

Christ Satisfies Chronicles

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*"But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry."
2 Timothy 4:5*



THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL

The Lord has been keeping us busy, busy, busy this past quarter and in the weeks ahead. We are grateful for the many opportunities He gives us not only to minister to others, but to see the truth of His Word come alive in our own lives. Verses like Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Him (Christ) who gives me strength," often carry us through our days. As work mounts and commitments increase we remember that "we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

The Lord is working through us to minister to people in the following ways:

- ✦ We held an Easter Bag outreach to children and families around the community in April. CSM was able to distribute 40 bags that included a gospel activity book, a gospel bracelet, and treats just before Easter. Titus and Phoebe were able to give other kids the bags while James encouraged the children to remember Jesus and the true meaning of the Resurrection.



Titus & Phoebe handing out Easter Bags.

- ✦ On June 25th we are planning to hold an outreach to the homeless in the city. The CSM team will visit the "tramp camp," as it is known by its residents, a shelter in downtown Minneapolis. With care packages in tow, the CSM team will minister the Truth to those in the shelter and pray with and for them by God's grace.



Guest Ushers

- ✦ Last month James was invited to fill the pulpit at Lifeprint Church in Prior

Lake, MN. It was a great blessing for us to join with this body of believers in worship and prayer. He preached from Psalm 1 about "The Blessed Man" and encouraged and exhorted everyone present to the importance of memorizing and meditating on God's Word.



Coming to the Lord in prayer.

- ✦ In May, the transitional work ministry, Lazarus Auto Detail, where James is the Chaplain opened its second location. The ministry now has jobsites in Brooklyn Park and Blaine, MN. Presently there are 35-40 men employed by Lazarus. James is teaching five Bible studies a week to three different crews of men who are hungry for God's Word. He also spends several hours a week at the locations building discipleship relationships, counseling, and praying with the men. Please pray for fruits in these relationships and for God's Word to transform hearts.
- ✦ In early June, James had the blessing and privilege of officiating at the marriage of some dear friends. The ceremony was held at Family Baptist Church in North Minneapolis, and it was a joy to watch the Lord unite these two precious souls.



The Lazarus Guys

- ✦ James' testimony, which was dramatized by "Unshackled," a ministry of Pacific Garden Missions in Chicago, IL, was aired during the first two weeks of June. The "Unshackled" program airs on over 2,200 radio outlets more than 10,000 times per week on

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THE SWIRLING WINDS OF THE LORD

Sunday afternoon — a time of family and fellowship, resting in the Lord, taking a nap, reading, going for a walk, enjoying the outdoors.

Well all that abruptly ended on May 22nd, when a tornado touched down in north Minneapolis leaving damage and devastation in its wake. In an instant one hundred year old trees snapped like toothpicks, roofs were torn off buildings, windows were sucked out of homes, cars were crushed and people



An area of North Minneapolis after the storm

In the after-people died, injured and were dis- their homes seek shelter. was off in for days and a was in effect of the resi- quell crime. when James

the area hit by the twister he thought it looked like a bomb had gone off. The photos on TV and in the newspaper could not replicate the disaster zone.

In God's providence, this calamity opened many doors for CSM and other believers to minister the love of Christ to the many people in the community who were now suffering. From neighbors getting to meet and help one another to volunteers coming into the area to clean-up, we could already see God's good in this hard circumstance.

James was able to minister around the community bringing water and encouragement to those working to clean up homes, cut down trees and restore the area.

On the Saturday following the storm, CSM held an outreach to minister to the people in the community who were hurting from their many losses and the trauma of going through such an event.. Our team — Diana, Scott and Steve along with



Assembling care packages

— met at Family just blocks from piled into the with 25 care kets, cases of of the Gospel of Inner City, the passion ministry Crusade for Christ and one of our regular ministry partners, donated gospel literature, toiletries, and the blankets to the outreach and our church provided food items and water. In

math, two several were c o u n t l e s s placed from and had to The power some areas police curfew for the safety dents and to On Monday, first entered

addition, one of our team members, Steve, came toting a backpack full of Bibles to distribute. James drove us around the neighborhood looking for people to whom we could minister the love of Christ. The Lord opened many doors for us to give care packages and pray for and with some of the people who were working on cleaning up debris. By His grace and mercy, we were able to point many to Him and encourage them through Scripture. All kinds of people were affected by this storm — young and old, those who have lived in N. Minneapolis for decades and recent immigrants. Phoebe, our six year old daughter, met another little girl to whom she was able to give some water. Then she gave care packages to a woman who was raking up the remnants of a fallen tree from her front yard. She was very thankful and told her, "It's good to help and it's good to be helped." Scott and Diana along with Titus and Phoebe walked up and down one block delivering blankets, water and care packages to several houses. At one two young men, Anthony and Bernard, and several children were sitting on the porch surrounded by remnants of their belongings. We were able to pray for them. Steve jumped out of the van to help an elderly woman who was raking trash and broken branches from her front sidewalk at Girard Ave. N. & 36th Ave. N. He was able to talk with her for quite a long time and encourage her through the Word. She asked him for a Bible and he grabbed her backpack. We his family, Hmong were cleaning up car had been downed tree, but ful that they could home. We gave packages, blan- These are just a few of the people that the Lord led us to and opened up doors of opportunity to point them to Christ. Please join us in prayer for the people we met during the outreach and the many, many others affected by the tornado. Pray that the Lord would lead many people to Himself as a result of this calamity and that many believers would seek to show His love and compassion for those who are suffering.



The CSM Tornado Outreach team: Scott, James, Diana, Anne (back row), Titus, Phoebe & Hadassah (front row). Steve was our photographer.



Ministering to Vang & his family

one from his met Vang and refugees, who their yard. Their crushed by a they were grate- still live in their them some care kets and water. few of the peo- ple that the Lord led us to and opened up doors of opportunity to point them to Christ.

He makes clouds rise from the end of the earth; He sends lightning with the rain and brings out the wind from His storehouses. Psalm 135:7

Free in Christ: Bonds Broken by the Savior's Love

This is the story of a man held in bondage for many, many years. Sin and all of its ugliness held him and deceived him until that day when Christ set him free.

Our story begins 34 years ago when a precious baby boy was born to a teenage girl and her boyfriend. At 17 she liked to party and he was the big cocaine dealer in town. They married but it didn't last — drugs, alcohol and a new baby are not a good mix. Eventually the two divorced after mom had dad jailed for putting downers (narcotics) into the baby's bottle so that he would go to sleep.

That baby is now a new creation in Christ. He has been working at Lazarus Auto Detail, a Christian ministry that employs those with substantial barriers to landing a job i.e. felons, drug/alcohol addicts, etc. James is the Chaplain for Lazarus and teaches several Bible studies there each week. Jim, the baby in our story, has worked at Lazarus for two and a half years. Beginning as a car detailer, he is now the General Manager of a 17 man crew in the recently opened Blaine, MN, shop — the ministry's second location.

With a start in life like the one described above, it is not surprising that Jim eventually followed a path similar to that of his parents. His own sinful heart coupled with all he was exposed to set the stage for a life full of wrong choices.

When he was four years old, his mother remarried. His new stepdad was very controlling, yet nice at the same time — at least that was the impression he made on this young child. This man regularly beat Jim's mom breaking her ribs and teeth. Any time the family took a vacation it always included a trip to the ER. Soon the beatings began to include Jimmy. After a particularly vicious event, the boy and his mother escaped in the middle of the night never to see that man again. The two went to live with his uncle in Colorado.

Mom continued to use and would take

the child to parties where drugs and alcohol were rampant. One night they went home with a man. They began living with him and in time the man and mom married. Things were good for awhile, but by the time Jimmy was 12 his mother and new stepdad were drinking a lot. The situation at home became difficult. There was much tension between child and parents. Soon they became distanced from his life and more focused on their own.

Disgusted by the lifestyle he witnessed, Jim swore he would not succumb to its temptations. He pursued sports and got along pretty well in his

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

2 Corinthians 5:17

inner city Denver neighborhood. During the summer between his freshman and sophomore years of high school the family moved to the poor section of a suburb outside of Denver. Now he was in unknown territory. At his new school his urban outfits and attitude did not fit in among the nicely clad teens arriving to school in their beemers (BMW's). He was out of his comfort zone. These kids had more "discretionary income" and they were using it to purchase drugs and alcohol. Jimmy desired to fit in and accepted the invitations to party. Soon he was the campus pot dealer. No longer an oddball outcast, he was now Mr. Popular. He went downhill fast no longer producing in his classes and unable to participate in sports because of his academic failures. His days were spent cutting class, hanging out at the gym and doing/selling drugs.

The spiral downward continued. Before his senior year his parents sent him to live with an uncle in Oregon to have a "fresh start." His first order of business was to find the local pot dealer which eventually lead to doing

crank (speed). After three months, his uncle sent him home. Once back in Colorado, his first order of business was to find the local speed dealer. The pattern continued. He began to work at a gas station and was introduced to stealing by his co-worker. "I'm going to go open the safe," the guy announced. Moments later he returned saying, "It's open." Together they took \$1600, went to Boulder and bought a quarter-pound of mushrooms. They were caught later that night by the police for a traffic violation and evading an officer. That was the beginning of his many times in and out of jail.

He continued to do drugs failing drug tests and being a no-show for his probation officer. He landed in Minnesota after fleeing Colorado with the help of an uncle. Eventually, Jim became a "professional" thief traveling to nice neighborhoods to break into cars and houses often backing a truck up to model homes in new developments and emptying them of their contents during the night.

He met a woman, they married and had a baby girl. The idolatry of drugs began to strain their relationship and it came to an end. The drugs and stealing continued for a number of years. Jail sentences continued as well. He travelled between different counties in MN alternating both his crimes and jail stays. Another woman came along and another baby, a son.

By 2007, after attempting to steal a car from a casino, his pockets loaded with drugs and a police officer pointing a gun at his back, he had racked up 6 felonies in 6 weeks. He needed help. He had heard of Teen Challenge and wanted to get there. A fellow prisoner questioned him, "Haven't you ever prayed in jail?" "No, why would I do that?" was his genuine response. This hardened and hopeless man was far from God. But, the Lord who is long-suffering with us moved him in His common grace to pray that night about getting into Teen Challenge. It looked bleak but in court the judge approved the move to the treatment program.

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Contact the Mullen Family at
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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.

RADICAL TRANSFORMATION

(Continued from page 3)

Waiting in a holding cell for all the arrangements to be finalized, Jim’s companions spewed their warnings, “Forget it! Go to jail! Those people are crazy!” But one older man spoke up, “You take this opportunity and don’t blow it. Listen to what they have for you.” The Lord used those encouragements to keep Jim on course.

At Teen Challenge, he did what he was supposed to do, but still had doubts about God. Despite those doubts he saw the Lord’s blessings in huge ways — his son & daughter were back in his life, his relationships with his mom and stepdad were growing, his roommate would weep and pray with and for him. “Lord, help me with my unbelief,” was Jim’s constant prayer.

After his Teen Challenge graduation he continued to struggle with unbelief not expecting to see people living godly lives outside the contained environment of a treatment facility. But, God opened his eyes to see His favor: Jim gained full custody of his son; he lived with believers and now knew the love of a family; he worked at Lazarus where he and the entire team prayed together daily and studied the Bible. James’ Redemptive History Bible study helped Jim to see that the Bible was true history and that there was a solid foundation for the New Testament. The Lord brought men into his life who were like fathers and mentors. Soon the Truth became real to him and the Lord granted Jim repentance and answered his prayer request for belief.

Today, this once broken man is a vibrant, born-again believer hungry for the Word and desiring to be useful for the Kingdom. Praise the Lord for His saving mercies and grace in the lives of sinners. Please pray for Jim and the other men who come to work at Lazarus and for the ministry’s leaders who desire to shepherd them in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Harvest Highlights

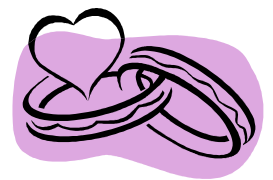
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every continent in the world. The program is translated and re-dramatized into 8 foreign languages. If you missed the broadcast or would just enjoy hearing it again, you can tune in online. Visit www.unshackled.org and click on the “Listen Online” tab, choose “2011 Archives” and scroll down to the James Mullen programs, Parts 1 & 2. Kennetha Gaebler’s script is packed with Scripture! It was a great encouragement to our souls. The “Unshackled” ministry has been producing radio dramas of individual’s testimonies for 60 years. The Lord has used this show to draw many people to Himself over the years.

✠ Steve Farrell, the Executive Director for Lazarus Auto Detail and James who is the ministry’s Chaplain, had the opportunity to co-host *Lazarus Radio*. They recorded a demo for a weekly radio program. By God’s grace, the demo turned out well at the station, KKMS 980AM in Minneapolis, offered them a slot. Praise the Lord! The format of

the program includes a testimony about the ministry of Lazarus, a Christ-centered work program that hires those with significant barriers to employment (felons, drug/alcohol addicts, etc.) followed by a teaching on biblical truth and ending with the personal testimony of a life changed by Christ. Lord willing, the program, *Lazarus Radio*, will begin airing in late July/early August.

✠ For 3 weeks in July, Lord willing, we will be going on a trip from Minneapolis to the East Coast and then up to Canada. Along the way we will visit ministry partners and supporters. In mid-July, James will be ministering in a few different capacities at a wedding in Hamilton, Ontario. We look forward to ministering to those we meet along the way and to learning from the partners, pastors, missionaries & church planters we plan to visit.



Please pray for us and the ministry opportunities the Lord has placed before us. We desire to be used of Him to be a blessing to others, to share His truth and to be encouraged unto love and good deeds. Please pray for our time to be fruitful and for those we plan to meet.