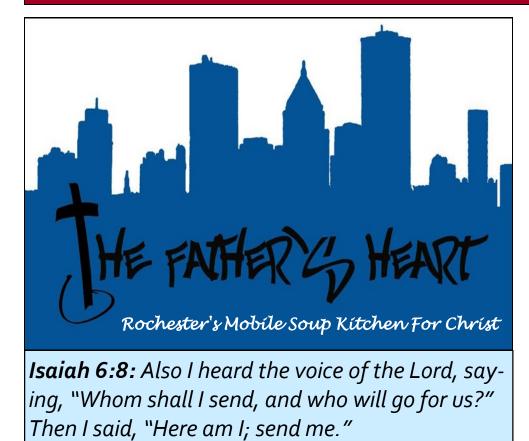
#### November-December 2023 Volume 13 Issue 6





A long line for groceries at Southeast Towers II and The Savannah.

#### UPDATE FROM PASTOR RUSS AND ANNE LORIA

The Father's Heart: established April 30, 2011



# The Lord's word pierces the dark

There is no greater thing than the word of God. It is sharper than any two-edged sword, it pierces through the darkness, it is truth and life, and it is living and powerful. Isaiah 55:11 says, "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."

**THE FATHER'S HEART** ministry goes out on the streets of Rochester on Thursday and Friday nights and Saturday during the day. We pass out groceries and offer hot meals, clothing, and prayer; but before any of that is given the word of Jesus Christ is preached.

Over the past few months as the message is preached we can't help but wonder who is hearing the word of God besides those standing in line for the hot meal and groceries.

AS WE LOOK up at the high-rises where we preach, we at times see people listening out their windows, and sometimes we even hear an amen from above as someone listens in agreement.



A brother in the Lord preaches the word of God at Thurston and Chili.

WE HAVE HAD people walk up saying that they heard the word from a couple of blocks away and knew we were there. At times some of the locations are close to restaurants where people are sitting outside and they are probably hearing the word.

At one location we even heard the word of God echoing off the buildings. As we were thinking about *Continued on Page 2* 



Praising God at Andrews Terrace apartments on Andrews Street.

#### Continued from Page 1

this, we prayed that the word of God was touching the lives of those who have a listening ear, those who need encouragement in these times, and those who have asked, "God if you are real, reveal Yourself to me."

**GOD IS SO** faithful. We were at a fundraising event for Flower City Chaplains recently. Russ is now a chaplain with them. At the mic was a Rochester police officer who shared how the Lord used the chaplains to minister to him when he needed it the most. I don't think there was a dry eye in the room.

After the event Anne and our friend went up to him and thanked

him for his service and said that we would be praying for him.

OUR FRIEND STATED to the officer what we do in the city and he said to Anne, "Hey, I was driving one night; I was trying to find a Bible-teaching church and I was asking the Lord for encouragement and direction and as I was driving with my window down I started to hear the word of God and decided to see where it was coming from and that is when I came upon the ministry at Andrews Terrace. As I got out of the car, I was offered a hot meal and the volunteers prayed for me and thanked me for my service. Don't give up, the word of God is being preached and I love what you all are doing; this so encouraged me."

thought, "Wow, Your word, Jesus, is truly reaching the highways and byways. People that we may never see are hearing your word in the city of Rochester."

Will you all pray that we continue to have an open door to share the word of God on the streets of Rochester? We pray that we all have boldness to share the word of God everywhere we go.

**PRAY THAT THOSE** who need to hear it the most have a listening ear. As the day comes closer to Christ's return, pray for the word of God to go forth more than ever before.

Thank you, Jesus for Your word. It is the Truth and the Life!!!!

Pastor Russ and Anne Loria

Love in Christ,

After he shared that with us, we

## **Bags of side dishes needed**

It's that time of year again!!! We are having our annual Thanksgiving and Christmas outreaches and we need your help with bags of side dishes for each outreach.

We ask that the side bags be individually packed in a reusable or sturdy bag. Items to put in the side bag all have to be non-perishable. The items can be canned vegetables, macaroni and cheese, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, a dessert, cranberries, sweet potatoes, or any other item that you would normally have for a side during the holiday dinners. Side bags can be dropped off for our November 18 Thanksgiving outreach at 678 Lake Avenue on:

Monday, November 13 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon,

Wednesday, November 15 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., and

**Thursday, November 16 and Friday, November 17** from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The side bags for the December 16 Christmas outreach can be dropped off at 678 Lake Avenue on:

Monday, December 11 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon,

Wednesday, December 13 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., and

**Thursday, December 14 and Friday, December 15** from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Thank you for all the donations of these side bags in the past and thank you in advance for this year's donations. We couldn't do this without you all!!

#### Page 3

### 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.

# God won't give up even when we fall

amentations 3:22-23 says, "Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness."

God is long-suffering, willing that none should perish.

One day we were out ministering to the women and we pulled up to a house where we go weekly to minister to women who hang out around it. A woman we'll call "Sue" came up to the van and just broke down; she couldn't believe that we were there.

AS SHE WAS crying she said, "I came to this house last night and I fell, I used (drugs), my mom is really bad and it just got too much for me to take care of her and I am so ashamed. It has been a year and I fell; my mom will be so disappointed in me. I can't believe you ladies are here today; you were literally here a



Prayer is rarely refused.

year ago when I was here and you prayed for me then."

We were able to share with her that she was only one step away with making it right with Jesus.

WE TOLD HER that He brought us to that house that day to show her that she is not forgotten but loved by Jesus; that He forgives, and that only He can be our strength and the Person we cling to in the storms of life.

We prayed for her to go home to her mom, to make things right, for Jesus to be her strength, and for her to call out to Jesus for forgiveness and salvation.

**GOD IS AWARE** when the sparrow falls from the tree and how much more He loves each and every person, and how aware is He of all the minute details of our lives. He showed His faithfulness to "Sue" that day, and that He has not forgotten her and is that ever-present help in time of trouble.

The Lord does things like this all the time to the women. We hear many say, "You showed up just in time," "I so needed a meal," "I so need prayer," "Now I can take a shower; I have the supplies." When we are out there Jesus is showing His love for each and every woman that we come into contact with through the salads, sandwiches, toiletries, clothes, prayers, and above all the word of God being spoken into each and every women's life.

**HE NEVER GIVES** up on them. By His grace, we never will either.

Love In Christ,

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!

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: <u>contact@thefathersheartroc.org</u>

The Kids Corner Ministry: <u>kidscorner@thefathersheartroc.org</u>

Music Ministry: <u>musicministry@thefathersheartroc.org</u>

#### **On the Web:**

thefathersheartroc.org

On Facebook: The Fathers Heart ROC

The Fathers Heart ROC

On Instagram: thefathersheartroc

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

#### Page 4

# **God Speaks Through the City** Part 58: John 3:16

By a servant in Christ

# For God so loved a young girl...

a servant of The Father's Heart, I have been blessed by how the ministry provides a beautiful path to serve the Lord. Often people and events we encounter in the streets bring to life both His peace and this world's tribulations. "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

THE STORY THAT follows is a testimony of how He gave His peace and love to a young girl.

Pastor Russ had just finished his message on Chili Avenue and peo-

## **Outreach needs**

Clothing: New socks and underwear, especially for women, and winter coats, hats, and gloves 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, and Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information, call (585) 472-4331.



Hot food on Chili Avenue.

ple were in line to get meals and groceries. As I walked the line offering prayer and fellowship, it started to drizzle and people sighed in frustration, some putting up their umbrellas.

WHILE COMFORTING people, I overheard the voice of a child say: "Isn't it a blessing that we heard the word of God and now we are going to get food?"

What...?? That stopped me dead in my tracks. I turned around and saw a young girl, about 10 years old, standing in the rain, smiling at her mother. I said hello to her and with a big smile she said hello back. I spoke to her mother, asked permission to talk with her daughter, and she said: "Yeah, "Olivia" likes to talk..." This led to a conversation that I will never forget.

THE RAIN subsided and Olivia began the conversation by thanking the ministry. I was dumbfounded

listening to her as she shared how much she loved Jesus. I complimented her mother on how she had instilled faith in Olivia. Her mother shook her head and smiled, saving, "It's what she loves, not really something I taught her ... "

Surprised, I asked Olivia how she came to her faith, and she responded: "The Bible is my favorite book. I love to memorize verses..."

OLIVIA THEN TOLD me what she likes to do: share the gospel with her friends, go to school, and do computer art. I asked her what kind of art she creates using computers, and she said, "Vertical spirals. They are the best!"

I then asked Olivia what made vertical spirals so special. Her answer caught me by surprise: "You see, spirals start out from a tiny circle or a point and as they move upward, they grow. Spirals have no limit as they grow. They are like God, infi-

**Continued on Page 5** 



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!

#### Continued from Page 4

nite. The little spot at the bottom is like us, close to nothing, but through Jesus, God has given us a path to the top of the spiral..."

I WAS LEFT speechless. Her mother was right; Olivia likes to talk, especially about Jesus. I asked her if she would like to recite a Bible verse and she agreed. I asked her mother if I could take a video of Olivia reciting a Bible verse and she gave me permission to do it.

Olivia then said: "I know many

#### Amazon shoppers have a new way to donate

Are vou 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 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.



One of the grocery tables at Pinnacle Place apartments.

verses, but this one is my favorite." I prepared my cell phone to capture the video. When I gave her the go, she recited:

**"JOHN 3:16 '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.' And that is John 3:16."

After reciting the verse, Olivia raised her arm in exultation, praising God. That video will always be near and dear to my heart.

I TOLD OLIVIA and her mother to wait for me as I searched for Pastor Jeff of Petra Christian Fellowship and his wife Jamie. They came promptly, invited Olivia and her mother to their Sunday service, and shared the love of Jesus with them.

Olivia's mother was a bit reluctant but eventually she agreed to go to church after Olivia begged her. Olivia rejoiced! The following Sunday after service, Pastor Jeff texted me saying they came to church and as they were leaving, Olivia told him how much she loved the church and begged her mother to come back.

ALTHOUGH THEY did come back, sadly after a few weeks, they

stopped going to Petra. During their visits, Olivia was joyful at church, but her mother was not as much in the Spirit. I pray that the seed was planted, and they will return to church.

**GOD SPOKE** through a child in the city. I will never forget her.



The bread table on Chili Avenue.