

GOSPEL MONTH

TRINITY WORKS

Life is short. Tell everyone about God.

2010 STREET REPORT



INTRO

What is Gospel month? It's an idea taken from the house church networks of China. Every year in the month of January, every believer seeks God for at least three people they can lead to the Lord and God does it! That's why the underground Chinese Church is exploding with nearly 150 million born-again followers of Jesus.

We were challenged by God this year to set-apart August as a month that our men's intensive discipleship group (called MEN ON FIRE) would be deliberate about sharing our faith. Each of us prayed and asked God the number of people that God would bring to us and it totaled over 400 people! Each Tuesday we invited an evangelist to come and share God's heart and then we would go out and share the Gospel in different parts of the city (University Avenue/Frog Town, Grand Avenue, the Minnesota State Fair, and more!). Every Thursday we also hit the streets with our partner, Piercing Hearts Streetlife Outreach (www.piercingheartsmistry.com).

God used Gospel month to bring us corporately to a completely new level of evangelism. We hope that this is something the Church of the Twin Cities will embrace. We have much to learn from our brothers and sisters around the world about evangelism and the Kingdom of God. If you are interested in releasing a culture of evangelism in your local church please contact us at 763.390.8900 and set up a meeting to pray and seek God together.

What we have found is that the more we engage our culture with the Gospel the more on fire we get for God, the more joy we experience and the more people come into a revelation of God and surrender to Him.

God doesn't need us but He designed the coming of His Kingdom as a partnership between Himself and mankind. The Kingdom of God does not advance without us coming into agreement on earth with the plans of God in heaven. That's why Jesus instructed us to pray that God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven. He knew that the flesh would be weak but that the spirit would be willing.

There are lots of reasons we don't share our faith. Sometimes it's because we are not experiencing the Kingdom of God (so we have nothing to really share with the lost around us). Another reason is that we are afraid of what people will think of us (fear of man) or of persecution if we do share. The spirit

of this age (spirit of antichrist) is working overtime to intimidate us into not sharing our faith and that will not go away until the Jesus returns in His glory. The only way we engage in sharing our faith is if we get deliberate about it. We have to be willing to put ourselves in situations where we will most probably feel uncomfortable.

After pushing through those initial fears there is freedom to share the Gospel with boldness.

There is nothing better than telling someone about Jesus and watching God move on the person's heart. It is often the least likely person we think would be open to the Gospel.

As you read these front line personal accounts from Gospel month you will hopefully be stirred and emboldened to start asking God for opportunities to get out of your comfort zone and advance the Kingdom of God through personal witnessing.

**EVANGELISM IS NOT
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BELONGS TO THE
COMPANY OF JESUS.**

ELTON TRUEBLOOD



TESTIFY

REPORT 1 DAY 2

This is Wednesday, which is family day for us. It is supposed to mean that I don't get on e-mail or Facebook or work for the ministry at all. For the most part it's a day to hang out with my wife and kids in the midst of a life of running after Jesus. Today was also the day after releasing the vision for Gospel month in August. I have noticed that I am becoming more deliberate about asking God for witnessing opportunities. This is what happened today.

First we were at Noodles in Arden Lakes in Maple Grove which is one of our mission fields for Trinity Works (our offices are just south of I-94 in Maple Grove). I was there with my wife Casey and the kids and I was looking around for someone to witness to. I saw this Muslim couple come in and I asked God

about sharing a Gospel tract with them about Jesus. I felt like the Lord said, "go for it!"

I asked my wife and she started covering me in prayer. This man and his wife were eating together but the wife had gotten up momentarily when I went over to talk with him. I introduced myself and told him that Jesus wanted him to know who He was. He totally rejected the approach. I said, "you don't even want to know who Jesus is?" He said, "no." I responded, "He loves you," and left him there at the table. A cold, hard heart. Did I miss something?

I went into the bathroom and felt like I was supposed to lay the tract down at the table next to him so I did that on the way out and said, "if you change your mind it will be right here," then we left. This is part of witnessing. We have no idea what God is doing in the person's heart when we are being obedient to what we believe God is saying. I can't tell you how many times something seemed insignificant to me but in the Spirit it was very huge. Many people need to be approached multiple times before they finally open up to the Gospel message. This is what I call "plowing" in the Spirit. You don't get that amazing rush of someone coming into the Kingdom of God but it is a very important part of evangelism ministry.

Get used to being turned down. I've learned the most about evangelism from messing it up and then waiting for the Holy

Spirit to explain to me what happened afterwards. That is how God teaches us. Don't get discouraged but draw strength and encouragement from the Holy Spirit. He is your biggest coach and fan as you start stepping out to share the Gospel. In this particular case, I started right in about Jesus with a Muslim. Now that is hard core because the name of Jesus is powerful and will bring a strong reaction one way or the other. As I listened to God, He reminded me about the t-shirt this guy was wearing. It was from Mayo clinic. I had noticed it before but didn't ask the Lord if there was any special significance to it. I felt after this encounter that the Lord was showing me that might have been a great place to start the conversation in the natural. Do you work at Mayo clinic? Have you been a patient there? Is you or someone you know sick? Can I pray for that person? I have seen Jesus heal when we pray to Him. That would have been a different approach that may have yielded more fruit. You have to be OK messing up and learning. This is a process. Be encouraged!

Then we needed to get gas on the way home. I immediately got the Super America (SA) on Central Avenue in Fridley close to our house. As we got closer I saw this specific employee there and I felt that God wanted me to give him my testimony on CD and invite him to lunch or dinner after he listened to it. As I pulled in and started pumping gas I got excited when I looked in the store and saw the profile of this young man. I finished with the gas and asked my wife to start praying.

That is another important principle in evangelism – PRAYER! We need to intercede for those we are going to be witnessing to. If you have someone with you (your wife or a friend) – have them pray while you are going to be talking with the person. Take authority over the enemy. Ask God to forgive the sins of the person you are going to be witnessing to. Ask for the release of the Holy Spirit and the angels that prepare people's hearts for salvation. If you have the gift of tongues, USE IT! Normally when I ask my wife to intercede for me she busts out praying in the Spirit immediately and I get instantly energized knowing I have prayer cover for my assignment. The Holy Spirit knows exactly what to pray even when we don't have a clue. By the way, this is all in the Word.

As I walked into the SA armed with my testimony on CD, Dallas came from behind the counter and we shook hands. He recognized me from other visits. I said, "Dallas, I know this might seem a little different but God really put you on my heart so I am glad you are here. I am supposed to give you something. It's the story of how God revealed Himself to me and I believe He wants to do the same to you if you listen to this with an open heart."

He was listening and taking it in.

I asked him, "how old are you?"

He responded, "27"

I said, "I tell you what. I would have paid a lot of money to have someone give me what is on this CD when I was 27. It would have saved me from a lot of problems."

He kept listening.

"I don't want to give it to you though unless you are really going to listen to it" (I have started doing this because I can feel the significance of them making a commitment to reading or listening to something before I give it to them)

He said, "I will listen to it."

Then I said, "when you get done, my e-mail is on the CD, let me know what you think and if you want to get together – we don't have to – but if you want to I would love to have lunch or dinner with you and talk about it."

He said, "that's cool."

I said, "alright Dallas, God bless you."

Now that is what I would call a seed planting. It wasn't plowing (breaking up hard ground), this seed fell on fertile ground. Please pray for Dallas that God would open His

heart and pour His Spirit upon him while He listens to the CD. Hopefully I will get to connect with him again before the end of August. Only God knows.

I walked back to use the ATM machine and as I turned around I said, "how are you doing?" to a latino guy waiting for me and smiled at him. Sometimes that is all it takes for the Holy Spirit to connect us to someone's spirit. You don't have to push anything, it will eventually become very natural and effortless. And the more you do this kind of thing, the easier it gets.

We talked for a few minutes and I just felt peace about asking Him if He knew the Lord. He said, "yes" and explained that he was from Guatemala (married to a woman from Mexico) and went to a Spanish speaking church nearby. He shared his testimony with me and we prayed for each other (me in English and him in Spanish). I asked God to release him as a messenger of the Gospel and I commissioned him right there in SA.

Several different people heard us openly talking about Jesus and the Kingdom of God. He is going to give my card to his pastor (a Kingdom connection) and he is going to try to come to MEN ON FIRE some Tuesday.

Now many times you will run into believers. These are important assignments especially to encourage them to

share their faith. If you run into a believer then make sure you pray for each other and openly love them. Believe me, people are watching and listening.

Dallas watched us embrace (the witness of brotherly love) and I told Dallas I would talk to him later on the way out.

When I got out to the car, my wife shared with me how she had witnessed to an older guy who had gone in to buy lottery tickets and had planted a very fruitful seed by getting this man to commit to reading a tract she felt the Lord had given her specifically for him. Now if you want to see a powerful evangelist you should hang out with my wife. This woman is BOLD for Jesus. She will talk to anyone!

Brothers, this is awesome. I haven't led anyone to Jesus yet but I am definitely more open to getting instructions from Him. I hope you are encouraged by some of these stories and that God will challenge you to start journaling what He is having you do during Gospel month. I am going to try to share as often as I can what He is having me do.

**WE KNOW EXACTLY
WHAT NEEDS TO BE
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THE QUESTION IS
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DAVID JEREMIAH

TESTIFY

REPORT 2 DAY 7

You know I haven't witnessed to this many people in a while. Something about Gospel month starting and all of the sudden now I am looking everywhere for opportunities to talk to people about Jesus.

This journal update starts on Thursday when I left the office in Maple Grove and headed down to see Shad Markuson at a place called Hooks (fish and chicken wings) on Broadway in North Minneapolis. We are meeting on a neighborhood **firebase** house we are praying about establishing in North Minneapolis. When I walked in I knew something was happening in the Spirit. We ordered our food and sat down next to a booth with construction workers talking about things that construction workers talk about and prayed for the breaking in of the Kingdom of God.

Shad and I were talking and I kept getting distracted with the activity at Hook's. A young black man walked in with his girlfriend and sat down. I smiled at him and could feel a connection right away. When our order came up he told us about it. I immediately thanked him and asked him his name ... Elijah. I said do you know that is the name of a prophet? A prophet is someone who hears what God is saying and then tells other people. Do you know the Lord?

Elijah said, "I try to keep in touch with Him."

I replied, "that someone you want to keep in touch with."

Then I asked him, "how old are you Elijah?"

"23."

I said, "I would have been saved from lots of mistakes, and pain and trouble if someone would have handed me this when I was 23," and I gave him my testimony on CD. Then I told him, "now I don't want to give you this if you are not going to listen to it."

He said he would listen and I told him to keep his ears open to hear God talking to Him through the CD. That's what prophets do. You see I was speaking purpose and destiny over this young man. He doesn't know who He is or what God made

him for and with the epidemic fatherlessness in the inner cities they are desperate to hear these things.

This was a significant encounter with Elijah.

on the way back to the table, the construction guy behind us struck up an unsolicited conversation with us. He told us that he had 15 homes in North Minneapolis that he was working on. We shared with him that we were looking for a house for guys who were trying to escape drugs, poverty and crime and follow God.

As we talked we found out that he knew Sean Morrissey (a prophetic brother we know who has been to MEN ON FIRE). We discerned that Sean had been witnessing to this guy and investing in him so we witnessed to him as well. Eventually this 50-something white male admitted that many people had told him that God had a purpose for him (including Sean) but he just didn't know what it was. We exchanged cards and I gave him my testimony on CD. I encouraged him to listen if he wanted to find out how to discover that purpose. It was an interesting exchange. After I left the restaurant I had a message on my phone from Sean (I have never had a message from Sean). God confirmation.

We finished up talking with Karl and three more brothers came into Hook's. They went outside to eat and I got a word

of knowledge about one of them. I went outside and shared with this brother that God said he was a "Joshua" (meaning a spiritual warrior meant to lead God's people). I asked him if he had a Bible and encouraged him to read the book of Joshua to find out who God made him to be. He received the Word and we talked about the Gospel of obedience. He said, "yeah that's the hard part, being obedient" and rode off. After he did I heard the Holy Spirit's reply, "it's hard to be obedient, but it's harder to be disobedient."

That is what I love about God. If we are listening we are going to learn. I can't wait to tell that brother God's response to his objection to going hard after God.

I came back in Hook's and Shad was talking to a woman from a local church who had overheard us talking about the Lord. Her local church was in 7 days of meetings and Shad gave her a card so that we could connect with her pastor. We want to come into the North Minneapolis and honor the local pastors and work that is already going on throughout the north side.

Then we needed to leave to see a house we are looking at for the firebase. We met Kurt and within 5 minutes of him showing us the house I was sharing the short version of my testimony. Knowing how much of a window you have to share is something the Holy Spirit will teach you. He listened but I didn't know how interested he was until He asked exactly

how I had encountered God. Then I went into the 15 minute version of that experience.

He shared three "spiritual experiences" he had that had caused him to start going back to church and helping out there. Some of these "spiritual experiences" were not with the Holy Spirit and I could tell that God was opening a door here. I started sharing about the baptism of the Holy Spirit and how it is impossible to follow God without it. I told him we could pray for the baptism of the Holy Spirit now or I could send him a teaching on it and he could study the Scriptures himself and then pray about it. He was interested but reluctant to ask for the Holy Spirit right away.

We went outside and he gave me his card. He was open to prayer so we held hands out on the street in front of the house and I asked the Holy Spirit to confirm the things we had shared and reveal Himself to Kurt. I had to leave for a meeting with a brother in a northern suburb but Shad went to look at another house with this guy. When they got there Kurt said he had been listening to my testimony on the way there and wanted to know how Shad had found God. God was really moving on this guy!

I am going to send a follow up card to Kurt with a teaching from Greg Boyd called being Filled with Fire and Power. Follow-up can have a significant impact because it gives the

Holy Spirit another context to continue to speak into a person's life and address a specific issue that was brought up in your encounter with the person (in this case the baptism of the Holy Spirit).

I went to Caribou Coffee on Rice Street and 694 and when I went inside I was surprised to see our friend Mary Lynn Christopher (the leader of Twin Cities House of Prayer) and about 12 interns with the house of prayer who are going after God sitting in one of the public conference rooms at Caribou. Ben Minks arrived and I asked them if they would pray for us. As they began to pray and prophesy over Ben and I we could feel the manifest presence of God falling on the room. It was so powerful that Ben decided to go out street witnessing with us.

We went back to sit down and Nick Kozlak from MEN ON FIRE walked in and sat down with us (unplanned) and we spent the next hour talking about God and sharing the Gospel then we went over to Redeeming Love to join Hans Lindstrom and Let's Go! ministries. We headed out in Nick's limo to the Grand Avenue area and immediately started sharing the Gospel.

First we talked to Chris who was sitting at a coffee shop. I introduced myself and he asked me if we came out of the limo (use anything you can to start a conversation about Jesus). I said "yes," so then he asked me what we were doing

and I said, "we are sharing the Gospel. Have you heard the Gospel?" I asked him. That started a conversation about how he had been in Alcoholics Anonymous. I told him that AA was started by Christians. We talked and he wouldn't take my testimony on CD (pride) but I shared with him what he needed to do to completely surrender to Jesus. Seed planted.

Then we talked with Chris who owned something called the Magic Bus Café. They drive around and set up a portable café for events. They were parked in front of the Bibelot shop on Grand Avenue in Saint Paul. Lots of times you just ask people what they are doing to start a conversation and then it switches into the spiritual. I asked him if he believed in God and he responded by saying he kept his spirituality close to his heart (in other words, he didn't want to talk about it). This often happens in our culture because we are prideful and insecure (they usually go together). I shared with him my testimony and he said he knew that Jesus was significant to many people ... I agreed. He gave us his card so I am going to send him a follow up card with my testimony. Pray in the privacy of his emptiness and brokenness he will listen to the CD and receive Jesus.

Then we talked to a running coach from St. Thomas. She told us she was Catholic but wasn't real open to going further.

God then gave us the idea to go into businesses and pray for managers and staff. Our first stop was a Dominos Pizza on Grand Avenue where we met Jessica. We asked about the bullet proof glass at the counter. She said they had been robbed a couple times in the past few months. It was a perfect opportunity. We said we are in the area praying for businesses and was she open to us praying that God would protect the business from future robberies? She was. We prayed that God would let her know how real He is and what His plans are for her. We prayed that God would protect the business and give her favor with management and the staff and that drivers would be safe on the road when she is managing.

She went to a Lutheran Church but was clearly not born-again but she was lit up after we prayed for her. I gave her a copy of **God Out of the Box** by Chuck Ripka (which is about how to invite God into your business) and she promised to read it. It was a powerful seed of the Gospel that was planted.

Our next stop was up the street when we stopped to talk to two women outside a wedding shop. We asked them if they were getting married and they said no our friend is. Then about 10 more women came out of the shop. We asked who the bride and groom were and when they were getting married. After we identified the bride we said that we hope God would bless their marriage. She hoped for it also! Then

we asked if we could pray a blessing over their marriage and she was open but nervous.

We started to pray and the nervousness of the group changed as we prayed and the Holy Spirit fell on the gathering. God spoke spiritual truth into this young woman and God was given glory as the only one who can sustain any marriage. We thanked God for marriage being a reflection of the kind of intimate personal relationship He wants with each of us. We asked God to bless them and we invited Jesus to come to the wedding. When we finished the bride and her mother were smiling and grateful for the prayer. You could tell they could feel it and we left them standing there in awe of God so clearly breaking in and interrupting them to bring the focus of the marriage and wedding back to the one who created it.

After that we walked into Kowalski's grocery store and asked for the manager. We found Durnell and explained that we were praying for businesses and managers in the area. We found out he was a believer that grew up in the church but wasn't going to church because he worked on Sundays. We prayed with him and although you could tell he was in shock that God was breaking in on him at work he received it pretty well. We gave him a MEN ON FIRE card and a copy of the Gospel of obedience message (since he hadn't been to church) and had an awesome time watering this brother in the faith.

Then we went to Sinclair and we prayed with the two attendants. One of them took a Gospel of John to read. Meanwhile back outside I felt God wanted to buy some guy's gas so I walked up and asked him if I could buy it (but he had already paid for it), then he turned to me and asked me "why?" I explained the Gospel and how God had changed my life. He was an agnostic but you could tell that he was stunned by the offer to buy his gas. Sometimes God will have you make an offering that will have an immediate witnessing impact on someone. Be open to this approach as it is usually a witness that the person will never forget. He took my testimony on CD and promised to listen to it and also let me pray that God would reveal Himself to him.

I love that kind of witnessing because it takes the pressure of conversion off of us and puts it on God where it should be. Only the Spirit of God brings eternal life. If someone is open enough to ask God to reveal Himself to them then He will (when He wants to) and they have a witness immediately that we are not "selling anything" or trying to get something from them. We have total confidence in our God to reveal Himself to anyone. That is a powerful testimony. Read John 4:42 which is where we learned this kind of personal revelation evangelism.

We were walking and I saw these two people in a SUV parked at a red light really munching on sandwiches. I called out to

them, "how are those sandwiches?!" and they both turned and laughed and gave me the thumbs up.

"Did you pray over your food before you ate?"

They got even more excited and said, "yes we did!" and gave me the thumbs up again. It's what I called the drive by exhortation. Anything we can do to interact with people and point them to God. It was short but it was also meaningful in the Spirit. You could tell they were really encouraged by the short exchange.

We ended up at Snelling and Grand at Dunn Brothers coffee. I had hoped that I would get the managers permission to get up and share some spoken word (secular way of saying I was going to share the Gospel) and have coffee shop church but we found out that you need to go through a screening process to get to play or do spoken word there. Anyway, I was looking at the guy behind the counter and suddenly I felt the Holy Spirit quickening me that this guy looked like Keith Green (the famous 70s Gospel singer). I said, "do you know Keith Green?" He smiled and said, "no."

"You look just like him I said. You know what, I would like to get you a CD of his to listen to." He smiled and said, "cool." It's that simple. Hopefully you are seeing from all these encounters that none of them is the same. Every situation has a different

key that opens the heart of the person you are talking to and only God is the one that knows that key. I am going to bring Cody a copy of a Keith Green CD. I think that Cody is going to listen just because I am actually going to bring him the CD. Who does that in the world?

Mark Bofenkamp who was witnessing with me started a conversation with an Ethiopian when we got in the coffee shop and ended up sharing the Gospel with him. He was an orthodox Christian (read religious) but was not born-again. Mark gave him a testimony CD and a MEN ON FIRE card. He was open and interested in something more.

When we got done witnessing we took the limo back to Redeeming Love Church. Paul Hubenette, Shad Markuson and I went to Perkins over on University Avenue in Saint Paul. As we were standing in the parking lot a black man wearing a shirt that said, "I'm Real" was walking in the Perkins and something in me shouted out at the guy, "you're real huh? ... I am real too." Don't ask ... God will use anybody ... even me. This guy was with two young women who were clearly prostitutes. These are exactly the kind of people Jesus loved talking to about the Kingdom of God.

When I walked by there table I started talking to him again and he invited me to sit down at the table. I started talking about God and the Kingdom. They were riveted. I gave him

my testimony CD and he promised to listen to it. Then we prayed. After I got done you could tell the Holy Spirit had really touched them. One of the young women thanked me for the prayer. I told Earl (his friends call him Lou) to keep it real and e-mail me after he listens. Wow! A powerful encounter with total strangers.

The next day I went to have lunch with Ben Fischer. God gave me a specific place to go called Claddagh in Maple Grove. They have awesome fish and chips. Within 10 seconds of walking in the place we met Jake, a 25 year old bartender that has been working there for under 6 months. He was also going to be our waiter. As Ben and I talked we were able to just love on Jake and I kept telling him how great a job he was doing. When we give honor, people's hearts just soak it up. They rarely get it anywhere so it's like having a cold glass of water when you have been spent your whole life in the desert.

When the meal was over I shook Jake's hand and said how great it was to meet him. He responded by saying (and he was serious), "you are my best customer ever." I took that as favor from the Lord and gave him a copy of my testimony CD and he promised to listen to it. He wasn't sure he believed in God but he wanted to hear what had happened to me.

I gave him a large tip (please don't leave Gospel tracts with small tips for unbelievers) - bless them in a way they

can understand the love of God. Then I felt like God wanted me to find the manager. So I walked towards the kitchen and a man came out who looked like a manager. "are you the manager?" He wasn't sure he wanted to be by the look on his face. Most managers are ready to field complaints. Finally he admitted it and introduced himself.

I said, "Joshua, you are doing a great job choosing staff. Jake did a great job taking care of us." He got a great big smile on his face and said, "thank you. I appreciate that."

You see, I was sewing honor into Jake's boss that would ultimately get passed on to Jake. Now he is going to know that this Jesus is all about covering him and building him up and the witness of the testimony is reinforced. Only God can teach us these things and what a powerful witness Jesus gave us for this young man. I can't wait to see him going hard after God.



TESTIFY

REPORT 3 DAYS 8-15

Gospel month has really been a great learning experience for me. Just journaling what has been happening continues to reinforce things that God has taught me over the years.

I didn't really share the Gospel with anyone on the weekend. It was a great time of hanging out with my family and relaxing. This is not about striving it's about just taking the opportunities God puts directly in front of us. This installment starts with a meeting I had with Hans Lindstrom (an evangelist with Piercing Hearts Streetlife Outreach) on Tuesday. I asked him to meet me at a place called Cahoots which is a coffee shop in Saint Paul.

I was there about a month earlier for a meeting and met a guy named Josh who was playing this

online video game. I struck up a conversation with him and immediately our spirits connected because I shared with him that I used to game online. When I came in and reintroduced myself he immediately remembered the previous conversation. I got my decaf cappuccino and sat down with Hans. I had it on my heart to bring Josh my testimony but after talking with Hans I found out that Josh was really interested in China. Immediately the Holy Spirit put on my heart to give him the book Heavenly Man which is about a Chinese man who converted to Christianity and lived a life right out of the book of Acts (by the way this is one of the most powerful testimonies I have ever read). I went out to the car and got a copy and gave it to Josh. He committed to reading it and I asked him to let me know what he thought when he was done.

This is called a follow-up appointment and is very significant because you begin to enter into relationship with people (not just one encounter). It starts to establish credibility to speak into their lives. **Follow-ups are important**

As Hans and I talked (and we always talk loud) so that others can hear what we are talking about a woman who was mentally slower sat next to us and we started a conversation with her. You could tell that her spirit was drawn to us and it seemed like the Holy Spirit was leading us to share the Gospel with her and just as quickly as it started a couple came in from the mental health company that was "managing her

case” and we weren’t able to continue witnessing. Another lesson - sometimes we have a brief window to act - and then it’s gone. This trains us to obey the Holy Spirit immediately when we have an opportunity.

After our meeting I headed over to Saint Paul Fellowship for MEN ON FIRE. We spent time in worship and then invited anyone up who wanted deliverance from fear (about witnessing) and for greater boldness (about half the men came up). Now that is being real about where you are at. All of us have fear at one time or another about sharing the Gospel but the only way to overcome fear is to face it.

When we left to do outreach it started pouring. We ended up assaulting Walmart, Target and Cub Foods off University with the Gospel.

Greg Witt and I went into the bars that night. We started at Townhouse Bar (which is a gay bar) on University. We were looking for someone specific but ended up talking with Jen who grew up in a Christian home and had given her life to Jesus when she was 18 but was now in a lesbian relationship and thought her family was judgmental. Jen is in deception. Please pray that God will bring Jen into a revelation of her sin so she can turn to the Lord and be healed and delivered.

Then we went into Arnellas (which is predominantly an African American bar). We talked with the bartender who said she knew the Lord. So did the door man. Apparently God has lots of Christians working in bars. Either that or they don’t understand what it means to be a follower of Jesus. We do have to be careful not to judge but we also need to discern when believers are perishing for lack of knowledge of who God is and what He expects of us. I gave a copy of the Gospel of obedience to the bartender and asked her to give a men on fire card to the “man in black” who we felt the Holy Spirit had us looking for that night. She agreed to give it to him when she saw him.

On Wednesday I had to go into the office for a few minutes (on family day no less!). As I was heading to the office the Holy Spirit reminded me of a retired guy who lives on Knollwood and hangs out working on different projects in his garage and drinks beer. This one requires a little more background but this is an example of **installment evangelism**. Installment evangelism happens when the Holy Spirit wants you to get into a deeper relationship with someone before sharing the Gospel.

Well I met Jimmy Mac a couple months ago. I got roller blades for my 40th birthday and on my first time out with them the Holy Spirit started telling me where to go. I headed north on Pleasant View, then right on County Road I and then left on Knollwood. As I passed by a certain house this guy starts

waving at me. Well, nobody waves at me unless something is going on in the Spirit. I wave back and keep on rollerblading. I was meditating on the interaction with this guy and I suddenly came to a dead end. I felt like God was saying that He wanted me to go back and talk to this guy. I resisted for a while (have you ever resisted?) then I bladed back to him and gave him a greeting. He immediately welcomed me, invited me to sit down, told me he didn't have any more beer to offer me because he just ran out and proceeded to tell me his life story. God didn't let me say anything about Jesus ... yet.

I went back and visited him with my family on a walk another time. This was my third visit. On the 2nd visit I gave him what I call my 1 minute testimony and I could tell he wanted to hear more. He was open to God.

This was the third visit and I was under specific instructions from the Holy Spirit to give him my testimony on CD and also tell him what God had told me. God told me that He wanted to use Jimmy Mac to reach his neighbors. When I told him he was blown away. "why me?"

I told him "God loves you. He wants to reveal Himself to you so that you can tell other people about him." It was a powerful time. By the end of our time together he committed to listening to the CD and we prayed together that God would reveal Himself to Jimmy.

I finally got to the office and on the way back I stopped to get gas at Holiday on Central Avenue. I noticed a woman who was going into the store and on the way out (after I had to go into get a receipt because the pump wasn't working) I just felt led to walk right up to her. She wanted to know if God was real and took my testimony CD and I prayed a prayer for revelation of who Jesus is and then jumped in the Jeep and took off.

Later that night (Wednesday), our family went out to eat at an Irish place in NE Minneapolis. Our waitress' name was Jackie and we prayed for her dad who had leukemia. I also connected to the bartender Joe right away when we came in. He came and checked up on us and as we left I shook his hand, looked right into his eyes and said, "God bless you." Sometimes we are called to be salt and light without any in depth witnessing.

After dinner we went over to get a bubble tea at the Tea Garden on Grand Avenue in Saint Paul. Casey jumped out to go inside and I pulled up right in front of the place. There was a lone guy sitting outside who kept looking at me. I felt like the Holy Spirit wanted me to get out of the car and stand on the other side of the jeep (next to the guy) so I did and the guy struck up a conversation with me. It turns out he is an artist from Serbia that has an interest in Asia and even spent a semester abroad in Japan. I told him I have a book

I would like to give him (so I got him a copy of Heavenly Man) and gave him a copy of my testimony on CD. Then I went inside and got him an IZZE (one of my favorite drinks). He was a little overwhelmed and asked me if he should give me something for the book, CD and drink and I said, "no way. These are gifts for you." He told me he was going to have an art showing that Saturday at the tea garden so I went inside and looked at his art. It was cool. I came back out and told him he really has a gift. He invited me to the art opening and we said our good byes. As we drove away he was intently reading the Heavenly Man. You can't get through that book without hearing the Gospel.

Thursday was Blaine Peterson's retirement party at Lake Elmo. I knew God wanted me out there. It was an amazing time as I witnessed firsthand the fruit of someone giving a faithful Gospel witness for 20 years. Everyone there was open to talking about God and giving Him honor even though they were not even believers because they had seen the reality of God in the marketplace through Blaine. I got to meet the owner of the company and immediately the Lord had me start honoring him for supporting Blaine and his family and their involvement with ministry while Blaine was working at Chandler. Then Blaine started honoring the owner and you could tell that the Holy Spirit was really moving on this man. I was able to share with him my short testimony and he was visibly touched by the encounter. God told me to send him

a follow up note and gave me a strategy to encourage the owner to invite God into his business.

Then I was able to sit down with some of the production workers from Chandler and get to know them better. The production supervisor literally couldn't stop talking about how amazing he thought Blaine was and I was able to share with this man that Blaine was on staff at Trinity Works. This guy was totally open to the Gospel because of the consistent marketplace witness Jesus had been providing through Blaine. I am going to send him a follow up note with my testimony as well. The anointing for evangelism was so strong i didn't even want to leave. What a blessing. God showed up to honor Blaine Peterson. I am so glad that God sent him to Trinity Works. What an honor to have him at MEN ON FIRE.

Then I headed to Saint Paul to meet-up with Piercing Hearts Streetlife Outreach and we headed downtown. I partnered with Bernardo Colon who is an awesome intercessor and evangelist. We started in Rice Park and talked with Dee who was reading a vampire book at the bus stop. She was going to church and was a believer but had never heard about the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We were able to minister to her and give her a teaching from Greg Boyd on this topic, called Filled with Fire and Power. She received it and let us pray that God would reveal this important part of walking with Him to her. She was very grateful for the encounter.

I talked with Mike who was staying at the Dorothy Day center. He shared in unemotional detail how he had killed 10 or so people. The Word I got from the Holy Spirit was "pathological liar," but God had me sit and listen to him. When I started asking him about God he felt that people didn't just get born-again suddenly but that it was a slow process of coming to know God then he got up and left. We prayed for him. Hey ... this is the reality of street ministry. You have great encounters and then you have encounters like this one where you don't exactly know what God is doing. Please pray for deliverance and salvation for Mike.

We met another woman who had been in a car accident and was very open to the Gospel. Before we could lead her to the Lord her bus came so I quickly gave her my testimony and asked her to listen to it. She was so open and wanted to know how her sins could be forgiven (she didn't feel she could be forgiven for some of the things she had done). Please pray that God would meet her where she is and open her heart to surrender.

I talked with an Indian guy who was very intellectual. When I got done sharing all the things God had done for me he told me he was already free from all those things. After we argued a while (this is not very productive) I asked him if I could pray with him that God would reveal Himself. Initially he didn't want me to pray while he was there but he was open to God

encountering Him and by the end of our talk he let me pray and genuinely thanked me (you could tell the Spirit had touched his heart). God saved the encounter for His glory. Thank God for God.

Bernardo lead a young Mexican man named Abel to the Lord. We need to get Abel a Spanish Bible and connect him with a Spanish-speaking Church that meets on Wednesdays. This is the important follow-up that needs to be done as people encounter Jesus Christ.

We also met two other Mexican men downtown (Francisco and Ramiro) who were very open and surrendered their lives to the Lord. Please pray for healing and deliverance and discipleship for these men. We are going to try to get them Spanish-English Bibles.

One of the heart breakers of the evening was a couple of girls near a bus stop. One of them with her teeth rotting out said she was a born-again Christian who had a Bible at home but it was clear that she was not following God. We were able to tell her that it's not about having a Bible or saying that your born-again but whether you are actually following Jesus with a fully surrendered heart. Please pray for God to speak to her through that encounter and bring her to repentance. Pray that her friend who was listening will be touched by the Gospel message and that it won't leave her.

Some of you may have never heard about this but one of our neighbors (Holly) lives with her mom (Oma) and son (Chris). My wife lead Holly to the Lord about a year ago and she has been up to Big Camp. Her son Chris gave his life to the Lord at Rock the River (a Billy Graham crusade last year) and he comes to Men on Fire from time to time. Oma hasn't been too hot on the whole Jesus thing going on with her daughter and grandson but God is working on her. On Valentine's Day this year we delivered a "love bomb" which was a gift basket filled with gourmet foods and a copy of the father's love letter (www.fathersloveletter.com).

Recently we have had some storms and one of our trees came down in their yard. They also had another huge tree branch that has been hanging dangerously close to the house. Oma asked if we knew someone who could help out. We saw the opportunity to witness to Oma so we asked Greg Witt (a brother from MEN ON FIRE who owns a tree service) to come over and take the huge branch down and remove it. At the same time I was feeling like God wanted to me to invite Oma to an Alpha course at our Church and to ask Holly if she would go through Alpha with Oma. I walked over to the neighbors today with Paul to survey the tree and got into a conversation with Holly where I shared what I felt God was saying. As I finished sharing with her the huge branch (which has hung in place for nearly 3 weeks through various storms) came down right in front of us as if it was being set down on the ground.

It was obvious to all of us that it was a sign from the Lord that what we had discussed was God's heart for Oma. Holly was totally blown away. She agreed to go through Alpha with her mom. Isn't it cool when God shows up right on time? Wow. Please pray that Oma will be open to going through Alpha with Holly and pray that God will continue to bless Greg's business so he can continue to provide this kind of Kingdom witness to people who need Jesus.

Please join us in praying for all of the plowing, planting and harvesting that is going on during Gospel month. We have to be intentional about witnessing (without striving) if we expect God to move. God is calling us to a lifestyle of evangelism and it is wonderful.



TESTIFY

REPORT 4 DAYS 16-22

Gospel month is changing me. God is teaching me how to encounter people with the presence of God and the Gospel without striving. Evangelism is like anything else. The more you do it, the better you get. The awesome thing is that Holy Spirit is the One who does all the heavy lifting (see John 6:63).

This report starts last Tuesday when I met John Tolo and Shad Markuson at Dunn Brothers on Grand Avenue in Saint Paul. It was a follow-up appointment with Cody (who looks like Keith Green the 70s Gospel artist). In between the last time I was in and this visit someone else had told him he looked like Keith Green and he became so curious at that point he went downstairs and looked up Keith Green online so when I came in for this follow up he was totally ready to go. He agreed that he looked like Keith

Green. I was able to give him a Keith Green CD that came with a DVD documentary of his life story (his testimony).

Cody was going to check out both and I will ask him next time I see him about the video. You see, God is radically creative in how He wants to encounter people. In this case, He used how someone looked like a Gospel artist to open Cody up to listening to the Gospel message. Please pray that Cody will watch the Keith Green DVD and that God will open his heart to the Gospel as he watches this incredible testimony of Jesus Christ at work in Keith Green's heart.

Later that night we went out on the streets in Saint Paul on Grand Avenue. Someone in our group got that we were supposed to go to Kowalski's (which is a grocery store on Grand Avenue). When we arrived at Kowalski's I ended up being invited over by Darren Markert to talk to a guy named Channon who came from an Irish Catholic background.

He is a filmmaker and his wife Suzie is in traction after some major medical issues. Channon was really open to talking about God and so we ministered to him about the Holy Spirit and how important it was to following Jesus. He was open to us praying with him so we prayed for the baptism of the Holy Spirit and I gave him my testimony on CD. He was very appreciative of what we were doing. Please pray that God will reveal to Channon the significance of the Holy Spirit and that

the Lord will heal his wife to demonstrate his power and reality to Channon and his family.

We did a follow up visit to the Domino's Pizza (if you remember we prayed with an assistant manager and gave her a book to read). She wasn't in this night so we left her a CD and my card and then went outside and ran into a driver pulling up. Holy Spirit quickened me to ask, "how are tips going tonight?"

"it's horrible" the driver replied.

"do you mind if we pray for your tips tonight?"

"sure " he said.

I asked him, "do you believe in God."

He responded honestly with "not really."

"Well are you open to God revealing Himself to you?"

He was and so we prayed that God would reveal Himself through his tips tonight and as he listens to my testimony. It was a really cool encounter. You can't promise things you can't deliver but God wanted to meet this guy in a practical way. Pray that the driver we prayed with encounters God in a significant and life changing way.

The other team went into Blockbuster video and ended up praying for a revelation of Jesus for a young woman who's mom was praying for her. We often find out someone in the family has been praying which is why God brings us to share the Gospel!

The next appointment was with an Eritrean believer named Alex. He was dressed in all white traditional clothing which really caught my attention. It reminded me of all those who will be wearing robes of righteousness at the wedding feast of the lamb. We prayed with Alex and commissioned him as a messenger of the Gospel and gave him a testimony CD to deliver to someone.

Then we walked up a guy who was out front of a standalone birthing center on Grand Avenue doing yard work on Tuesday at about 10p. we sat on the retaining wall and waited for him to get closer then started talking with him. It turns out he is one of the owners of the business. His wife is following the Lord but he hasn't been real excited about it. He was really open to God and seemed to take it as a sign that we were out talking to people. A team of brothers had already been by and prayed with him and talked with him so by the time we got to him his heart was soft.

That is another spiritual principle of evangelism. Many times it will take multiple witnesses before the Word of the Lord

can makes its way into the human heart. This is what we call "plowing." Don't be discouraged if you don't seem to get anywhere.

In fact, we had another testimony from that night of talking with an older Muslim man who never really followed Islam. He had a heart problem but wouldn't let us pray with him. Another team ran into him later and he let them pray for healing and that God would reveal to him who Jesus is. One plows, another one waters and yet another harvests but all of us are paid good wages to share the Gospel.

Later that night I stopped by Cub foods by my house to get groceries and I met Shelley. I have been witnessing to the workers at this Cub for some time. I found out that Shelley was a born-again believer so I was able to encourage her to continue to be salt and light (share Jesus in words and actions) with those around her at Cub. What do you do with salt that has lost its flavor (doesn't witness for Christ)? Check out Matthew 5:13 to find out.

We went out on the streets again with Piercing Hearts Streetlife Outreach. Holy Spirit told us to park near Saint Paul Fellowship (where we did an outreach on August 10th near University). Are these details like where we park really that important? You tell me. We went around the corner onto University and ran into three young African American men

who were going through some classes on how to be fathers. How badly do we need fathers in the inner city? Check out Malachi 4:5-6 to find out why fatherlessness releases a curse on the land.

Immediately we found out that Paris was a Spirit-filled, born-again, tongue talking Christian (his description). His cousin Al was with him but he had never surrendered to the Lord. I ask Paris why he never told his cousin Al about God and Jesus. He got convicted and agreed that he should. Al was open but not totally ready.

Then there was Chad. He was agreeing with everything I said as I shared my testimony and the Gospel. I turned to him and asked him straight up, "have you ever fully surrendered your life to God?"

Even though he agreed with everything I was saying, he had never surrendered. I sensed it was time for Chad to surrender so I asked him if he was willing to really give his life to God. He said he was but when I said, "lets pray right now," he started backpedaling. The Holy Spirit quickened me to let me know that Chad was uncomfortable praying in front of these other guys (fear of man) so I turned to Paris and asked him, "do you have a problem with Chad surrendering his life to God right now? Are you going to think any less of him?"

Paris (the Christian) immediately said, "absolutely not. I think he should."

Then I turned to Al (the seeker). "How about you Al?"

Al didn't hesitate to say, "no. I think it's the right thing to do." Now, it's important to note that the Holy Spirit is now using someone who isn't a believer to witness to the truth of the Gospel.

I turned back to Chad. "now what?"

He said, "I want to pray and give my life to God. Now that I think about it I believe satan was trying to keep me from praying with you." He had revelation of the reality of spiritual warfare!

As we were going to start praying with each of them their ride showed up (two women). Paris looked nervous like they didn't have time to pray. I turned to him and said, "would you ask those girls to wait for you. This is something that is really important." They waited.

We prayed first for Paris. That God would continue to pour out His Spirit upon him. We commissioned him as a messenger of the Gospel and charged him with delivering the testimony he had on CD to someone who needed it.

Then we prayed for Al. We asked God to protect him, to break the curses spoken against him, to reveal who Jesus is to him (while he listens to the testimony CD). We asked that God would give him the grace to really surrender to the Lord. It was powerful Spirit-led prayer and Al really soaked it in.

Then it was time for Chad. He gave his life to Jesus and was born-again. We prayed for the baptism of the Holy Spirit and Chad testified that he could feel the Holy Spirit inside of him. I told Chad to go home and tell his parents that God answered their prayers for him today by sending someone to lead him into a fully surrendered relationship with Jesus. He understood the importance of that assignment and grinned at me because he knew they would be grateful for the news. God is faithful to praying parents so keep praying if you have a prodigal out there.

All these young men were very grateful. Holy Spirit told me to go over and thank the young women for waiting (honor them) and that what happened with these young men was very important. They said, "no problem." We blessed them and they drove off. I was so full of the Holy Spirit after this encounter my body was literally vibrating with God's power. I wanted to lay down face first on the sidewalk and worship God for what He had just done. This was the first encounter of the night and it was so fulfilling that it didn't matter what happened for the rest of the night. Wow God!

We met Maxine and Marie on their front porch. They were new to the neighborhood. They wanted to know a local church they could go to so we gave them one and the address and prayed for them and the two children that were with them.

We ran into Rob and Gary who both were out of prison and staying in a half way house close to University. Rob was totally engaged in the conversation and Gary wasn't but I was trying to witness to both of them. Note to self. Invest in the person that Holy Spirit is moving on. I think we could have done better to focus on Rob and let Gary go (it wasn't his time) but we prayed with both of them and ask God to reveal Himself to them and gave them testimony CDs.

Then it was Nicee and her daughter. Nicee wanted to get back to Church, but was smoking marijuana when we walked up and got convicted. We were able to love on them and Annette (my evangelism partner) was able to pray for them. The sweet presence of Jesus was evident while talking with these two.

We walked by a woman eating Wendy's in her car. Holy Spirit prompted me to ask Annette to walk over and find out if that woman had prayed for her food and offer to pray with her if she hadn't. Annette gave me a funny look and went over anyway (yes she knows I am crazy already). When she asked her the woman got convicted and said, "No! I didn't pray."

After a couple minutes Annette found out she was a believer who worked with youth at a local church over on Summit. It turns out they had been wondering how they could get out and witness so when we came over to talk to her she got excited about their church possibly going out with us. We commissioned her as a messenger of the Gospel because she already had a heart to reach out to the lost. Courtney also worked at a barber shop and when we prayed the Lord told her to keep the testimony at her salon and that He would show her who to give it to. She was pumped up after that encounter. (she came out for prayer even before she finished eating)

Finally we reconnected back up with the other street team and Shad Markuson joined us as well part way through the night. It was about 10:30p and we were all holding hands and praying and then we began to get down on our knees. Someone prayed out "when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself" (John 12:32). We started worshipping and suddenly a young man pulled up on a bike. We kept praying and worshipping for about 5-10 minutes and he didn't move. Finally when we finished we got up and I walked over to him and asked him what was going on.

He said, "I am on a path to destruction. If I don't change I am going to kill someone or I am going to be killed." He had a spirit of rage and frustration on him.

I realized that this man was ready for salvation and God had brought him right to us. I started sharing with him that he was on a path of destruction but that God had brought him to us to hear the truth. I shared the Gospel with power and his face changed from rage to awe to surrender. He was ready to give his life to Jesus and he did just that. Jeremy was at the end of himself. We prayed through repentance and surrender and for God to fill him with His Spirit. Jeremy testified that he could feel the Holy Spirit come inside him when we prayed and he felt the rage lift off completely.

God allowed Jeremy to go through the worst day of his life so that at just the right time he could bring him to us to share a better way to live life. This is another important principle of evangelism. God uses brokenness to bring us to surrender. One of my favorite prayers is that God will release brokenness in people's lives. It is the one thing that deals with our pride and self sufficiency so that we are open to the Lord and the Gospel. If you have someone in your life that is resistant to the Gospel, pray for brokenness and then don't try to comfort them outside of the Gospel when it comes. Be bold to speak what the Holy Spirit is saying to the person. People need to understand that a life outside of God has real consequences.

We threw his bike up on a car to give him a ride home. We gave him water. We comforted him with the Gospel. He turned to me before he got in the car with the brothers

giving him a ride home and he said, "thanks for saving me." I looked deeply into his eyes and told him, "I didn't save you. Jesus saved you." I repeated it a couple times and each time I could feel it sink into his spirit deeper. Jesus saved you.

Friends.. there is nothing better than watching someone raised from the dead. It is a complete and total miracle. Please pray for these new believers that God will protect them from the enemy and get them connected to the Body of Christ so that they can grow in their relationship with God. Pray that we will do the messy work of following up with these new believers and continue to reach out to them and water them with the Word in the Spirit.

Here is another cool encounter that Blaine Peterson shared with me. For those who don't know we have been called downtown to establish a 24/7 missions base called firebase. If you haven't heard the firebase vision you can click [here](#). We know that the Gay 90s is a primary target for outreach.

Paul and I had a good day at Regions (hospital) today. While Paul was praying for Jerrie (the owner of a strip club Paul used to work at), I had an encounter with Sean and Dominick. They both work at the Gay 90s (awesome). Dominick had cancer and just had a stint put in his head. He has been a patient off and on at Region's for about two months.

When I asked him if I could pray for him he said that a lot of his family and friends were praying the rosary for him but he would like prayer. I told him I wasn't going to pray to Mary but to Jesus to ask Him to heal Dominick. He said he was fine with that. As soon as I started to pray Holy Spirit came in power on Dominick. Since it was in a main waiting area it wasn't easily missed. His "friend" Sean came running with Kleenex for Dominick. Eventually I asked if I could pray for Sean as well and he also received prayer. I believe God allowed both of these young men to experience His love and healing.

I asked Dominick when he was completely healed if he would he give praise to Jesus because it was Jesus who touched both of them (it wasn't Mary or Blaine). I also told him that I might stop and see them at the Gay 90s if he went back to work there. Praise God from whom all blessings flow. (God willing many of us will be visiting the Gay 90s to minister to new converts and maybe even start a church there)

**HIS VOICE
LEADS US NOT
INTO TIMID
DISCIPLESHIP
BUT INTO
BOLD
WITNESS.**

**CHARLES
STANLEY**



TESTIFY

REPORT 5 DAYS 23-30

Last Monday night I went out on the streets with Shad Markuson. We had been in North Minneapolis that day for corporate prayer in a potential house we were asking God about for establishing a neighborhood firebase. What is a neighborhood firebase? A neighborhood firebase is a discipleship house where men (or women) who want to be real can get healing and deliverance and learn the cost of following Jesus. A neighborhood firebase is also a mission base to launch neighborhood-based outreaches. A neighborhood firebase is also a place where worship and intercession can be released to change the spiritual atmosphere of a neighborhood.

During prayer that day it was clear God was calling us to establish a neighborhood firebase in North Minneapolis. We still don't know where the actual

house is going to be located. God told us to go out witnessing there that night.

We got specific instructions to park in front of the prayer center on Broadway. Within a half block of where we parked we met Jonathan. After a few minutes talking to him it became clear he was a believer and as we talked longer about what we were doing in North Minneapolis he started to connect with people passing by. It became very clear that Jonathan was an evangelist and God wanted to use him to bring us into contact with several different people.

Jonathan was just waiting to be activated. Waiting for someone to come by and tell him he was an evangelist and release him into ministry. That's really all we did. The first person we talked with was JC. He asked us if we needed any drugs. He said he knew Jesus. You see, that's the problem in the inner city. Everyone thinks they know Jesus but they are living in sin. They obviously don't know the Jesus of the Bible. They have been given a Gospel that won't save them or transform them or require anything of them. We shared the Gospel with JC and prayed that the Holy Spirit would fill him and bring him into alignment with God.

Then we ran into Rico, a believer from Minneapolis Believers in Christ (MBIC) a partner church. We were able to encourage him about following Jesus and pray with him.

We had several other encounters with Jonathan doing all the evangelizing and us just supporting. It was really cool to watch God working through him.

We did some prayer walking and had a few minor encounters that night. One of the coolest was offering to wash the windshield of Latisha and her friend. We told them the reason we were washing windshields for free was because of what Jesus had done for us. We were able to speak truth to these two women and pray that Jesus would show them that he is more faithful than any man. They were grateful and soaking in the words of life the Holy Spirit was releasing over them.

Tuesday was awesome. When I came into MEN ON FIRE a newer believer came up and started asking me about the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I gave him a few teachings to listen to and told him we would pray for him later.

After Paul Ridgeway gave a powerful word about witnessing we broke into groups and this younger believer was in my group. We prayed about where to go and the Holy Spirit gave us downtown and something with "Saint Paul" in the name. We headed out and were driving down Summit Avenue towards downtown.

As we drove we passed a pick up with some young kids in the back. I felt we were supposed to talk to them and turned

to one of the guys in the Jeep and mentioned it. He also got a witness so we pulled a u-turn and rolled up on these kids. They all jumped out of the back of the pick up and started running.

We were able to talk to them for a little bit but one of the young girls was clearly freaked out and we couldn't get very far. Lesson ... don't freak people out by approaching them in a way that would allow the enemy to bring fear.

We headed downtown and eventually pulled up near Rice Park across from the Saint Paul Hotel (there was the "Saint Paul" we got earlier). We got out of the Jeep and one team (Dan and Dan) took off and Jake went with me. Immediately I saw three asian men coming out of the hotel and got a witness to go talk to them. I felt Holy Spirit saying that these men were Chinese.

I don't know if you know this but the whole idea of Gospel month came from the Chinese Church where they hold Gospel month every January and every believer leads at least three people to the Lord.

We introduced ourselves and asked these men where they were from. They told us "China." They were executives with Best Buy in China. They asked us what we were doing and I shared my short testimony and the Gospel with them. One

of them couldn't speak English ("Nicholas" was his English name) but a younger Chinese man "Eddie" was translating for Nicholas.

Nicholas shared (through the translator) that he was very interested in my story because part of his family in China never believed in God and all of the sudden they all became Christians. He wanted to know more about this God that had so much power to bring atheists to faith. He asked me specifically about my encounter with God.

I shared in detail (through Eddie) about how God revealed Himself to me and how the revelation of Jesus Christ had dramatically changed my life and brought me into real peace and joy.

Nicholas just kept soaking it in. I found out that the third man, "Joseph" was a born-again believer who had witnessed to Eddie and Nicholas on the flight from China to the United States and everything he had told them I had just confirmed. I realized that God was doing something very powerful here.

The presence of God was strong and tangible at this point. Holy Spirit quickened me about Nicholas' family in China. I asked Nicholas, "do you know why I am standing here?"

He looked at me waiting eagerly for the answer.

I said, "because your family in China is praying for God to reveal Himself to you and God sent me as the answer to those prayers half way around the world so that you would know that this God is real."

His eyes started to swell with tears and he burst out, "I believe!"

I asked him if he was ready to surrender his life to Jesus and he replied that he just needed some time to process all of this but that he knows that God and Jesus are real now.

I turned and asked Eddie if he was ready to surrender and he said, "I thought God sent you to Nicholas." I said, "I think He sent me to you to."

Eddie replied, "I believe also, but I am not ready to surrender yet."

I felt released to give them time because I knew that God had already put Joseph in their lives as a strong witness. I asked them if they were open to me praying and they said yes. The prayer recounted the power and glory of God in setting-up this divine appointment. I asked Holy Spirit to give Nicholas and Eddie the courage to surrender completely

and they all said amen. It was such a powerful encounter you could see that Joseph was totally blown away by God.

I found out they were going to be in town until Friday so I promised to bring Eddie and Nicholas a copy of the Heavenly Man in Chinese so that they could be encouraged by how powerfully God was moving in China and through the Chinese people.

We embraced and they went on their way. It was a powerful encounter. We crossed the street and I turned to Jake and said, "what do you think." He could barely contain himself.

I called a couple brothers over to share the encounter with and while we were sharing Jake was filled with the Holy Spirit. Wow God!

We had a great encounter with a homeless guy that God used to teach us that we aren't on the streets to give away money but to give the love of God and the power of Holy Spirit. We are all learning evangelism from Jesus every time we go out into the streets.

After we got done praying with Jake and debriefing from the encounters from the night we were filled up with joy and got into a conversation with a man at a bus stop that was filled with pride. He believed in Jesus but didn't believe in

being "born-again." We had him read John 3:3 which says, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born-again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."

He still didn't want to relent. Another teaching lesson from this encounter. When you find out that pride is an issue for someone you don't surround him with a large group of people because it just causes them to "dig in" and resist even more - instead you minister one on one where there is an opportunity for their heart to be softened. The other thing we learned is that when someone is ministering you let that person lead the entire ministry time otherwise it's too easy to have every one try to start ministering and it gets out of order and confusing.

By the end of our time together he let us pray with him and we gave him a teaching by Greg Boyd called "Filled with Fire and Power" on the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We gathered after the interaction (after midnight!) and prayed for brokenness for Jonathan as he finally caught his bus. (he missed the first one because he was busy talking to us about how much he knew about God)

On Thursday we went out again in downtown Saint Paul. This time we headed to Mears Park where they were having a jazz in the park and movie night. I watched a prostitute come up to three men and one of them left with her. The Lord told me to walk around the outside of the park.

I had an interaction with a man named Jeff who was a paraplegic who took photography. He had a good spirit but wasn't born-again. I shared my testimony and gave him a teaching on the baptism of the Holy Spirit and prayed for Holy Spirit to reveal to Him the truth. He was very open and excited that we like his photography. He asked what Church we went to and told us he went to a Baptist Church in downtown.

I kept walking and saw a second man from the original group go up to an apartment building with the same prostitute. I kept walking to the far side of the park and actually ran into the first man who had gone up with the prostitute. I introduced myself and so did he. His name was Mike but he wasn't really interested in talking but I could feel Holy Spirit anointing me to talk to him. I felt like God wanted me to give this man a word about the prostitute and turning to God but I was wrestling with the Lord because it was a hard word. I shared my feelings with Jake (who was with me again today). He said, "I think you are supposed to talk to him." Thanks Jake. I still struggled.

Eventually Mike started across the park again so I followed him waiting for Holy Spirit to give me a strong confirmation. I ran into some brothers at the far end of the park but by the time they were able to give me a witness on the Word I thought I had Mike was long gone.

The cool part was that God reminded me that we had prayed and asked that God would challenge us (in fact I prayed that prayer). Well, God had challenged me but I wasn't ready to obey. Next time I will (by the grace of God).

I was bummed out about missing the assignment with Mike but as I walked back into the park I saw Jake talking with a Persian man named "Saied" who had been drinking. After some conversation we found out that he had lost his businesses and was facing deportation to Iran in the next month. We were able to minister the Gospel to him and he gave his life to Jesus and was filled with the Holy Spirit. One of the main issues was him forgiving someone who had been part of him losing his businesses. Tears streamed down his face as Holy Spirit moved on him. He asked us if we would bring him a large print Bible and we said we would.

We all hugged him and he couldn't believe we would sit down and spend all that time listening to him and loving on him. Friends, this is all about demonstrating the radical love of God. The love of God can tear down any stronghold of the enemy.

After saying our goodbyes to Saied we headed to the Uptowner on Grand Avenue for a late breakfast. I stopped by Dominos and said "hi" to the assistant manager I prayed with earlier in the month. She hadn't finished reading the **God out of the Box** book yet but I found out she was promoted and

immediately I was able to remind her that we prayed for God's favor over her life.

Ally was our waitress and we just loved on her. She knew there was something different about us and we just kept telling her how great a job she was doing. She has been going to Alcoholic Anonymous for the last three years. Please pray with us that Ally will understand that the only higher power that can save us is Jesus. I thanked Joe for doing a great job on the grilled cheese (he was the line cook) and that opened the door for me to share my testimony on CD with him. He said he would listen to it. How many people do you think we could reach for Christ if every believer was living in this kind of lifestyle of evangelism? I tell you the truth, the entire Twin Cities would be in the Kingdom of God within a few years.

On Friday night my wife and I celebrated our sixth anniversary. Wow. God has totally blessed me with this woman. We didn't know where to go so we just started driving and Holy Spirit started directing me. We ended up in Northeast Minneapolis at this Stop-n-Go (convenience store). I got out and immediately connected with a guy that was talking with the clerk in front of the store. I walked up and found out that he was a believer and we just started bragging on God in front of the store clerk. The clerk was really open because this guy had already been witnessing to him for a while. I gave him my testimony CD and he said he would listen to it.

I came outside to get back in the car and my wife had jumped out and was praying with Lashelle while she was pumping gas next to us. I started praying for them and all of sudden another guy comes out of stop-n-go and asks me how I am doing.

I respond, "I am awesome. How about you?"

He said, "I am trying to get to awesome," and smiled at me.

I said "listen, if you want to know how I got awesome, it's all on this CD" and I handed it to him through his window. He received it and said he would listen to it.

You see, sometimes, just the joy of the Lord on us will draw people to want what we have. The more you witness the greater the joy. God made us to tell people about Jesus. It's through witnessing that we experience the fullness of joy that Jesus told us about. Try it!





TESTIFY

REPORT 6 DAYS 31-38

This is the last report from Gospel month which ran over out of August into the first week of September. Wow! Although my wife was totally in support of me making this commitment to be intentional about doing evangelism she is glad that it's over because now she actually gets to see me every few days. Of course, this isn't about just sharing the Gospel during one month during the year. God wants to teach us how to live in a lifestyle of outreach. When we go to the grocery store, when we go out to eat, when we go to work -- just like Jesus we are always asking the Father what He is up to.

Here is the final report. May it bless & challenge you to live your life with eternity in clear view every day.

The week started out with an outreach to the office park where our offices are located. We had corporate prayer on Monday morning and then Christopher Olson (owner of Preferred Resource Group) and I went around to different offices and introduced ourselves (Chris introduced me as the "new neighbor" in the area). We felt our instruction from the Lord was to just make introductions and then give a gift of the book **God out of the Box** by Chuck Ripka to each of the neighboring business owners. If you haven't read the book I highly recommend it. It is packed with simple to understand demonstrations of the power and reality of God and specifically how we can experience God's power and presence in the marketplace. I love giving this book to business people.

We had some great contacts. The first business we went into was a financial planning firm that was owned by a believer. He wasn't in but we were able to talk with his direction of operations and receptionist (who were both followers of Jesus). We introduced ourselves and gave them books and got to pray with them.

The next business was a group of tax advisors. The owner stopped a conference call to come and greet us. Apparently this woman had worked with Chuck Ripka and was excited to get a book he had written because she wanted to connect with him. Another great contact.

Then we went into a business with a Catholic lawyer. Now you might not know this but Christopher is a Spirit-filled Catholic and I am a recovering lawyer – the perfect combination for this encounter! We got to share what we were doing and eventually this man opened up to us and share that he had just opened this office and about his marriage. We asked him if we could pray with him and he was open to it. As we prayed the Holy Spirit really touched him and he thanked us for the prayers. In fact, a few days later I got this e-mail:

Hello Steve,

You and Chris visited me in my office on Monday and prayed with me both in regards to my marriage and for my business. I wanted to e-mail and tell you how much I truly appreciated you taking the time to do so. I will be honest, when you first came, I was concerned you were trying to either sell me something or trying to convert me. The fact that you spent time to pray for my firm and for my marriage really meant a lot and it left me feeling better than I had felt for a while.

I told my wife about it and she appreciated it as well. She and I are planning on having a child together.

Take care and have a great day!
-Ryan

What we found out later was that Ryan and his wife were scheduled to start marriage counseling the very day we stopped in and prayed for their marriage. When we left Ryan called his wife and said, "everything is going to be OK honey" and he had a great sense of peace about their marriage. Wow God!

Since then, Ryan has stopped by our offices and connected with Christopher several times. Christopher is referring some business to Ryan and the relationship is developing very well. Please be praying for Ryan to come to a place of complete surrender.

We dropped off three books for some chiropractors on the other side of the complex from us and then we got to visit with Molly who is the owner of a spa a few doors down. She was intrigued by Christopher's testimony of being healed of cancer. I shared with her that I was a "recovering lawyer," and she got curious about that and was wondering what my "breaking point" was? That was my open door to share with her my detailed testimony about how I came to know God and she let us pray with her in a significant way. It was a powerful time.

We are going to go out again at the end of September with three different teams from our offices and finish all the initial site visits and introductions while we share the Gospel

message through the book gifts. Then we are going to have a BBQ lunch gathering in our office condo area and invite everyone to join us. We want to love these neighbors into the Kingdom but the only way to do it is if we get deliberate about getting into relationship with our neighbors. They won't likely come to us.

On Tuesday during MEN ON FIRE we did an outreach to the Minnesota State Fair. That week at MEN ON FIRE, Tom Elie shared with us a powerful evangelism tool called "the 1 Minute Witness" which allows you to share your testimony with virtually anyone by starting out asking the question, "what is the best things that has ever happened to you?"

Normally they tell you and then you ask them, "do you mind if I tell you the best thing that ever happened to me?"

No one refuses and because they gave you permission they are actually listening. This is a powerful revelation – that is getting permission to witness. It is spiritual significant and I found that when I was using this method that the Holy Spirit was really moving on people.

We got to the fair late (after 10p) and the huge crowds were gone but there were still people milling about and it didn't take us long to get into a conversation with a newly married couple that were believers attending church at the Harbor in

Hastings. I love connecting with believers because they are so encourage and stirred up that someone is actually out doing the great commission.

We are called to minister to the church just as much as to those that have never heard the Gospel. This couple was very open and we shared a challenging full Gospel teaching with them and also commissioned them as messengers of the Gospel. You could see that the Holy Spirit activated them to share the Gospel through our prayers.

Then we bought some kettle corn (which neither I nor my partner Paul really wanted but we really felt God leading us to this vendor –sometimes you need to suffer for Christ by spending your money). After talking with a young man selling popcorn for a few minutes he shared he was really interested in China. You would be surprised how many doors open up after listening for a few minutes. Listening is something really important in evangelism. You need to keep your ears tuned to the person you are speaking with and also keep your ears listening to what Holy Spirit might be showing you about the person. Many times the direction the Lord will take you has nothing to do with what they are talking about but often what they share is what God will use to direct you to take the conversation into spiritual matters. We gave him a copy of the Heavenly Man (a powerful testimony of a Chinese church house church leader) which he agreed to read and we kept moving.

We didn't go very far before we ran into Summer and Heather. We found out that Summer was a believer (but Heather wasn't) and we were able to pray over both of them and speak prophetically into Heather in a significant way. They were both touched by God in the encounter.

Then we ran into a group of four young people (two men and women in their early 20s) and I engaged the men because I felt prompted by Holy Spirit.

"Hey, can I ask you guys something?"

They walked by me and turned around to slow down. (but they kept walking like they were going to keep right on going)

"What is the most amazing thing that has ever happened to you guys?"

They slowed down a little more.

"Sex!" one of them answered, laughing nervously but thinking that was an impressive answer.

"I said really ... sex huh ... how about you?"

I asked looking at the other young man.

"Well it would have to be either that [sex] or my snowmobile."

Now at this point you are probably thinking how is this going to go anywhere? Clearly these young men have just demonstrated what is the primary thing going on in their hearts.

I asked them if I could tell them the most amazing thing that had ever happened to me and they said, "sure." Now, it's important to note that these guys that were going to pretty much blow me off were now stopped and listening intently.

I shared with them that I used to live a life filled with sex, partying and money as a corporate lawyer but that somewhere in the middle of that lifestyle I stopped to ask the question, "there must be more to life than this?"

They were really listening. The young women they were with just kept on walking but the young men stayed engaged with the conversation.

I told them how I asked God if He was real and then how within a few months I had an encounter with Jesus Christ that changed my life forever. I went on to testify to them that now my life was filled with real purpose, joy and meaning and that I was so impacted by what God had done for me that I felt compelled to tell them about how to have a relationship

with God. I told them having a relationship with God was even better than sex and they could see that I was convinced of what I was saying and had authority to speak into their lives because I was just like them.

Then I asked them if they believed in God and both of them said "yes." I pressed-on to ask if they had ever had an encounter with God like I was describing and both of them said, "no." I asked if I could pray with them and ask God to reveal Himself to them like He had done with me and both of them said, "yes." So I prayed and the Holy Spirit moved. When I asked them if they would like to get a copy of my testimony on CD they eagerly agreed.

These two young men were encountered significantly with the Gospel and it all started with a question that they answered by saying "sex."

It was kind of strange because this whole time we were looking for an open vendor that was selling corn dogs and every time we would see a vendor open we would get into a witnessing opportunity with someone and when we were done with the witnessing the vendor would be closing. We decided it was better to share the Gospel then to get "something on a stick."

Paul got into a cool conversation with a young man that was working at a food booth and found out that he had a broken relationship with his mom that had just been reconciled. Using that as a starting point Paul was able to share the heart of God to be reconciled to us. This young man was very close to surrendering his life to Jesus Christ but wasn't quite ready yet. I spent the whole time praying for Paul and this young man. If you are around someone who is sharing the Gospel then enter into prayer for what is happening. This is front lines spiritual warfare and there is no better time to release the power of God through prayer then when someone is hearing the Gospel message.

A young street thug was walking up on me and I started talking to him. As he came up he had a total "bad ass" attitude all over him. I love on him anyway and after about a minute he started warming up. I used the 1 Minute Witness and he actually let me pray with him that God would reveal Himself. His entire countenance changed through the transaction.

By this time we are so full of the Holy Spirit we start worshipping out loud. That is the thing about witnessing – the more you tell people about Jesus the more you get filled with Joy. Well as soon as we sing out the name of "Jesus" this family that is passing by lights up like a Christmas tree. It turns out they are on fire believers and when we tell them we are out witnessing they get totally amped. We asked them to pray

for us and we prayed for them and the Holy Spirit fell on us. We loaded them up with fiery messages on CD and asked them to pass our cards onto their pastor so that we could connect with their church. Their children gave us hugs before we left. How encouraging to them and to us!

When you are out witnessing and getting filled with the Holy Spirit continually you can talk to anyone. We were continually engaging people with love in the Spirit and the Kingdom of God was really breaking out everywhere we went.

We finally found a foot long hot dog stand and we also found David. When I asked him the best thing that ever happened to him he said, "the day I gave my life to Jesus Christ." I got so fired up I said, "that's the right answer!" I was able to encourage David to share his faith and gave him a Gospel of obedience message and reminded him that he was named after a man that was radically obedient to God. I encouraged him to check out MEN ON FIRE and asked him to pass the teaching onto his pastor.

We joined up with Luis and Patrick (from another witnessing team) and they shared some powerful encounters that night. As we left the fair grounds Luis was able to talk with an older Catholic believer and share a CD about the Holy Spirit with him.

What I remember most about this night was driving home filled with total joy. This is what Jesus was talking about when He said, "I want your joy to be complete." We will never have fullness of joy without making sharing the Gospel a regular part of our lives. God loves it when we share about Jesus. I stopped by Super America to pick up milk on the way home and was able to share my testimony with the clerk. When I asked her where she was at she shared that her boyfriend was going to church. There were two young men standing outside Super America and they looked over at me. I said, "you guys are out late tonight," and they said, "so are you." I knew God was opening a door but I was too tired to witness to them so I went home. You know what ... I wish I would have witnessed to them.

The next Thursday I was in a meeting with Ed Johnson on staff at Trinity Works. We met with the leader of the Hospitality Center for Chinese in Saint Paul which serves Chinese students that are going to the University of Minnesota. We were connecting to get possible referrals for Chinese speaking churches that we could refer people to for the Chinese Restaurant outreach with MEN ON FIRE the next Tuesday.

After the meeting we went over to this little coffee shop and I got into a conversation with Majid who came from Palestine. I asked him the best thing that ever happened to him and he told me, "I came to America." I said, "that's really cool. would

you mind if I shared the best thing that ever happened to me?" He agreed.

I shared with him that I had been a corporate lawyer living for myself and trying to accumulate things when I had an encounter with Jesus Christ that changed my life forever. He really appreciated me telling him that and the seed of the Gospel was planted.

Thursday night we went out again with Let's Go! ministries. These guys are just awesome street evangelists. I went out with Nick Kozlack and we drove in his limo with another team into Uptown Minneapolis. We parked at Rainbow Foods because we were getting images of that part of Uptown as we were praying. We all jumped out of the limousine and before I knew it Nick was off and running. I love that guy because he has such a heart to share the Gospel he just took off to start telling people about Jesus.

Finally I caught up with him and told him that I thought Holy Spirit was telling me to go to into the Rainbow. On the way in I was able to share with a man that was in the homosexual lifestyle. He listened to my testimony but he wasn't open to going further in conversation about spiritual matters.

We went into Rainbow and we felt Holy Spirit was leading us to the produce department. After being there about :15

seconds I got into a conversation with two Ethiopians who had grown up in orthodox Christianity (think Catholic but even more religious). I shared my testimony and they were fine talking but didn't want to let me pray that God would reveal Himself to them.

Meanwhile Nick had gotten into a conversation with a young man and three young women. He motioned me over so I joined them. It turns out that the young man and one of the women were boyfriend and girlfriend and the other two were the man's younger sisters. One of his sisters was having her 16th birthday and they had just gotten done eating out to celebrate. Nick offered to take the birthday girl in a ride in the limousine parked outside and she got excited. The three young women were going to go with Nick and the young man was going to drive home and follow the limo. I asked if I could ride along with the young man and he said, "sure."

We went out into the parking lot and I jumped in with Franz. Now the way you know this whole thing had to be God is that Franz's girlfriend and his two younger sisters just got into a limo with a guy they never met and another guy they never met is riding to their house with Franz. Crazy.

Well within minutes I am sharing my testimony with Franz and I gave him the five minute version since I had a captive audience on the drive to his house in South Minneapolis from

Uptown. When I finished he asked, "how does someone have that kind of encounter with God?"

I said, "I will pray with you that God will do the same thing for you that He did for me." We arrived at their house and I got to pray with Franz. It turns out that he was named after the great German composer who wrote "Silent Night." I said, "I don't think it's a coincidence that you were named after someone that wrote one of the world's most famous Christmas songs about Jesus and now someone is sharing Jesus with you. He didn't think it was a coincidence either."

I got out of the car with Franz and the girls had already arrived. I smiled at them and asked how the ride went. They loved it. I said, "you know God must really love you to send a limousine to give you a ride on your birthday like that." They all smiled as they realized that God had sent them the limo ride. I left them with a "God bless you" and jumped back in the limo and Nick and I rode back to uptown where we started.

When we got back to the Rainbow and parked you won't believe who we ran into in the parking lot but one of the Ethiopians (from the first time we were at Rainbow). When he saw us in the limousine he smiled and waved. We told him this is how we roll with Jesus (meaning riding in a limo). He smiled again and I felt like God told me to bring him a CD about the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I walked over and asked him if he

would listen to the CD and he agreed. In the time we had taken the limo ride I could see that Holy Spirit had been working on his heart. Never give up on people!

We started walking towards the Lagoon Theater (which is what I saw on the way over to Uptown) and immediately Nick noticed a man walking about twenty feet behind us.

"We should talk to him." He said.

I said, "let's wait until he gets closer and see."

Well by the time we got about another block he was right up with us and I struck up a conversation with him. His name was Pablo and he always knew that Jesus was real and was looking out for him but he never really surrendered his life fully to God. We talked for an hour in front of the bar that Pablo had been headed to for a night of drinking and dancing and Pablo received prayer for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Afterwards he said, "thank you for praying for me, no one has ever prayed for me like that," and then he stopped himself and said, "God sent you to me." Holy Spirit was all over him and he began to speak in agreement with God's heart. He was really touched. We hugged and exchanged cell phone numbers.

Over the next few days he called me several times and he also visited MEN ON FIRE. After awhile I felt the Lord told me to call Willfredo (a great Spanish speaking brother) and to connect him with Pablo so that our friend could start be part of a Spanish speaking fellowship. The three of us are going to be connecting in the next several weeks. It is really important that we do the follow up work after we have powerful encounters on the street because the enemy is prowling around waiting to devour the seeds of the Gospel that are being planted. These new believers need spiritual covering through prayer and fellowship. If you lead someone to the Lord you are responsible to make sure that you get them plugged into the Body of Christ unless God releases you. We need to really seek the Lord in each situation.

On Friday, Jake (young believer from MEN ON FIRE) had another follow up assignment. Do you remember Saied who gave his life to Jesus in downtown Saint Paul a few weeks ago? We promised to deliver him a large print Bible and so we went looking for him on Friday. We looked at the public library and the park where we met him. We also looked in a few other places he told us that he went when he couldn't be at Union Gospel Mission ("UGM"). We didn't find him anywhere so we went to UGM and talked with a couple of the awesome chaplains who work down there. When they heard our story about Saied they were really encouraged that we were out on the streets ministering to these guys.

They said he had a bed reserved for the night so we asked if we could go downstairs (where the men sleep) and look for him. They let us go down. We didn't find Saied but we were able to pray with another young man that was at UGM to go through the drug treatment program. We were able to leave a note for Saied with the Bible with the chaplains and pray with them. Follow up is important and establishes a powerful testimony to the person of God's faithfulness to do what He promises. When our lives reflect that God receives the glory He is due.

Jake was pumped up about the whole experience. I love Jake. He is totally on fire for Jesus and getting ready to go on a Youth With a Mission (YWAM) Discipleship Training School (DTS) for six months. People go and spend three months in intensive discipleship and then do outreach for three months somewhere in the world.

On Sunday we made time to spend in worship after church and went out and invited certain neighbors to Alpha. While we were in worship God spoke to us about having our neighbors over for brunch. Normally we have believers over for fellowship after Church on Sundays but God wanted us to open that up and start inviting our neighbors over so that is what we are going to do. I can't say that it's comfortable or convenient. I am sure that we are going to have times where all we are talking about is "dogs and flatware" (what Casey and I call

worldly talk) but I know that God is going to open doors for our neighbors to hear and respond to the Gospel.

We were able to invite Oma (the neighbor we had our brother Greg from MEN ON FIRE trim down her trees) and Holly (her born-again daughter) to Alpha. She said she would talk to Holly about it but she had a migraine headache (and has had one for many years). We told her that we were going to pray for her as soon as she went back in to lay down. Please join us in praying that God will heal her to demonstrate His power and reality in her life.

Then we went over and talked with Jim (he has a wife named Alice) about Alpha. He looked a little concerned until we told him that Catholic Churches did Alpha also. He really wanted us to know that he was alright because he was really involved at his Catholic Church. He doesn't yet know the difference between religion and relationship. You will find a great deal of that deception out in the world. People who think they are alright but don't understand how lost they really are. He shared with us about a relative that really needed prayer and so we asked if we could pray right there and Jim said, "absolutely," so we grabbed hands and started praying. Holy Spirit was moving. Jim got touched and started sharing about other needs in the family. While he was talking the Lord spoke softly into my heart, "I want you to tell him that he is a good grandfather."

When Jim finished talking I said, "Jim, you know, I don't always get these things but sometimes God gives me something to share with people and I feel like He wants me to tell you that He thinks you are a good grandfather."

He was overcome by the Holy Spirit and began to cry. As he regained his composure he said, "Wow that feels good to hear."

"God wants you to know that He sees you and knows your heart. You are a good grandfather."

I could tell that he had regrets about his fathering and God wanted to encourage him about his grandfathering. It was an awesome exchange. We actually told our neighbor Jim that we loved him and he said he loved us and we embraced. We officially invited them over for brunch and said we would connect with them to figure out which Sunday it might work.

God is doing great things in our neighborhood and He wants to do great things in yours. Pray about which neighbor God might want you to invite over and then just love on them and let Holy Spirit lead your conversation. It might be awkward for a little bit or uncomfortable the first or second time you do it but eventually God will expand your comfort zone and start producing fruit in the lives of your neighbors. Will you let God release His power and love in your neighborhood?

We don't mind praying for people but when the messy business of getting into relationship with them presents itself we often would rather avoid it altogether. I want to say something. The Gospel advanced in the early church when people opened up their homes and shared hospitality and love and the model for Kingdom building has really never changed. You are the one that God is sending to your neighborhood. When we realize that then we will experience the fullness of joy that comes from being in God's good and perfect will.

The following Tuesday, September 7th was the last official outreach of Gospel month. About a year earlier God had really changed my life through a book called "Heavenly Man." We started ordering the books to give to pastors and ministry leaders here in the United States because this book really challenged many of the strongholds in the church here in the United States.

I remember one day "accidentally" receiving a case of the Heavenly Man books in Chinese and thinking, "what am I going to do with these?"

Within a few hours of receiving them God spoke into my heart, "I want you to deliver these books to the Chinese Restaurants in the Twin Cities."

I remember thinking "wow God ... I would never have come up with that idea in a million years." I knew that it was God and here we were a year later fulfilling that instruction and twenty-five teams of men and women were going out to deliver books to different restaurants around the metro. God was giving us the opportunity to honor the Chinese Church (which God has used to really challenge our ministry) by investing in the Chinese community here in the Twin Cities.

We got many awesome reports back from the outreach. People praying with owners, managers and workers and the Chinese people being very open and even excited to receive books in their native language. In that one night we gave out over a hundred copies of the Heavenly Man (about half in English and the other half in Chinese). If you haven't read the book you can call our office and get a copy for \$15 or go online and get it at www.asiaharvest.org. If you read one book this year ... read this book. It will WRECK YOU for the Kingdom of God.

I hope you have been blessed by these reports from the front lines of Gospel month. It helps bring understanding for what the Apostle John meant when he said, "if everything that Jesus did was written down the entire world couldn't contain the books." These stories are only a fraction of what God did as it doesn't even include what God did through the other 80-90 men who participated in Gospel month.

Now that Gospel month is over it doesn't mean that we should stop sharing the Gospel. God is trying to bring us into a LIFESTYLE of witnessing everywhere we go. I have had several awesome opportunities to share the Gospel this month. God is doing things everywhere we are listening and willing to obey.

Moving forward we want to challenge you personally to commit to going out at least once per month with Piercing Hearts Streetlife Outreach on Thursday nights starting at 5:45p at Redeeming Love Church. This world is passing away but we have a feeling that God wants a Gospel month mind set to become part of normal Christianity here in the Twin Cities.

If you are a pastor or ministry leader we want to encourage you to challenge your fellowship to enter into a lifestyle of evangelism by taking the Gospel month challenge. We are here to help you mobilize. Please contact Ed Johnson at 763.390.8900 or e-mail at ed@trinityworks.org.

**TO WIN MEN TO
ACCEPTANCE OF
JESUS CHRIST AS
SAVIOR AND LORD
IS THE ONLY
REASON CHRISTIANS
ARE LEFT IN THIS
WORLD.**

R.A. TORREY



MOBILIZE

GOSPEL CHALLENGE FOR INDIVIDUALS

If you have been stirred while reading this report then we know you are called to be a messenger of the Gospel. We want to help you enter a ministry to the lost in your community. There are a couple ways you can get started.

PRAYER AND FASTING

Believe it or not, all evangelism starts with prayer and fasting. These disciplines help us submit our flesh to the Spirit of God within us and prepare us for bringing the Gospel to others. We would encourage you to participate in our 24/7 prayer wall where you can sign up for a **one hour prayer watch** each week focused on releasing the Kingdom of God throughout the Twin Cities. In-addition, we would like to challenge you to enter a lifestyle of fasting at least one day a week. It often

helps to be fasting with others. Please contact Ben Fischer at 763.390.8900 or e-mail ben@trinityworks.org to get on the either the 24/7 prayer wall or the fasting schedule. We also encourage you to listen to these teachings on the power and necessity of prayer and fasting.

WITNESS

There are lots of reasons we don't share our faith but mostly it's fear of man and fear of persecution. God is so faithful to give you grace to overcome these fears but the only way to do it is to actually go out and witness. We have outreaches going on every week where you can join with seasoned street evangelists to go out and share the Gospel. You won't be expected to witness the first time you go out so try it and see how faithful God is to move on hearts and we obey the command to share the Gospel with everyone. Please call 763.390.8900 and ask to speak with a staff evangelist to get plugged into an outreach.

TRAINING

The Holy Spirit is our primary teacher in doing the work of evangelism but He loves to use people to share and impart things that He has taught them. We recommend you read the book **Called to Greatness** by Ron Hutchcraft and also listen to the teaching evangelism 101 online. In addition, we will be holding **messenger boot camps** which are an eight week intensive training on living a lifestyle of intimacy with God

and evangelism. Please contact Dana at 763.390.8900 or e-mail dana@trinityworks.org to sign up for the next available messenger boot camp

GIVING

We thank God for increasing your heart for evangelism and missions. We want to strongly encourage you to invest your resources into front line ministries that are doing the work of evangelism. If you would like to make a one-time or monthly gift to Trinity Works in support of our mission to raise up messengers of the Gospel and to reach the lost you can make checks payable to Trinity Works at:

7207 Forestview Lane North

Maple Grove, MN 55369

or donate online now at www.trinityworks.org.

GOSPEL CHALLENGE FOR LOCAL CHURCHES

If you are a local church leader and would like to seek God to begin or increase a culture of evangelism in your fellowship we are looking to partner with you. Here are some ways we can come alongside to encourage and release God's burning heart for the lost.

LEVEL 1: INTRO TO OUTREACH

We have several church-wide outreaches we can conduct using various evangelism power tools. In this level of partnership we can come and encourage the believers with testimonies about God moving on people and hand out CD based evangelism tools then pray that the Lord will show each person who to give the CD to. Often this is a great place to start with congregations that have not been exposed to much direct evangelism. It doesn't require any formal training and releases the Gospel in every direction from your fellowship.

Often we will establish a media table in the gathering area to provide individuals who are stirred by the Lord to do more and we provide additional CD tools for them to distribute. We have found that these outreaches are most effective when we bring a Gospel or evangelism centered message

as part of the service where we are launching the outreach. Please call to determine availability for church-wide outreaches. For examples of CD based outreaches you can check out www.firstaidforyoursoul.com and www.reallove.org.

We can also pray with your leadership team about seeking God together for a unique outreach that we would work on in conjunction with your local church.

LEVEL 2: MESSENGER MOBILIZATION

The second level of partnership is to conduct a **messenger boot camp**. This is an eight week intensive training in fostering a lifestyle of intimacy with God and evangelism. We would like to have at least 30-40 people participate in this boot camp to make it effective so often for smaller congregations we will partner with 3-4 churches to establish this training.

Messenger boot camp training includes teaching on intimacy with God, hearing God, holiness and consecration, praying for the lost, witnessing, and various forms of Spirit-led outreach. Participants in the **messenger boot camp** will be encouraged to participate in outreach throughout.

The boot camp is best launched in conjunction with bringing the Word of God on the Gospel or evangelism during a regular service time. This is a unique opportunity to raise up and develop those who have the gift of evangelism and to

release others to be messengers. We want to raise up and release people who will regularly share their faith with those around them.

LEVEL 3: ESTABLISH A LOCAL CHURCH MISSIONS BASE

The third level of partnership is to plant something we call a **local church firebase**. After bringing the Word of God on the Gospel and evangelism we would launch a **messenger boot camp** (eight week intensive). During that boot camp we would be asking God to raise up at least 8-12 people who would be willing to commit to a lifestyle of evangelism for **at least one year**

This lifestyle would include coming together for prayer, fasting and worship at least once per week (or once per month) to do outreach. During this year we would assign a staff evangelist to help lead these weekly or monthly outreaches and during that year we would be actively raising up someone from your own congregation to take over and lead this firebase (worship and evangelism) so that it would grow and continue indefinitely. We would continue to provide support for your missions base leader and you would have an active local evangelism team that could continue to cast vision and disciple others in a lifestyle of intimacy and evangelism.

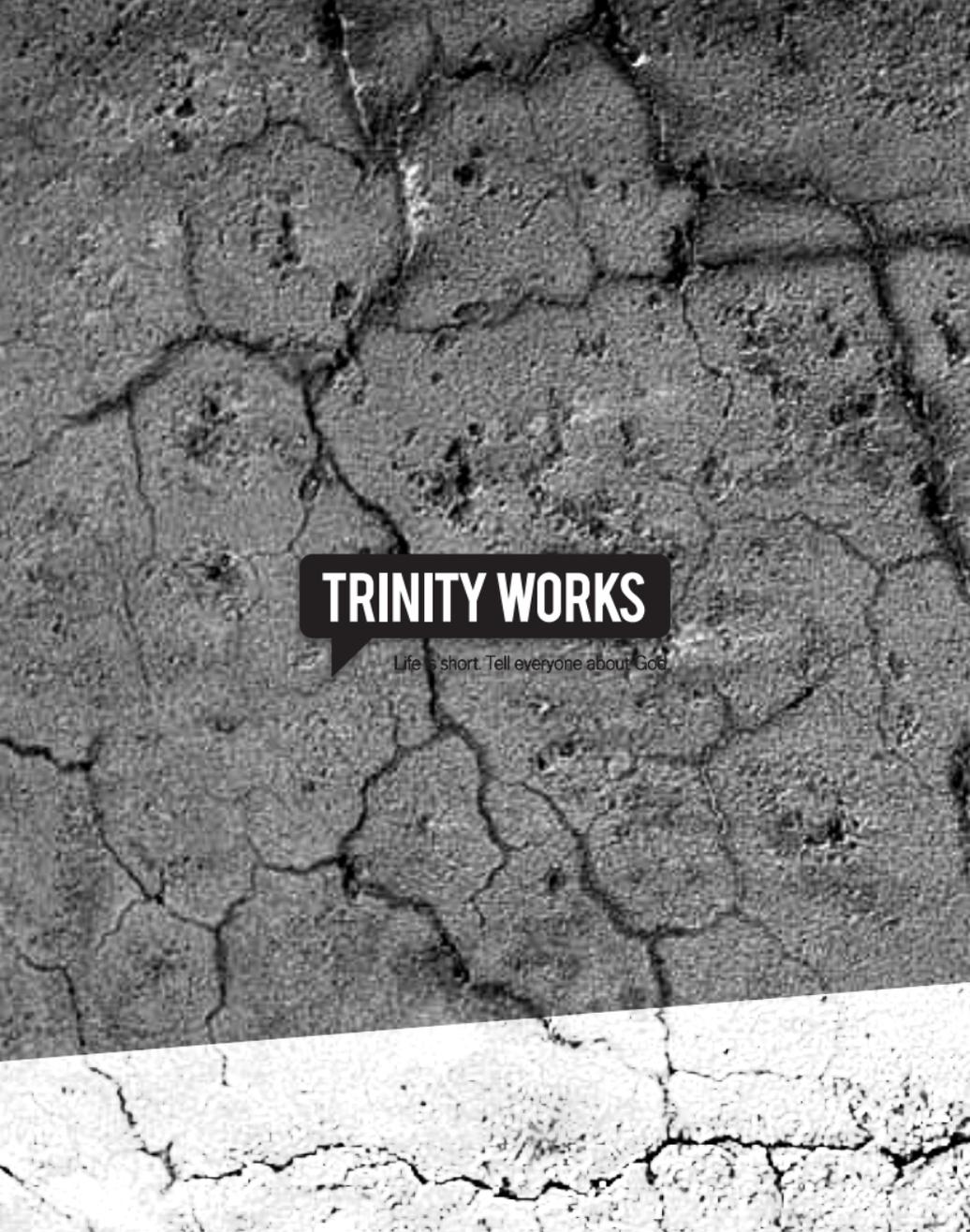
OTHER IDEAS

If you get other direction from Holy Spirit about how to partner we are open to you bringing them to us. We know that our God is radically creative and wants to unite all the gifts within the body of Christ for His purposes.

If you are interested in partnering with us, please contact Ed Johnson at 763.390.8900 or e-mail ed@trinityworks.org.

**IF YOUR FAMILY,
NEIGHBORS,
AND COWORKERS
DON'T KNOW YOU
ARE A FOLLOWER
OF JESUS CHRIST
THEN IT'S QUITE
LIKELY THAT YOU
ARE NOT ONE.**

ANONYMOUS



TRINITY WORKS

Life is short. Tell everyone about God.