

Christ Satisfies Chronicles

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"Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things — and the things that are not — to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before Him.

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

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FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

The United States has the highest documented incarceration rate in the world. As of June 30, 2009, the U.S. incarceration rate was 748 inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents or 0.75%. The U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) states that 7,225,800 people were on probation, in jail or prison, or on parole at the end of the year 2009. That figure translates to about 3.1% of adults in the U.S. population or 1 in 32. Approximately 1 in every 18 men in the U.S. is behind bars or being monitored. The recidivism rate for released prisoners is high. A 2002 study showed that among nearly 275,000 prisoners released in 1994 67.5% were re-arrested within 3 years and 51.8% were sent back to prison. Two-thirds of former state prisoners are re-arrested for serious new crimes. (Information from BJS and Wikipedia)

What do you do after serving 22 years in prison for murdering your father whom you watched brutalize your mother mentally and emotionally for years until she died from cancer?

How do you overcome a life of drug addiction that began at birth? Born to an addicted mother, having a father who spiked your baby bottle with narcotics, succumbing to drugs, dealing and gun slinging until the law finally catches up with you?

Can you move on after a fellow church member to whom you owe twenty bucks falls off the wagon and comes collecting with a baseball bat and the blow that was meant for you crashes into the skull of your baby stepdaughter?

Who will help you after a 30 year long addiction which you think you've successfully hidden gets uncovered and your

life of hypocrisy is exposed? Once you lose it all where do you turn?

For over a year now James has had the privilege of being the chaplain for Lazarus Auto

Detail, which is the employment sector of Room4U Ministries. This ministry is dedicated to providing employment opportunities to former inmates and addicts with backgrounds like those listed above while helping these men to learn job, communication and relationship skills. This is a Christ-centered program which provides in-depth Bible study and discipleship in addition to the practical life skills offered.

James has marveled at how the Lord has grown this ministry in such a short time — this coming May will be its third birthday. Lazarus currently employs approximately thirty individuals many of whom never held a legitimate job before. In addition to the weekly Bible study that he teaches on-site each Wednesday, he spends another 6-8 hours there each week building relationships with the men, counseling some, discipling others and praying with them. In addition to working with some of the men on-site at Lazarus Auto Detail, James meets with a few of them weekly for one-on-one discipleship meetings. He is encouraged at the spiritual growth of many of these men and excited that some have even gotten saved during their time working at Lazarus.

Most of the men who work for this non-profit are struggling to overcome a great degree of sin, consequences

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WALKING IN THE LIGHT

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and difficult life circumstances. Many have spent years in prison, have the baggage of addictions, have felony records, and damaged family relationships. The good news is that Jesus Christ overcomes all these things and so much more. The men working at Lazarus are professing Christians recently released from prison or graduated from Christian drug treatment programs such as MN Teen Challenge. Many are new believers and some have even been saved after a time of working at Lazarus through the ministry of this organization.

The Lord has granted James many opportunities to come alongside these men not only in a formal way — teaching Bible studies and discipleship meetings — but also in practical, pastoral ways: taking someone to get a tooth fixed, helping someone who was stranded with a broken down car, taking a sick man to the hospital, providing food for those in need.

These men love the Lord and are hungry to grow in the grace and knowledge of Him, but they struggle as all of us do though perhaps in different degrees. Recently, James asked several of the men a few questions designed to give us more specific knowledge about them so that we could pray more fervently on their behalf. Won't you join us in that effort? Here is a sampling of their responses:

1. How much time did you spend in prison and/or drug addiction?
 - ✚ 20 year addiction
 - ✚ 30 year addiction
 - ✚ 9 years in prison
 - ✚ 14 years in prison
 - ✚ 22 years in prison
2. When did you come to a saving knowledge and trust in Jesus Christ?
 - ✚ 5 years ago
 - ✚ 2007
 - ✚ 2 months ago at Lazarus
 - ✚ January 2009 in Teen Challenge
 - ✚ 10 months ago at Lazarus

3. What is your greatest struggle?
 - ✚ Finances
 - ✚ Discontentment
 - ✚ Pride
 - ✚ Idolatry
 - ✚ Lust

4. What is your greatest joy?
 - ✚ Jesus Christ and His Word
 - ✚ Serving the Lord
 - ✚ My children knowing Jesus
 - ✚ Sobriety
 - ✚ Freedom in Christ

These men the Lord has brought into James' life are a blessing to him. He loves them and has great joy in teaching and discipling them. They range in age from 25 to 46 and most of them are working hard to grow in their Christian walk. Please join us in praying for them and those in their families.

The leadership team behind the Lazarus Project is a group of godly men who desire to minister to those that the Lord has led to them in a way that is meaningful to their lives and walks as believers in Jesus Christ. Their goal is to nurture the individuals who are a part of Lazarus and help them to truly turn from their sinful ways and learn how to walk in the ways of the Lord.

Dan Bradley, a long-time friend and supporter of CSM, had the vision for this type of ministry burdening his heart for years. Through much prayer and perseverance he has seen the Lord bring his ideas to fruition. Day-to-day, Steve Farrell, the ministry's Executive Director, shepherds the men through the daily trials and struggles of life and work. These two men are sold out for Christ and desire to glorify Him through this ministry. Together along with James they seek to come alongside of the men who work at Lazarus and disciple them in the ways of Christ.

Join us in praying for the Lord to use this ministry and its leadership team to build up, strengthen, exhort and encourage the sheep the Lord brings their way.

“You're Prideful!”

Waiting for burgers to give to the prostitutes on Saturday night's (3/26) outreach, James and the CSM team were harassed and threatened at the local Burger King. A group of gang bangers were standing next to the van as they waited for the food order. James greeted them offering each one a Word from the Lord. All four took the tracts. Then one young man asked him for some money. “Oh no, we don't have any cash. We are giving away Words from the Lord,” James told him. “Man, get outta here!” the young man growled. “Praise the Lord, we're just waiting for our order,” James replied. The young man continued telling our group to “get outta here” with increasing venom in his voice. Two of his friends bolted apparently not interested in any trouble with a preacher. Then, the other man with him let out a rebuke, “You're prideful! Man, that's not how we do things around here.” Those two then began to argue and walk away from the van with the younger man threatening to “go and get his boys.” The team was sobered and moved to prayer for God's mercy and the salvation of these men and others like them on the streets. As the night progressed, the CSM team ministered to Tanya and Smiley, two prostitutes working the northside. Both were open to the gospel and accepted our care packages. Please pray that the Lord would open their hearts and save their souls.

TAKING IT (THE GOSPEL) TO THE STREETS

Part of the community outreach/ evangelism arm of Christ Satisfies Ministries includes a dedicated time of ministering to one of the four groups that we minister to in north Minneapolis each month. Those groups are gang members/drug dealers/troubled youth, prostitutes & pimps, the homeless and our neighbors. Thus far this year CSM has conducted an outreach to the homeless and two to the prostitutes & pimps.

Back in January with the generous help of our ministry partner, Here's Life Inner City (HLIC), CSM was able to deliver 40 homeless care kits to people who were staying at the "tramp camp" in downtown Minneapolis. On this cold, snowy evening James and the CSM team were once again bombarded by folks in need once they entered the shelter building. In just about ten minutes all forty of the packages had been claimed.

The Lord opened many doorways for James and the others to converse with several people about their spiritual condition and their need for a Savior. Each kit contained a Gospel of John

booklet along with a blanket, gloves, socks, a hat and hygiene basics. The team was able to practically love these people through meeting their physical needs. In addition, many gospel seeds were planted.

The next group of people we ministered to in the context of a larger, targeted outreach were the prostitutes & pimps. In early February, James took a group which included some of our advisory council members, an urban minister from Boston, MA, a married couple from Bikers for Christ and CSM ministry partners out in the van around our north Minneapolis neighborhood to share a care package and a Word from the Lord with the women working the streets. Included in the materials given out were flyers for The Healing House, a Christian, residential facility on the northside that works with women battling alcohol and drug addictions who want to turn their lives around, get off the streets and go God's way. There were a number of opportunities for the team to speak with some women and men, point them to the Truth and pray for them. As the night progressed our

team also began ministering to the gang bangers and drug dealers who were also out on the streets late at night.

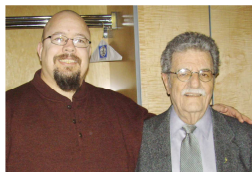
We are thankful for the many opportunities presented to build relationships and share Truth on these outreaches. Please pray with us that God will do a mighty work in North Minneapolis and bring many to salvation.

This past weekend (3/26) was our monthly outreach for March. James and three other team members ministered to the prostitutes on the northside. Please pray that the Lord would save those who received His Word.

Pray also for our upcoming spring outreach opportunities. In early April, the CSM team will be ministering to the same groups: prostitutes, pimps, gang bangers and drug dealers. A group of students from Northland International University in Wisconsin will join us on this monthly outreach as they gain exposure to urban ministry. Pray that the Lord would work in their hearts and be glorified in the ministry that takes place.



The organ music swells to a great crescendo. With headphones secured and the vintage looking RCA radio microphone perfectly placed in front of him a gray haired announcer begins to speak in radio voice that harkens back 1950s, "Determination took in this story to the world weight championship in kickboxing . . ." Thus were the opening moments of the "Unshackled!" radio program taping we visited in mid-February to hear and see the recording of part two of James' testimony.



James & "Unshackled!" episode director and announcer, Don Stroup

After submitting a mini-novel of information regarding James' old life, family, conversion, new life and ministry and clarifying particulars for the ministry's director, we were finally getting to witness the end result. His testimony was selected by the "Unshackled!" ra-



"Unshackled!" Ministry Director, Flossie McNeill with James & Anne



Ryan Priestler, one of the actors, and James

JESUS DID IT ALL

dio committee to be one of the programs selections to be dramatized and aired this year.

"Unshackled!" is the longest-running radio drama in history. Produced by Pacific Garden Mission in Chicago, "Unshackled!" tells the stories of lives that are transformed by the saving gospel of Jesus Christ.

It was a blessing for us to hear James' story transformed from our many pages of notes into a compelling drama depicting God's work in one person's life and His transporting him from the dominion of darkness into the kingdom of the Son He loves (Colossians 1:13). The program is in two parts, and we were able to travel as a family to Chicago to hear the taping of Part

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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
- ✠

Pray for

- ✠ An increase in our monthly support which has dropped to 77% of our monthly goal
- ✠ Fruitfulness in the ministry
- ✠ 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
- ✠ the salvation of our children: Trace (18), Titus (7), Phoebe (6) and Hadassah (4)

Shhh! Quite Please

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2, which encompasses the years of our marriage and Christ Satisfies Ministries. Our children enjoyed watching actors portray Dad and Mom while performing incidents and events from our own lives.

We are excited to see what the Lord might do through the airing of this program, which clearly proclaims the gospel and utilizes much Scripture to tell James' story. "Unshackled!" is aired around the world more than 10,000 times each week on over 2,200 radio stations. In addition to English, the programs are translated and re-dramatized into Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Romanian Polish, Korean, Farsi, Albanian and Japanese.



James' "Unshackled!" testimony is scheduled to be aired in June; Part 1 during the week of 6/5-11 and Part 2 the following week, 6/12-18. Locally in the Twin Cities area, the program airs on WCTS 1030 AM Monday evenings at 9:30pm and is repeated on Saturday mornings at 11:00 am. To find out what radio station airs "Unshackled!" in your area go the website www.unshackled.org and click on the "radio log" tab to retrieve a listing of stations and times.

Please pray with us that God will use James' testimony for His glory. Pray that many would turn to the Savior after hearing about His transforming love and forgiveness. Pray also that the programs would open up doors of opportunity for Christ Satisfies Ministries to minister to the lost and dying world.



"As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. 'Don't be alarmed,' he said. 'You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" Mark 16:5-7