



Psalm 127:3: Children are a heritage from the LORD.



A child receives a donated Christmas gift at an outreach.

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

UPDATE FROM PASTOR RUSS AND ANNE LORIA

The Father's Heart: established April 30, 2011



Pray that the Lord continues to use us

We want to start by thanking everyone who came to our annual fundraiser in December or contributed in any way to it. It was a huge success and we raised \$25,000.

WITH THE \$18,000 from the 2017 fundraiser, we have a total of \$43,000 towards the purchase of the next vehicle for the ministry, since our bus is quite rusty. We praise the Lord that He provides for this ministry and we trust that He will continue to.

We ask that you join us in prayer for just the right vehicle. We are looking at step vans (**see artist's concepts on Page 2**) and we know that the Lord will direct us to the right one to continue to go out and spread the Gospel to those on the streets of Rochester.

We pray that you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We were blessed this past holiday season with so many donations.

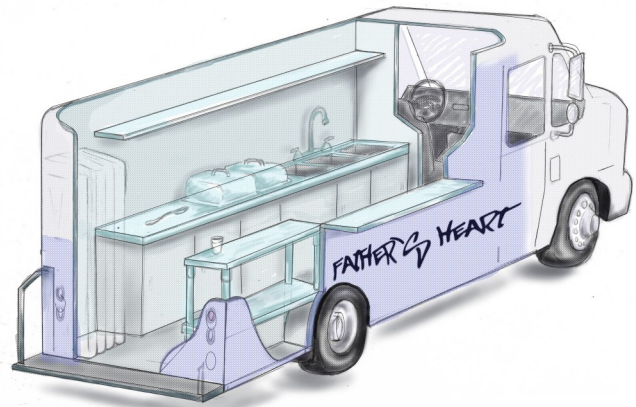
WE HAD a big Thanksgiving outreach and were able to give out

more than 60 turkeys, with all the fixings for the meal, to those in need. Then in December we had a big Christmas outreach and gave away more than 120 gifts and 60 hams.

BUT THE Lord wasn't done there. The Father's Heart then received donations of 500 toys and another 50 gifts that we distributed in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Check out our Facebook page at The Fathers Heart ROC to see all the photos and videos of those outreaches.

SO MANY people went through the lines with such thankful hearts that they received a gift. All the kids had big smiles on their faces and were so excited and happy to receive the gifts.

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These are artist's concepts of the type of vehicle The Father's Heart is considering for a new mobile soup kitchen to replace our aging, rusting bus. Anyone who knows of a suitable vehicle with low miles can call (585) 472-4070.

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We all know that the true gift of this season that we celebrate is the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. Through all your donations and prayers we were not only able to share physical gifts with the individuals but we were able to share the most precious gift of all time: Jesus.

AT ONE outreach just before Christmas we ran into a woman that we had ministered to in the past. She came up and gave us a big hug with tears running down her face and said, "I have been clean for eight days. I'm doing it on my own." We told her to look to Jesus for the strength and healing that she needs to continue to stay sober.

She then said, "You prayed with me and that is actually what led me to decide that I wanted to not do it anymore."

THIS LADY was dying slowly from her addiction to heroin. But God reached down and touched her at the outreach. We pray that she will start this New Year sober and will

come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ this year. We ask that her chains would truly be broken and that she would become a new creature in Christ. Please pray for her.

OUR PRAYER at The Father's Heart this new year is that the Lord would continue to use this ministry in a mighty way for His kingdom, that we would continue to be His hands and feet, that we would stand firm in His truth and not waiver, that we would proclaim the gospel of Jesus to the streets of Rochester and everywhere we go, that people would continue to be healed and touched out on the streets by the Holy Spirit, that we would continue to shine for Him, and that chains would be broken, hearts would be softened, and this would be the year of a great harvest.

Psalm 36:7-10: "How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings. They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your

house, and You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures. For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light. Oh, continue Your lovingkindness to those who know You, and Your righteousness to the upright in heart."

Yours in Christ,
Russ and Anne Loria



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!

Extended Ministries of The Father's Heart

By Frank and Diane Rivaldo

We find hope and joy in Jesus Christ alone

We are three days away from Christmas 2018 at the time of this writing. Usually we like to look back at the past year and all our accomplishments. But it is so much better to look back on all that the Lord has done in and through The Father's Heart ministry.

HE HAS brought so many to salvation through His son and continues to do so through the preaching of His word. The Father's plan was to send His Son to our world as a baby. Through a miraculous birth He was born and grew and walked among us.

He felt the same things we feel: sometimes loved and honored,



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Servants distribute groceries during an outreach before Thanksgiving.

sometimes misunderstood and despised. No matter the situation He always acted in love, especially to those who didn't accept that He is the Son of God.

WE SEE the people who are touched through the ministries of The Father's Heart, but we don't know who will accept the free gift of salvation. However, we remain faithful to the Lord in being His witnesses.

We know the difference that the Lord can make in a person's life, because He has made a difference in ours.

WE ALSO see the difference in some of those who come to The Pines of Perinton outreach; not that they are without problems, but that we see the hope they have in Christ.

As they worshipped the Lord singing Christmas songs I looked at some of the people's faces. Many were smiling and I couldn't help thinking that there is not only hope in the Lord, but joy as well.

WE THANK the Lord that He is working in their lives. In a world that offers no hope, we have hope in our God who gave us the greatest gift of all: His Son Jesus who gave His life as a ransom for many. How can we be anything but joyful, knowing that someday we will be in His presence in heaven where there

is no more pain, suffering or death?

WE LOOK forward to the new year and all that the Lord will do through The Father's Heart. We hope to see many more people come to Christ and accept this wonderful gift of salvation. Christmas is a wonderful time to receive gifts, but God offers His gift of redemption 365 days a year.

We appreciate the prayers for The Father's Heart and our outreaches. Please pray that God will bless and continue to use The Father's Heart to bring more people to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

We wish everyone a very blessed Christmas and a joyful New Year.

JOHN 3:16-17: "For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

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 30: Matthew 5:44

By a servant in Christ

The final score: Jesus always wins

This is the second part of an offering recalling a difficult interaction I had with "Alfonse," a very angry man at a Jefferson Avenue outreach. While yelling obscenities, he rebuked The Father's Heart ministry as being worthless, self-serving, and unwelcome in his neighborhood.

I **KNELT** by the passenger door of his car listening to his complaints and responding to many misstatements in his criticism. He cast me as a privileged man from the suburbs who was clueless of life in his neighborhood.

His accusation opened the door to a personal testimony of the first 22 years of my life. "Consider yourself

Outreach needs

Clothing: Through March our only clothing needs are winter outerwear: coats, hats, gloves, scarves, boots and heavy socks.

Spiritual food: Children's Bibles and Bible story books.

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.

fortunate," I said. "You have a car. My family did not..."

Alfonse was relentless. "Have you ever faced racism?" My answer was simple: "Yes." I asked Alfonse if he had ever been insulted and physically attacked by a teacher in a classroom as a 14-year-old, rolling on the floor, punching and wrestling with a teacher because I was an immigrant from a country he did not like? I shared details behind the story which I will skip. Alfonse became quiet.

TESTIMONIES CAN be powerful. They can shatter racial and "religious" stereotypes. I emphasized to Alfonse that our primary differences were not the color of our skins, where we have lived, or the presence of sin in our flesh. Fundamentally, I was just like him except for having JESUS in my life. I assured Alfonse that what Jesus provided me was available to him. Suddenly, the screaming session became a conversation.

As Alfonse began to speak with calm, he stretched out his arm and offered a fist bump which I gladly accepted. His fist bumps quickly evolved into non-stop handshakes. Every time we touched hands, we drew closer together. Although our hands touched, clearly it was Jesus who mediated our unlikely connection.

"**THOUGH I** walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life. You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes; with your right hand you save me" (Psalm 138:7).

I told Alfonse how much I appreciated our discussion and how Jesus was the Prince of Peace, the ultimate peacemaker. I realized the barrier between us was finally down when he said: "I also appreciate you." Our flesh and pride had been conquered by the love of Jesus. I

then said to Alfonse, "Love you" to which he responded, "Love you too."

AFTER MANY more fist bumps and handshakes, I waved goodbye, walked across the street, and grabbed a meal for him. Given his disdain for the ministry, I expected to get a "no thanks" in return. Surprisingly, Alfonse smiled and said, "Thank you very much." He was very complimentary of the food, so I shared that Pastor Russ, whom he had criticized, was the cook. His response was short and simple: "Yum..."

As I stood on the street by the driver's door, Alfonse got out of his car, walked toward me, and gave me a loving hug. I was surprised both by the gesture and his towering height. With the corner of my eye, I saw the neighborhood group who had been observing the interaction look at each other in disbelief.

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Servants distribute frozen turkeys to those in need.

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Hatred loses. Jesus wins.

Was the hour-long debate with Alfonse worth it? Could Jesus have been better served if I would have walked away and reached out to others? Those thoughts crossed my mind repeatedly. In retrospect, the armor of God and the love of Jesus were triumphant.

"THEREFORE, AS the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do" (Colossians 3:12-13).

Thank You Lord for sending Your only begotten Son to redeem me and to teach me how to love both my neighbors and enemies on Jefferson Avenue.

MATTHEW 5:44: "But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you."



At this time of year, many families are seeking warm winter clothing. Above left, a little girl watches as her family looks for clothes. Above right, a servant helps a woman in need at the clothing table.



Bags of frozen turkeys are piled high before distribution at an outreach.

**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