

A Great Work Has Begun

What can a carnival do to advance the gospel? How can dressing up like Cinderella expand The Kingdom of God? How can picking up trash make Jesus known? What can motivate twelve different denominations in a town of less than 20,000 people to come together to make the love of Jesus famous?

One of our volunteers at the Simcoe "We are Christ Day" was wondering why he was directing traffic downtown. He was wishing that he had gone to do a house renovation and not volunteered to come downtown and help at the carnival. The town had granted permission for the main drag to be closed to traffic to host our carnival complete with inflatables, popcorn, candy floss and snow cones. Jason found himself in front of a barricade making sure no cars passed by. As he stood there someone approached him and asked him what this was all about. He explained that a group of churches had gotten together to host multiple events all over Simcoe to let them know that God loved them and they weren't alone. She was intrigued and asked if Jason could pray with her and so he prayed. She thanked him and walked away. Within a few moments she returned with a group of friends who also wanted prayer. Soon there was a line up in the middle of downtown Simcoe wanting Jason to pray for them.

Across town in the Catholic High School were almost 300 Moms and daughters enjoying a Princess Tea. They walked in the door to a live chamber ensemble complete with a harp. They were each greeted personally, given a wrist corsage and escorted to their beautifully decorated table. They met and had their pictures taken with Snow White, Cinderella and the Princess from the Princess and the Frog. They decorated 500 cupcakes and then sipped tea out of china teacups with their Moms. They made pinwheels and bracelets and Mother's Day cards and all went home with a special gift. They also heard a story read by Cinderella all about how special and unique and known they were to God, who loved them like they were the only ones in the room. One Mom had cancer and was so thankful that she could make such a beautiful memory with her daughter. A Grandma accompanied two of the girls because they had just lost their Mom. She won a door prize and whispered into Kathy, the coordinator of the Princess Tea...."Thanks so much for this day...we really, really needed this..."

In another part of town volunteers were picking up trash. As Terry was filling her garbage bag a young woman walked up to her and asked her what was going on. She was a broken single Mom taking refuge at the Women's Shelter who had just been to the Library to get a BIBLE. Doesn't it blow you away how our God puts us in the path of the lonely so that we can tell them about the unending love of Jesus and how they are never, ever alone?! Terry did just that and pointed her in the direction of the Pregnancy Center and Free Store and Free Spa where she was able to pick up all she needed. What she didn't know is that another few of our volunteers that day had dropped off baskets for each of the residents at the Women's Shelter! She would have found that out when she returned with her arms full of blessings. I love the lavishness of our God!! I love how He underlines His love and care constantly compelling them into His arms.

Twelve churches in Simcoe, plus 8 PAOC churches from within the Hamilton Section came together as one on May 1st and represented Jesus so very well. They planted gardens at a home for the mentally ill. They hosted a pie and tea afternoon at the Legion for the veterans. They blessed a group of Single Moms in all kinds of ways. New toilets were installed and an old porch was repaired. Beds were provided for children who had been sleeping on the floor.

Only The Holy Spirit can make this happen. When it was over the town ministerial decided they wanted to do this every year. No one had ever witnessed such oneness and their hearts were explosive with excitement and expectation! Everyone in the town was touched by the Body of Christ coming together and doing what was right...and one more time...all of heaven applauded.

I know that God who began a great work in so many hearts that day... will finish what He's started...for His honor and His glory and for the sake of His Name.

Sue Keddy