### March-April 2021 Volume 11 Issue 2



**Isaiah 6:8:** Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I; send me."



Fresh salads and vegetables are available on Hudson Avenue.

### **UPDATE FROM PASTOR RUSS AND ANNE LORIA**

The Father's Heart: established April 30, 2011



### Let's not fear, but stand in God's love

ude 1:22-23 says, "And on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh."

To everything there are times and there are seasons in this ministry. At

times the Lord moves us to give someone a warning to repent and to turn from their wicked ways and call upon the name of the Lord. Then there are times when the Lord has us show His compassion and love.

Lately at The Father's Heart we have had a lot of one-on-one ministry due to the weather. The Lord is showing His servants through these conversations to show His love for those they encounter.

AT ONE outreach a man who attends regularly showed up. Once a youth leader in a church, he is now addicted to heroin, is homeless, and is covered in sores. He walked up with a stare, just wanting food.

The volunteers asked themselves, "What can we do?" And what did they do? They fed him and clothed

him and told him that Jesus has not forgotten him, that he is still loved by the Father, and that Jesus is still the chain breaker.

**THEY LET** him know that we can get him the help he needs to get off drugs if he would only cry out to Jesus and take that first step.

Another woman stopped by an outreach and was overwhelmed to see how the Lord provided food for her and her children. Just out of rehab and getting her kids back and having an upcoming job interview, she was so blessed to be prayed for by a volunteer.

**ONE WOMAN** who is a regular came to the ministry and said to a volunteer, "The cancer has spread. It won't be long, but I'm OK. God has this. Can we pray?"

Another woman just intended to Continued on Page 2

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come down from her apartment to get food and run back up. But she allowed the volunteers to pray for her. She was so fearful of contracting Covid, but after the prayers she felt peace and the volunteers gave her a devotional to read to bring her some peace.

**ONE NIGHT** a man approached a volunteer in awe of the love he felt when he came up to the truck for food. You see, that man identifies himself as transgender. He said he had been screamed at and slandered for his dress and actions when he walked by a church.

As the volunteer explained that the Lord loves him, he said, "But God says it is a sin, what I do."

THE VOLUNTEER was able to give him the gospel to explain that yes, it is sin, but we all sin and fall short; the only difference is that as a Christian we have repented of our sin and asked Jesus to forgive us of our sin and become Savior of our life.

It is then that Jesus gives us the strength by His Holy Spirit to walk as Christ would want us to walk. We don't come to Jesus all cleaned up; Jesus does the washing.

THE VOLUNTEER asked the man if he had ever read a Bible. The man said he had not but he wanted a

### **Outreach needs**

General: Toiletries.

Donations can be dropped off at The Father's Heart headquarters, 678 Lake Avenue, Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, and Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information, call (585) 472-4331.



A bitterly cold February outreach on Chili Avenue was an amazing night of providing food and prayer to those who said they needed both.

Bible. So, the volunteer got him a Bible, showed him where to read, and prayed with that man. With tears streaming down his face, the man said he was going to read the Bible.

HE ADMITTED that he had been struggling with depression and that the isolation was so bad. The volunteer told him to cry out to Jesus whenever he felt like that and to read the Psalms. They hugged and parted ways, but hopefully that man left knowing how loved he is by the Father.

Jesus is still working; He is still on the throne. Do not fear what is going on around us. He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world!

THERE IS a song called "Stand in Your Love" by Josh Baldwin, and some of the lyrics are, "When darkness tries to roll over my bones, when sorrow comes to steal the joy I own, when brokenness and pain is all I know, I won't be shaken, no, I won't be shaken. 'Cause my fear doesn't stand a chance, when I stand in Your love. My fear doesn't stand a chance, when I stand in Your love. My fear doesn't stand a chance, when I stand in Your love...There's power that can break off every chain. There's power that can empty out a grave. There's resurrection power that can save. There's power in Your name, power in Your name. My fear doesn't stand a chance, when I stand in Your love."

LORD JESUS, help us at The Father's Heart to stand in Your love. Help us all to have Your eyes of compassion to see the needs of all those who come to us in need. Saints, let's stand in His love.

Love In Christ,
Pastor Russ and Anne Loria



Hot take-home meals are packaged in the food truck.

# God Speaks Through the City

Part 42: Philippians 4:6-7 By a servant in Christ

## The Lord's peace conquers our fear

t The Father's Heart ministry we encounter veterans struggling with difficult challenges such as combat injuries, limb loss, unemployment, addiction, post-traumatic stress disorder, and homelessness.

Although the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and other organizations have instituted programs that have significantly reduced homelessness, it is estimated that one-third of homeless men sleeping in the streets served in the military.

OUR STORY involves "Jim," a homeless veteran who begged for food as we concluded our Hudson Avenue outreach. I connected with him when a sister in the Lord waved me over to see if I could be of help.

When I approached Jim, he quickly identified himself and showed an ID to prove he had been in the military, saying that ANY food we could give him would be appreciated. I went to the bus and fortunately was able to find some leftovers that had not been given out.

JIM EXPRESSED his gratitude, started eating immediately, and politely asked, "Do you know ANYONE in government, politics, or business that could help me out with the VA?"

Apparently, Jim periodically walks to the VA (about 10 miles

away) since he is supposed to receive monthly benefits. According to him, he is repeatedly told he would receive benefits "in eight weeks" but it does not happen.

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### The Father's Heart

Our mission is to share the love of Christ with as many people as possible and try to enhance the quality of life for all whom we witness to on the streets.

We share the word of God and feed and clothe people of the streets of Rochester, bringing hope that Jesus will grab hold of their hurting, lonely, hopeless hearts to be His hands and feet extended in love!

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On Facebook:

**The Fathers Heart ROC** 

On Instagram:

thefathersheartroc

Unless noted otherwise, all scripture in the newsletter is from the New Kings James Version.

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I told Jim a friend's brother had experience dealing with the VA and would contact him. Jim was thankful but stressed that this needed to happen quickly. "I want to go to Florida so I don't freeze sleeping in the streets. Just don't know how I'm going to do it. The virus thing doesn't help."

I PRAYED with Jim for his safety and comfort, reassuring him that if he reached out to the Lord, He would not be forsaken. As I prayed and shared the gospel, Jim shook his head in sadness. He finally explained, "God will not help me. I have sinned and will be going to hell. Guaranteed."

I shared that Jesus died on the cross giving the gift of eternal life to those who believe in Him. Jim continued to shake his head saying, "You don't understand. I was deployed in Iraq as a sniper. Served with Chris Kyle and was responsible for many deaths. I broke an important commandment: 'Thou shalt not kill.' Hell is certain."

He expressed his sorrow for how



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The grocery line on Hudson Avenue.

Hear ye, hear ye!

This is an important message for everyone!



The Father's Heart ministry uses Facebook to broadcast live from each of its outreach locations.

Unfortunately, FB is changing the rules on live broadcasts, so we are changing to YouTube for live streaming.

But there's an issue: Before we can live stream on YouTube, we must have a minimum of 100 subscribers to our YouTube URL.

Here's where you come in.

We are asking that you go to YouTube and then type: thefathersheartroc into the seach bar. That will take you to our YouTube site. Once there, please hit the SUBSCRIBE button.

That's it! That's all you have to do! If 100 people will subscribe, we'll have enough to use the live stream portion of YouTube.

Thank you for helping us...and God bless you!

Kyle had been murdered, and started to weep but quickly hid his face saying, "Sorry, as a member of the military I'm not supposed to cry in front of others."

This led to a long discussion regarding killing he may have done in the military and how it differed from what the Bible calls "murder."

I MENTIONED that King David had killed Goliath and had been commanded to attack others rising against the nation of Israel. While Jesus was clear when He said, "Love your enemies," He greatly appreciated a Roman centurion's faith.

I asked Jim if a brother who was a veteran could join our discussion. After introductions, Jim recapped what he had shared with me. With heartfelt empathy and prayer, my brother reinforced the importance of Jim giving his life to Jesus.

**OUR MINISTERING** progressed, but Jim seemed fixated on his sins during his military duties. The Holy

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Greens and beans ready to serve with an Italian sausage sandwich.



Groceries are given away on Chili Avenue.

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Spirit then guided us to take a different path. We switched gears from explaining how his killing of enemy combatants differed from what the Sixth Commandment refers to as murder, focusing on Jesus' sacrifice and forgiveness of our sins.

WE EXPLAINED the atrocities Paul committed before being born again on the road to Damascus: "Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them" (Acts 26:9-10).

JIM LISTENED attentively but one more issue bothered him: "I want to give my life to Jesus but can't even afford to tithe. I was taught long ago that I need to give 10 percent, but

10 percent of nothing is nothing! How can I give back? Please tell me."

JIM WAS reassured that Jesus paid the FULL price and all He wished from him was his heart. "Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness — by whose stripes you were healed" (1 Peter 2:24).

Jim finally seemed at peace, saying he wanted to see us again, and expressing how he had been blessed by the ministry and the Lord.

I FOLLOWED up with my friend whose brother dealt with the VA but have not seen Jim since that day. Our thoughts and prayers have been with Jim hoping, in a sense, that Hudson Avenue had been his road to Damascus and that he received Jesus' peace surpassing all understanding.

Philippians 4:6-7: "Be anxious for

nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."



Hot meals are distributed.



To donate to The Father's Heart through PayPal, please go to thefathersheartroc.org and click the "Contact/Donate" tab for the PayPal icon. If you want a receipt, include your address on the optional address line and a receipt will be prepared for you.

Thank you!