

God's Peace

In John 14:27 Jesus promises us peace in him, *"Peace is what I leave with you; it is my own peace that I give you. I do not give it as the world does. Do not be worried and upset; do not be afraid."* One sure sign of the presence of God is peace. It is not the absence of conflict by force as the world gives but the abiding presence of God that radiates from men and women of faith in the midst of trouble.

Last week just two hours prior to one of our backpack give away meetings in one of the Sunnyside housing projects we visit a fatal shooting occurred, seems that a car load of young men sped around a corner in front of the housing project buildings firing a double pump shotgun. Instead of hitting the intended target of a rival gang member, an uninvolved teenage girl who just happened to be walking by was killed instead, getting hit in the chest at point blank range by the shotgun blast. The car left the scene before police arrived with the assailant's at large leaving the community in shock looking for answers to another senseless death of a young person claimed by the insanity of sin.

Strangely enough this shooting occurred in almost the same exact location we normally park our truck (the top photo on the right is from that location) and hold our meetings with the kids. When we pulled up we were largely unaware of what had just taken place. There were police cars and officers on foot but that is somewhat normal to these areas. But one thing was very different and could be felt almost immediately and that was fear, fear that could be seen on the faces and in the eyes of the people particularly in the adult women and young moms.

When I opened the door of our truck I was immediately approached by a young woman who said, "Can I have my son's backpack now I don't want to stay out here they will be coming back and I don't want to get shot." I asked her, "Who is coming back?" She replied, "The killers don't you know what happened? They are somewhere around here and they will be back." Looking up I saw all the people in the distance and the police packing up to leave. It began to dawn on me the full impact of what was going on. At this point I could sense the fear myself and the temptation to pack up and leave the area also. But fear must be resisted so I replied to her, "Don't be afraid God sent us here tonight to be a blessing to this community and we are going to do just that. Jesus is with us and he is also with you so just bring your children out here and sit on the tarp. The Lord is with us and this is going to be a wonderful evening." You know when I said that I could feel that spirit of fear leave me and it departed from the woman. The Bible says in 2 Timothy 1:7, *"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind."*

It was from that point on, after speaking words of faith and believing in the object of that faith which is no other than Jesus Christ himself that people from all around began to come into the meeting place near the truck that two hours earlier had been the sight of a horrific murder. Over a hundred fifty kids and adults gathered around to hear the Gospel and to be blessed with the wonderful provisions of God in the midst of a troubled and fearful world. **There is nothing more powerful than the peace of God that was purchased for us through the precious blood of Jesus Christ.** What a wonderful transformation. What a victory over the power of darkness! Which is the power of fear and death rendered powerless through the selfless love of our risen Savior.

You know we don't know what's going on in the neighborhoods we minister in or what's going on behind closed doors when we knock on them to visit the children on a weekly basis. There have been many times I have walked right in on drug deals in progress. I have stood in living rooms what they were cutting up dope and loading joints called blunts out of empty cigar wrappers or drinking codeine or a hundred other things. You know I don't like it, matter of fact, I hate it and have never gotten used to it never will. But I know there are kids and adults in these homes that need me most of all they need Jesus.

While this is not for everyone somehow it is for me and some others who have laid down their lives for the service of the King. Fear is not something I have struggled with by the grace of God. I had a woman tell me one day, "We know you are from God you could get killed out here but you keep coming." To tell you the truth I never have really thought about it that much. **I believe the spirit of fear is terrified by those who have no fear. In a sense the devil is afraid of peace and does not comprehend love at all. In a weird way he is afraid of himself.** Once his bluff is called and the lie is exposed the fear dissipates, peace rules and people begin to think clearly, rationally and with Godly boldness.

Never allow fear to separate you from the blessings God has in store for you. Our God is a God of marvelous provision and blessing. He loves to bless his children. I would like to leave you with this scripture and one of my favorites; it's helped me get through many trials. *"And God's peace, which is far beyond human understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus."* Philipians 4:7.

Pastor Scott

Add us as a friend on FACEBOOK at:

Mission America (Somethin'goodinthehood)



"The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death, to them Light has dawned."

~Matthew 4:16



Back to School

Thanks to your help and faithful contributions in prayers and finances we were able to give about 2500 backpacks to Houston inner-city kids as well as several hundred to kids in Mexico and it seems like the need is growing.

Something to take into consideration is this year, if the Shell Oil Company hadn't given roughly \$ 400,000.00 to the City of Houston's Park Program, the parks in the inner-city would simply have been closed. Sadly, I believe governmental programs will undoubtedly fail and these kids will be literally left with nothing in their neighborhoods to do all summer and **that's when evil can easily take hold in the lives of restless, bored and lonely young people.**

It is our goal next summer 2012 to sponsor eighteen Vacation Bible Schools citywide and to bus kids of all ages to summer camp at Gospel Lakes Camp extending that effort from our normal school year trips. These kids need Jesus we all know that and it will take the entire Body of Christ working together to achieve God's purposes. Right now we are searching for new buses and drivers to accommodate this increase along with the finances to run them.

I believe we can avoid the civil unrest and rioting experienced in London, England this past summer here in America, but it is going to take prayer and action and it is going to have to happen now. Thank you for your support and prayers.



Intern Positions Available

If you would like to be trained in one of America's most challenging inner-city ministries then this is the opportunity for you. This is a dynamic way to get street level experience in using the gifts God has given you to reach the lost, the hurting, the homeless and fatherless of America's fourth largest City. We have 5 and 12 month terms available. Housing is provided. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact Pastor Scott in our office.

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 portable stages to bring weekly presentations of the gospel in skits, dramas, puppetry, and video, right to the very doorstep of the children who most desperately need it. Weekly visitations to the homes of attending children helps us share the life changing message of Jesus with the entire family. Donations matter and are tax deductible. Donations can be made through our website via Pay Pal.

Senior Pastor: Scott Binkley Administrative Director: Gilda Duncan

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"We believe that every child has the right to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to see that Gospel demonstrated in the life of at least one, sincere, born-again believer."

The GOOD REPORT

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY CENTER

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