

Matthew 7:25: *And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.*



Despite cold, wind-blown rain, an outreach goes on at Brown and West Main streets.

THE FATHER'S HEART
Rochester's Mobile Soup Kitchen For Christ

Isaiah 6:8: *Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"*

UPDATE FROM PASTOR RUSS AND ANNE LORIA

The Father's Heart: established April 30, 2011



Pray to remain focused on Jesus

Happy New Year! As we start a new year at The Father's Heart ministry, we look back on 2017 and see the Lord's blessing upon His ministry.

This past year the Lord provided a

brand-new parking lot donated by a generous company, and we see new siding and a front porch roof on the headquarters on Lake Avenue, which we were able to complete due to your generous donations.

And also by the time you read this letter the new floor for the kitchen and bath will have been put in, Lord willing, along with a revamp to the kitchen, provided by an anonymous donor.

THIS PAST year we have been blessed to see many on the streets come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. We have seen miracles. We think of the man who couldn't hear, but after prayer he removed his hearing aids and could suddenly hear clearly.

We have seen many seeds planted. We think of a little Muslim girl who

was so excited that we provided her with an Arabic/English Bible because she wanted to give it to her religion teacher who, as she said, "teaches me all about Islam."

WE THINK about how the Lord has provided so much food, clothing, toiletries, monetary donations, etc. that we are able to see countless families walk away with their physical needs met for the week and sometimes even beyond.

We think of the many that just were at their end, whether it be addiction, poverty, loss of a loved one, or just hopeless, that we have been able to pray for and show them the one true hope, the one answer to all their problems, Jesus.

AS WE start this new year we ask
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that you join us in prayer for the ministry.

PRAY THAT we continue to keep Christ at the center of it all. Pray for the right vehicle to replace the bus (it is getting a little rusty), pray that the Lord would bless all those who donate to the ministry, pray that the Holy Spirit would rain down upon the people of Rochester and surrounding areas and that they would come to know Jesus as their Savior.

Pray that our local churches would be focused on the word of God and remain Christ-centered with no compromise. Pray for the saints of Christ to be busy doing His business. Pray that we would all be lights in this world. Pray for the safety and protection of the ministry and all who serve. Pray that above all we glorify the one true God, Jesus.

PRAY, PRAY, pray. Let this year be a year that we pray without ceasing.

1 Thessalonians 5:14-25: "Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the faint-hearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

"DO NOT quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who will also do it. Brethren, pray for us."

Love In Christ,
Pastor Russ and Anne Loria



The new, donated parking lot.

The Father's Heart

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

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

The Father's Heart
678 Lake Avenue
Rochester, NY 14613
(585) 647-6746

Mailing address:
The Father's Heart ROC
P.O. Box 1134
Webster, NY 14580

On the Web:
thefathersheartroc.org

On your mobile device:
m.thefathersheartroc.org

On Facebook:
The Fathers Heart ROC

On Twitter:
FathersHeartROC

Extended Ministries of The Father's Heart
By Frank and Diane Rivaldo

Remember God's gift and share our faith

We are approaching the end of another wonderful year of ministry. The Lord has truly blessed us with much to be grateful for. We saw many people touched by the love of Christ.

THE THANKSGIVING outreach at the Pines of Perinton went really well, and many were blessed by the wonderful meal, and the message given by Pastor Dan. It was one of the largest turnouts we've seen. It was such a blessing to see everyone participating in worship.

A Muslim family that has been coming was at both the Thanksgiving outreach and our Christmas outreach. They seemed very interested in the gospel message and prayed with Anne. She is trying to get them a Bible in their own language.

IT'S ENCOURAGING to see the Lord working among the Muslim population, and we are looking forward to reaching more of them with the gospel in the coming year. The Pines has a great deal of Muslim people and we are excited to see what the Lord will do. Our Christmas outreach didn't have as many people but the gospel was still shared, and were sure the Lord brought those who were ready to hear it.

We believe that by being faithful to the Lord, whether we have a few or many, He will bless the outreach.

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Pastor Russ preaches the word at Pinnacle Place while some residents follow along in their Bibles.

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We want to thank all those who have helped, whether it's helping with the cooking, or setting up tables and chairs, or serving food, or praying for The Father's Heart and all the outreaches. Together we are doing what the Lord has commanded us to do: sharing the good news.

AS WE observe this holy time of year, let us remember what a great gift we have all received from God, the gift of eternal life through JESUS CHRIST. HE was born to die for our

sins and HIS death and resurrection have guaranteed us a place in heaven with HIM forever. No gift on earth can compare with that.

WHAT BETTER time of year is there to share our faith with those who have no hope? That's a gift that we can give others and it's a gift they will want to keep.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

WE HOPE everyone had a blessed Christmas, and will have a very healthy and happy new year.

Extended Ministries conducts outreaches from spring to fall on the second Thursday of the month at Northside Park in East Rochester and year-round on the third Thursday of the month at Pinnacle Place apartments in Rochester and on the third Saturday of the month at The Pines of Perinton apartments. To volunteer, contact Frank and Diane Rivaldo at frivaldo@outlook.com

God Speaks Through the City

Part 24: Matthew 22:37-40

By a servant in Christ

We should give to all as God gave to us

Call this an unusual story since I (the writer) was not present when it took place. Instead, it was told to me as a gift this Christmas season by loving brethren.

THE GIFT, my favorite gift this Christmas, was not purchased from Amazon, but by the blood of the Lamb with His amazing grace.

It was Friday night, three days before Christmas at North Clinton Avenue. Although cold, the warmth of Jesus abounded. There were Christmas gifts for the needy, food for the hungry, and the gospel for all.

UNFORTUNATELY, sometimes neighborhood people feel entitled and take disproportionate amounts of food, clothing, or groceries. As servants we need to be "strict" with what is provided to be fair to all.

Since striking a righteous balance of fairness, order, and grace is not fallen man's strength, we need to rely on knowing God through Jesus. "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him" (John 14:7). Our righteousness is His gift to us and our heartfelt giving is a reflection of His glory.

DURING THAT cold evening, a sister at the outreach connected

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



Through AmazonSmile, The Father's Heart receives a donation from Amazon of 0.5 percent of your purchase price, at no cost to you. To sign up, go to smile.amazon.com on your computer or mobile device. On your first visit, you will be asked to select a charity. Enter "Fathers Heart Ministry Roc Inc" in the box that says "Or pick your own charitable organization." You'll be directed to the Amazon website for shopping as usual.

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with a sad young man, "Juan." He had just lost his job, had no money, and could not provide for his family. This loving father wished to give Christmas gifts to his children but could not.

HE WAS sincere, open, and "straight up" without a "woe is me" demeanor. Juan was grateful for the groceries, hot meal, and allotted gifts. He wanted nothing for himself — only for his children.

As the sister ministered to Juan, it became clear to her and a brother that God was "on the move," as the popular song states. Juan shared that he had been unable to give his daughter a present for her birthday but praised God for a surprise birthday party at his brother's house.

He was passionate about getting a job: "Doesn't matter what job. Cleaning toilets, anything." As he shared, he broke down and wept. God had forged a connection with the two servants; they also wept.

THE HOLY Spirit then led my sister to suggest something counter to protocol: "Take whatever gifts you can. Bless your children this Christmas as He has blessed us." We can surmise what was going on in Juan's head: "Is this really happening? How did I get drawn to this place on



The gospel is preached at Clinton and Oakman three days before Christmas.

this cold night?" The answer became clear as his thoughts moved from his head to his heart.

AFTER HEARTFELT tears of thankfulness, submission, praise, and love, my brother turned to prayer and Jesus provided them tears of hope. As fully God, Jesus had brought Juan to Clinton Avenue on that frigid evening. "I and My Father are one" (John 10:30). As His only begotten Son, He became flesh 2,000 years ago and fully experienced human emotion. The Bible's shortest verse uses only two words to describe Jesus' love and emotion for us:

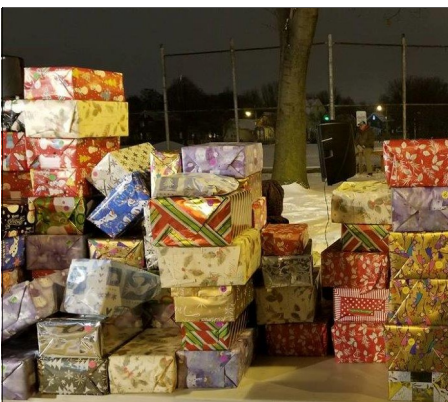
"Jesus wept" (John 11:35).

Christmas reminds us to celebrate how God so loved the world that He gave us His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

YES, 'TIS the season to be jolly, but not through material gifts or redeemable gift cards. Juan reminded us that Christmas extends beyond loving our biological families as we shop for them or enjoy Christmas meals.

IT IS the love of Jesus that binds us all. It is His only begotten Son we proclaim this time of year. We give because He gave, and by His grace He gives us eternal life. He is our true redeemable gift for all seasons. The Father's Heart servants loved Juan on Clinton Avenue because He first loved us.

Matthew 22:37-40: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."



Gifts ready to be distributed.

Outreach needs

Clothing needs: Winter coats, hats, gloves and scarves.

Spiritual food: Bibles.

Donations can be dropped off at The Father's Heart headquarters, 678 Lake Avenue, Wednesday through Friday from 12 noon to 5:30 p.m. For information, call (585) 472-4331.