



*Bread and clothes are laid out on a cold, snowy day.*

*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



## The Lord is good ALL THE TIME!

Psalm 27:13-14 says, "I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say on the Lord!" Let's be honest; in ministry there

are times where we become weary, where we get discouraged and we ask the Lord, "Is it all worth it? Where is the fruit?"

**BUT GOD** is always faithful to bring encouragement when we need it the most.

During an outreach on Lyell Avenue a women approached some of the volunteers and testified that we had prayed with her the last time we saw her, and now she has an apartment, a place to lay her head.

Other people have stated that since they have come to the ministry and received prayer that the Lord has provided them a job.

**THE LORD** is so faithful to hear the prayers of His children and to show that He is the provider.

Another time Anne and the women who volunteer with Redeeming Love (See Page 2) were out with the

minivan. They had just pulled away from a couple who were sleeping in a tent in the middle of January, wanting to see their kids and have their kids back with them, and wanting to go into a detox program together. But no program would take them as a couple.

**THEY WERE** crying because they were so sad and the man kept repeating, "This drug is straight from the devil, straight from the devil."

But through all their tears and the women praying they wouldn't go into separate detox programs and get the help they needed.

**BUT AS** the Redeeming Love van pulled away and went down another street, they came upon a woman walking with a walker. She lit up in a smile and said, "You know I was hit by a car and broke my pelvic bone,

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but I am 14 days sober and have a place to live where you have to stay sober! I guess God had to do this to get me sober."

**FOR THE** women to go from such a dark, sad place where they felt hopeless with the couple, to the woman who was crying tears of joy brought such encouragement.

One other moving testimony was from a man we ran into at North Clinton and Oakman a few months back. He walked up to the volunteers and thanked us for sharing the word of God through an outreach he attended at Andrews Terrace apartments.

**HE SAID,** "I got on my feet through the ministry. I was suicidal, had no food, my spirit was broken and someone in my building at Andrews Terrace told me to come down and get food. Because I went out, I am now back on my feet, have groceries and the essentials and mostly my spirit back and I have been sober for five months."

Thank you, Jesus!

**THESE ARE** just a touch of the testimonies that the Lord is faithful to show us. The Lord is good, ALL THE TIME.

Love in Christ,  
Pastor Russ and Anne Loria



*The sign says it all.*

## Redeeming Love

By Anne Loria



*Redeeming Love is a branch of The Father's Heart ministry that focuses on addicted and/or exploited women on the streets of Rochester.*

## Pray for chains to be broken

**E**very Monday and Wednesday when we hit the streets with the Redeeming Love van, we load up toiletry bags, a lunch for the women, and a beverage. We even gave out hot soup and cocoa some days the past few months.

Every bag has a scripture card in it. We pray over it and ask that the word of God would penetrate the heart of the woman who receives that bag.

**WE ALSO** give out new underwear and socks, gloves and hats. But along with all these items we give out freshly laundered clean clothes. This story comes from doing that.

One day as we were out on the streets we pulled up to a woman. It was cold so we handed her a sweater. We asked her what we could pray for her, and as we prayed she said something that broke all our hearts: "This sweater smells like home, it smells like home, it smells like home."

**AS SHE** repeated that she sniffed the sweater again. The women

volunteers looked at each other and tears formed in our eyes. I couldn't help but wonder how long it had been for her that she smelled that smell: the smell of a home.

I couldn't get it out of my mind. It made me think of how much drugs have a stronghold on so many of these women that we minister to.

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### The Father's Heart

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

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

**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

**Email:**  
[contact@thefathersheartroc.org](mailto:contact@thefathersheartroc.org)

**The Kids Corner Ministry:**  
[kidscorner@thefathersheartroc.org](mailto:kidscorner@thefathersheartroc.org)

**Music Ministry:**  
[musicministry@thefathersheartroc.org](mailto:musicministry@thefathersheartroc.org)

**On the Web:**  
[thefathersheartroc.org](http://thefathersheartroc.org)

**On Facebook:**  
[The Fathers Heart ROC](https://www.facebook.com/TheFathersHeartROC)

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

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

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As I went home that night and threw my daily load of wash in the washing machine and then pulled the clothes out of the dryer, I thought to myself that I get to have that smell every night.

**I GET** to lay in my warm bed in a home with heat and open the fridge to decide what I will eat that night. Cuddle up on my chair and watch a TV show.

I thought of the ladies on the streets who don't have that because drugs hold them in chains.

**IT MADE** me feel hopeless for a bit. I questioned in my head, and still do some days, "Lord, many of these women have kids that they pray for and miss so dearly, many repeat time after time that they are tired, that they are freezing, that they are hungry, that they are scared. But as soon as the words come out of the volunteers' mouths, 'Do you want us to get you into treatment?' they say, 'Not today.' "

We need many miracles to happen in the lives of those we encounter on the streets. We want



*Fresh groceries are always popular at The Father's Heart outreaches.*

to see them transformed so they despise drugs, but desire to have shelter, food, clothing, and their kids back more than any drug.

**WE NEED** to see them come to Jesus, the Savior of the world. How do these strongholds and chains break? By prayer and fasting.

We ask that you remember to pray for us when we are out on the streets on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. In Luke 4:18 Jesus says, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed..."

**PLEASE JOIN** us in praying, coming boldly to His throne. We already have seen Him move and break chains in some of these women, and a few are clean for almost a year. They have given their lives to Jesus and He has provided for them shelter, food, and above all freedom in Him and eternal life.

**LET'S SEE** Him move mountains so these women see that they can be His daughter and abide under the shelter of His wings.

Love,  
Anne Loria

## God Speaks Through the City

Part 60: Hebrews 13:1-3

By a servant in Christ

## Don't let fear stifle the gospel

**L**ocation, location, location" is a familiar phrase used to reflect the desirability of neighborhoods.

"Good" locations are often associated with home value, scenic views, quality of schools, low crime rates, prosperity, and other related attributes. On the other side of the spectrum, "bad" locations are associated with factors such as low economic status of residents, proximity to the inner city, high crime rates, drug activity, and homelessness.

**MORE OFTEN** than not, The Father's Heart ministry focuses on the so-called "bad" locations where His word, love, mercy, and grace are badly needed. The story that follows sheds light on how The Lord does not catalogue locations as being good or bad, but how ALL locations can be a mission field for His glory.

After the word was shared at an outreach, I approached people in the

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## Outreach needs

**Clothing:** Small deodorant, new underwear and socks for men and women. We will start collecting summer clothing in April.

For newly purchased items, please consider making the purchase through Amazon Wishlist. See the Amazon Wishlist box on Page 4. Or, 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.



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street to offer prayer. While doing so, I noticed a gentleman, "Baron," waving his index finger, requesting me to approach him.

**SHORTLY AFTER** we began a conversation, he aggressively criticized our faith and "audacity" to spread what he called false information, stating: "How can you believe in a "good" God who does not allow you to have fun, and that condemns you for doing drugs, getting drunk, stealing, fighting, or lusting after women?"

### Amazon shoppers have a new way to donate

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

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

**Amazon has ended its AmazonSmile program, which benefitted the ministry. Many thanks to those who used AmazonSmile to donate to the ministry. We ask that you prayerfully consider donating through Amazon Wishlist.**



*Servants fill bags with various food items.*

**AS I** tried to share the gospel with him, he raised his voice, so I suggested we move away from the ministry to continue our discussion. Baron agreed, but things got worse as his level of criticism escalated. He questioned how we could believe in an "invisible" God and ignore the science of evolution, the abundance of water in the seas and skies, concluding by saying that "if" there was a God, God would be a woman.

When I asked him why he thought God was a woman, he answered: "Y'all believe that your invisible God is the Creator. Well, I was created by my mother, and she is a woman. I'll take her over your invisible God anytime!"

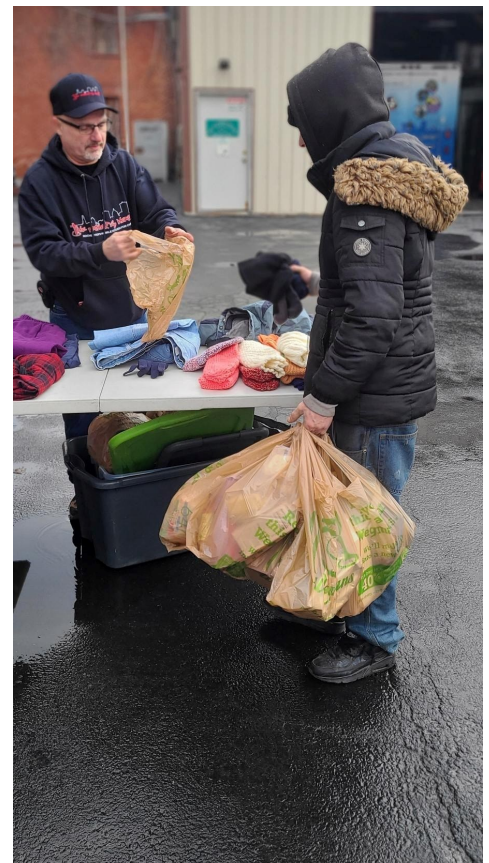
**GIVEN THE** chaos, I considered walking away, but James 1:2-4 came to mind: "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience."

As I shared how our Father created heaven, earth, seas, skies, and all living things that are in them, Baron became increasingly frustrated, looked at me eye-to-eye as if trying to intimidate me, and walked away.

Sadly, memories of my experience with Baron were on my mind during our next outreach at that location.

**WHILE STANDING** on the sidewalk exactly where Baron and I had the difficult discussion, I noticed an elderly lady about half a block away moving slowly with a walker.

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*Warm winter clothes are a must.*

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Since she was carrying bags, I approached her and offered help. She smiled saying, "I know things aren't easy, but The Lord has blessed me in many ways. Thank you!" I then started a conversation with "Anna" and accompanied her to the outreach, concerned about her lack of stability and risk of falling. It was a blessing to talk with Anna, in sharp contrast to my previous experience at that exact location.

**AFTER ANNA** arrived at the line to get groceries, I stood with a group of street people listening to a beautiful testimony being shared by a young servant. About 10 feet away from me was a lady, "Candace," who with conviction proclaimed: "Praise the Lord!", "Hallelujah!", "Glory be to God!"

After the young servant's testimony, I approached Candace and suggested she get in line to get free food and a hot meal.

**SHE WAS** thankful for The Father's Heart but preferred that others would be blessed with the food. She proceeded to share her testimony, how she was now retired after working in a Christian ministry

for more than 30 years, emphasizing how thankful she was for God's gift of salvation and for her family.

**I MENTIONED** how I had been blessed at the outreach, while pointing to Anna. "Meeting that elderly lady with the walker was a gift from God... her faith overcomes hardships of her age and physical condition..."

Candace then flashed a big smile saying, "SHE IS MY MOTHER!!" She shared how her 93-year-old mother had led her to the Lord and how in spite of her financial situation, she regularly buys and donates items to people living in poverty.

**AS JESUS** said of the poor widow who put two mites into the treasury, "...Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had..." (Mark 12:43-44).

Negative experiences at difficult locations can at times subliminally cause ministry servants to be weary and cautious about interacting with street people. Precaution and readiness for conflict serve a purpose,

but typecasting neighborhoods based on negative personal experiences or "location, location, location" can lead to weakness and failure to lovingly share the gospel with troubled souls.

**THANK YOU, LORD,** for the gift of meeting Anna and Candace. My continued prayers that Baron sees the Light of the world in His creation.

Hebrews 13: 1-3: "Let brotherly love continue. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels. Remember the prisoners as if chained with them — those who are mistreated — since you yourselves are in the body also."



*The gospel, prayer, hot food, groceries, and clothes are offered at every outreach.*

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