

Christ Satisfies Chronicles

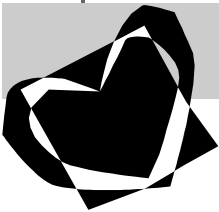
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*"²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. ²⁵ Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching."
Hebrews 10:24-25*

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FRIDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP

In April of 2005 when we moved into our home in north Minneapolis, we began hosting a Bible study on Friday evenings. Over the last five years people have come and gone and some have stayed. We've seen weddings, showers, new babies, new jobs, church changes, lost jobs, sickness, and trials. It has been a wonderful opportunity for all of us to grow, study God's Word, and minister together for His glory.

James has been blessed to lead the study and teach from many different portions of Scripture over the years. As a group, we've looked in-depth at creation and the fall of man; we've studied the doctrines of grace; we've looked at various practical topics and how the Scripture handles them such as sin and our sanctification; and we are now learning about redemptive history and how Christ is pictured throughout it.

Through this group of people who come together at our home on Friday nights we've learned much about ministry and discipleship. The Lord has provided numerous opportunities for all of us to practice the "one anothers" and to pour our lives out for each other. It has been a great blessing.

Right now our Bible study consists of five families and two single people. There are twelve children in our group, including two baby girls born this year.

A huge transition is coming to our group. One of the fathers will be entering the Army for basic training followed by Officer Candidate School on July 11th. Please pray for his wife and four children as well as for our group to walk beside them in love. Pray that we will look for opportunities to serve and that our love would be sacrificial as we lay down our lives for our friends. Pray that the Lord would strengthen all of us and equip us for the work of the ministry through His Word.

MOBILIZING THE TROOPS

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, . . ."

A large part of Christ Satisfies Ministries' focus is discipleship. James meets one-on-one with 12-14 men throughout the week to study the Word, pray, and fellowship. An outgrowth of this ministry is that many of those men begin to participate in the evangelistic and outreach prong of CSM often joining James as he drives

around the community distributing Words from the Lord. Eventually, some of these men begin to participate in the monthly outreach opportunities to the homeless, prostitutes & pimps, gang members/drug dealers/troubled youth and our neighbors.

The Lord has graciously used CSM to expose many people to urban ministry confirming in some the calling and de-

sire to pursue missions/ministry both here at home and around the world.

We all know that the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. We need only open our eyes to the hurting, lost souls around us to confirm Jesus' words.



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NEW LEASE ON LIFE



In May the Lord increased James' work with The Lazarus Project. As the program's chaplain, he is now

on-site at the facility 8-10 hours per week. This includes the weekly Bible study on Wednesday mornings before the work day begins, which he has been doing for almost a year and an additional six or more hours weekly of being available to teach, counsel and build relationships with the men who work there.

The Lazarus Project is a transitional work program for men who are difficult to employ either because they are felons just released from prison, or they are coming out of a drug rehab facility. Many of those who are participating in this ministry have not held a legitimate job before. Their past endeavors included criminal activity and addictive behavior. Now these men who have come to know the Lord, many in prison, work detailing cars at Lazarus Auto Detail. Lazarus is not just a workplace. Its founders designed it as a ministry that comes alongside these men to disciple them in the faith and in life, which, of course, are not two separate things.

James has had the privilege of leading a weekly Bible study on Wednesdays for quite some time with this group. Currently, they are studying the Book of John. His recent addition of hours on-site at Lazarus has opened up many opportunities for him to meet with men one-on-one for discipleship and counseling. It has also given him the opportunity to spend more time with the men informally enabling him to build relationships and allowing both him and them to get to know each other more and more.

Many of the men who are participants in The Lazarus Project have backgrounds that the world might say are insurmountable — murderers, sex offenders, drug addicts/dealers, and gang members. But, we know that with God all things are possible. We have been greatly blessed to see and hear of the Lord's amazing work in the lives of these men. He is restoring them and, in many cases, their families.

✠ *"After years of addiction, God showed me a picture of what life could be like if I followed His plan and not my own. Immediately, after surrendering my life to the Lord my life began to change. The Lord has also let me rebuild my relationship with my daughter and for the first time, help provide for her financially."* This is a testimony from Everett who is now in a supervisory role at Lazarus.

✠ *"My whole life has been centered on drugs alcohol and bad relationships. December of 2007 I was sitting in prison jail and multiple felonies charges and no hope I had given up and didn't even care that I had left two small children without a father. . . I was a student at Teen Challenge studying God's Word daily and within a couple of weeks, asked Jesus into my life. . . I gained full custody of my son and see my daughter regularly. I am now the father I wished I was when I used drugs. All these things I thank God through Jesus for!"* These words are from Jim who works at Lazarus and gets to mentor new employees.

✠ *"I was born in Detroit, MI and was introduced to drugs at the age of 12 years old. . . I was in both jail and prison for over 7 years. . . I called on the Lord to change my life. With the Lord's help, I discovered that I was not too late to change and as a now I have been clean for more than 3 years! The Lord has allowed me to be a father to my youngest daughter and to begin rebuilding my relationship with my older daughters. I now put my trust in God and each day I have learned to rely on Him and to put my trust in Him."* Stephon was a former gang member who has been employed at Lazarus for over a year and a half.

The Lord is merciful! Join us in praising Him for His work in the lives of these and the other men (and their families) who work at Lazarus. Pray that the Lord would continue to work in their lives and use Christ Satisfies Ministries to that end.

⁸ And a highway will be there; it will be called the way of Holiness.

The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that way;

⁹ No lion will be there, nor will any ferocious beast get up on it; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there,

¹⁰ and the ransomed of the Lord will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Isaiah 35:8-10



*"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."
Galatians 5:1*

On June 12th, the initial Free Indeed service began meeting at Family Baptist Church in north Minneapolis. This new ministry has been launched by Family Baptist and Christ Satisfies Ministries to meet needs in our church and community. Free Indeed offers people the opportunity to hear the Word of God preached as James exposites the book of Galatians. Additionally, there is a Bible study component of the ministry that allows the participants to dig into the Scriptures as they work through the biblical counseling book, "Self-Confrontation Manual" (Biblical Counseling Foundation).

Many of the attendees are currently in or recently graduated from drug treatment programs, some have a past that was marked by these same life-dominating sin issues, while others have a great desire to grow in their own sanctification and refocus on

deep, biblical discipleship.

The Lord has greatly blessed the first gatherings of this outreach ministry. There has been "standing room only" in the meeting place, and a number of the participants have attended consistently each week.



Nic & Dan fellowship during a break at the Saturday night ministry, Free Indeed.

The leadership of Free Indeed desires that all who participate would deepen their walk with the Lord and be given

the tools necessary to walk by the Spirit and put away the deeds of the flesh. For those participants who do not yet know the Lord, our desire is to share Christ's love with them and tell them of their hope of salvation in Him.

We hope that this time of worship and study of God and His Word will provide a safe harbor for those who may still be struggling with temptation and bondage — a place for them to come and be refreshed and encouraged through His Word and the fellowship of the saints while strengthening them to fight the good fight of faith. We also hope that many will be equipped to counsel and encourage others who may be struggling in similar ways.

Please join us in praying that the Lord will use Free Indeed to exhort, equip and encourage His sheep and to draw souls to Himself.

A NEW CREATION IN CHRIST

About a year and a half ago, James was introduced to a man who, by his own testimony, intellectually believed in the facts of Scripture and the work of Jesus. Practically, however, these beliefs did not change his life. Stuck in the mire after a lifetime of sin, he continued to pursue pleasure, satisfaction and thrills. Drag racing, guns, marijuana, prescription drugs, alcohol — the list goes on and on.

"He calls himself a Christian, but he won't repent from his sinful lifestyle!" confided a mutual friend who has known the man for thirty years. Together with James the two would meet with him, and often James would just drop by his business to check in on him and discuss what the Scriptures had to say. Though he liked James, this new friend, wondered if he was "for real" or not. The Lord gave James the grace to persevere in the friendship and continue to share truth, answer questions, and challenge him in love.

Our friend routinely rejected James' invitations to attend church with one excuse or another until one day last November when he agreed to come to Family Baptist and hear James preach. He did come, but he quickly exited just as James was closing his message.

At the time he continued to use about a gram of pot and a third of a liter of rum per day. He maintained a level of functionality — running his business and driving in a manner he believed would not attract attention from the police. One Sunday two weeks after his visit to hear James preach, he decided that he "just can't live like this." He decided to come to church. Pastor Lee was preaching and it was actually "enjoyable" to our friend. This was mid-December 2009. Weaning himself off of the drugs and alcohol, he had one last drink on New Year's Eve and then stopped cold turkey.

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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

Do you know someone who would like to read about and pray for the work God is doing in north Minneapolis?

Pass along our contact info so that we may add them to our mailing list.

Praise & Prayer Requests

Praise the Lord

- ✠ for His faithfulness in providing for the needs of CSM & 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
- ✠ for bringing people to the Free Indeed service

Pray for

- ✠ Free Indeed to impact many lives in our church & community
- ✠ Our summer outreaches to prostitutes & pimps, neighborhood children and gang members/drug dealers/troubled youth
- ✠ 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
- ✠ the salvation of our children: Trace (18), Titus (6), Phoebe (5) and



James & the short-term team from Ambassador Bible church.

(Cont'd from p.1)

During the last few years the

Lord has also given us the opportunity to work with groups of students from different colleges, schools, and church groups to do the same: expose them to urban ministry and challenge them in their pursuit of missions/ministry.

In the past, two teams from The Master's Commission in Fergus Falls, MN, have joined us and served with us on outreaches to the homeless and our neighbors. When short-term teams visit Family Baptist, James usually takes the team around the community to minister

to people on the streets. Often there are opportunities to minister on outreaches with us also.

College groups from Northland Baptist Bible College have participated in prostitution & pimp outreaches, a homeless outreach, and a neighborhood outreach. Both last summer and currently, James has been able to minister to interns from Bob Jones University who have come to Family Baptist for summer internships. The young men join him for discipleship meetings, Bible studies at the Lazarus Project, Free Indeed, and community evangelism.

We are grateful for the many opportunities the Lord gives us to impact lives for His Kingdom.

KINGDOM WORKERS

GOD'S AMAZING GRACE

(Continued from page 3)

The Lord has mercifully changed this man. "I didn't know the truth," he says. "Now, I do and the truth has set me free!" Tortured in his mind with bondage, temptation, and depression, he prayed to the Lord to take away his miseries, chaos, and struggles. The Lord came to his aid and showed him another way. In return, our friend is pursuing a different life now. He is keeping his promise to faithfully worship and be in fellowship with the saints. His desire is to serve the Lord. Already joining CSM on three outreaches this year, he looks forward to many more. He has a different life now, a new life! We praise God for the transformation. Recently, he was baptized and became a member of our church, Family Baptist. Praise the Lord that He is in the business of creating new hearts and lives for His glory! Please pray for the continued growth and godliness of our "new" friend.