



Church Service in Elliot Park in Minneapolis, MN

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

My trip took place July 8th through July 15th, where I flew into Minneapolis, Minnesota and met up with Bro. Keister. From there we drove back to the campground where we were staying. We picked up Tom Havis, and Mark Scharf, and from there we went into Minneapolis to scout out the area and see where we felt God was leading us. We ended up handing out tracts, holding scripture signs, and Bro. Havis and Bro. Keister did some street preaching. We commonly did this every day, sometimes also setting the prayer stand.



While driving that day, we found a park that we felt drawn to. We ended up deciding to hold a church service there the next day and two days after that. The church service consisted of just a normal service like any other day, where we did singing, preaching, and was followed by a picnic. We were excited to see the turn out each service. There was about 100 to 150 people in the park that heard the preaching and signing. Some of them were assembled in the chairs we sat around in front of us (see banner picture above). Bro. Keister appointed me the duty of cooking the hotdogs on a charcoal grill while he preached. Our team served 46 people the at the first park service and 66 at the second service.

It was very cool to see the effects of a church service in the park. I've never done a service in the park like that and it really open my eyes that when you have faith, God will move. It was an awesome experience to see the spirit of God touch the lives of people at that park. Many prayed for salvation and testified with raised hands believing God saved them. After the Evangelism Mission staff gets a chance to produce videos from this mission trip, you may find them on their YouTube channel at: Channel.EvangelismMission.com. It was encouraging to see God moving and it really challenged me to consider doing my own church services as I lead the street ministry team at GBS.



We also did a street meeting in downtown Minneapolis. While the others preached and sang, I walked around passing out tracts which is one of my favorite types of street ministry. I had many good conversations in Minneapolis.

After four days of ministry in Minneapolis we made our way over to Madison, Wisconsin. After arriving in downtown Madison we found out that there was a large outdoor event going on that evening expecting 30,000 people. We planned to set up for an hour or so with our Prayer stand and to do a street meeting. After being completely setting up and starting to sing, the event planners called the police. The police informed us we could not use our speaker. Bro. Keister explained our free speech rights to use the speaker because our singing and music cannot be heard without it. We decided to move about 100 yards down outside the event leased area of the streets to keep peace. We had this feeling that God was going to do something for the injustice. (Considering we were following all the laws and doing everything we could to be respectful.) About an hour later, the sky started to turn black. We were able to pack up everything into the vehicle before the first drop fell. Then, it started down pouring on their event. It really showed me that God sees the injustice and He is sovereign over all and we all will answer to Him.



Our last event was in the Richland Center, WI park. Where some of the remnants of the last holiness church in WI reside. We traveled about 1:20 from Downtown Madison to do this church service in the park. There were five of them present at the pavilion plus many could hear the service from a distance. Pray for these precious people who need a Holiness Church in their area. All four of us sang in that final service of my trip. Bro. Keister jokingly called us "Rodney and 3 Disciples" (John, Thomas, & Mark).

My biggest takeaway was getting to see God's spirit move. This summer has been challenging for me spiritually and I went into it hoping the best but unsure. But with the amazing team, God used them to speak truth into my life and really encouraged me. They encouraged me to trust God fully. Not only to trust him, but to believe in His saving grace. When we believed, God moved and all I could think about is 'even faith as small as a mustard seed can move mountains'. God really used this week to challenge me to be more evangelistic, and to be present in my community, sharing the gospel and making Christ known. I pray this encourages you, God is still in the soul saving business. Amen.

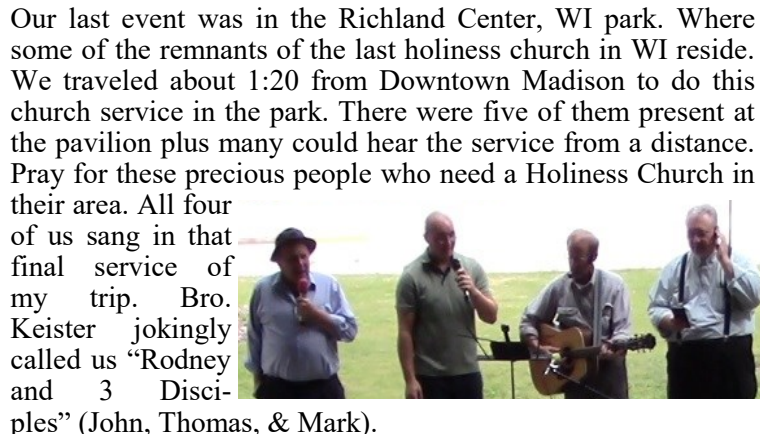
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