

# Christ Satisfies Chronicles

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## KINGDOM SERVANTS

Last month a group of about thirty young people along with their pastor, Ron Mandeville, his wife and some other church leaders and adults set out on a 650 mile+ road trip to north Minneapolis from Hutchinson, KS. Once they arrived this group from Medora Community Bible Church poured out their lives into our church, its ministries and our neighbors. They were here to serve (and learn) on their annual youth group missions trip and



**Eating pizza with our neighbors after Thursday night's community outreach.**

boy did they! From teaching Sunday school classes for the children and singing special music during the worship service to

evangelizing the community with James and running a basketball tournament for kids in the neighborhood, they sought



**Pastor Ron gets some help setting up the games for the youth group's ministry to neighborhood**

to reflect Christ's love.

James was blessed to take the group out with him around the community to evangelize and hand out Words from the Lord. Over two days he took out six groups. Each one was unique and their time was

sweet as they ministered together and prayed for the lost and hurting people in our community. James, who just loves working with young people, was so touched to see Christ working in the hearts and lives of these young men and women as well as in the adults who accompanied them.

On Thursday, July 24th, we held a special Cross & the Community outreach in our neighborhood. Our Kansas visitors joined alongside

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## HOPE HITS THE STREETS



Early August brought an opportunity for us to visit some friends and supporters in Racine, WI, to report on and share about Christ Satisfies Ministries and our work in north Minneapolis. It was a sweet, busy time in which the Lord provided many opportunities for ministry.

James was able to share what the Lord is doing in our community with a Sunday School class at Racine Bible Church, an evangelistic Bible Study which meets in Sturtevant, WI, and in several smaller group settings. In addition, he was asked to present from the Word at the evangelistic study, which had nearly 50 men present! Informal teaching opportunities were present at a number of the smaller gatherings as well.

One highlight of the time in Racine was James' participation in a meeting with civil and church leaders who are seeking to dialogue in response to the increase of crime, violence drug, and gang activity within their community. The city's mayor has made an appeal to the faith community to join in finding a solution to these endemic problems. Invited to

open the meeting in prayer, James was also able to give a testimony about what the Lord is doing in north Minneapolis through the ministry of CSM and Family Baptist. He encouraged the leaders present to pray, pray, pray for a revival in their city. He exhorted them to step out of their comfort zones and get into the streets to meet people and share the gospel. He offered to come alongside and assist in getting this ministry up and running.

On the last Sunday of our visit, a couple of men joined James and drove around the city handing out Words from the Lord to the inner city poor and the troubled youth. Our plan is to visit Racine one weekend a month to support the various church leaders in equipping the local church to minister to the lost and hurting who live in the hard sections of their city. James will host some workshops to train people new to this specific type of ministry. Then, by God's grace, he will join with those who want to go out into the streets.

Please pray for grace, insight, courage and revival. Pray that the Lord would raise up gospel warriors in Racine.

# CONFESSIONS OF AN URBAN MINISTRY WIFE

August 15, 2008

I don't want to write about it. I don't want to think about it. I don't want to dissect my feelings. I just want it to stop. I just want to be elsewhere.

I want to do what I had planned – review the Sunday School materials I will be teaching this week. Watch the video my husband rented from the store. Think about what I will do tomorrow when I have time set aside to go to “my office” (a coffee shop) and do some planning for the upcoming, fast-approaching school year, our first “official” year of homeschooling.

Instead, my casual Friday night pizza dinner was abruptly interrupted by that all too familiar sound – gunshots. Not just the everyday pop, pop, pop of a handgun, these were deeper, more explosive in their sound. **Blop, Blop, Blop, Blop, Blop!** Fast, quick and close came the bursts of noise sounding like a movie's exciting scene, but then the harsh reality sinks in – this isn't a movie with some golden boy hero to the rescue. It is real life here at 26<sup>th</sup> and James in north Minneapolis as the summer begins to fade into the fall. In a split second, James and I look at each other with the knowing glance – those were shots, get the kids to the floor. My husband yells, “Get on the floor.” Titus and Phoebe go quickly pizza still in hand. I'm down too, but Hadassah is in her highchair strapped in with the tray on in front. After fumbling with the strap, removing the tray and lifting her out while trying to stay low, we succeed in terrifying her. In mom's arms, under the dining room table with her brother and sister she cries not knowing what has happened or what is going on.

With all of us secure under the table, James goes to the window and then out on the front porch to see what is going on. Questions come from Titus and Phoebe,

**“Are those gunshots?”**  
**“Are they shooting at us?”**  
**“Yes.”**  
**“No, I don't think so.”**

After a couple of minutes, James returns and begins telling us to come up off the floor. Just as we begin to do so – **Blop, Blop, Blop, Blop, Blop** – another round of shots crackle through the air, and we're back down. Under the table we pray

*“The enemy pursues me,  
 he crushes me to the  
 ground;  
 He makes me dwell in  
 darkness  
 Like those long dead.  
 So my spirit grows faint  
 within me;  
 My heart within me is  
 dismayed.  
 I remember the days of  
 long ago;  
 I meditate on all Your  
 works  
 And consider what  
 Your hands have done.  
 I spread out my hands  
 to You;  
 My soul thirsts for You  
 like a parched land.  
 Answer me quickly, O  
 LORD;  
 My spirit fails.  
 Do not hide Your face  
 from me or I will be  
 like those who go down  
 to the pit.  
 Let the morning bring  
 me word of Your un-  
 failing love,  
 For I have put my trust  
 in You.”*

*Psalm 143:3-8*

asking Jesus to help us trust Him and to protect us and our neighbors. Again, after a couple of minutes, he returns and gives us the signal to resume what we were doing prior to

the initial outburst of rounds. We return to our seats, all except Hadassah who is still a bit shaken. James leads us in a prayer for protection for us and salvation for our community.

We resume eating our pizza. Only about five minutes have passed, yet thoughts and feelings come and churn around in my head. We all have some questions:

**“Did you see anything?”**  
**“Was someone shooting?”**  
**“Were people running?”**  
**“What happened?”**

He didn't know or see anything relating to a shooting. But, one of the neighborhood guys who James routinely sees as he drives around the community ministering the gospel was walking down the street. He waved over toward James and told him that everything was OK.

Everything is OK — that certainly is a subjective and relative comment.

Our family just returned from a 10-day trip to Illinois and Wisconsin. Sandwiched in between ministry opportunities, we had three days of family time in Door County, WI. Tucked in along the shores of Lake Michigan, we visited farms, fed Ollie the camel, took a ferryboat ride, ate cherry pie and experienced the popular fish boil. In that context, diving on the floor during dinner to dodge bullets would not necessarily be perceived as OK.

However, as we transitioned, oh so quickly, back into city life no one hit or hurt was OK, even good.

While away we visited some dear brothers and sisters in Racine, WI. Crime and violence in their city of 80,000, which sits between Chicago and Milwaukee, is on the rise and the faith community is being tugged to participate in being part of the solution. We spoke with them a bit about life in north Minneapolis. On our way back to the home where we were staying we took a couple of wrong turns and soon found the rough part

of town. James and I commented on the things that were similar to our neighborhood while the children slept — boarded up homes and businesses, groups of young people gathered on corners and porches, and the “look” of poverty.

When we found out just how close we were to Chicago we arranged to leave the children with our friend and take trip into the city. I was in search of Italian cookies. Don't ask. I can't really describe them, I just know when I've found them. I was looking for Chicago's version of Little Italy (NYC). The search was more involved than anticipated, and it took asking several people, probably 8, to finally get us to a street filled with Italian restaurants. During our search, which began with the initial direction that we had to go south of the city, we stumbled upon Chicago's rough district, the south side. It was huge, blighted, clearly troubled. We were struck by the severe demarcation of neighborhoods. It was very clear which people belonged in which neighborhood. Segregation is alive and well despite what we may want to believe.

Having had those two experiences and talking with people about how we minister in north Minneapolis and what it is like to live here on a day to day basis, while in the presumed safety and comfort of a suburban setting led me to be, sad to say, a bit flippant. “Yes, life there can be hard and scary, but I'm trusting the Lord.” “God is sovereign.” Well, it's “easy” to say those things based upon head knowledge and the fact that you are currently removed from the situation in question.

It appears the Lord wanted me to see the disparity between my thoughts and words from one week to the next. He did so by creating many opportunities to face the choice between fear and leaning on my own understanding vs. leaning on Him through faith and resting in His sovereign control of all things. “Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father.” (Matt. 10:29)  
Our first day back in town, I got a call

from a friend who had been visiting our house to check on our cat, Samson, while we were away. She informed me that at 4 pm the previous day, Sunday, while she was at the house getting ready to sit on the front steps so the cat could run around outside for a bit, gunshots rang out. Someone on foot (I found out later the shooter was on a bike.) was shooting while heading down our block, right in front of our house. Both she and a neighbor reported the shooting to 911.

Later that day, another friend from our church came over to drop off something. As our children played on the front porch, with me checking on them every couple of minutes in the wake of the bold, broad daylight shooting of the day before, she told



me there had been 7 shootings in the past few days. I had heard a couple different stories and numbers, but the tally was three people dead over the weekend, one right in front of the home of another church member.

Things had clearly taken a turn for the worse since we had left town on July 31st. Our pastor was met by a group of young men who refused to move out of the street as his car approached them. When he stopped the car, they told him to get off the street because, “This street is owned by a gang.” He politely, but firmly informed them that God owned the street, and they stood aside to let him pass. Praise the Lord for bold witnesses of the Truth!

The police department's crime and shots fired maps indicated 3 homicides, 1 rape, 14 robberies, 9 aggravated assaults, 2 domestic aggravated assaults, 8 shootings, and 56 calls for shots fired between August 5-11 in the 4th precinct, which is north Minneapolis.

I was not doing well with this information nor these situations. As you can see from the start of this piece my thoughts were on ME, not God. I want, I don't want and on it goes. As my friend, who is a biblical counselor, would ask, “Where is God in all of this?” “He is sovereign.” Yes, but I am not responding that way. Careful and prayerful thought on God's goodness, faithfulness, mercy and protection led me to His word and David's cries to His Savior (Our Savior) in Psalm 143, “The enemy pursues me, he crushes me to the ground. . . My heart is dismayed within me.” What an example this man after God's own heart is! He doesn't stay in that crushed, dismayed state which can be so tempting for us to do. Instead he remembers, mediates, and considers. “I spread out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.” (Ps. 143:6) David pours out his heart to God and then he cries out to Him for help and guidance, not allowing himself to go off on a journey into his own thoughts built on a foundation of fear. Rather he seeks the Lord and His grace which is needed to stand on the solid rock of God's character.

“For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life; in your righteousness, bring me out of trouble.” (Ps. 143:11) That is how David ends this prayer to God. That is how I want to deal with life and ministry, but, oh how easy it is to get caught up in our circumstances and earthly views and lose sight of the big picture. We are left behind to be a shining light and a testimony to God's grace and mercy, to glorify Him in all we do. Pray with me for the grace to honor Him as I live, minister, worship and raise a family here in north Minneapolis. Pray that my life and the lives of my family would be a testimony to God's grace and mercy.

Please continue to pray with us for a mighty work to be done in the hearts and lives of the lost in our community. We look forward to a day when the Lord will be lifted up and praised by many of those who currently wreak havoc in north Minneapolis.



*Christ  
Satisfies  
Ministries*

**Contact the Mullen Family at  
P.O. Box 11954  
Minneapolis, MN 55411**

**Phone: 612-522-4320 (home)  
612-229-5042 (James' cell)  
Email: jamforChrist@msn.com**

*"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 CSM and our family
- for opening doors to reach people for Christ in N. Minneapolis
- for grace to minister to men through the jail & prison ministry and to those in recovery

**Pray for**

- blessings during our upcoming PowerPack outreach to neighborhood students
- opportunities to visit churches and share CSM's ministry in North Minneapolis
- increased opportunities to minister to the lost and hurting in our community and to develop deeper relationships as the Lord leads
- our family's growth in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ
- the salvation of our children: Trace (16), Titus (5), Phoebe (3) and Hadassah (2).

## SERVANTS

*(Continued from page 1)*

others from the church at 6 pm to meet for prayer, go out in vans and invite people who were out and about on the streets back to church for a worship service at 7 pm.

The visiting team provided the worship music and James preached from Isaiah 53. Along with the Medora group there were about 70 people present for the service! Praise the Lord! After the service pizza was served in the gym for all who were there.

James was so grateful to the Lord for the opportunity to meet these young people and their church leaders. What an encouragement their love and Christ-like attitude was for all who interacted with them. We trust the Lord did some amazing work in the hearts of all who joined us at Family Baptist for this week of urban ministry. Pray that the Lord might use the experience to turn hearts to-

*"But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called*

*Today. . . "*  
**Hebrews 3:13**



## THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE

James had the privilege to officiate at his very first wedding earlier this month in Illinois. The ceremony united our dear friend, Rob Rosza, and his beloved, Elizabeth Wellendorf (now Rosza).

Rob is one of the men who meets with James for discipleship. He and Elizabeth are both missionaries with Student Ventures, which is the high school ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ. They will be joining the SV team in Anoka, MN when the school year begins.



The bride and groom had planned a beautiful ceremony that exalted Christ and pointed to the Cross. James charged the couple with a message from Ephesians 5, which highlighted God's plan for marriage, the roles of the husband and wife and the picture of Christ and His church that marriage was intended to portray. The Lord poured out His grace as James was able to speak with clarity and insight into the text.

It was such a blessing and honor to participate in this dear



*c o u p l e ' s  
w e d d i n g .  
The fellowship with their family and friends encouraged our hearts. Please join with us in prayer for*

this young couple as they embark on life's journey together and as they prepare to minister to young people in the schools in Anoka. Pray that the Lord would use them in mighty ways in the lives of many people.