

Who can do what we do? By Dr. R. Brown

“Take heed, then, often to come together to give thanks to God, and show forth His praise. For when ye assemble frequently in the same place, the powers of Satan are destroyed, and the destruction at which he aims is prevented by the unity of your faith. Nothing is more precious than peace, by which all war, both in heaven and earth, is brought to an end”. (Ignatius)



Through many years we have shared the Gospel in the context of spiritual darkness. Sometimes at our food program one can feel the oppressive presence that surrounds lives lived in darkness. Our food program is an evangelistic meeting and most of the people who attend live apart from God. At these meetings if enough Christians gather to pray and worship open-heartedly before the LORD, the worship and prayer push back the spirit of darkness. Often we attempt to explain to our Christian helpers that bagging groceries, and giving out food, is not as important as their prayers and worship in the evangelistic service. **Spiritual warfare constitutes the best work project that Christians may perform.** Think about it. Who is qualified to paint a house, bag groceries, clean up a neighborhood? Any number of clubs, businesses, political groups, and whatever other “charitable” organizations generate such action – all of the world’s people are qualified to do that work. On the other hand, what people possess the power to invite the Spirit of God into a space, to offer salvation, and initiate the work of God in someone’s life. Only the Church, only Christians can accomplish this. We alone possess the power and vocation to bring Christ’s light and life into a dark, oppressed world. Yet, it seems that many Christians easily abdicate that precious calling and serve only as the world serves. Our culture teaches us that physical labor really makes a difference. Feeding for the moment, applying paint that will fade, cleaning what will get dirty again—these we are told by our culture is the measure of giving back. Like a voice crying in the wilderness I want to encourage Christians to be engaged in lasting God glorifying work – the best of which is spiritual warfare. Spiritual warfare here simply means gathering in the name of Jesus, worshipping the LORD Almighty, praying in spaces surrounded by darkness, and creating holy space by our Christian presence. We alone possess this power – a power we received at great cost, and it pleases our LORD when we use it.

Operation Christmas Child by Meghan Smith

For the second year, the ATF girls participated in Operation Christmas Child. The girls remember the activity from last year, with some of them asking if we would be packing boxes again this year. As a group, we watch a video about the boxes traveling across the world to reach children and teach them about Jesus Christ. The girls then take time to make Christmas cards to go in the box. The cards are special and we often see what God is doing in their lives, by the personal messages that they share with others. One girl wrote, "Christmas reminds us that Christ is ours and we are His" and another wrote "God is so good" which is a song we sing with the youth. We set up a "store" of items allowing each girl to select what they want to put in the box that they make. It is a great evening where we get to share the love of Christ with the girls and give them the opportunity to share and give to others.





High Tech Tutoring

Julian and Darrell work with Chris Smith on writing their own computer game. This year we put together some game making software in one of our most up to date computers. Chris, a software/ computer engineer, comes to tutor the boys. They started from scratch drawing out a plan on paper, then moving to the computer to make their plan a cyber reality. Some of the software we use is simple drag and drop, but there always comes a time when writing code becomes a necessity. Learning how code functions could have an impact on these boys future careers.



It seems that this project may be getting some positive results. As our tutoring semester came to its conclusion, Julian approached me to ask if he could keep working on his game over the holiday break. When they finish their game we will put it on our home made video game console. I can't wait to play their game.

Culinary Genius at Work

Dan Terrell grew up with us at Military Ave. He attended our youth group until he became a young adult and started coming to our Wednesday evening Bible study. He is currently working on his degree in culinary arts at Henry Ford College. A year ago we hired Dan to cook on Wednesday evenings. We prepare some standard meals for our Bible study and Dan brings in some of his recipes from his training. He also helps the girl's cooking class on Friday evenings. Dan's experience and help represents some of our efforts to assist young people from our neighborhood find a way to get started in their careers. We may expand Dan's work load by adding a soup kitchen.



CBS' Paul Pytlowany did a very nice piece about our Christmas food program. You can see it by searching Military Ave Church on the CBS Eye on Detroit website. Paul ensured that Jesus Christ stood at the center of our efforts to help our neighbors have a nice Christmas and hear the Gospel.

CBS—Eye on Detroit

Coming Events

Tutoring begins January 25th

Food Program

Jan 28, Feb 25th, Mar 25th,

Apr 22nd, May 27th, Jun 24th

Pray for us

- ◇ Pray for our youth to come to a deeper commitment to Jesus. So many face real negative temptations with little support to do what is right.
- ◇ Pray for our ministry team to remain encouraged, unified, and spiritually strong in the work of our LORD.
- ◇ Pray for the hundreds of people we evangelized over the holidays. That the Word planted in their hearts would grow into a love for God.
- ◇ Continue to pray for disciples to be made at Military Ave. Church.