



STREET HEARTBEAT NEWSLETTER

Heart-Fire Ministries • Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Volume 21 Number 4

HFM HEADLINES

16,090

Are you addicted, or know someone who is? Stop by our Friday afternoon Support Group starting at 1:00pm at The Freedom Center (817 N. 27th St. in Milwaukee). This group is facilitated by HFM's own Founder and Executive Director Ray Jablonski.

Heart-Fire Ministries

817 N. 27th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53208
(414) 445-9490

Mailing Address

PO Box 14031
Milwaukee, WI 53214

Website Address

www.heartfire.org

Email Address

info@heartfire.org

The Freedom Center

817 N. 27th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53208
(414) 935-FREE

The Fire Escape

819 N. 27th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53208
(414) 935-1100

Follow Heart-Fire Ministries on...

Facebook
Twitter
Vimeo
YouTube

Dear Friends,

We recently returned from New Orleans, Louisiana after the Mardi Gras Outreach. This was the 24th year that Heart-Fire Ministries had a team at this outreach. As we travelled throughout the French Quarter, we saw God doing incredible things in people's lives. Take a walk with us through the French Quarter. First, let me explain the number as the title of this newsletter. When we first entered the French Quarter, Alice hooked a pedometer to my belt. The number above represents the number of steps we took while in the French Quarter during the outreach. I want to tell what happened from 0 to 16,090 steps.

God began our mission at about step 400 when we meet a 72 year old Street Preacher named Scott Crawford. Scott was instrumental in helping Ray and Alice start Heart-Fire Ministries here in Milwaukee almost 30 years ago. Scott had brought his portable amplifier, so we stood there for awhile preaching the Gospel to the crowds that were passing by. We prayed with a number of people to recommit their lives to the Lord and others that wanted to get saved.

We began moving up and down Bourbon Street, meeting other witnessing teams and preachers. We passed out Gospel tracts and prayed with a few people that had sincere questions about how to get to heaven. At step 2,000 we met a young man, Travis, that was distressed about his life. He was a bit drunk, yet the concern he had about his life and how to live for Jesus was quite real. After much discussion and Bible reading, he prayed and got saved.

Around step 6,000 we attended an outdoor praise rally held at the outdoor Amphitheater in Jackson Square in the Quarter. There were about one thousand Christians attending, with their crosses, signs and banners. For one and a half hours, we sang praises to the Lord.

Following the praise rally, we hit the streets again to share the Gospel with the lost. At step 8,000 we again joined Scott and began preaching and witnessing. Ray preached for a few hours while Alice handed out Gospel tracts as many stopped to listen and some came with questions and others came with open hearts to receive the Lord.

Later at step 10,500 we joined a team witnessing on Bourbon Street. About 100 feet away from our team, a group of what I call, "religious hate preachers", with huge banners condemning people and bullhorns that proclaimed, "*God hates you people and is going to send you all to hell*". As we shared our faith, this group began moved toward us. Spewing condemnation and falsehoods we could see they wanted to drown us out. I approached the group and asked why they were preaching such a condemnation gospel. They said we were weak and only preached a love gospel. I discussed John 3:16 with the leader, "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...*" He said it was a weak and foolish Gospel that we were presenting and then said, "you will never reign with Jesus and you (Ray), will end up in hell". At that point we realized there was no reasoning with them and the best decision was to shake the dust off of our feet and move on.

Many people that were blasted by this group, (fueled by the Supreme Court ruling in favor of the Westboro Baptist group), would come to us and say that group was cursing people and telling ladies they would die of cancer and others venereal disease. Some would come to us weeping because of the terrible things said to them by this group. We had a great opportunity to minister to them and lead some to the Lord. Gen. 50:20 – *The devil meant it for evil, but God turned it around for good.*

Continued on back



Continued from front

Somewhere around 12,000 steps we met some 'gutter punks' living on the streets. As we talked to them for awhile, we were concerned about them having enough to eat, we learned they eat everything that is thrown away in the trash. We offered our cell phones for them to call home and let their families know they are okay, they all refused. Just throw-away kids that think they are unloved and unwanted, our hearts were breaking. We prayed for those that would let us.

At 14,000 steps we met a group of Christians that were preaching the gospel and watched as anti-Christian people would stand in front of them with a bullhorn and curse profanities at them. Others would blow loud whistles, trying to drown out the preaching of the Gospel. Ray started preaching the Gospel on the corner for a few hours, as we saw many with questions about their salvation and leading others to a saving knowledge of Jesus. At step 15,500, on Fat Tuesday, we set up a sound system and played Christian music and passed out Gospel tracts to those that were willing to stop and talk.

The last 590 steps were used to work our way out of the French Quarter after a powerful and impacting outreach. Thank you to all who prayed and gave so we could carry the Gospel to the streets where it is most desperately needed and hardest to find. Now we start on the streets of Milwaukee, witnessing, preaching, praying and sharing the great story of Jesus and salvation. It is time to reach out more than ever as the days grow closed. Your continued prayer and support assure that those that are seeking will find salvation in the only true God, Jesus Christ.

Missionaries to Urban America,

Ray & Alice



Ray hands a gospel tract to a party-goer dressed in a voodoo costume on Fat Tuesday

Thank you to all who supported us financially and prayed for us as we marched into the darkness to share the light.



Ray open-air preaching off Bourbon Street, people heard the Gospel!

Hundreds of gospel tracts were given out and dozens were prayed for. Please continue to pray for us and for those that accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior during this outreach.



Ray and Alice stop for a picture in Jackson Square during the annual Mardi Gras Outreach