

EMERGENCY LETTER- DECEMBER 2017

“IT WAS LIKE WE DOVE FACE FIRST INTO A WOOD CHIPPER!” Brother Joe Hicks.

November 2017 was the worst month we have ever had in our ministry following one of the hardest years we've ever had in our lives. But it was pre-ceded and punctuated by many blessings!

OCTOBER'S CALM BEFORE THE STORM- To all of our supporting Churches and friends, Miss Lisa and Brother Joe and our OUTCRY MINISTRY crew helped hold a Police Officers Appreciation Luncheon on Tues Oct/17/17 with the Vietnam Veterans Chapter 9 at Cass Park on in the old Cass Corridor neighborhood. That event expanded into feeding the Homeless and poor in the area as well. Brother Joe knick named this event “Heroes and Homeless Lunch”. Famous Dave's in Westland Michigan catered the Chicken, Special Thanks to Whitney and Victoria. Other area business donated other things at Edward Tuggle's request. Plus Sister Sherrill Adkins helping with huge food donations. The event was great and after the event we went on to feed 3 more times on the street late that afternoon.

We also helped with the 3rd Annual SCARLET'S SMILE SWEETEST DAY PARTY on Sat Oct/21/17 where Brother Joe is allowed to open this event in prayer, it was an amazing event. Scarlet is the beautiful granddaughter of Channel 7's Anchorman Stephen Clark and his wife beautiful Larenne Clark proprietor of the Zealand Spa Salon in Commerce Township. Hillary Clark is Scarlet's beautiful young mother and about a year into her life little Scarlet was diagnosed with S.M.A. or Spinal Muscular Atrophy which is the #1 genetic killer of infants though most people have never even heard about this disease... that is until Stephen Clark got a hold of this message and broadcast it everywhere.

For lack of better words “God told me to” back Stephen Clark and family as they have pushed for a cure for S.M.A. Miss Lisa willingly got on board too and many of our friends have as well!

Amazing things have happened towards a cure for S.M.A. which is similar to Lou Gehrig's disease in children, including a miracle drug called Spinraza which has allowed Scarlet to start developing muscles and strength.

SCARLET'S SMILE 501-c-3 Non Profit is building a wheel chair accessible park to be named “Scarlet's Smile Playground” where children in wheelchairs can use play ground equipment with children that are not in wheelchairs. The price tag for everything is right at 1 Million dollars and at the end of the 3rd Annual Scarlet's Smile Sweetest Day Party the organization has now raised over \$400,000.00 towards this wheelchair accessible playground. That is wonderful and like Brother Joe always says, “Who in the world could be against something like this?”

Brother Joe and Miss Lisa then left to try to catch the tail end of the Annual “Biketoberfest” in Daytona, Florida where they mix Biker Ministry, Open air street preaching and singing and Homeless feeding and evangelism as well. It is as Brother Joe calls it a “Work-cation”, it was great, both an opportunity to take a break while taking care of people as well!

NOVEMBER 2017 came and Brother Joe and Miss Lisa spent the last 2 remaining days of their trip up in Jacksonville where they attended the evening services at the Bible Believers Baptist Church's Fall Jubilee

where Brother David Peacock is pastor, the preaching was great. Brother Joe and Miss Lisa fed and cared for Homeless folks and hardcore addicts in Jacksonville Beach during the daytime.

On the way home Brother Joe and Miss Lisa stopped near Sweetwater Tennessee and saw Brother Dale Dotson and picked up a load of Sleeping bags on their way home to the Detroit area.

THE SHOE DROPS AND EVERYTHING "HIT THE FAN" I COULD NOT MAKE THIS UP IF I TRIED!!!

Sunday Nov/5/17

#1. PARADE- Brother Joe got his wires crossed and had both the wrong time and place where he was supposed to open up the Detroit Veterans Day Parade up in prayer... I felt like a Dog letting these men down!

#2. MASS SHOOTING- The entire nation was rocked to hear of a mass shooting and execution of church members in a BAPTIST CHURCH in Texas, Seriously Brother Joe here has been telling folks since 9/11/2001 that between the Psychotics and rival religions the time of unguarded open door Churches where everyone is welcome would become a dangerous policy, now several Churches I've preached at since this shooting are now "getting it" and have security measures in place!

#3. LAWSUIT- Late that night my heart sunk as I opened a letter addressed to "Brother Joe Ministry" (Not a legal name for our outreach) that I was being sued for \$15,000.00 now –or- \$25,000.00 within 30 days for what the Pursuant claimed to be an illegal image use on our ministries website. HERE IS THE TRUTH, back in the winter of 2011-2012 I had a Banner and sign company make a Banner for me to gather winter supplies in a collection trailer. The Banner Company (which I'll leave unnamed at this time) used what the owner still claims is a "Public Image" and had reached "online Saturation" over 5 years ago to where it could no longer be protected by Copy Write Laws.

I had this Banner and sign printer send this image-art work to our Website guy who did nothing wrong, he just used the same image on our [www. brotherjoesyouthandstreetministry.com](http://www.brotherjoesyouthandstreetministry.com)...

I obtained a Lawyer who spoke to the Pursuant's Lawyer who was very angry and said "These Churches do this kind of stuff all the time!" My Lawyer explained that our ministry is not a Church but a Street Ministry working with Veterans, Bikers, Police agencies, Scarlet's Smile, Homeless people, Hard Core Drug and Alcohol addicts, Pimps, Prostitutes, Transvestite Male Prostitutes, "At risk youth" and whoever else walks down the sidewalks where we preach, sing, feed and pass out clothing, hygiene items and medical supplies.

Their Lawyer looked up what all we do, saw the multitude of videos about our working with the crowds listed above plus working with area Politicians, being Channel 7 Action News' D 20/20 "Person of the Week", Chaplin of the Vietnam Veterans Chapter 9, and working with Detroit District 5's Mary Sheffield and Detroit City Council President Brenda Jones, and even receiving the "Spirit of Detroit" award from the beautiful Ms. Mary Sheffield.... Seriously as absolutely WILD as our Street Ministry is, BROTHER JOE AND MISS LISA "KEEP THEIR NOSES CLEAN" and in fact have both remained a bit Country and are a bit of a cross between "Ma and Pa Kettle" and Mayberry R.F.D.

Their Lawyer felt bad that the Law Suit was ever filed and it looks like they will settle for \$1,000.00 rather than the \$15,000.00 - \$25,000.00, which is good, Except we have used the back ground image of

Detroit's famous "Ren-Cen" Riverfront Skyline on almost everything we've printed since at least 2012 and we had no idea the legal mess it would get us into. Please pray they will allow us to use this image I just do not want the added expense or time invested to have to redo everything!

THEN IT GOT WORSE... YEP IT REALLY DID!!!

#4. HEART ATTACK-Mon Nov/6/17 I had just called my Lawyer friend, dropped off a copy of the Lawsuit to the Banners guy who pulled the image years ago, just arrived home when my Father in Law, Brother Claude Gilbert called me and said, "Joe I might need to come over to pick you up and have you to drive me to the hospital, I'm having some chest pains and my left arm hurts!" Then I asked him "Can you even drive?" when he said "I don't know", I knew then it was big trouble. I drove to his house and picked him up and rushed him to St. Mary's Hospital in Livonia, Mi. They started his inspection and found out that he was in fact having a heart attack! With a 100% blockage in the front of his heart and a 95% blockage in the back, and he goes to a Cardiologist every single month faithfully... How did this happen?

Well over the next several days there were 3 surgeries another heart attack, many days in St. Mary's Hospital and Heartland Rehab.

A MIRACLE IN THE MIDST OF MAYHEM...

No joke a beautiful lady named Donna Yost who is the director of THE LIFE CHEST TEAM and I talked and she told me "Brother Joe you have to be up here tomorrow at Noon to pick this stuff up because we are going to be doing filming with the Veterans!" I got up there and saw Michael Sand former President of the Vietnam Veterans Chapter 9 and Paul Palazolo the current president.

There was also a luncheon prepared, and I could not make this up if I tried, Donna Yost asked me to follow her out to the parking lot, a whole bunch of people followed us outside. She turned me around and in her best Vanna White game show host kind of motion she fanned over with her right arm and said, "Brother Joe what do you think about this?" I looked over and saw a new white Chevrolet Van and a black new trailer. And she handed me the keys... NO JOKE I'm such a worker bee I thought she wanted me to move the trailer! Then she said "THIS IS FOR YOU!" All I could say is "What.... You've got to be kidding me!" I was and still am stunned, I finally worked up the composure to say "Thank you!" I had been so defeated, and beat down emotionally over all that had been happening, all I could do was cry! Miss Donna named this white van "SNOWBALL" and that is just perfect!

#5. BORDERLINE BREAKDOWN- "Miss Lisa" my beautiful Bride is as about as tough as they come, she helps to manage an entire medical homecare staff for The Medical Team, office, plus all kinds of promotional "Stuff" dealing with Doctors and families that need staffing, working with the American House Assisted Living via the Medical Team. She has become like a daughter to Nick and Leslie and has a great Christian testimony with everyone who knows her.

Then Lisa helps her Dad all the time and tries as much as she can to help me with our street ministry though things have been very different since her Dad got ill after a botched knee surgery and infection which almost killed him back in October of 2012.

Well... in the midst of all of this Lawsuit, 2 Heart Attacks, 3 Surgeries, multiple days at her Dads bedside, the responsibilities with job... "Miss Lisa" stood by the kitchen sink and with tears falling when I put my arm around her, And Lisa said, "I'M ON THE EDGE!" As tough as Lisa is, that's not like her at all but everyone has a breaking point! But THANK GOD as usual "The peace of God which passeth all understanding" flooded in and God's Grace has kept her going!

#6. HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE- Well I got word while all this was going on that my Mom the 92 year old phenomenon Marion Hicks had insanely high blood pressure, Thanksgiving Day Miss Lisa took a Cracker Barrel Turkey Dinner to the Hospital for her Dad and I took a Cracker Barrel Thanksgiving Dinner up to my Mom and we spent hours talking and laughing in spite of it all.

#7. Well during the midst of all of this I went down to drop off my old 2001 Purple Dodge Van "Barney" to have work done on it only to find out that our 2001 Silver Dodge 4 wheel drive truck "Silver" had blown it's Transmission! UGH!!!

Mind you ALL OF THIS... the Missing the Opening Prayer, Lawsuit, the 2 Heart Attacks, the 3 surgeries, Mom's Blood pressure issues and "Sivers" transmission blowing up, THAT WAS ALL IN ONE WEEK! Then everything that followed.

I was resolved to a "Whatever happens to me just happens" attitude and that no matter what I would press on in this ministry, but when Donna Yost, her husband Kim and The LIFE CHEST TEAM gave us that van and trailer I knew God is still in control and we have done much to tick the Devil off this summer and that's for sure!

Just like I said at the start of this letter it was like we dove into a Wood Chipper, NO JOKE!

BUT IT GOT WORSE!

I was so glad when December finally rolled around! Lisa's Dad has gotten better, My Mom's blood pressure has leveled off, the ministry vehicles are being fixed, I have preached in several Churches and have had great meetings with many large food and clothing donations, looks like the Lawsuit will be settled for a fraction of the price. And the new Chevy Van & trailer have breathed new life into our street outreach.... THEN BANG... LITERALLY!

#8. MURDER ON A MAINSTREET!

Friday December/1/17- We stopped at West Vernor and Cabot where we have been preaching and feeding all summer, we had started unloading the trailer, setting out bags and boxes of clothing, sat the tables up and began to put food on the tables when we heard men yelling and then BLAM, BLAM, BLAM, BLAM, BLAM several shots rang out, I yelled to Regina Ackerman to get in behind the trailer by me, and yelled to Miss Lisa to get inside the van. Brother Larry had walked inside the grocery store across the street to buy plastic forks. When he came out I yelled to him to get behind the trailer too then I sent Regina inside the van with Lisa.

When the shooting stopped someone yelled "DIAL 9-1-1"! I grabbed my phone ran to a car with the door opened and braced myself for whatever I might see but the car was empty. I asked, "Did somebody just get shot?" and in the mix of everything someone said, "He's across the street!" I ran to a young man who was lying in the driveway of a Liquor Store his head was up toward the parking lot and feet out on West Vernor Hwy.

He was gasping heavily for air and I knew right off the bat this was probably not going to end well at all. I've seen shootings on the street before but this poor kid gasping for air and was in bad shape.

It turns out that he was much younger than I thought, he was an 18 or 19 year old Arabic young man who was shot for getting out of his car to try to get a license plate number off of a car that he had been involved in an accident with earlier and he got shot for it!

I tried to dial 9-1-1 but my new cell phone would not co-operate, I called Stephen Clark's phone at Channel 7 but it went to his voice mail so I looked up Channel 7's number and got through to the assignment desk told them there had been a shooting and to call the cops!

A crowd of Street people and neighborhood folks gathered around his body, when I saw his gasping getting slower and eyes rolling back into his head I yelled to Brother Larry "BRING SOME BLANKETS DOWN!" because I figured he was going to go into shock.

"Mexican Shorty" tried to shove on his ribs to keep him breathing but the crowd batted his hand away, someone pulled his shirt up I could see a wound that looked like about 1 inch long and no blood coming out which meant the blood was filling his lung.

I leaned over to take a picture of the wound to send to Lisa's phone for her to send to The Medical Teams nurses with a "PLEASE ADVISE" with it, then thud Brother Joe here took a stiff shot to the ribs and someone said, "WHAT ARE YOU DOING?" It was an Undercover Police Officer who hit me just hard enough to stand me up. I told him it's for the Medical Techs, and right then Mexican Shorty said, "Don't hit him that's Brother Joe he's a preacher and he feeds all of us down here.

The Police Officer did not say a word more because I think he recognized me from the dozens of times we have preached ½ a block away. It got rough and pushy as the Police shoved the Street people and Brother Larry and I away from what would soon be called a "Murder Scene", seriously we were all fighting to save this young man's life then suddenly we were being treated as if we were all villains, but they had to secure the area and everyone was caught up in the moment!

The 2 grey wool blankets that Brother Larry ran down were from Donna Yost and The LIFE CHEST TEAM and ironically these Life Chest Team blankets were suddenly used to cover up his dead body they suddenly and literally became grave blankets... ugh!

I walked back to the van and trailer hooked up my microphone, video equipment and tried to sing and preach but I was just heart sick! The feeling of helplessness was all up and down that sidewalk there because there was absolutely nothing any of us could do to save that kids life!

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If your Church would like to support

Kyle Joe Hicks & Lisa Hicks financially as Missionaries to the Streets of Detroit Michigan

Please send support to:

Kyle Joe Hicks

C/O Word For The World

P.O. Box 849 Rossville,

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PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT:

[www. brotherjoesyouthandstreetministry.com](http://www.brotherjoesyouthandstreetministry.com)

For our street feedings you can mail grocery store gift cards for Gordon Food Service G.F.S., Krogers WalMart Meijers or Aldis directly to:

Brother Joe Hicks 855 South Edwin Westland, Mi. 48135

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If you would like for Brother Joe to come and preach at your Church please contact him at: -

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Brother Joe 313-414-8190

"It's not another Country but is another world."