



**Deuteronomy 10:18:**  
*"He ... loves the stranger,  
 giving him food and  
 clothing."*



*A hot, nutritious meal  
 from the food truck.*

**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



## Some who serve are also hurting

As Christians we all have our hills and valleys, our moments of pure joy and anguish, peace and fear, belief and doubt, sickness and health.

Many times on ministry outreaches we are told of all these moments

in the lives of people with whom we come into contact. The servants of the Lord pray with them, cry out to the Lord with them, and share scripture with them to bring hope and give them the strength to go another day and to cling to the hem of the Savior Jesus.

**BUT WHAT** we want to touch upon now is those believers who come out and serve while they are going through those valleys, or fear and anxiety, anguish, mourning, or poor health. We want to share with all of you how much it means to the ministry and to the Lord that you choose to still come out and serve and minister to people despite the trials that you are going through.

One of our favorite verses is 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, which says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord

Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."

**JUST THIS** past month we had a brother in the Lord, Pastor Eddie Matos, come out and share with the ministry his testimony of how the Lord cured him from leukemia and how the Lord was with him throughout that trial and his suffering.

The doctors were not optimistic when Eddie went to the hospital in December, but Eddie and his wife Lucy believed and trusted in the Lord and called out to Him and knew that our God was more than able, and he walked out of that hos-

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pital cancer-free. Now he is using that trial wherever he goes to share the miracle that the Lord did in his life. He and Lucy want to shout from the rooftops that the Lord never left them and never forsook them, and He heard their cries and healed him.

**THROUGHOUT THE** years at The Father's Heart we have had servants who have been through many sicknesses, losses of loved ones, crippling fear and anxiety, past drug addictions, or current addictions of a loved one. Did the enemy want them to come out? No, the enemy wants us to stay home, to not extend ourselves to the lost and hurting.

But we want to say thank you for stepping out in faith. For being obedient to serve even when it cost you something. For coming even when you didn't feel like it. For pressing on and staying in the race that the Lord has you in.

**YOU MIGHT** ask, "Why do they do this? How can they do this?" Romans 8:18 says, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

You see, at The Father's Heart we are all about inhabiting the kingdom of Heaven. All the suffering and trials down here really will never compare to the joy, the pure joy, peace and the eternal kingdom that is waiting for us when we pass from this earth.

**GOD SEES** your faithfulness and so do we. Psalm 56:8-13 says, "You number my wanderings; put my tears into Your bottle; are they not in Your book? When I cry out to

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*At left, Pastor Eddie Matos delivers the gospel in Spanish while his wife Lucy, in the background, translates into English. At right, Eddie and another servant pray with a man attending the 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!

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*Donated kids' boots.*



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You, then my enemies will turn back; this I know, because God is for me. In God (I will praise His word), in the Lord (I will praise His word), in God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? Vows made to You are binding upon me, O God; I will render praises to You, for You have delivered my soul from death. Have You not kept my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?"

**WITH CHRIST** the trials may come, but we know the ending. Part of a song called "God, You're So Good" by Passion says, "And should this life bring suffering Lord, I will remember what Calvary has bought for me both now and forever."

Thank you, saints, for remembering that Christ paid the price so that we can have eternity with Him and that all that we do on this earth for Him is all that will really matter in the end. Let's keep pressing on to together towards that eternal prize, looking onto Jesus and always having that eternal perspective.

Love In Christ,  
Pastor Russ and Anne Loria

**Outreach needs**

**Clothing:** Men's and women's jeans.

**Hygiene:** Toothpaste and deodorant.

Donations can be dropped off at The Father's Heart headquarters, 678 Lake Avenue, Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, and Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information, call (585) 472-4331.



*A crowd gathers around the food bus on a cold night on Chili Avenue.*

## God Speaks Through the City

Part 37: Psalm 30  
By a servant in Christ

### A troubled man struggles to heal

**T**he Father's Heart ministry often encounters difficult situations that show how much the Lord is needed on this earth. I have prayed much about writing the story that follows given its tragic content. Still, as Hebrews 3:15 says, "Today, if you hear His voice, harden not your hearts."

Pastor Russ had just finished his

sermon on North Clinton Avenue when I noticed a man standing next to me weeping. I asked "Kenneth" if he would like prayer and he said, "Yes, I just walked over three miles to be here for food and for God...the list of things I need prayer for is endless..."

**KENNETH MOVED** away a bit from me a bit as if to gain composure, but proceeded to share his troubles.

"My three brothers died recently, two of them in the last three months. They either OD'd or were killed in drug-related deals. My dear brother was just shot in the head by a gang member right in front of me. The shooter then threatened me, 'This is what's going to happen to you if you don't cooperate...'

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*The grocery line stretches down the block at Emerson and Fulton.*

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"My fourth brother is deathly ill and I'm the only one left to help my mom. She's my everything... A loving woman, an amputee in a wheelchair with cancer. She needs constant medical care, but her help is unreliable and a struggle. And, look at me... can't drive, been homeless and on drugs forever, WHAT GOOD AM I??" Kenneth broke out in tears.

**AS I** prayed with him, a loving brother saw what was going on and asked if he could join us. We emphasized to Kenneth that we cared for him but most importantly, how much Jesus loves him.

Things calmed down a bit as we walked him through the food line, providing encouragement and sharing what the ministry is about. Ken-

neth knew that we cared for him but most importantly, how much Jesus loves him.

**THINGS CALMED** down a bit as we walked him through the food line, providing encouragement and sharing what the ministry was about. Kenneth felt blessed by the experience and asked how he could participate given he did not drive.

My brother and I told him "If that is truly in your heart, there will be a way." Given how late it was, the long walk back to where he was being given shelter, and the fact we were in the center of "Heroin Alley" on Clinton Avenue, I offered to drive Kenneth back after we were done.

**WHEN WE** got to his housing shelter, Kenneth was hospitable and asked me up to his room to continue discussion. He shared his troubled past and how being in a coma for four months had negatively affected his life. I spent time sharing Jesus' love for him and how we all need Jesus as Savior.

Politely, Kenneth told me that the time was not "right." There seemed to be more to the story.

**DURING THE** next few weeks my brother and I drove Kenneth to a number of outreaches. It was difficult getting ahold of him since he did not have a phone and we needed to leave messages with security at the shelter.

Making things worse, in just a matter of two weeks, he was sent to the hospital twice, one time for depression and suicidal thoughts. My brother and I prayed and prayed for him to have a "Romans 10:9 moment":

**"...IF YOU** confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

The Lord also put in our hearts to



*This lady proclaimed her love for Jesus during an outreach at Pinnacle Place apartments.*

print Psalm 30, frame it, and give it to Kenneth for encouragement:

**"O LORD,** You brought my soul up from the grave; You have kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit" (Psalm 30:3).

Kenneth was growing spiritually, and I invited him to join my brother and me at church. He looked down

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*Pastor Russ preaches the word of the Lord at West Main and Brown.*

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saying, "You don't want me there. I have done bad things..."

**WE ALL** have, I explained. "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8).

Kenneth stayed quiet and eventually said, "You don't understand... I am a convicted murderer."

**IT WAS** then my turn to be quiet. During the awkward moment, Kenneth explained: "Years ago, someone broke into my mother's house to rob her. She fought back but the thief stabbed her many times. She was in critical condition but miraculously survived.

"When she came to, she told me I knew the thief and gave me his name. I did not call the police, took matters into my own hands, found the guy, and killed him. Did nine years in prison. See what I mean? Nobody is going to allow a murderer in church..."

**WHEN KENNETH** described himself as a murderer, a number of thoughts crossed my mind: Moses killed an Egyptian; David lusted for Bathsheba and assigned Uriah to a deadly battle so he would die; Paul

approved Stephen's stoning and persecuted Christians. Proverbs 28 paints two pictures:

"He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy... A man burdened with bloodshed will flee into a pit; let no one help him" (Proverbs 28:13,17).

Will Kenneth forsake his sin, or will he flee into a pit? To be continued in the newsletter's May-June issue.



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

Thank you!

## Psalm 30

I will extol You, O Lord, for You have lifted me up, and have not let my foes rejoice over me.

O Lord my God, I cried out to You, and You healed me.

O Lord, You brought my soul up from the grave; You have kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit.

Sing praise to the Lord, you saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.

For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

Now in my prosperity I said, "I shall never be moved."

Lord, by Your favor You have made my mountain stand strong; You hid Your face, and I was troubled.

I cried out to You, O Lord; and to the Lord I made supplication:

"What profit is there in my blood, when I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise You? Will it declare Your truth?"

"Hear, O Lord, and have mercy on me; Lord, be my helper!"

You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, to the end that my glory may sing praise to You and not be silent.

O Lord my God, I will give thanks to You forever.