

## **MIRACLES on the STREETS!**

*Powerful testimonies from the summer*

Lidia and I have conducted outreach in urban centers in and outside the US for 20 years now. In all of this time, we have never had a summer of such fruit and miracles. Prayers were answered this summer that we have prayed for *many, many years*. The lives of many people in the Bronx and Detroit were touched in profound ways. Literally hundreds of people had encounters with the love and truth of Christ!

*Our hearts have been overwhelmed by God's grace that He would allow us the privilege of lifting high the name of Jesus in these cities!* What an honor to bring His truth to the lost, hurting, wounded, and bound so that they can know His peace and salvation!

There are literally too many stories to put in one newsletter! I will share some snapshots of the Bronx here and of Detroit in the next newsletter. As you read, I know that you will rejoice over all that God have done!

**THE BRONX** - Present and former drug dealers informed me of the death of a young man we knew, stabbed in front of his 11-year-old son just one block from *The Harvest Center*. A rise in senseless violence has occurred in our community. Flash mobs of youth have been attacking innocent people, beating them mercilessly or stabbing them while recording the entire attack to post it on YouTube. The videos show the youth laughing and mocking as they carry out the attack. All of this is centered within three blocks of us.



When we are faced with situations like this, we see a few choices: a) Cut and run, b) Stay in the safe walls of our ministry center, or c) Go to the heart of the problem and confront it head on. **We chose Option C.**

We went into the housing projects where the violence, gangs and drugs have been centered. Amazingly, we used to have freedom to minister there but our contact died and new management enforced "separation of church and state." Our former contact told them before he died, "If they stop coming, the drugs and gangs will come back." He was right.

**We went in worshipping, praying by crying out with a loud voice to God in front of them, and then approaching them one-by-one.** We rejoiced as people opened their hearts to us! From drug dealers to grandmothers to children to the drug lord himself, everyone thanked us for coming. **After just a few days, drug dealers had given me their mobile phone numbers asking me to pray for them. They said, "We need you here! Please keep coming!"**



Then God began to do something amazing: The people we reached out to the first years in the Bronx began to come around. Some of these were the leaders in the "industry" in our community. We have loved, prayed for, and reached out to them since 1994! **In one week, eleven of them accepted Christ as their personal Savior!**

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**They are making the first steps to leave the pain and wounds of yesterday for a tomorrow filled with His grace and destiny!** One is reading the Bible and the *Left Behind* series, calling and texting about what he is reading. Another broke down and wept in our van. His girlfriend and children are now in church, bringing their friends and cousins to learn about making a new start in Jesus.

Present street dealers are responding to us. I have persisted in coming into their "territories." They greet me with joy and respect. Two young men cornered me one night: "Do you remember us?" I called out their names. "We need your prayers. Please, pray for us!"

As we departed the "den" of this activity one night at about 9:40 pm, God answered another prayer. I was able to sit with the man who is in charge of the "industry" in our community. I have known him since he was a street dealer in 1994. He is rarely alone, but this night he came outdoors on a cool evening to sit outside. I approached him, shook his hand and sat down.

God gave us a deep conversation. After a while, he looked at me and said, "I've tried getting jobs. Nothing has ever worked out for me. **I guess God just made me a street hustler and that's all I'm worth!**

"**You have believed a lie!**" I responded. "God made you a leader. That's why all these guys follow you! **Do you realize the positive influence you could have if you stop this madness and change!**" I did not leave until almost 10:30 pm, and in that time, *God spoke to his heart.*



I saw him after returning from Detroit. As I drove by the "den," I stopped the van about a half-block away. He had about 20 or more guys around him. With a hand gesture, he told them to wait. He walked to me, through his arms around me and hugged me. He came to the van to speak to Lidia, taking her hand and saying, "Hello mama." Our conversation was brief, only about 5 minutes, but in that time he said this to me: "**Tom, I want out!**" He hugged me twice more before he left and said, "I love you, Papi!" God has created an open door! *Pray for him!*



**God has answered so many prayers that we are literally in awe.** When we thought God had answered every prayer, He then brought two young adults back who were the first two children to attend our children's outreach in 1995. They are now in their 20's, hurting, both parents dead, with many wounds and disappointments in life. **They, too, opened their hearts to the Lord!**

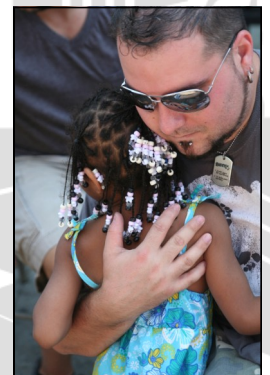
We cannot sit still when this kind of craziness is happening on the streets. **God has not given us an impotent faith, but one that can move mountains. We have seen them move this summer!** He has allowed us to see His powerful hand of protection and guidance many times. He has allowed us to see His healing and transformation in some of the darkest places in the world. God loves the lost, the wounded, and the cast out people in the Samaria of the South Bronx as much as He loves anyone. *And there is still power in His blood to save them!*

**"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it!" (John 1:5).**

**Jesus is a beautiful Savior! Thank you for being a part of changing these lives in the South Bronx!**

**See more pictures from the summer on our Facebook page!**

**NEXT MONTH: MIRACLES in DETROIT!**



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