the Lord to work in his heart.

Over the years James has cultivated an arsenal of both evangel-

tion getting reminder that one must be continually eyeing the Cross while ministering its message, trusting in God's sovereign, perfect plan for each person's life.

Pray for the people that were ministered to that day:

Aaron, Eric, MorteZ, Shawanda, Richard, Larnell, Kevin, Chris, Ron, Luther, Johnny, Kenny, the pimp and prostitute.

Pray that the Lord would do a mighty work of changing hearts of stone to hearts of flesh and grant repentance and faith to these lost

"But Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well. Should I not be concerned about that great city?"

Jonah 4:11

istic and conversational Spanish phrases, which he utilizes very often to greet, exhort and encourage people he meets in all kinds of situations who are Hispanic. On this outreach God graciously allowed him to use these language skills to witness to Kenny who was standing at a local bus stop. He even accepted a Spanish Bible.

Lest you think everything was just smooth sailing, the group was reminded of the serious and sober nature of reaching out to people on the fringe. One pimp and prostitute approached during the afternoon flatly rejected the Word. The man, clearly agitated and seemingly volatile, spewed, "I've had all I can take today!" Not necessarily what you want to hear from someone whose life is on the edge and outside of the law. It was an at-

souls. We are grateful that He continues to provide ministry opportunities not only for James, but also for the many supporters and friends of Christ Satisfies Ministries who "fight the good fight" along with us.

"Worship, therefore, is the fuel and goal in missions. It's the goal of missions because in missions we simply aim to bring the nations into the white-hot enjoyment of God's glory. The goal of missions is the gladness of the peoples in the greatness of God."

John Piper



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Satisfies
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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 opening doors to reach people for Christ in N. Minneapolis.
- Pray that the Lord would bless the upcoming Yard Giveaway outreach (5/31/08). We trust it will be a great opportunity to meet and minister to many in our community.
- Pray 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 (16), Titus (4), Phoebe (3) and Hadassah (22 months).

MOBILIZING THE TROOPS

God has greatly blessed the ministry of CSM. The fact that it exists and continues to thrive after 2 ½ years is a testimony of His grace. We stepped out in faith back in October 2005, by God's grace, and He has continued to be faithful in both providing for our needs and providing many, many opportunities to serve Him and the Kingdom. Our vision statement explains that we exist "to biblically equip men and women so that they might know, love, enjoy and glorify God, and, by His grace, bring others to do the same locally through the church and globally through missions." Simply stated we desire to develop disciples and mobilize ministry workers and missionaries.

In reviewing this past season of ministry, it is interesting to see what **God has been doing** through the work of CSM to bear fruit in the areas singled out when we first began this journey. Since the ministry's founding one-on-one discipleship has been a primary function. Currently, about 40% of James' work time is spent meeting with men

in discipleship. He actively works with twelve men anywhere from 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 hours per week. These are times of prayer, teaching, exhorting, encouragement, accountability and fellowship — a pouring out of one life into another. **"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."**

Over the past couple of years the number and identity of the men meeting with James have

missionary/service path.

This is exciting news!!! According to an article by Claude Hickman, "The goal of discipleship is to multiply." This is the model that Jesus teaches us by His own example in the New Testament. He invested His life into a small group of men knowing that trained and prepared disciples would have the greatest impact for the growth of the Kingdom.

In preaching on Acts 14:1-28, Dr. John MacArthur lists the characteristics of an effective discipler: ministering their spiritual gifts, courageous, confident in God's power, humble, and persistent. He goes on to give four steps to following up with our disciples:

teach, exhort, lead and commend them to the Lord.

Praise the Lord with us for the opportunities He has given with so many zealous brothers. Pray for James' continued usefulness. Pray also that the Lord would be pleased to mobilize these Kingdom soldiers and do mighty works through them for His Name's Sake.

"A good definition for mobilization is: deploying an army of laborers to the front lines where they are ordering their lives around the Great Commission."

*Ralph Winter, Founder
U.S. Center for World Missions*

changed, but the Lord has arranged it now so that all twelve men which he currently meets with are either currently involved in full-time ministry, have a desire to be active ministers in their local church or become missionaries. Three men that he formerly met with also have similar desires bringing the total to fifteen that CSM has been able to impact and encourage along their ministry/