

March 6, 2023

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”

Psalm 133:1 (NKJV)

The Mission to Mardi Gras is past for another year. This year, twenty-five men from ten different states came together under the banner of the Lord to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus on the streets of the French Quarter. Their ages ranged from early twenties to late seventies. We worshipped together, praised God together, were disciplined together, and shared Christ on the streets together.

Together. Unity. Every mission requires unity from the missionaries. When unity is not present, the goal is only partially achieved. Sometimes the unity displayed is one of expediency; we need to work together for the goal of the mission. The only benefits and purpose are for the mission. In such cases, again the goal is only partially achieved and, in my opinion, much that could occur to the glory of the Lord is lost.

Psalm 133 speaks to the blessings available through unity in a special way. While the psalmist had the chosen people of Israel in mind for these blessings of God, the lens of this truth encompasses Christians as well. The psalmist compares true, biblical unity to a special anointing from God. And even as the plants are refreshed on a mountainside by the morning dew that falls, we are refreshed by the blessings of God that come to us through fellowship and brotherly love. Such unity flows in peace and brings harmony with it.

Unity such as this is rare, whether in a church or on a mission. Yet this type of unity was among the men who came to share Christ this year. Even as the men proclaimed the love and mercy of God on the street, they displayed the love and mercy of our Lord toward each other in a way that was different than other years. Each man considered his Brother's needs over his own as they ministered not only to the crowds but to each other in ways that made this one of the best missions I have been on. The mission hadn't changed. Neither had the crowd changed, unless it was to get even more hard-hearted. Nor was there any change in the noise, the vileness, or the evil of a celebration(?) with one goal, to satiate the godless desires of the flesh. Nothing was different except what the Lord had done to and through His people. *Thank you, Lord!*

Over the course of our days on mission, God's harvest field was worked. Well over 30,000 Gospel tracts were distributed to the crowds. Many heard the Gospel through the preachers. Others had the Good News of the mercy available to them through Jesus shared with them one-on-one. Seven men came to Christ and are being followed up on as the information gathered permits. Please pray for the seed sown, the seed watered, and the harvest reaped from God's field we call New Orleans.

Ministry to a Ministry

We are collecting again for our Ministry to a Ministry for Vieux Carre Baptist Church in the French Quarter. Their ministry to those who live there is year-round. These donations help them provide for the physical needs of the homeless, and others, in the Quarter as they share Christ's love and proclaim the Gospel to those to whom they minister.

We are asking you, your Sunday School, and your church to prayerfully consider helping us bless this ministry that they might be a blessing to others. If you live in the Southern Illinois area, we will happily pick up the things you choose to donate. If they are winter items, we will gladly store them until the time we take them to New Orleans.

If you live farther away, we ask that you pray about making a cash donation toward this effort as we will be purchasing some items for their ministry. Just tell us it is to be used for "Vieux Carre" when you send it. All donations designated for Vieux Carre will be used to purchase needed items or given to them as a cash donation. Below are the items/sizes that are needed. They can also use women's items of similar types and sizes.

We plan to make the trip to Vieux Carre on April 28th.

Please plan to have your donations to us by April 22nd.

Gently used

- Men's pants waist size 30-40 (No dress pants)
- Men's shorts waist size 30-40
- Men's long sleeve tees and shirts (no dress shirts)
- T-shirts size Medium - XXXL
- Clean used socks (Men's and Women's)
- Belts
- Good, used tennis/walking shoes and work boots
- Used backpacks and duffle bags
- Travel shampoos / soaps
- Men's & Women's winter coats size Medium - XXXL
- Men's hoodies size Medium - XXXL (no sweaters)
- Men's winter hats
- Men's winter gloves
- Back packs

Please consider a designated donation towards purchasing backpacks or blankets by the case.

Purchased items

- Disposable razors
- Small deodorant
- Socks (Men's and Women's)
- Men's underwear size 32-38

The Memphis in May Outreach is May 4th-7th. We will arrive the evening of Thursday, May 4th, and travel home on Sunday, May 7th. This mission takes place during the Beale Street Music Festival. Men, if you are called to be on this mission, please contact me.

Cindy and I are also planning a mission to coincide with the Memphis Barbecue World Championship. Tentative dates are May 18th-21st. We will arrive the evening of Thursday, May 18th, and travel home on the 21st. This outreach is purely evangelistic. It is open to men and women. If you have an interest in this opportunity to share Christ, contact Cindy or myself at the phone numbers on the first page of this newsletter.

We also request your prayers for the following:

- Please stand in the gap for your Brothers and Sisters that we, as His people, would act then pray in faith on the promise in 2 Chron 7:14.
- Pray for our nation's leaders at every level.
- We ask that you pray for the ongoing ministry of Call of Grace

Is there something we can pray for you? If so please let us know.

Thank you for your prayers and support. Everything the Lord calls us to do is done with your help and we are thankful to the Lord for your service to Him with us. If He calls you to go on mission with us, wherever we go, or to help support a mission or any part of our ministry, please let us know. Likewise, if you or your church believe we could be of service to you as regards your evangelistic efforts, please contact us.

Until Jesus comes,

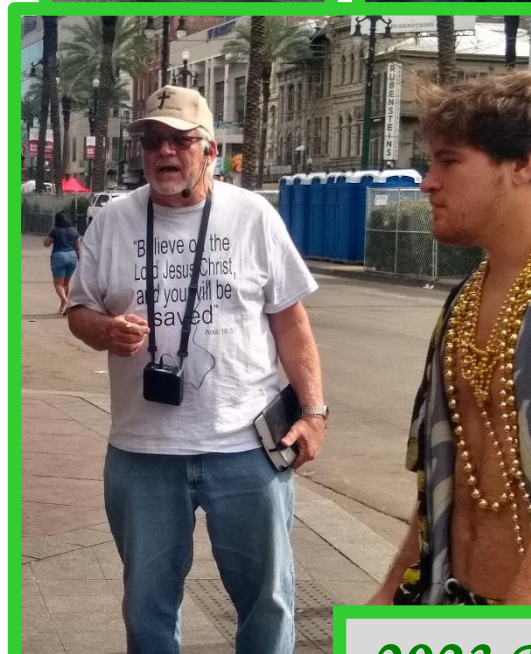
Dennis & Cindy

~Cindy's Bottom Line~

“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Romans 15:5-6 (NIV)

Call of Grace Ministries is a 501(c)3 ministry and your contributions are tax deductible. All donations to Call of Grace are used for ministry expenses. We go as God provides and your support of this ministry is a blessing to us as we move forward in the Lord's call.



2023 Mission to Mardi Gras