

## Read Messages

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\*\* Times Square/New York City outreach headed towards second stage

Good reports from Times Square/New York City event. More local churches volunteering as part of the outreach effort. Examples given of God working through the ministry efforts, both on the street and through prayer centers. Volunteer groups still needed for remaining nine days -- call group coordinator at 417-689-8574. Support, prayer and viewing of God Gives Hope messages links also provided.

\*\* Empower 2006 conference drawing near

Empower 2006: Back to Pentecost National Evangelists Conference less than three weeks away, but still time to register. Event for evangelists, but also "enriching" for ministers and laypeople. Registration just \$45 person, \$60 per couple. Speakers/workshop leaders include: Charles Crabtree, Tim Enloe, Bryan Jarrett, Richard Hammar, Laury Hunter, Ron McManus and others. More information available at <http://evangelists.ag.org/>.

\*\* Bonus coverage: Coping with truth -- see link below.

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\*\* TIMES SQUARE/NEW YORK CITY OUTREACH HEADED TOWARDS SECOND STAGE

As the fifth day of the Times Square/New York City outreach draws to a close tonight, organizers are preparing to enter stage two of the event as more and more local churches are volunteering to be a part of the effort.

U.S. Missionary Don Geraci, who has coordinated the prayer and literature evangelism ministry from his post at Times Square Church, explains that local church groups are eagerly joining in the outreach.

Geraci tells of how New Jersey District Assistant Superintendent Don James, who also pastors Bethany Church (Wyckoff, New Jersey) called him and had 25 people come join the effort, bringing what Geraci called a "new wind of the Spirit" to the prayer ministry.

"What's really remarkable is that the forecast was for 40 to 60 mile per hour winds and torrential downpours," Geraci says. "We prayed through the entire period that the rain would hold off or go elsewhere - and it did! The group distributed four or five boxes of 'Stories of Hope.' They finished up at 6:45 p.m. and came back to share testimonies - and that's when it started raining."

Scott Temple, director of AG Intercultural Ministries, adds that along with the New York City churches involved, this weekend, Times Square will also have a little more of a New Jersey feel.

"We have three churches from New Jersey who have already volunteered to come in and work with us this weekend," Temple says. "Calvary Temple of Wayne, New Jersey; Englewood (New Jersey) AG; and Bethany AG of Wyckoff, New Jersey. It's exciting to see people catching the vision for this outreach."

U.S. Missionary Phil Goble, who has served as a missionary in the New York District for more than 27 years, believes this outreach is nothing short of the work of Jesus Christ.

"I feel like it's a new day for the Assemblies of God," Goble says in tears. "To see pastors weeping in the prayer room, people taking the tracts to those on the street . . . this is one of the highlights of my ministry . . . this is the real thing."

Goble encourages every pastor in the area to come and at least see what's happening.

"It would be like living in Los Angeles in 1906 and not going to the Azusa Street Revival," Goble says. "Every pastor in the entire area should be down here. I wouldn't miss it!"

Temple explains that Goble was at first cautious about the ministry and handing out the "Stories of Hope" to people. In Goble's decades of experience, he felt it would be very hard at best.

"But today he [Goble] told me that there's a presence and anointing of God that has not been there [in Times Square] before," Temple says.

Geraci confirms that position.

"Last night, one of our volunteers was standing next to a comedy club, and there was a man ready to go in. The volunteer told the man, "You don't need to go in there. What you really need is God and you need hope in your life." The man was convicted by that. He wound up receiving Christ and the volunteer brought him to the prayer meeting. He's now plugged into the church."

Steve Kulish, an AG U.S. missionary, reports that while leading the

Indiana Masters Commission team on Wednesday, they entered a school zone in the Bronx that had gang activity going on throughout the day.

"There was a massive police presence around the school," Kulish says. "The Masters Commission team did a rap, a routine called STOMP with some trashcans. Some of the team approached gang members to witness to them."

Although the atmosphere was ripe for violence, Kulish reports that the Holy Spirit was in control as one gang member was led to Christ, six high school students were led to Christ and just two blocks down the street, 8 of 12 gang members took one of the God Gives Hope booklets. In fact, several gang members let team members pray with them.

John Maempa, director of the AG National Prayer Center shares additional good news, as he believes the number of calls to the 1-800-4-PRAYER line is up - and so is the number of calls being answered on the first try.

"We've had an amazing response by churches," Maempa says. "We've added more than 100 Satellite Prayer Centers for this outreach. We now have coverage through the late night and early morning hours. The number of calls that are transferred to a recording [due to no one being available] are way down."

James Meredith, the assistant director of the NPC, adds that one prayer volunteer was able to pray with a girl contemplating suicide. The girl had seen the God Gives Hope/1-800-4-PRAYER message in Times Square.

In the first four days of the outreach, more than 33,000 tracts have been distributed. Organizers believe by the end of the outreach, that number will be near 100,000.

What's more, as the outreach approaches the midway point, it's going to receive a reenergizing boost to enter the second week. Joey Mercado, pastor of Jesus the Messiah Fellowship AG (a Filipino congregation) will be leading "Halftime" - a 24-hour praise and worship service.

Temple adds, however, that teams of volunteers are still needed to continue the efforts in Times Square and New York City. Groups wanting more information about volunteering over the next nine days can call the group coordinator at 417-689-8574. The outreach will continue through Sunday, November 26.

To help support the God Gives Hope Times Square/New York City outreach, see <http://ag.org/top/timesquare/>. To learn how to become a prayer volunteer or to get your church involved as a Satellite Prayer Center, see <http://prayer.ag.org> or call 1-417-862-2781, ext.

1563. To view the full-length God Gives Hope messages, see <http://GodGivesHopeCampaign.ag.org> and scroll down to "Television."

--Dan Van Veen