

May 2011

# Urban Harvest Ministries

*Dr. Tom and Lidia Grassano, urban missionaries*



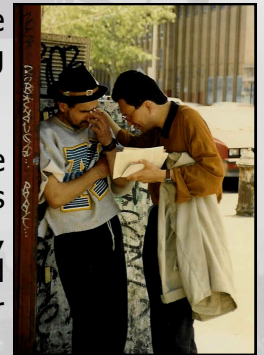
## *There is Hope!*

I share with you an all too familiar story that happened a couple months ago, a story that is heart-wrenching. It took place in a park on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. A friend and colleague of mine does frequent outreach there, providing food and clothing to those in real need and offering a way out. We have the privilege of serving with him. Some take advantage of the road to a new life. Some don't.

A woman walked up to get some soup. She was shivering uncontrollably in the cold. Her hands were swollen and red. She had no gloves or hat. She wore only a light jacket.

She politely asked for soup but received more: Gloves, a hat, a winter coat. She also received prayer and unconditional love. Her name was Grace. With a loving compelling, Grace was offered a way out. She declined.

My friend David went back the next week with a mission - to find Grace and once again lovingly offer her a new start. Sadly, that is not what took place. Grace was found dead. She was 35 years old, educated, divorced, with a 9-year-old son. Life, lies and pain brought her to homelessness, addiction, and too many brutally cold nights sleeping on the streets. Our prayer is that she cried out to God before her final breath.



The cities where we are called are filled with people in pain, anguish, turmoil, rejected, addicted, abused, feeling that no one cares. People who have paid the price of sin, who either have never heard or have rejected hope. We work these harvest fields to point them to Jesus - to share in love that *there is hope! There is healing! There can be a new beginning!*

My friend shared these words in a letter to me. I share them with you with his permission:



*"We trust God to live and move through us, so that those who are without Him will come to know Him who is True and receive all that He has for them in Christ! Christ sends people to us to answer the prayers He prays to release the captives, set the prisoner free, heal the brokenhearted, bring sight to the blind. To be there in crisis moments to point the way to Jesus."*

Only God knows how many people we will meet this summer who are at that crisis moment, who need healing, hope, grace and an outpouring of God's unconditional love, and need it *now*.

We ask you to pray that God will bless and prosper the work of our hands and supply in greater ways the needs of Urban Harvest as we passionately and compassionately labor in the harvest fields of cities. May many "Grace's" meet God's grace, hope, and transformational love before it's too late.

Thankful for your prayers and partnership in the harvest,

*Tom & Lidia Grassano*

**Urban  
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