

Christ Satisfies Chronicles

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PROVIDENCE AND PRAYER

It was a gloomy November day last year when a man well into his fifties sporting dread locks and "fixin' to get high" had a divine appointment with James. He walked the streets of north Minneapolis seeking the comfort of a crack pipe unaware of the encounter that was ahead of him.

James and John, a former Teen Challenge employee, were ministering around the community that November day handing out Words from the Lord and encouraging people to consider eternity and their readiness for it. James spotted the older man with the long dreadlocks — not his typical encounter — and pulled the van alongside him. He asked this man if he believed in Christ. "Yes, I believe," came the response. "If He took you now would you be ready?" James

probed. "No," the man replied. "Can I pray for you?" James asked. Months later this man recalled James' prayer, his "really putting your heart into it."

That day like most others James ministered the gospel to the lost, downtrodden, addicted and poor in our community. That day God touched one of those people in a profound way. He worked on a heart that was darkened, hard and hurting and began to

chisel away at the stone, which enslaves us prior to knowing Jesus.

A week or two later James received a call from Paul, the man with the dread locks. He and his friend were hanging out, drinking and smoking crack. "What am I doing?" he thought, "I'd better get myself down to church." Thus the call to James. He came to a Wednesday evening prayer meeting at Family Baptist Church. Soon he brought his friend with him. The day before Thanksgiving they were both there asking for prayer to change their lives.



James and Paul enjoying some fellowship.

On the recommendation of Pastor Lee, both men entered the New Hope treatment program. Paul was hesitant, if he entered the New Hope program, it would be his third time there, and his thirteenth time of

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TRAMP CAMP MISSION

The homeless are fact of life in our city and most. Newspaper and magazine articles are written on them. Documentaries are filmed about them. Laws are passed regarding them. Often we, the non-homeless, lump them into a category of people relegated to the very bottom of humanity. Like Job's counselors, we often think we know why they are where they are. I confess that before coming to know the Lord Jesus when I was back in New York City, I had become very adept at walking through the city with invisible blinders on, ignoring those living in refrigerator boxes on top of the subway gratings in winter seeking some warm air, the by-

product of the trains that whizzed by underground.

These people — the men, women and children — that live on the streets and in the shelters all across our country are made in the image of God. He calls on us to love and minister to them. Used to people "telling their story," but treating them as statistics, these men and women can be guarded, skeptical and hard.

In February, James and four others who are friends of Christ Satisfies Ministries went on an outreach to some of the

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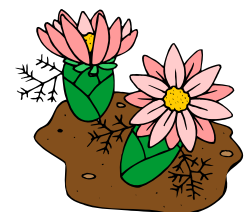
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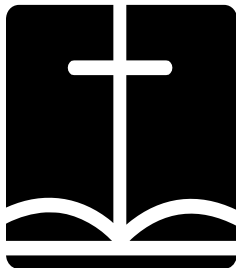
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*Therefore,
if anyone
is in Christ,
he is a
new
creation;
the old has
gone, the
new has
come!*

2 Cor. 5:17



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“Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His

judgments and His ways past finding out! ‘For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?’ ‘Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to Him?’” Romans 11:33-35

THE OBSERVATION DECK

THE COMPLEX GLORY OF GOD

The glory of God and its four components are:

1. *What God is within Himself*
2. *The manifestation or display of that*
3. *The communication of His glory to the creature’s understanding*
4. *The proper, reasonable, emotional, responsible reply reflecting upward in praise and adoration, and lived out toward others*

(Exodus 33:18-34:8; Isaiah 6:1-8)

I) What God is within Himself, the intrinsic gravity and weight of who He is in His own Godhead (Isaiah 6:1-4; 1 Timothy 6:15-16; 1 Chronicles 29:11).

- a) He is one Being (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10-11, 44:6).
- b) This one Being eternally exists in three, distinct Persons (Genesis 1:26; Isaiah 48:16; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Matthew 28:18-20).
- c) Each Person in the Godhead has all the attributes, characteristics and qualities of God, is called God and is worshipped as God (John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:15-18; John 20:28, 14:13; Psalm 139:7-10; Acts 5:3-4; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18).
- d) God is an infinite (Psalm 147:5; Job 11:7), holy (Isaiah 6:1-4; Revelations 4:8), invisible (1 Timothy 6:15-16; Colossians 1:15), triune Spirit (John 4:24; Matthew 28:18-20) who is present in fullness everywhere (Jeremiah 23:23-24; Genesis 28:15; John 1:48; Psalm 139:7-10).

“For of Him (from Him) . . .” Romans 11:36

II) The manifestation, exhibition or display of Himself (Ezekiel 10:4, 43:2)

- a) Displayed through creation (Psalm 19:1-4; Romans 1:20)
- b) Exhibited in history/providence (Hebrews 11:1-40; 1 Corinthians 10:11; Romans 9:1-11:32)
- c) Manifested immutably in His Word (2 Thessalonians 3:1; Psalm 19:8, 119:130, 138:2)
- d) Shown most clearly in the Incarnate Son, the God-Man (Hebrews 1:3; 2 Corinthians 4:6; Colossians 1:15), and His Person, Offices and Work (Hebrews 1:1-14; 1 Corinthians 2:8)

“ . . . and through Him . . .” Romans 11:36

III) The communication of that to the creature’s understanding (Exodus 33:18-19)

- a) In salvation (2 Peter 1:2-3; Philippians 3:3; James 1:18; John 3:3, 5)
- b) By providence/history (Hebrews 11:1-40; 1 Corinthians 10:11; Psalm 136:1-26)
- c) Through the Word illuminated by the Spirit (Exodus 33:18-19, Jeremiah 13:15; 1 Thessalonians 2:13-18, 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14)
- d) As seen in Jesus when He is understood and known (Ephesians 3:14-19; Hebrews 12:2-3; John 15:7-8)

“ . . . and to Him are all things, to Whom be glory forever. Amen” Romans 11:36

IV) The love and joy consummated in praise and adoration, giving God the glory (Psalm 50:23; Isaiah 48:9-11)

- a) Upward in worship (Psalm 100; Luke 1:46-47)
- b) Outward in loving fruits of service to others (1 Peter 4:11; Philippians 1:9-11)
- c) Evangelism (Psalm 117, 105:1-3)
- d) Godly habits and lifestyles, which display His glory to all (Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 2:12; Hebrews 5:14)

This experience of participating in God’s glory (2 Corinthians 3:17-18) will be made full when we are glorified (Philippians 3:21; Romans 8:17-18, 2:10; Colossians 3:4).

Challenge: Pursue knowledge, love and joy in God’s glory through His Word by meditating on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2-3; Colossians 3:1-4, 16-17)

Paul's Hope

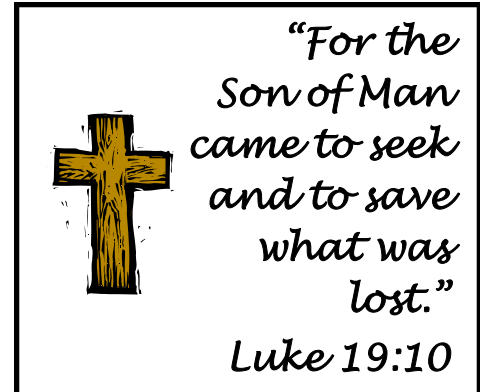
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going to a drug treatment program. He had his reservations. His landlord was aware of what was going on in his apartment — people were coming and going, doing drugs. He had to get out. There weren't any other places to go. Both his sister and James challenged him to go to New Hope. "Maybe that is what the Lord is calling you to do," his sister shared. He went. Now, five months later he is clean and seeking the Lord Jesus. Paul has faithfully been attending Family Baptist Church these past months. In addition to his biblical studies at New Hope, he meets with both James and Pastor Lee. "He is a changed man," recounts Pastor.

Born in 1951, Paul has actively spent nearly 45 years in bondage to drugs and alcohol. Beginning at 13 when he and his friend dad would steal beers from the friend's dad and sneak down the alley to drink in south Minneapolis, Paul spent many years in bondage. Struggling with alcohol, pot, heroin, cocaine and crack, he was in reform school four times as a teenager, in and out of jail over 15 times, and served time in Stillwater prison.

Estranged from his family, angry and offensive to people, desperate. That is where he was on that gloomy November day when the Lord spoke to him on a north Minneapolis street. "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." The Lord has done a mighty work in Paul's life. "I wake up in my bunk thankful for the day and what the Lord gives," he con-

fides to James. Paul has been encouraged by the testimonies of his brothers at New Hope and desires the peace and blessings, which God promises to those who seek to walk in His ways. Please pray for Paul's continued growth and sanctification. Praise the Lord for His mighty work in the lives of sinners.



MERCIFUL MOMENTS

"Drop it on the ground, and I'll get it." Not the typical response to James' usual query, "Would you like a Word from the Lord?" However, it was the one received when he and some others in our van approached a young man on the northside. Fearing the van was carrying cops, the young man, Quinn, who appeared to be about 16 years old, refused to come to the window. Dealing drugs, likely a runner for a gang, he kept his distance. "OK, man," James replied, dropping the tract on the street near Oliver Ave. N. As the van pulled away, the boy picked up the tract and went on his way.

Last month James and some others participated in an outreach to the drug dealers and gang members around our community. On a sunny, warm Saturday afternoon, the group was able to minister to about 48 people. During the outreach the CSM team pulled up to various groups of young men and women as they hung out on porches and corners. Getting out of the van, they would approach the people when appropriate and give them gospel tracts and Christian hip-hop CDs. Most were receptive. Some remembered James from his ministry around the community.

On one of the busiest drug corners, Lyndale Ave. N. & 22nd N., they met a grandmother. She was concerned about some shots fired. A woman with young kids was receptive to the gospel. Not everyone welcomed their ministry. They encountered a group of about 12 boys, ages 12-15, near Lyndale. Sometimes these kids are the most dangerous — impetuous, cocky, out to impress. As the van approached the kids scrambled. "Praise the Lord!" James said, obviously indicating that their presence was not from the law enforcement side of things but with an intention to minister. Some replied, "Praise Allah!" Not necessarily an acceptance of their presence. By God's grace, however, some of the group were willing to talk with James and the others. They took the tracts and CDs. After taking with them for a few minutes, James was able to go over to those who scrambled away and even speak to two or three of them.

Praise the Lord for His mercy. He continues to pursue sinners and save souls. Pray with us for a spiritual awakening in our community.

GIVING OUT THE GOSPEL OF GRACE

(Continued from page 1)

homeless people here in Minneapolis. The group visited the "tramp camp," a last resort shelter for those with nowhere else to go where the doors open at 5 pm, two-inch sleeping mats come out at 9 pm and everyone must be up and out for the day by 7 am. About 125 men are sheltered nightly in this downtown facility. Next door is Harbor Lights, a Salvation Army shelter, which can sleep about 400-500 men and women nightly.

The CSM team went to both facilities

armed with the grace of God and about fifty homeless care kits which included a blanket, socks, gloves, hats and a copy of the Gospel of John. The black trash bags filled with practical helps went quickly. James and the others fanned out through the room and sought to engage people in conversations showing them the Savior's love. James said that this time of ministering to the people at the shelters was one of the best homeless outreaches he has conducted. "We were able to spend a lot of time with

people and really talk to them, build relationships with them and pray for them."

Each of the individuals our team met had their own story, but all of them need Jesus. They shared prayer requests asking for salvation, healing for loved ones, work, and deliverance from addiction. Pray with us that God would change the hearts of these men and women and rescue them from the dominion of darkness into the kingdom of the Son He loves.



Christ Satisfies Ministries

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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

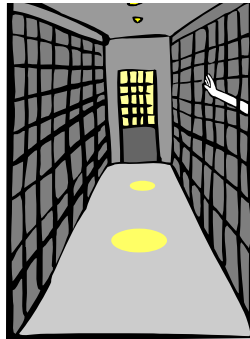
Praise the Lord

- for His faithfulness in providing for the needs of 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

- Paul's continued faithfulness in his walk with the Lord
- fruit from our recent outreaches to the homeless, prostitutes, drug dealers/gang members and our neighbors
- our upcoming trip to California to visit our supporters, prayer partners and friends
- 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 (4) and Hadassah (2)

REACHING INMATES FOR CHRIST



Join with us in praising the Lord for the grace He has given in James' pursuit of ministry in the jails. Currently, he teaches four Bible Studies a week at the Hennepin County jail in downtown Minneapolis. Sometimes just 2 or 3 men attend a Bible Study and at other times the Lord brings more than 10. James has had several opportunities to minister to men on the inside that he first met on the streets in north Minneapolis. This continuity and the prior relationship with these men has opened the door for the gospel to be shared with many.

Some of those men James has taught in the jail Bible Studies have contacted him after their release desiring to meet and continue to their relationship. A few have even begun to come to our church, Family Baptist. We have also had a couple of men along with their families visit our Friday night Bible Study, which meets each week in our home. We are grateful to the Lord for providing this avenue of ministry and for the inroads James is able to make with the men who are in these hard and, hopefully, humbling circumstances. He has seen the

CALIFORNIA HERE WE COME

We are planning to visit southern California in mid-June. We are so looking forward to meeting with many of our supporters, prayer partners and friends whom we have not seen in a number of years.



By God's grace, we will be able to organize a time of fellowship where we can give an update on Christ Satisfies Ministries, answer ques-

tions about what the Lord is doing here on the northside of Minneapolis and share how the Lord is working in our lives as well as find out how He is working in yours.

If you would like to arrange for us to make a presentation to your church, Bible Study or fellowship group, please contact us either by phone 612-229-5042 or e-mail,