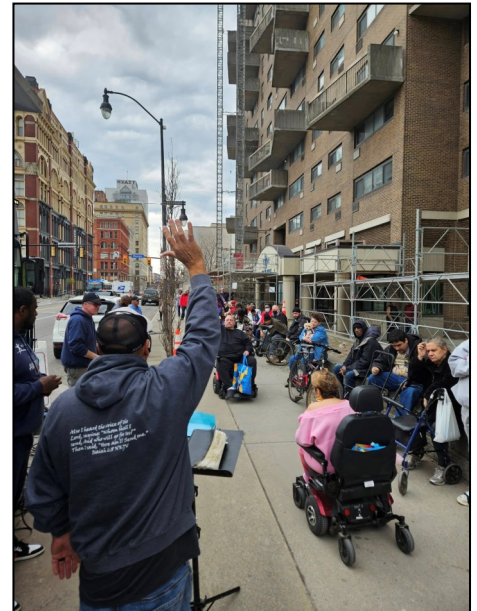




*Isaiah 6:8: Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I; send me."*



*Pastor Russ preaches the gospel at Andrews Terrace apartments.*

UPDATE FROM PASTOR RUSS AND ANNE LORIA

The Father's Heart: established April 30, 2011



## There's many ways to serve the ministry

After this long, cold winter it is great to have the weather changing and becoming nice again. So we want to give you an update on opportunities that will be coming up to serve at The Fathers Heart.

**STARTING MOST** likely in mid-May we will open the "Soup Shed." This will be an opportunity for you to serve from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at our headquarters at 678 Lake Avenue.

While volunteering at the shed you will be serving a hot meal, along with passing out clothing and snacks and praying and ministering to individuals one on one. This is an awesome way to be His hands and feet and bring some hope and encouragement to those in need, and be the light to those in the dark.

**FROM JULY 16** through August 20 every Wednesday from 2 to 3 p.m. we will bring the food truck to Edgerton Community Center/Park to become the "Ice Cream Truck" for the kids in our community. It is here that you can serve ice cream, bring your youth group to



*Brothers in the Lord serve hot meals from the mobile kitchen.*

help the kids do a craft, act out a skit, or just play games in the park. Or you can come individually if you feel led to do a "Kids Bible Club" with the kids.

**DO YOU** have Wednesday mornings free? If you are a male and interested in helping at our headquarters distributing

***Continued on Page 2***



*A snow flurry didn't stop the grocery line at an outreach on Lyell Avenue.*

### **Continued from Page 1**

food to other ministries, please feel free to come on a Wednesday morning to our headquarters on Lake Avenue. The men start with a time of devotionals from 8:30 to 9 a.m. and then distribute food to ministries that come to headquarters. You will be done most of the time about 10:30 a.m.

**ALONG WITH** those opportunities we are always looking for groups to come out and serve with The Father's Heart mobile kitchen. We go out Thursday and Friday nights and Saturday during the day.

The Lord has also put on our hearts the need for prayer warriors while we are at our various outreaches. Prayer is so, so, so important. If you feel led to start up a time of prayer, whether it be at your church, or at your home or via Zoom, please contact us and let us know.

**IF YOU** feel led in any way to help in any of the areas listed please email us at [contact@thefathersheartroc.org](mailto:contact@thefathersheartroc.org) and share with us what area you would like to help.

The ministry house that was donated a few years ago now is up and running.

**WE USE** it to prep for the Redeeming Love ministry along with our prayer meetings and all other meetings. But we also started using it last year as a place where out-of-town missionaries and youth groups or church groups can stay and go out with The Father's Heart ministry and learn how to reach out in a small urban setting.

We have a few groups signed up to come this summer and fall but there is still room if you know a group wanting to get urban ministry experience. We can house up to 12 people at a time, so if interested please contact us.

**THE LORD** did a mighty work through every group that came in 2024 and we are excited to see what the Lord will do in 2025.

Russ started a new thing in March: He is going into the jails through Good News Jail Ministry on the fourth Saturday evening every month. Please keep this in prayer as he is now ministering to some men in jail who we have ministered to on the streets.

**IT IS** great to be able to sit with the men and really share the word and answer questions and pray for them. It isn't as rushed in the jail as it is on the streets. Pray that it continues to show these men that the Lord is with them wherever they go, and that He hasn't forgotten them and isn't giving up on them.

A verse that keeps coming to mind lately is Deuteronomy 30:19: "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live..."

**WEEK AFTER** week out on the streets, at the headquarters, in jail and with the Redeeming Love van we share with those we meet the hope that is in Christ. The volunteers pray with the individuals that they need to make a choice.

**THEY NEED** to choose whom they are going to serve. Are they going to serve their addiction, the things of this world? Or are they going to choose life, the freedom that is found in Christ, the greatest gift that was ever offered: eternal life in Christ?

Pray that they choose LIFE and that the Lord allows us to keep sharing to all those who come to choose LIFE.

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

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.*

## Her anguished cry revealed her need

As I sit here in my office, tears are welling up in my eyes while I think of a woman who was recently murdered on the streets of Rochester, New York. We met her in the beginning of the ministry of Redeeming Love.

**THERE WERE** times that she would run up to the van and smile and get prayer. Other times the van would pull up and she would be asleep on a porch, finally getting rest. We hadn't seen her in several months and some of the volunteers were wondering how she was doing or where she was.

But God knew where she was, and



*Two servants pray with a man.*



*Teens from Flower City Work Camp ministry pray over the toiletry packs they made up for Redeeming Love to distribute to women on Rochester's streets.*

led the van to her on the first Monday of March. He led and directed the van right to her.

**AS THE** van pulled up to her, the women volunteers offered her a bag of toiletries and a meal, which she took. But when we asked if she wanted prayer, she said "no."

But thank you, Jesus, one of the volunteers who was led by the Holy Spirit just started to pray for her out loud.

**NOW, MOST** of the time when a woman says she doesn't want prayer, we honor that and pray for them when we pull away. We also will put them on the prayer chain so they are being prayed for by many people.

But not this time. The volunteer opened her mouth and as the prayer was said this woman started to weep. She started to cry out, and it was a deep, gut-wrenching cry, and she cried out to God, "Lord I know this is You, I know this is You speaking to me."

**THE TIME** spent with the women pierced the heart of the volunteer praying for her and it broke her heart. As I sit here writing this it is less than two weeks since this happened, and the woman who was prayed for is gone from this earth.

God in His faithfulness brought us

to her, to remind her of His love for her and that He doesn't give up on us. 2 Peter 3:9 says, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is long-suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

**ON THAT** Monday we praised God that the volunteers were obedient

*Continued on Page 4*

## Outreach needs

**Clothing:** Small and medium new underwear for women, new underwear for men, and men's shorts and jeans.

**Hygiene:** Small deodorants and other toiletries that can be purchased on Amazon Wishlist (see below).

**Spiritual:** Kids' Bibles and large-print Bibles.

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.

*Continued from Page 3*

and were led to pray and show her the love of Jesus. You never know whether today will be your last or the last day of the person you are speaking with.

**I ENCOURAGE** you to be led and directed by Jesus. Make that a daily prayer: "Lord, You lead my steps this day; Lord, You show me who to speak to and what to say; Lord, give me Your eyes to see."

His eyes: That is how we want to see every woman who we come across; through His eyes.

I am here thanking the Lord and praying that the woman we prayed for remembered that prayer and the words that were spoken to her that day, and that at the end she accepted the greatest gift and is now free from her chains that held her in bondage for so long.

**OUR GOD** is faithful to hear the cries of the broken-hearted and I know He heard our cries along with hers that first Monday of March.

Love In Christ,  
Anne Loria



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!

## God Speaks Through the City

Part 67: Leviticus 19:34

By a servant in Christ

### We're not strangers if Christ is present

**T**he Father's Heart ministry often encounters street people from other countries who do not speak English. Although providing groceries, clothing, and meals is clear evidence of our love for them, language barriers can be a challenge, especially when servants offer prayer or share the gospel.

**GIVEN THE** large Hispanic population at our North Clinton Avenue outreach, a sister in the Lord does a phenomenal job translating as Pastor Russ preaches. The story that follows, however, takes place at our Lake Avenue headquarters, where a Hispanic lady and her two children were unable to understand Pastor Russ' message but were still fed with the word of God.

Before the message was shared, I went through the line welcoming people and offering prayer. When I started a conversation with a lady and her two children, there was a delay in response as she looked down and said, "I no speak English..."

**THIS PROVIDED** an opportunity to continue the conversation in Spanish with "Ofelia" and her children who also did not speak English. I proceeded to describe The Father's Heart ministry as they listened attentively.



*A family goes through the grocery line at a headquarters outreach.*

Since we were getting close to Pastor Russ' message, I went to the table holding clothing, tracts, and Bibles, and was blessed to find two children's books in Spanish about Jesus.

**I TOOK** the books to Ofelia's children (about 7 and 10 years old), asking them if they could read Spanish. As they browsed through the books, they became excited and responded "¡SI!", lifting them up over their heads exclaiming "¡GRACIAS!"

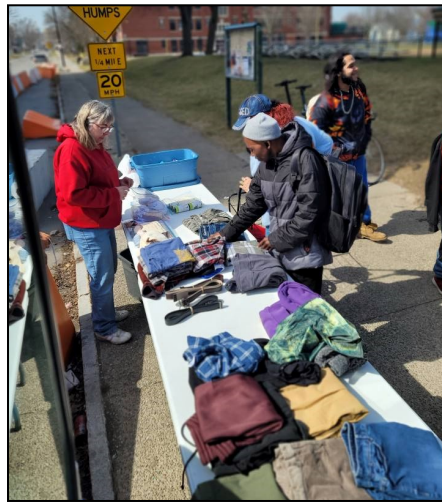
As Pastor Russ shared the gospel, I noticed Ofelia paying close attention, while her two children read the Jesus books page by page. Although they were not listening to the message, they were clearly engrossed in the books. The timing was perfect since they appeared to finish the books when Pastor Russ asked the crowd to raise their arms if they wanted to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior.

*Continued on Page 5*





Above, a woman receives a hot meal at Andrews Terrace. At right, the clothing table on North Clinton.



#### Continued from Page 4

Although Ofelia and her children did not raise their arms, I still approached them, figuring that they may not have understood what Pastor Russ stated.

**AS I** got close to Ofelia and her children, they all flashed a smile while the children lifted their books. I then asked Ofelia, "I noticed you were paying attention to the message; did you understand at least some of it?" Ofelia smiled while shaking her head, responding: "Did not understand one word..."

When I started to provide a summary of Pastor Russ' message emphasizing repentance and the acceptance of Jesus as Lord and Savior, Ofelia smiled and said: "I am an Evangelical, born-again Christian and have been blessed accepting Jesus as my Savior."

**I MENTIONED** to her that I was in awe watching her children being totally engaged reading the Jesus books, and how she must have been an example to them. She replied: "Yes, they are young children but even so, their faith in the Lord is deep. They have fully accepted Jesus as their Savior. Thank you so much for providing them those books. They love them!"

Clearly, Ofelia had played a key role bringing her children to Jesus. "But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:14-15).

**WE CONTINUED** our conversation as Ofelia and her children moved down the line toward the food and groceries. Ofelia shared that her major problem was not being able to attend church.

I asked her: "Is that because of transportation?" She responded, "Partly, but our main problem is that although we are trying to learn English, we can't understand the sermons at the local churches."

**I RESPONDED**, "Wait a minute... keep moving in the line and I will try to find a church for you that speaks Spanish..."

I went to the truck to find a list of churches that might do Spanish services, and Pastor Russ recommended a church which I underlined along with their address and contact information.

Ofelia was excited when I shared information about the church and said: "Although I live about a block from here, I will contact them and try to find a ride!" After getting her groceries and meals, she approached me and expressed her appreciation for The Father's Heart ministry.

**ONE NEVER** knows whom we shall encounter in the ministry. To help overcome language barriers, the ministry sometimes translates, while providing Bibles, videos, and books in many languages. Most importantly, regardless of language or place of origin, sharing the love of Jesus with those we encounter in the streets is The Father's Heart ministry's primary mission.

Leviticus 19:34: "The stranger who dwells among you shall be to you as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your 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](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!