

**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."



Prayer on Lyell Avenue.

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

The Father's Heart: established April 30, 2011



# The hopeless learn God is with them

As we sit in our office on Lake Avenue we see many things that break our hearts. One has been the women walking the streets: addicted, homeless, some being trafficked.

We would sit in our office and

pray, "What can we do? Lord, how can we reach out to them and tell them that there is hope in You?"

**1 JOHN 3:18** says, "My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth."

Well, just this past summer we have put our words into action. Anne and a sister in the Lord have been going out once a week and ministering to these women on the streets.

They go out with a bag of toiletries, sandwiches, snack foods, drinks, and Bibles, as well as prayer. They drive around, pull up to the women, and give out the items and pray with the women.

THE HOPE was to develop relationships with the women. When we started we thought there was just a small group of women on the streets of Rochester; however, we

have met more than 50 women in the past three months.

IT IS heartbreaking. They are looked at as outcasts, dirty, unclean, unlovable, lost causes, untouchable. But they are God's creations, and they are loved by Him.

Let us not forget Rahab, who was a prostitute but became a woman of God and was even in the lineage of Christ. The Lord changed Rahab in the Bible and He is still doing miracles today.

since WE have been going out, we have gotten to pray with almost every woman who has crossed our path. We hear their stories of abuse, neglect, addiction, and fear for their life, stories about their families, their children, despair of what has been lost, and hopelessness of there being no way out.

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We pray and share with them that there is a way out, that Jesus came to set the captives free. He is the restorer of the broken.

ONE WOMAN, "Lela," didn't want to cry when we prayed for her because she was off drugs for so long and in a program and fell back into drugs and was ashamed that she fell so easily. We prayed for her; tears were shed but we were able to tell her that the Lord bottles up all our tears (Psalm 56:8).

"Sandy" calls us her ladies who come and give her blessings. She was so excited when we remembered her name that she burst into tears and kept saying to her friend, "They remembered my name. They remembered my name."

WE SHARED with her that Jesus knows her by name, has even numbered the hairs on her head, and is aware when a sparrow falls, but that she is much more valuable in His eyes (Luke 12:7).

"Jodi" came up to the truck with a black and blue face. We prayed with her and let her know that the Lord could be her shelter and hid-

**Outreach needs** 

**General:** Feminine products, small bottles of shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, lotion, wet wipes, and hand warmers.

**Spiritual:** Small devotional books, large-print English Bibles.

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.

ing place, to reach out to us or someone else to get safe.

"Irene" and countless others have asked for prayers for their kids that they haven't seen, family members that they have hurt.

"JEN" PRAYED for forgiveness that she never got to see her dad before he passed because they were estranged.

**MANY OF** the women have requested prayer for healing from multiple illnesses, and we have prayed with them that the Great Physician would heal them.

We pray that these women are seeing through the toiletries, food, prayer, and sometimes a hug that they are not forgotten, that there

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A servant prays with a mother and her son during at outreach at The Savannah and Southeast Towers II housing complex in Rochester.

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is a God in heaven whose eyes are on them.

HE IS acquainted with what they are going through. He actually is the only one. We tell them that Jesus Himself had nowhere to lay His head (Matthew 8:20).

In the song "He Is" by David Crowder, some of the lyrics say, "He is Hope for the hopeless, Rest for the weary, Help for the hurting He is, He is, Mending the broken, Bearing the burdens, All that you're needing He is."

JESUS IS what these women need. Unfailing love. Savior and

Father. We share all this in hopes that you will pray for this part of the ministry at The Father's Heart.

**PRAY FOR** these women. If you feel led to get involved, please email us at:

#### contact@thefathersheartroc.org

Other ways you can help would be to donate feminine products, small bottles of shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, lotion, wet wipes, hand warmers, and small devotional books for these women.

Love in Christ,
Pastor Russ and Anne Loria





Left: Serving a hot meal at Lyell and Sherman. Right: The grocery line at North Clinton and Oakman.

# God Speaks Through the City

Part 46: 1 Corinthians 13:1 By a servant in Christ

# If understanding fails, let's share God's love

The ministry was running a bit late on a Saturday morning at headquarters on Lake Avenue and some of the people waiting in line were getting weary. Since a few of them had canes, walkers, or were sitting on the ground, the Lord put it in my heart to go through the line asking if people needed chairs.

ABOUT FOUR of them said, "Yes, please..." so I fetched a few chairs and opened them for their seating. Having one chair left, a lady with a young boy sitting on the ground at the car dealership next door waved me over requesting the last chair.

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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!

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About 10 minutes later, while Pastor Russ shared the gospel, "Hasina," the lady with the young boy, waved at me. While realizing the focus needed to be on the word being preached, I still went over to see what she needed.

WHEN I got to her, she looked at me, pointed at Russ and said, "Jesus?" Speaking softly and somewhat amused by her question, I responded, "No, that is Pastor Russ, not Jesus..."

Hasina seemed confused and asked me with a heavy accent, "Why Jesus?" That took me by surprise, and I started to share the gospel with her. The look on her face made it clear that she did not understand what I was saying. I asked her what language she spoke but did not receive an answer. She whispered to her son, and he tried to translate, but I could not understand him either.

**FINALLY, SHE** said: "We African... Why Jesus?" She pointed at herself and her son while she seemed to say, "Know Jesus, know Jesus." I



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The grocery line on Lake Avenue.

pointed at my heart asking: "You know Jesus?" but her answer became clear as she waved her index finger saying, "NO Jesus. Why Jesus?"

I PAUSED and prayed for the Lord to help me communicate the gospel. Speaking tongues is not a gift I am able to practice, so guided by the Holy Spirit, I used body language to share what our Savior has done for us.

I started by saying, "Jesus," then raised my arms to communicate the cross, then with my hands made the sign of love, pointing at both of them.

IT IS ironic that the same trouble I had communicating the English language with Hasina, I now have explaining body language as I write in English. But, as 1 Corinthians 14:10 states, "There are, it may be, so many kinds of languages in the world, and none of them is without significance."

As I shared what Jesus did on the cross for us, combining English with body language, Hasina provided a clue by saying, "Swahili!"

I RAISED my arms in joy, pointed at myself with my fingers moving toward the house. My mission was to find the "God of Wonders" DVD (one of the translation languages is Swahili) and a toy for the young boy.

It took me awhile to get back to them but, praise God, by the time I did, one of the servants was praying for them, handing them a Bible. Not to interrupt, I waited for the servant

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Nine fellowships joined this outreach at the Lake Avenue headquarters.

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to finish his interaction with Hasina before giving the boy the toy and a box of chocolate.

I THEN asked her, "DVD?" pointing my finger at her. Surprisingly, she nodded her head "yes." I then showed her the "God of Wonders" DVD, pointing at the small type on the front that said "Swahili" as one of the languages.

When Hasina recognized the word "Swahili," she lifted her arm upwards and with joy saying, "THANK YOU!" She then pointed at the boy, nodded her head "yes," and the boy gave me a hug. Smiles on all of our faces were a clear sign of the love that Jesus can provide.

AFTER HASINA and her son went through the line, she waved at me, pointing at the house while saying, "Sunday? Sunday?" I could not follow what she meant but luckily her sister who spoke some English had just arrived. When asked to translate, Hasina's sister said, "She wants

to know if the church is open on Sunday."

I asked her to explain, and her sister said that she wanted to go to "the church" at our headquarters building on Lake Avenue. I explained we do not have a church and when her sister translated, Hasina seemed disappointed.

SHE SPOKE to her sister who translated, "Why not make this a church? It would be good..." I went to find our list of churches but could not find one, so I gave them a copy of our schedule. Hasina then nodded her head "yes," and pointed at herself and the boy, saying, "Yes, Jesus!" A 180-degree miraculous reversal.

Although I was not provided the gift of speaking tongues on that day, the Lord provided a visual language and His message of love. When times are tough, when things are not clear, when tongues are spoken that we do not understand, let us look up at Him sharing His love,

while walking away from our flesh

1 CORINTHIANS 13:1: "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal."

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



Pastor Russ shares the gospel.