

"The Least of These"

The following testimonies from some of those who went on the mission trip to New York City April 10-13 illustrate how the Lord's compassion moved on the team to feed the hungry and give drinks to the thirsty. Thank you for praying and helping send the team out with provision and the love of God.

Debbie Cline

(Matthew 25:34-40)

(34) *"Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

(35) *'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in:*

(36) *'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'*

(37) *"Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?*

(38) *'When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?*

(39) *'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'*

(40) *"And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' "* (Matthew 25:34-40).

In New York City we were given the opportunity to feed the hungry, give drinks to the thirsty, help strangers, give clothes to those in need, pray for the sick in spirit, and assist those who had just gotten out of prison. The Lord said that as much as we have done this to the least of our brothers, we do it unto Him. We went to NYC to help the poor and to encourage those that keep this work going full time; however, in the process, we learned that by helping these people we are accessing the portal to God's heart. It is an honor to me to be able to touch my Father's heart through our outreach to our fellow man. The Lord tells us how He wants us to treat those in need, and He makes promises to those that follow what He says: *"...the glory of the Lord shall be thy reward"* (Isaiah 58:8 KJV).

Jeff Jacobson

The defining moment for me was meeting and helping the Puerto Rican who had a Jewish name, Jyme. Pastor Mason, Stephen and I found him lying on heated concrete in the rain. We offered him supplies and we told him that we were believers. He asked us, "You say you are believers, but in who do you believe?" We told him that we believed in Jesus. He responded with "I believe in Jesus too." He told us that it was obviously the Lord who had sent us because no one else could have found him. Pastor Mason and I went and purchased two giant heroes and hot chocolate so he would have something to eat. When we prepared to leave, Pastor Mason offered his hand in a handshake. Jyme looked at his hand and said, "No, you don't want to touch my dirty hand." But Pastor Mason persisted. Jyme took his hand and shook it. Then I offered my hand and he took it in both of his hands and, with tears in his eyes, kissed the top of my hand.

We had the treat of seeing him the next day sitting against a wall. He looked like a new man. He was happy and he looked hopeful. *(Continued on P. 3)*

Robbie Jacobson

As most of you know, I went on a mission trip to NYC with Pastor Mason and others from our church. What you probably don't know is how changed I was after the trip. Before I went to NYC, in my naiveté, I had kind of thought that the homeless were all sour, old, scraggly men and women. I was very wrong. The people we talked to and gave food and clothes to, were the nicest, kindest, most loving people I had met. Granted, you had the ones strung out on drugs or drunk that couldn't be as gracious, but they still thanked us.

One man I can't get out of my thoughts is Marlin, a Latino homeless man that had some bad things happen to him. When we first met him, he was naturally wary, not scared, but wary. The next time we met him he greeted us like old friends and in a way we were. But the most amazing thing happened on the third night. After we had gotten directions from him to a place where there were more homeless, he came and got us and brought our whole entourage into his "group" area, then he got the people in the area to come and get food and other things from us. After we had handed out as much as we could, Pastor Mason asked Marlin if he would hand out the rest of the stuff we brought to people who needed it. A homeless person never, or I should say almost never, takes any kind of responsibility, but Marlin said he would. So not only did he lead almost strangers into his area, respect and befriend us, he also took responsibility for the food—now that is a person with a pastor's heart. May God bless and protect him.

Rich Whipple

First, I wish to thank God for this mission opportunity, and thank everyone who prayed for our mission team. The highlight for me was working at The Father's Heart on Saturday morning. I was blessed to greet people as they finished their breakfast and lined up to leave. One gentleman I spoke with was happy to get a great breakfast, but was also visibly irritated about our not caring what he endures outside the doors of the church. After having walked the streets and through the park the previous two evenings seeking out the homeless people to give them socks and other things they needed, I apologized for our mission team that we didn't find him. I assured him that we do care and offered to pray with him, but he said "no." I then asked if I could pray for him after he left; he said that would be OK. I told Pastor Mason about him and we prayed together that he would know that God cares about him even when he's outside the church door.

Stephen Kornhaus

While working with the New York City Relief Bus on Friday, I met a Hispanic gentleman who ended up taking most of the extra bread we had. He was drunk and spoke very little English. As a result, I needed Delia to translate for me. Unfortunately, I said one of the few Spanish phrases I knew (Dios de bendiga, "God bless you") so he made the assumption that I could speak Spanish. Delia had left and he wouldn't stop trying to talk to me. It was almost a chore leaving him, but we had just finished and were gathering in the bus for pizza. I finally managed to get away from him and entered the bus. It was there that I learned a little more about him from Delia. He had been an evangelist for eleven years back when he wasn't on the streets. When I heard that, I was quite shocked. There I was, in

(*Cont'd P. 4*)

"The Least of These"

The following testimonies from some of those who went on the mission trip to New York City April 10-13 illustrate how the Lord's compassion moved on the team to feed the hungry and give drinks to the thirsty. Thank you for praying and helping send the team out with provision and the love of God.

Debbie Cline

(Matthew 25:34-40)

(34) *"Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

(35) 'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in:

(36) 'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

(37) "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?

(38) 'When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?

(39) 'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

(40) "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' " (Matthew 25:34-40).

In New York City we were given the opportunity to feed the hungry, give drinks to the thirsty, help strangers, give clothes to those in need, pray for the sick in spirit, and assist those who had just gotten out of prison. The Lord said that as much as we have done this to the least of our brothers, we do it unto Him. We went to NYC to help the poor and to encourage those that keep this work going full time; however, in the process, we learned that by helping these people we are accessing the portal to God's heart. It is an honor to me to be able to touch my Father's heart through our outreach to our fellow man. The Lord tells us how He wants us to treat those in need, and He makes promises to those that follow what He says: "...the glory of the Lord shall be thy reward" (Isaiah 58:8 KJV).

Jeff Jacobson

The defining moment for me was meeting and helping the Puerto Rican who had a Jewish name, Jyme. Pastor Mason, Stephen and I found him lying on heated concrete in the rain. We offered him supplies and we told him that we were believers. He asked us, "You say you are believers, but in who do you believe?" We told him that we believed in Jesus. He responded with "I believe in Jesus too." He told us that it was obviously the Lord who had sent us because no one else could have found him. Pastor Mason and I went and purchased two giant heroes and hot chocolate so he would have something to eat. When we prepared to leave, Pastor Mason offered his hand in a handshake. Jyme looked at his hand and said, "No, you don't want to touch my dirty hand." But Pastor Mason persisted. Jyme took his hand and shook it. Then I offered my hand and he took it in both of his hands and, with tears in his eyes, kissed the top of my hand.

We had the treat of seeing him the next day sitting against a wall. He looked like a new man. He was happy and he looked hopeful. *(Continued on P. 3)*