



## Driveways are for Jesus



**A beautiful day during the week of Easter in Compton, CA, was transformed into a ministry opportunity by a local church.**

As neighborhood kids were walking home from school with their families, they came across a unique outreach event hosted by the City Church of Compton. The pop-up driveway ministry featured activity and craft tables, games for the kids, and plenty of snacks.

The church hosts these events multiple times per year. The local driveway provides an opportunity to

build relationships and share the word of God with families in their low-income neighborhood.

The church members ministered to the parents while the kids traveled among the stations and enjoyed all the activities. Laughter echoed from the backyard as the kids played games. In the driveway, the children discovered a new Easter-themed activity at every table. The

last table held a special surprise: Easter Bags.

Before the event, church members lovingly filled the Easter Bags with goodies and placed a

The kids hardly uttered a word, captivated by the powerful message

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gospel-bead bracelet in each bag. After handing out the Easter bags, the members shared God's plan of salvation with the children using the special bracelets.

At the end of the outreach, a group of elementary-age kids came riding up on their bikes, wanting to know what was going on.

A volunteer gave them an Easter Bag and used the colorful, beaded bracelet to share God's plan of salvation with them. The kids hardly uttered a word, captivated by the powerful message. One student's hands began to tremble as he started to realize that in Christ, he could live without fear because of God's

great love for us. With God, a new life was possible!

Another one of the kids, Gabriel, was so inspired that he not only committed his life to Christ in the driveway, but also raced home to bring his cousin back to learn about God's plan for salvation. After hearing the good news of Jesus shared through the Easter Bag bracelets, his cousin also placed his faith in Christ!

The Easter Bags you donated played a pivotal role in City Church's outreach to the community, blessing the lives of five special kids who placed their faith in Christ. Thank You!



Each year, thousands of children just like Gabriel hear the good news through Easter Bag outreaches in cities across the country.





## A Gift of life



**It was a dark, wintry afternoon. Evelyn could think of no better time to offer Homeless Care Kits.**

She set out from her church with a carload of Kits and a prayer that God would work powerfully through them.

Each Homeless Care Kit contains a blanket, a scarf, gloves, a hat, and basic hygiene supplies as well as a gospel presentation. It could mean the difference between life and death for someone out in the cold that night. It could make an eternal difference; that was Evelyn's prayer.

Evelyn parked in front of an unfamiliar homeless shelter, feeling uncertain as she stared down the long line of folks waiting for beds. Then she noticed four people, who she learned were Donna, Fred, John, and Mark, standing to the side of the line.

Evelyn parked in front of an unfamiliar homeless shelter ...

With Homeless Care Kits in hand, Evelyn approached and introduced herself. The four explained that despite the frigid cold, the shelter wouldn't be open for hours yet. So, the Kits were a welcome gift.

Evelyn was then able to explain an even more important gift: the gift of salvation through Jesus. When she finished, all four of her new friends wanted to pray to receive Jesus as their Savior!

It wasn't until Evelyn looked up that she realized their small prayer group had more than doubled in size! Hurrying back to her car, she gathered all the Homeless Care Kits she had left and handed them out. On her way home, Evelyn rejoiced that her prayer had been answered. God had worked powerfully through the Homeless Care Kits that day.

# A Personal Word



Milton Massie  
Executive Director/  
Steward

**The inner city is full of people the world characterizes as weak.**

After all, poverty negatively and visibly affects every facet of a person's life: health, family, education, employment.

But when I'm really honest with myself, the only difference between me and those experiencing poverty is not that I'm stronger ... It's just that I have a lot more resources at my disposal to conceal my weaknesses.

We all know the story of Samson. On the outside, he seemed strong. So strong, in fact, that he came to trust in his own power and lost sight of God. His belief in his own "strength" cost him everything.

Samson's failure could have been the end of the story, but God is gracious! When Samson stepped

into his weakness and failure, he came back to dependence on God and entered into a new kind of strength built on faith.

Paul's struggles with weakness are well cataloged. In II Corinthians 12, Paul says, "I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me."

A close reading of the Bible makes one thing clear: we are all weak. Sometimes that weakness is more visible than others ... but it's always there. As believers, our call is not to run away from our weakness, but instead to run toward it. When we do that, we have a chance to experience the same life-filled blessing from Jesus that Paul did: "My grace is sufficient for you, for [my] power is made perfect in [your] weakness."

Grateful for your partnership,

Milton Massie  
Executive Director/Steward

## The Hidden Face of Homelessness

**There are 568,000 people living on the streets, in cars, in shelters, or in transitional housing on any given night in America. Who are these people?**



**220,000**

of the homeless are female, many of whom are single mothers.



**172,000**

of the homeless are families with children.



**35,000**

of the homeless are unaccompanied youth.



## Boxes of Love® transform lives!



**Rick grew up in the streets.** Selling drugs. Committing crime. Doing time in prison. His choices were destructive to his life, his family, and his neighborhood. He seemed like a lost cause.

But God did not give up on Rick and neither did his childhood friend, Aaron Gray. Aaron currently serves as the youth minister at Westlawn Youth Network in West Lawndale, Chicago. After turning away from street life and committing himself to Jesus years ago, he chose to stay in his community.

Aaron has distributed Boxes of Love® with Cru Inner City for 15 years. A Box of Love® is a tangible demonstration of Christ's love through the gift of a Thanksgiving meal. It can feed a family of six and open the door to sharing the gospel.

That's exactly what happened when Aaron took the Box of Love to Rick's home; Rick heard the gospel and accepted Jesus! He immediately started reading the Bible that came with the Box of Love,

and his life began to change. In fact, Rick's mom was so moved by his transformation that she asked for a Bible so that she could also invite Jesus into her life!

Aaron has journeyed with Rick over this past year, helping him grow in his salvation. While God has been changing Rick's heart, his past has caught up with him. He has confessed to crimes he committed before he said "yes" to Jesus.

Rick is not excited about going to prison. He said to Aaron, "At least I'm not going there alone. Jesus is with me." He asked Aaron to guide him through this journey, and Aaron plans to do just that. Aaron currently attends a Cru Inner City Discipleship Training class on Monday nights. More tools in his tool belt will equip him to minister to Rick.

Rick's life, and those of his family, have been changed for eternity ... and it all started with a Box of Love generously given by someone like you. Thank you!

At least I'm not going there alone. Jesus is with me.



# You sent God's love to the rescue



**She heard they were serving hot meals and offering warm beds.** She nervously walked through the church doors, desperately needing both.

She was young. Afraid. She'd been on the streets — in Chicago's icy cold — for two weeks straight. Let's call her Marnie. She ate quietly and listened intently as a church partner shared God's love. Then they gave her a pillow and a Homeless Care Kit. She pulled the warm blanket close ... and finally closed her eyes.

... a beautiful reminder of God's love and care

The next morning, she confided that she was pregnant and running from an abusive relationship. A partner prayed with her and immediately got her in touch with a local shelter for battered women.

A few weeks later, Marnie reached out to the church. She was doing well at the shelter and receiving the help ... and hope ... she urgently needed. She shared that she carries the blanket with her from the Homeless Care Kit — a beautiful reminder of God's love and care.

Thank you for making this wonderful ministry possible to people in desperate need — sending God's love to the rescue and leading them to the Savior. Please do it again this winter by giving generously to provide Homeless Care Kits. Thank you!



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