



Check out the new video for The Father's Heart ministry. It begins playing when you open our web site at: [thefathersheartroc.org](http://thefathersheartroc.org)  
 Thank you, Digital Cinema of Rochester, for producing this video. What a blessing!

*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."*

UPDATE FROM PASTOR RUSS AND ANNE LORIA

The Father's Heart: established April 30, 2011



## We must shine as the world darkens

November and December were busy months around The Father's Heart ministry. Full of many blessings.

**IN NOVEMBER** we had our annual fundraiser. The event was called "Rise and Shine," and it was a brunch at the RIT Inn and Conference

Center. At the fundraiser we introduced the new branch of The Father's Heart, which is Redeeming Love (A story on Redeeming Love begins on Page 3).

**WE HAD** the largest event to date, and it was the most successful fundraiser we have ever had. The Lord just keeps providing and blessing and we are so grateful for that. Thank you to all who came to the fundraiser, to all who donated towards the fundraiser, and for all who support us. We couldn't do it without you.

The following weekend we had our annual Thanksgiving outreach. We did a drive-up, walk-up event at our headquarters on Lake Avenue.

**WE GAVE** out more than 240 turkeys and side bags of fixings, along with 430 hot meals. Every side bag

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More than 240 turkeys were distributed at the Thanksgiving outreach.



Above, volunteers at the Christmas outreach. At right, some gifts for children.



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had a Bible in it and everyone who drove or walked through the line was asked if they wanted prayer.

**MANY WERE** ministered to that day, not only by the prayer but by seeing the Lord provide for them to have a Thanksgiving meal.

Then in December we had our big Christmas outreach at our headquarters. We gave out 251 turkeys and more than 230 side bags, along with 150 produce boxes and 100 holiday boxes.



To donate to The Father's Heart through PayPal, please go to [thefathersheartroc.org](http://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!

We served close to 500 hot meals to go, along with presents for women, men, and kids — more than 400 gifts in total. No one left without a gift. The Lord truly provided above and beyond for this outreach.

**UNFORTUNATELY, WE** had to reschedule our second Christmas party at the Edgerton Community Center. We will have that on January 5, so it will be a New Year's/Christmas party.

Pray for these kids. We know that the word doesn't return void, but we also know that the world and the enemy wants to swallow them up and spit them out. We want them to know Jesus and who He is and what He did for them and what He can be to them: their Heavenly Father, their Savior.

**PHILIPPIANS 4:19** says, "And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." The needs are great in our city and around the world. Poverty is rising, crime is rising, and the darkness seems to be getting darker.

We know what that means, though: that those who are His children must shine brighter. That is what we did this past holiday season; we shined for Him brighter than ever.

How did we do that? By showing people in need in Rochester that He is the God who cares and knows their needs.

**WE DO** that by handing them a turkey and a full bag of food so that they can make a nice meal and celebrate. By handing them a gift and a book on Jesus, so they know that they aren't forgotten and that they matter to Him.

The Father's Heart couldn't have done it without all your donations. All the side bags, the turkeys, monetary gifts. All the gloves, hats, scarves, socks, toiletries, Bibles, and prayer.

**THANK YOU,** thank you, thank you for it all. That is how the Lord provides many times; it is by His children.

Thank you for allowing The Father's Heart to be that light in the darkness. As we enter 2023 we pray that the Lord will continue to let us all shine for Him and be a blessing to many.

Love in Christ,

Pastor Russ and Anne Loria

## Outreach needs

**Clothing:** New underwear and women's leggings.

**General:** Small shampoos, conditioners, lotion, and wet wipes, deodorant, toothpaste, lip balm, tissues, and disposable hand warmers.

**Spiritual:** Large-print Bibles, both English and Spanish.

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.

## Redeeming Love

By Anne Loria

### A small gift can mean the world

The day before Thanksgiving we went out with two vehicles and served women on the streets a hot meal with homemade pie. They were so excited to get turkey and all the sides.

**BECAUSE MY** husband Russ and another man were with us many men also came up to us. We prayed for them and many were in shock that we would take time to make a whole meal and come out to give it to them.

Our outreach was part of Redeeming Love, a branch of The Father's Heart ministry that focuses on addicted and exploited women on the streets of Rochester.

**AT ONE** of our stops a servant who was with us said to one of the ladies, "You are seen by Him." Many times we let the women know that they are not forgotten by Jesus; that He sees them, that as the scripture says in Matthew 10:29-30, "Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows."

**THERE HAVE** been so many times when we pull up to a woman on a street corner and she says, "You guys are just in



*Servants of Redeeming Love pray with a woman on Jay Street on the day they distributed hot meals and gifts to those in need.*

time," or "How did you know?" or "I needed that." We pray that they see that Jesus is the One who knows; He knows their needs, their pain, their struggles, their anxieties, and their fears.

**FOR CHRISTMAS** we gave more than 35 gift bags to the women. Some of the bags were hand-sewn and in them were journals and a Christmas card that was handwritten with different scriptures and encouragement.

Some had lotions, lip balm, a manicure set, warm gloves and socks, other toiletries, and blankets. To see how the women's faces lit up when we handed them a bag was priceless.

**ONE WOMAN** stood out to me by how she said, "This is the only gift I will probably get. Thank you so much, it means a lot." Some called other women over excitedly to get their gifts.

Many of these women know each other. As we passed out a

bag, one girl said to another we will call "Anna," "That journal is for you; you know you love to write."

When Anna heard about the journal there was a smile on her face that we

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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:**

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[thefathersheartroc](https://www.instagram.com/thefathersheartroc)

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

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hadn't ever seen before. She shared how she likes to journal and how she gives out more than 100 Christmas cards because no one else does.

**THAT JOURNAL** opened a door to get to know Anna, who had been very closed and not wanting to talk.

Thank you to all who contributed to those gifts. Through those gifts and cards we were able to show these women that the Lord sees them, that He cares for them, and that He truly does love them.

**GENESIS 16:13** says, "Then she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, You-Are-The-God-Who-Sees..." Let's pray that just like Hagar they will realize that they are seen by their Maker and that they come to see Him also, and that they come to know Him as Savior, Lord, and their Heavenly Father.

God bless,  
Anne Loria

### Amazon shoppers have a new way to donate

Are you interested in donating to The Father's Heart ministry? If so, we have a new way you can get involved! For more details, please check out our Amazon Wishlist on the homepage of our website [www.thefathersheartoc.org](http://www.thefathersheartoc.org)

Once there, click the "TFH Amazon Wishlist" button and shop for items that we use for our various outreaches! All items will be shipped directly to us. Thank you in advance and may God bless you always!

## God Speaks Through the City

Part 53: Hebrews 7:23-28

By a servant in Christ

### He trusted religion instead of the Lord

It was a cold afternoon at Clinton and Oakman, but the excitement of serving the Lord during the Christmas season was keeping us warm.

We were blessed by two groups of young servants that faithfully and energetically set up tables, groceries, clothing, tracts, and greeted people from the neighborhood. The message shared by Pastor Russ was translated to Spanish by a bilingual servant bringing the warmth of the Holy Spirit to many in attendance.

**THE MESSAGE** on Clinton Avenue, also known as "Heroin Alley," included Pastor Russ' testimony of his own drug addiction and how salvation through Lord Jesus cured him.

As Pastor Russ preached, I noticed a Hispanic gentleman standing close to the street listening carefully while shaking his head and looking down.

**WHEN THE** message was over, several people raised their hands when called to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior, but "Raimundo" kept shaking his head, seemingly troubled. I introduced myself and encouraged him to get in line for groceries and a delicious dinner of homemade meatballs.

He politely declined saying, "I want to share my problems. This sermon brought them to life..."



*A servant distributes hot meals at Thurston Road and Chili Avenue.*

**RAIMUNDO PROCEEDED** to share his serious addiction to alcohol. "I am totally on the hook for alcohol, so much so that I actually turn down drugs for alcohol..." I asked him if Pastor Russ' message resonated with him. Raimundo mentioned that he heard and understood every word but could not relate to it.

"I have been a VERY RELIGIOUS man for most of my life but unlike the pastor, religion has not been able to take away my addiction." I explained that faith in the Lord is not about religion; it is about having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**RAIMUNDO SAID** that he and his mother were devout Catholics and will be Catholics until the day they die. His mother goes to Mass every day and relies on liturgy by priests to connect her with God. I explained that the Bible teaches us that Jesus, not procedures or priests, is our personal intercessor and High Priest.

Raimundo listened and seemed re-

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ceptive as he continued to share his life story. He explained that in spite of his mother's devotion to the Catholic church, he tried to change and became a Jehovah's Witness. However, becoming a Jehovah's Witness did nothing to turn him away from alcohol and also made him feel isolated from the church.

**I REPEATED** how important it was to have a personal relationship with the Trinity, as Pastor Russ stated in his sermon. Jesus is God but Jehovah's Witnesses see Him as a created being. If Raimundo would put his troubles with addiction on the table and trusted in Jesus, He would be there to save him.

Raimundo continued to avoid getting in line for groceries and food. I told him I had another type of food that would bless him. He was puzzled when I walked away to bring him a Spanish Bible.

**WHEN I** returned, I mentioned that this was the true word of God and how important it was for him to become immersed in it. He looked



*Homemade meatballs are served at Hudson and Durnan.*

at me while shaking his head saying: "I can't read it... I am illiterate, never learned how to read."

**I PRAYED** for God's guidance and asked Raimundo if he had a DVD player at home. He said yes, which led me to bring him the "God of Wonders" DVD, translated to many languages including Spanish. Raimundo accepted the DVD, was thankful, and started to walk away.

I shared with sister Anne who was standing close by what had just transpired. She reminded me that the DVD had Spanish subtitles and given his illiteracy, Raimundo would probably be unable to read them.

**I WAS** torn and rushed toward Raimundo as he moved on. When I explained the issue with the subtitles, he said: "Oh no problem... my mother can read, she will gladly read the subtitles and Bible for me. Thank you so much for caring..."

He then tapped the Spanish Bible in his coat pocket, smiled, and gave a thumbs up. I prayed that God's sovereignty would use Raimundo's illiteracy as a means to also touch his mother.

**ALTHOUGH RAIMUNDO** did not state a desire to have a personal relationship with Jesus, my hope was that the message and our dis-

cussion had exalted Jesus as his personal intercessor, advocate, mediator, healer, true High Priest, Lord, and Savior.

Hebrews 7:23-28: "Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them

**"FOR SUCH** a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever."



*This family was blessed with food and gifts at the Christmas outreach.*

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