## January-February 2025 Volume 15 Issue 1



**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."



A servant's warm smile helps overcome a cold morning at the Christmas outreach.

**UPDATE FROM PASTOR RUSS AND ANNE LORIA** 

The Father's Heart: established April 30, 2011



## The Lord provides even if we worry

ne of our favorite verses is Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths...." Then in verses 9-10 it goes on to say, "Honor

the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine."

**AS WE** start this new year 2025, we can't help to look back on 2024 and all the Lord provided. We want to give Him the glory due to Him for His provisions.

We thought our Thanksgiving and Christmas outreaches would be a little different this year. At first, we worried that if we admitted our concern we wouldn't have enough items to give away.

**BUT WHAT** does the Lord do? He provides; He provides even more than we can imagine. He provided exactly what we needed.

For example, at first we had no turkeys donated after Thanksgiving to give out for Christmas. We were a little panicked, but then the Lord provided 120 whole chickens, 30 turkeys, and 96 hams from various people and groups!!!!

WE STARTED knowing that we were getting 50 bags of side dishes when we needed 250. And what happened? The Lord provided 117 bags from The Charles Finney School, 83 bags from Calvary Chapel Academy, 25 food boxes from RRT Rochester, 100 food boxes from another donor, more than 80 bags from Mendon Meadows Market Place, and several via radio station WZXV.

We gave out over 350 kids' gifts, 150 women's gifts, and 60 men's gifts, plus 30 gifts and Bibles to the kids at our Kids Club at Edgerton Community Center. All came from the Lord's provision and the Lord putting it on the hearts of many people to donate.

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At left, Calvary Chapel Academy students supplied and helped pack Christmas food bags. Above, the food line for the Thanksgiving outreach is nearly ready for drivers.

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At our fundraiser this past fall the Lord provided more than ever before. Throughout the year we received a whole pallet of winter coats and tons of socks, and He provided so much more.

**WE KNOW** He provides because what we receive, we turn around and give out in the name of Jesus. That is our number one thing, to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to those in our city of Rochester, New York.

Because of that we believe the barn is always full if not being refilled in just the right time. Why do we doubt that He will provide? It says in Philippians 4:19, "And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

**HE DOES** supply, He knows the needs of the people, and He knows that by providing the needs through His servants at The Father's Heart, He will get the glory.

Countless times we have heard on our outreaches, "I didn't know where I was going to get food for today," or "I am so hungry," or "How did you only have one of these and it is my size?"

JESUS KNOWS those in need and He meets them and shows them His love for them through meeting the most practical need: food and clothing.

In 2025 we know that we can trust Him to continue providing and guiding as long as we continue to give Him glory, to lift up His name, and to tell people about the One who came and gave it all. He gave His life on the cross so that those who call upon the name of Jesus will be saved.

WE PRAY that sharing only some of the ways the Lord provided this past year — as there are too many to list — encourages you to know that He will do the same for you. Our God is the Great Provider and owns cattle on a thousand hills.

We pray that in this New Year the Lord would supply your needs, increase your faith, remove any fears or anxieties, and continue to hear your prayers, and that unanswered prayers would be answered, that our lost friends and family would come to know Jesus as their Savior, and that most of all you keep pressing on, looking to Jesus as the author and finisher of your faith.

**ABOVE ALL,** let's keep an eternal perspective more than ever before in 2025.

Love In Christ,
Pastor Russ and Anne Loria

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

## **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 the Lord to move mightily

As I sit in our office on Lake Avenue, I am watching people come here to get a cup of soup from the "Soup Pastor," as many of the individuals on the streets call my husband now.

WHEN YOU read this article the Christmas season will be past, and a New Year will have begun. 2025. At Redeeming Love, we will have passed out all the Christmas gifts to the women, praying that they truly saw the love of Jesus through each gift.

It is freezing today, as it was for the past few outreaches with the women. We go out to them rain or shine. I must admit, though, that when the weather is bad it's the hardest time to go out on the streets.

IT IS so heartbreaking to pull up to a woman or a man when it is pouring out and they are standing on the corner soaking wet from head to toe, shivering, shaking from the cold, and yet they stay out there.

They stay, trapped in this night-



Servants pray with a man at an outreach on Cleveland Street.

mare of addiction. They are bound in chains to a substance not even the size of a pinhead.

**FROM OUR** office window, I watch a man wheeling himself up to the back door to try to get a cup of soup to stay warm. His leg is so infected from the drug they call "Tranq." He barely lives to the next day, but he stays. He stays.

The verse that comes to mind is Ephesians 6:12 that says, "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."

WE ARE in a battle, and for the women and men on the streets it is not only for their physical life, but their eternity is at stake. We need to fight, fight for them on our knees more than ever before.

They are someone's daughter, son, brother or sister, mom or dad. They were created in the image of the one true God. Jesus.

I AM asking this year that you pray, fervently pray that we see the chains broken, that the enemy

would flee from the streets of our city. That we would see like it says in Psalm 113:7-8, "He raises the poor out of the dust, And lifts the needy out of the ash heap, That He may seat him with princes — With the princes of His people."

**WE WANT** more than anything to see these women and men become daughters and sons of Jesus. Adopted into His family.

We want to see them out of the wheelchair and running up to us praising the King of Kings who set them free.

We want to see them clothed, smiling and saying, "I am of the redeemed."

**WE BELIEVE** that if we cry out to Him and seek Him more than ever before and intercede for those who can't, we will see a mighty move of the Lord.

Will you pray? Will you go boldly to His throne? Will you pray that they would no longer stay but rise up and call out to Jesus and become those new creatures in Christ?

**LET'S SEE** a move of God like never before in our lifetime here in Rochester, New York in 2025.

Love In Christ, Anne Loria

## Outreach needs

**Clothing:** Winter hats and gloves and new underwear for men and women.

For newly purchased items, please consider making the purchase through Amazon Wishlist. See the Amazon Wishlist box on Page 5. Or, donations can be dropped off at The Father's Heart headquarters, 678 Lake Avenue, Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 8 to 10 a.m. For information, call (585) 472-4331.

# God Speaks Through the City

Part 65: Romans 10:14-17 By a servant in Christ

## What some reject, others gladly accept

The Father's Heart ministry blesses people in the streets of Rochester with food three days a week while professing Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. During the holiday season, hundreds of turkeys and meals are provided to the needy, giving thanks for His salvation and His birth. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

**GIVEN THE** hundreds of meals the



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!



Pastor Russ preaches the word of God at an outreach on Cleveland Street.

ministry faithfully provides, it is not surprising that some people who attend our outreaches are only interested in free food, groceries, and clothing. Since we preach the gospel before giving out any food or goods, sometimes there are impatient individuals who view the teaching of the word of God as an annoyance and become distracted during the teaching.

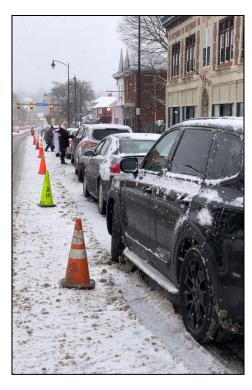
WHEN THIS happens, Pastor Russ requests attention from the crowd, asking them to listen to the gospel, the most important message that we sinners will hear in our lives. The story that follows reveals both sides of the equation and the blessing of those who seek Jesus first and above all else.

As Pastor Russ taught the good news during an outreach, three young men in line were talking, laughing, and being disrespectful. Pastor Russ pleaded that they pay attention to the word while not being disruptive. The three young men looked at each other, smirking and shrugging their shoulders disrespectfully.

I was standing nearby, so I ap-

proached them and using body language communicated to them to be quiet and listen to the powerful message being preached. They looked at each other and with derision laughed at me, signaling a thumbs up.

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Drivers lined up on Lake Avenue for the start of the Christmas outreach.

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Although they started whispering to each other and did not listen to the teaching, at least they became quiet, allowing others to hear the word. "He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God" (John 8:47).

JUST ONE week later at another outreach a servant brother and I were listening to Pastor Russ' powerful message when we noticed a parked car on the street with four gentlemen inside. Given what transpired the previous week, my first thought was that they were waiting for the message to end so they could go through the line. The servant brother and I decided to approach the car and minister to the four men.

As we approached the car, we noticed that one of the four men had his head sticking out the window while speaking to the other three in Spanish. As we got closer, I said hello to the gentleman, "Juan," and he put his hands up with a smile, placing his index finger on his mouth, shushing me to be quiet.

I NOTICED that the other three gentlemen in the car were listening to Juan while bowing their heads. Juan had been translating Pastor Russ' message to the other three, who did not speak English.

When Juan translated Pastor Russ asking people if they would accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior, the three listening gentlemen in the car raised their hands. As Pastor Russ prayed and Juan translated, the three gentlemen repeated the translated prayer of salvation in Spanish while emotionally weeping and nodding their heads.

WHEN DONE, Juan smiled at us, shook our hands and expressed his gratitude for the ministry. Having



Volunteers for the Christmas outreach after a job well done.

been blessed, Juan politely asked if they could get in line for food and groceries. Excitedly my servant brother and I said "YES!!"

AS I meditated on what had just transpired, the previous week's experience with the three young men who were only seeking material goods came to mind. Totally unexpectedly, we witnessed the exact opposite of what happened just a week before, even with the added challenge of a language barrier.

For the Lord there are no barriers; He shares His love and grace when totally unexpected. The three men who gave their lives to the Lord were diametrically the opposite of the previous week's three young men who rejected the gospel.

PRAYERS to the three young men who did not hear the word of God and did not wish to call on Him. May God bless the translator who brought glad tidings of good things to others and the three faithful men who heard the word of God and called on Him. "¡Que Dios los bendiga!" ("God bless you!")

Romans 10:14-17: "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!' But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, 'Lord, who has believed our report?' So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

## Amazon shoppers have a new way to donate

Are you interested in donating to The Father's Heart ministry? If so, we have a way you can get involved! For more details, please check out our Amazon Wishlist on the homepage of our website:

www.thefathersheartroc.org
Once there, click the "TFH
Amazon Wishlist" button and

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!