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April 2018 Prayer Letter

Dear Pastor and Praying Friends,

The Amazing Grace Outreach was a ministry we started last January from our regular street preaching at a busy intersection of the city. We decided to rent an United Church basement for 2 hours on Sunday evenings during the cold winter months of January and February. The cost was \$100 per Sunday. Our plan was to get the lost off the street and out of the cold for some free coffee and refreshments along with preaching and some personal conversation about their soul's destiny. The fact of the matter was that of all the folks that showed up, we only had one gentleman from the neighborhood. He came 3 Sundays, but on his last visit he still claimed to be an atheist. We were able to get a crowd of people coming though. There were many from our church that came out (around 12), although I told them that this was not church – but an outreach. There were also up to 15 people from other churches (or no church at all) that would show up too. During our coffee-break time, I'd talk to these people and I realized that they likely were saved but were not really interested in any commitment to a church. Most if not all, didn't believe in church membership. This was a sad reality and brought us to the realization that the Sunday evening outreach was not accomplishing the salvation of souls. It was just a hangout for lazy Christians with no interest in anything but themselves, "ever learning and never coming to the knowledge of the truth." Suffice it to say that this "outreach" was a good effort. I've notice that there are many forlorn and confused Christians in our city, yet they have no interest in living a life for the Lord. The church is "the pillar and ground of the truth". When Christians forsake the church, they forsake their own mercies.

We had four of our teenagers preach in our afternoon Sunday service in February. These young men each had 15 minutes to preach and delivered some good challenging messages from the Word of God. It was an encouragement to the whole church. I'm hoping to start a special "preacher boys" class with them.

The Library where the church meets has restricted us from using their storage room. We were storing our pulpit; sound system and decorations. Therefore, we had to set up and tear down and store our worship materials each Sunday at an off-site storage locker. This was costly and very labor intensive. Recently a dear family in our church purchased a new van and donated their old van to the church. This gifted van is now used as a cargo van to store all our stuff for church. It's parked all week long and just driven to church on Sundays. This saves us the storage cost and eliminates the labor of one loading/ unloading routine on Sundays. Praise the Lord for this couple's generosity in thinking of the church first instead of just selling their van.

A husband and wife joined the church in March. The husband was saved last year while they were having some marriage troubles. He was eager to join the church right away, but I advised him to wait in order to avoid any further conflict in his home. The wife finally was led to the Lord by her husband in November and they once again started coming to church as a couple. She came forward for baptism in December. They have since joined the church together and are great source of encouragement to all.

We held a baby shower for a young 21 year old unwed mother. The father also is 21 years old but in prison for murder. (He claims to be innocent) I have witnessed many times to this young man before his incarceration. He

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was raised Muslim but is not too devout. The young mother is open to our witness but is not saved yet. Please pray for this young mother and father to get saved and for his deliverance from prison, if he truly is innocent.

(over)

We passed out over 600 tracts door-to-door recently with our church on the Friday before Easter. We went to three separate neighborhoods. I had a good witness with a Muslim man named Mohammad. After a respectful back and forth conversation I asked him, "Mohammad, are your sins forgiven?" He said, "Yes." I then asked, "How do you know?" He then turned sheepish and said, "I don't know." I then got to zero-in on the vicarious blood sacrifice of our sinless Saviour. No doubt, Mohammad understood, yet abruptly "had to leave". I hope to speak to him again soon since we plan to continue tract distribution in his neighborhood.

We appreciate your prayers and financial support. Please include in your prayers:

- 1.) A new meeting location for the church with extra rooms for Sunday school
- 2.) Ruthie's continued health concerns.
- 3.) Our landlord Karen, who is a Muslim, salvation.
- 4.) The salvation of souls we have witnessed to

Your fellow laborers and servants in Canada for our Lord Jesus Christ,

Jim & Ruthie Bianchi

"Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake." Psalm 115:1