

Daylight Again

“Life and ministry are a series of mountains, valleys and hills; some longer, some shorter; but with God it’s all the same. If it’s dark now, it will be daylight again. Darkness can come suddenly, and vanish as quickly as it came. And with it, all will bow at the precious name of the One Who died and rose again. It’s our testimony: Jesus is the King forever, commanding the blessing as we laugh at the night. Hooray, hooray; that is to say, it’s daylight again.”

As a songwriter I usually write the music before the lyrics. But this song came to me as I heard that our website had been hacked twice and destroyed by an Islamic extremist group, and that one of our Children’s Activity Trucks had burst into a fire and was completely destroyed (just two hundred yards of one of our ministry sites). Seems as though we have some opposition to this work we are doing in the inner-city. It has been said that a man shouldn’t be judged only by the quality of his friends but also by the quality of his enemies. The devil is a formidable foe but a defeated one nonetheless. He is our enemy but God is his Master and our King and is in complete control.

The total losses added up to about \$ 32,000.00 and that’s a lot of money for a ministry that operates under half a million dollars a year, but not for God. A man came to our Center a week later and wrote a check for roughly half of that amount and another friend is donating part of his labor time to restore the website. So we’ll just keep going, loving these kids and praying for people.



The Children’s Activity Center – Children’s Activity Truck, part of Walking Faith Ministry, is a non-profit faith based organization dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus Christ to children and their families in Houston’s crime and poverty ridden inner-city. We use a number of colorful fourteen foot storage trucks converted into a portable stages to bring weekly presentations of the gospel in skits, dramas, puppetry, and video right to the very doorstep of the children who so most desperately need it. Weekly visitations to the homes of attending children help us to share the life changing message of Jesus with the entire family and help the ministry to identify current needs both spiritual and physical that can be met in a timely fashion.

These Children need your help! We are in a life and death struggle to save them from the horrors of their world but we need YOUR help. You can never lose by giving!

**Remember our Randall’s Card #7971
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FROM THE **CHILDREN’S ACTIVITY CENTER**

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Church or Murder ?

After ten years in the inner-city I've learned that the formation of street crowds is almost always a negative sign. Last Friday afternoon was no exception as we pulled into Houston's Fifth Ward, en route to one of our Children's Activity Truck meetings.

We had just prayed and were taking one of our last turns into the housing projects where we minister, when we were confronted by a crowd of approximately one hundred people. They were in the middle of the street; all staring blankly in the same direction. Because of the expression on their faces I knew without anyone telling me that this was a murder scene. I've witnessed murders and have been around murders and I know of nothing that defeats communities more than this sin. It is ugly; it scares people and has a spiritual affect all of its own. You literally can feel it in the air. The fact is folks, our kids grow up in neighborhoods surrounded by murderers and would-be murderers. They are surrounded by a level of violence that can at any one moment explode and spill over into the lives of the entire community; leaving everyone, especially children, lost and disillusioned; searching for answers.

As it turns out, we were first on the scene as far as vehicles were concerned. The police and emergency vehicles were right behind us. We didn't stop, but instead made our way slowly through the crowd, hoping to get to our kids before they became a part of this mess. By the grace of God we got to our site (about one block away) just as the kids were getting home from school and learning the news: at four o'clock in the afternoon, a teenager had been shot ten times in the head, neck and back and was lying dead in the middle of the street. ***Deep down all of us, Tim, Jessica and I knew that this could be the most important time in these kids' lives. We knew this was God's perfect timing and protection for us and for them.*** If we had arrived but five minutes later our kids would have been on the streets staring at a dead kid in a pool of blood. Instead, they made a crowd around our truck in anticipation of hearing the Good News of Jesus and His love. Doesn't that just make you want to shout, "Praise the Lord it's time for church!"

We worked fast and we worked hard, getting set up as police and television helicopters circled directly overhead. Without any delay we began the service with praise songs, games and a powerful salvation message and prayer. You could tangibly sense the presence of the Holy Spirit as we shared Jesus and the Word of God. The kids were so totally tuned in to what God was saying and doing that they didn't even hear the sirens of emergency vehicles and the helicopters overhead. During that time a mom who was a neighbor of

the killer broke down and wept asking God to forgive him for what he had done. Tim was able to pray for her and comfort her. It turns out, the young man who had pulled the trigger was a student at Houston Community College; not a street thug.

What is all this about? Why did this happen? Well it begins with kids who grow up in an environment that has no one to share any hope or love with them. They are living in the dark with frustrations, fear and hopelessness. Similarly to if a man was living inside a dark smelly trash can with someone beating on the outside, while screaming and yelling at him. From there we have a world who cares more for the life and the broken leg of a race horse than it does for the lives of its own children. Then there are those who have truth about the love of God but refuse to share it because they are more interested in their own personal standings and what God will do for them rather than loving others more than themselves. Then comes the kid with a gun in his hand who believes the devil's lie that murder is an acceptable option to ending personal disputes and resolving anger. All of this is what leads to a murder, which shatters countless lives of family and friends of its participants and sends a shockwave of resentments and fear through the community; which in turn serves as fuel for the next murder. The Bible is right, "the wages of sin is death."

Now you can see that we are in a race with time. We must by all means get to these kids first, and often, before the world and the devil have a chance to destroy their young lives and minds. All lies these kids are told about themselves and about God must be destroyed by the truth and that truth is Jesus Christ Himself. It is our responsibility to share this truth with our children and it always will be.

It's up to us. What will it be, Church or Murder? If we don't act now, I believe this scene of crowds and dead bodies will spread throughout America (in intensity and impact). We can change this with the Word of God, prayer, love and godly involvement. Our city can be won for Christ; beginning with these kids.

At this very hour there are lives which are being lost that could have been just as easily saved if someone, who had really cared, intervened. That's why we thank God for this wonderful ministry that gives missionaries an opportunity to do just that. We have established an internship training school and will be welcoming six new workers this summer to join our growing staff, remember, more workers, more souls for the Lord. Will you pray for us and support us with your resources? We in turn will invest them directly into the kids, trucks and workers to make a major impact for kids lost behind enemy lines. God bless and thank you so much.

Pastor Scott Binkley

