

Detroit

Kyle "Brother Joe" and "Miss Lisa" Renee Hicks, Missionaries to the Streets of Detroit

313-414-8190 -- brotherjoesyouthandstreetministry.com

2017 - Issue #1

Missionary Update / Newsletter

March - August, 2016



Youth Ministry



Tour Group



Homeless Outreach



Hard Core Outreach



Biker Ministry



Veteran's Ministry

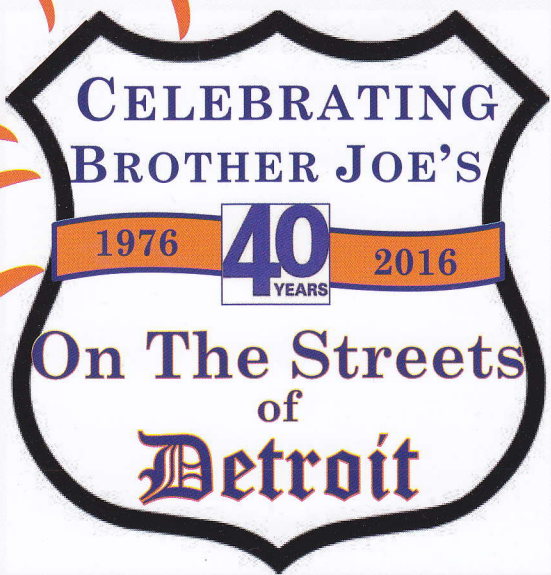
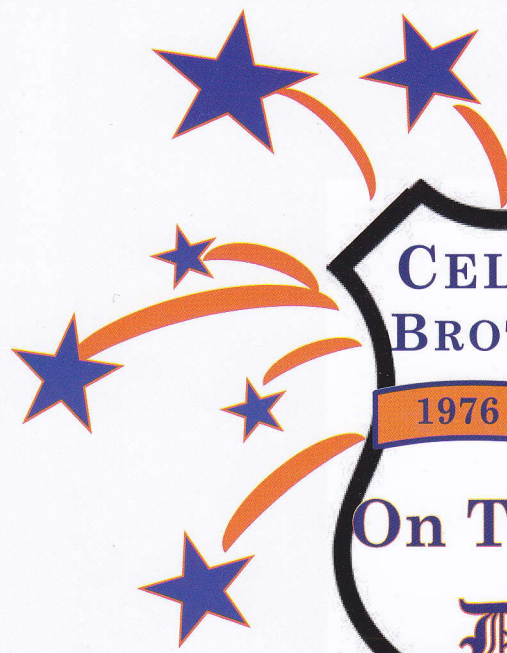


Open Air Ministry

TIME IS FLYING... THE YEAR IS HALF GONE!!

THAT'S RIGHT... WE ARE HALF WAY THROUGH THE YEAR-LONG CELEBRATION OF BROTHER JOE'S 40 YEARS OF MINISTRY ON THE STREETS OF DETROIT.

WHAT A YEAR IT HAS BEEN SO FAR!



Please send support for Brother Joe's Ministry to: Kyle Joe Hicks - c/o Word for the World - P.O. Box 849 - Rossville, GA 30741-0849



*Right:
Brooklyn and
AJ Provaux
with Brother
Joe. AJ ran to
the event
because he
wanted to be
saved.*



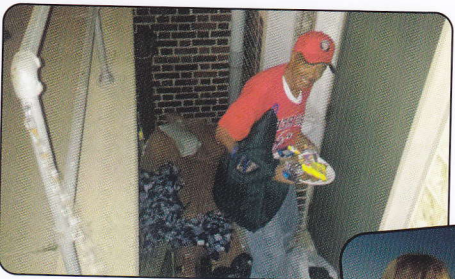
*Left: AJ, Brooklyn, and
April Provaux.*



*Right:
Channel 7
cameraman
Craig
Mooreland.*

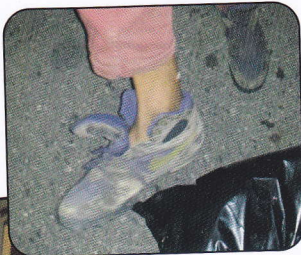


Street and Homeless Ministry – Jefferson Ave. & Riverfront



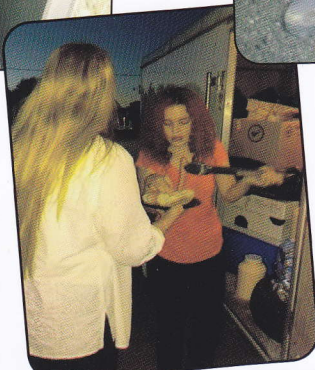
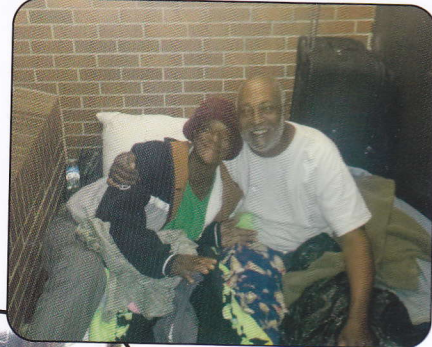
Above: Homeless Veteran sleeping in the pit.

Below: Larry Ackermen feeding from the truck.



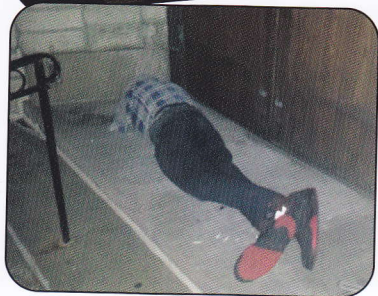
Left: A lady showing us how tore up her shoes are.

Right: Debra and "Wet Willie."

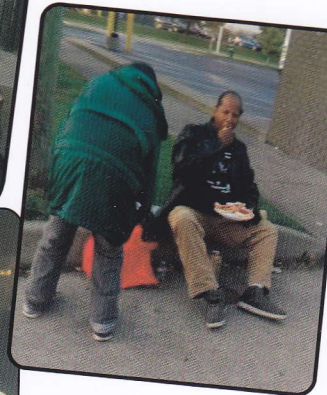


Left: Miss Lisa Feeding the homeless.

Right: Miss Lisa getting a blanket out for a homeless person.

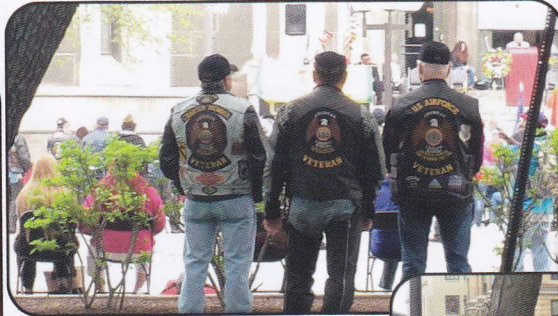


Left: Brittany and Mike.





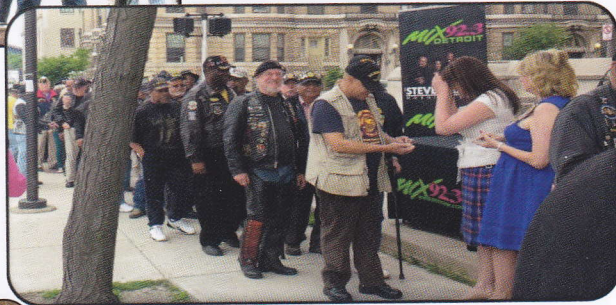
Above: City Council President Brenda Jones, and Tyrone Chapman (standing) listen as Deputy Mayor Ike McKinnon speaks.



Above: Biker Veterans watch from Cass Park.



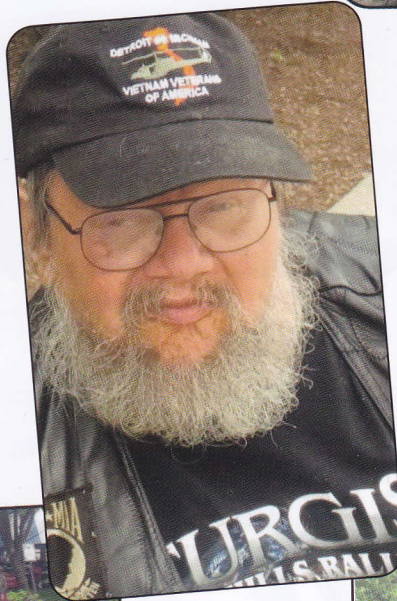
Below: "Rabbit" who was Brother Joe's Body Guard for several years.



Above: Vietnam Vets receiving their 50th Anniversary Pins.

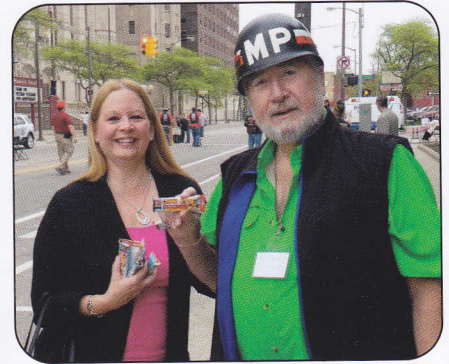


Miss Lisa, and Regina & Larry Ackerman with a Homeless Vet.



Below: Veteran Richard Chatman on the Masonic Temple steps.

Below: Miss Lisa with George Adams.



Right: Tyrone Chapman, Ed Tuggle, and Deputy Mayor Ike McKinnon.

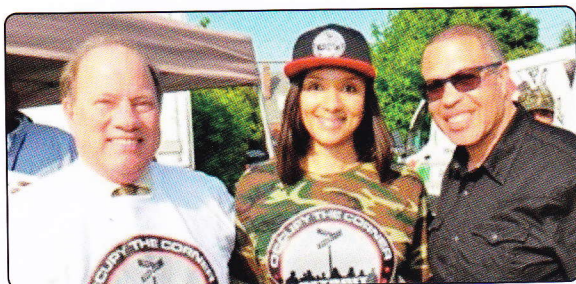
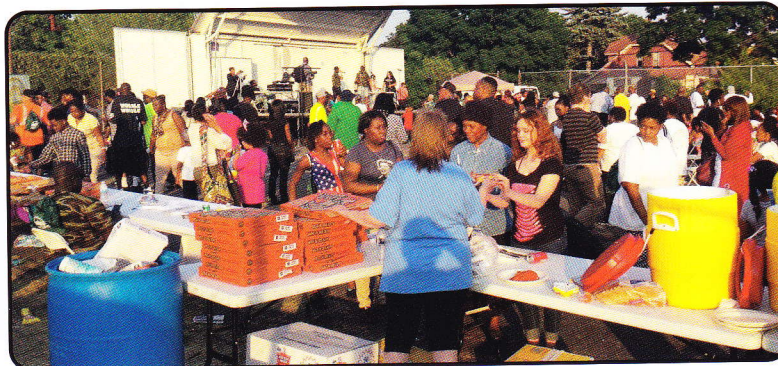
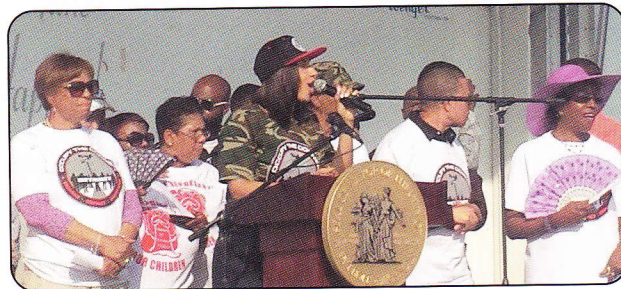


OCCUPY THE CORNER — ANTI-VIOLENCE EVENT #1
PINGREE PARK - DETROIT'S EAST SIDE
FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 2016



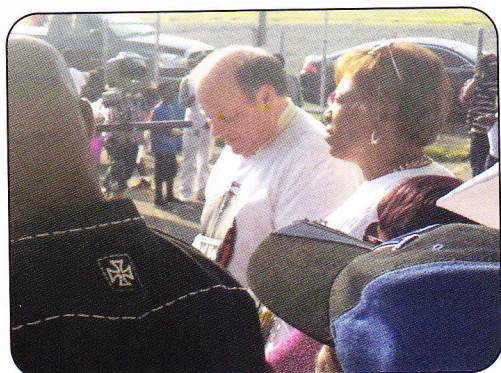
Above: Councilwoman Mary Sheffield (second from the left) with her Occupy the Corner crew.

Right: Councilwoman Mary Sheffield addressing the crowd gathered at Pingree Park for the Occupy the Corner Event.



Left: Mayor Mike Dugan, Councilwoman Mary Sheffield, and Detroit Chief of Police James Craig.

Above & Below: Our crew busy feeding the attendees.



Detroit Mayor Mike Dugan during a moment of silence as a mother told about her son being shot and killed on a Detroit Street.



Detroit Chief of Police James Craig.



WHO IS THAT LADY BEHIND THE “OCCUPY THE CORNER” AND “HOMELESS” EVENTS IN DETROIT?

Editors Note:

Just who is this lady behind all the “Occupy the Corner” and “Homeless” Events in Detroit? It is Mary Sheffield, Detroit City Councilwoman District #5

It came to our attention that there are readers from outside the Detroit area who are may not be familiar with Mary Sheffield.

The following information is reprinted from the May 2, 2014 edition of *CRAIN'S DETROIT BUSINESS* Magazine.

At 26, Ms. Mary Sheffield is the youngest person ever elected the Detroit City Council.



Mary Sheffield stands on the shoulders of great men - her father is the Rev. Horace Sheffield, and her grandfather who founded the Detroit Trade Union Labor Council - taught her about public service, community organizing, and standing up for the voiceless. “They are fighters for the people,” said Sheffield. “They fight for the betterment of the city of Detroit.

As head of Detroit’s Homeless Coalition, and the “Occupy the Corner”, she hosts several events each year for both.

Ms. Sheffield often invites Brother Joe’s Ministry to participate in these events.

OCCUPY THE CORNER — ANTI-VIOLENCE EVENT #2

CELEBRITY BASKETBALL EDITION

BRADY PARK - DETROIT'S EAST-SIDE

FRIDAY, JULY 22, 2016



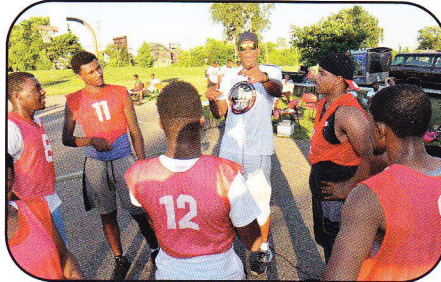
Activity Participants.



Left: An unidentified woman (left), with Alexis Wiley, the Chief of Staff to the Mayor of the City of Detroit.



Rachael Ackerman with Councilwoman Mary Sheffield.



Right: Retired NBA Basketball Player, Willie Burton, (white shirt center of photo) takes time to give basketball tips to those in attendance.

OCCUPY THE CORNER — ANTI-VIOLENCE EVENT #3

SCHOOL SUPPLIES & HOMELESS EDITION

LERoy DUES PARK - DETROIT'S EAST-SIDE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 2016



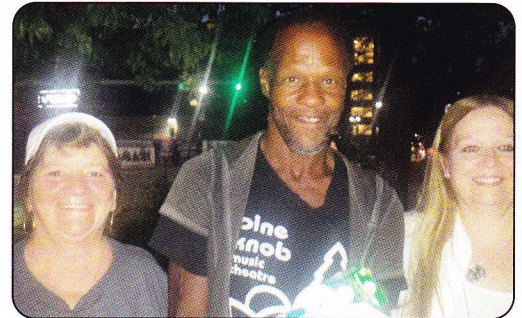
Above: Kiddies getting their backpacks.

Below: Violet Deaz, with a homeless man called "Two Talk Joseph" and Miss Lisa.



Top Left: Brother Joe helping feed the crowd.

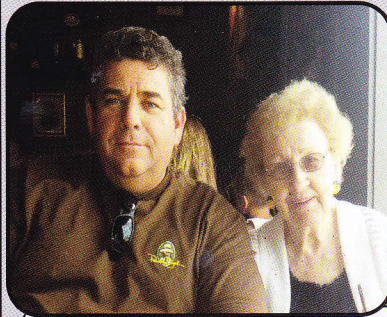
Center & Bottom Left: Miss Lisa and our workers feeding the attendees and homeless folks.



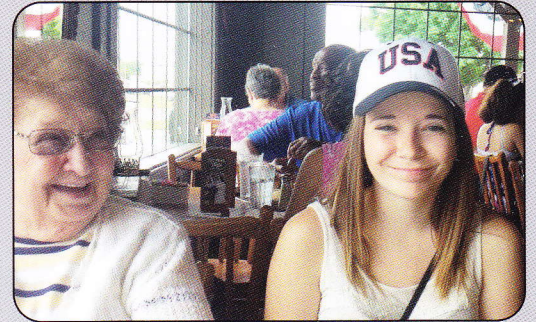
Ari Ruttenburg with Karen Gates.

Brother Joe Is Off To The Kegly Family Reunion

JUNE 22, 2016 - June 27,



Today I donned a different hat, and chauffeured my mother; Marion Hicks, my aunt Mildred, and her granddaughter Samantha Scott to the Kegly Family Reunion in Arkansas. And even though I learned many heart breaking things about the hardships that my family went through before and during the Great Depression, I was still amazed at the Love and Christian character that the Kegly family showed in marrying into and adopting the Pillow family of whom my Mom, Aunt Mildred, Aunt Wanda and, my late Uncle Donald Pillow were all essentially "Grafted in" as part of the Kegly family.



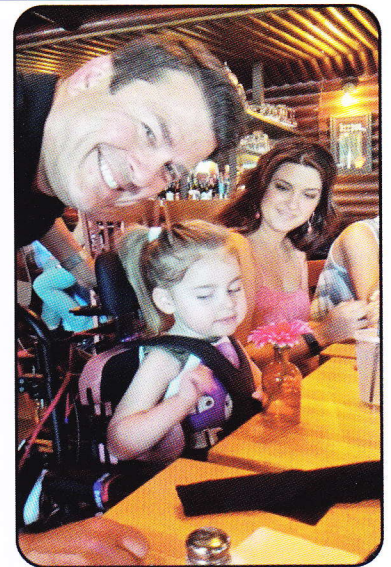
STEPHEN CLARK'S CONCERT FOR SCARLET PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN - MAY 22, 2016



Miss Lisa, Scarlet's grandmother; Larenne Clark, and Scarlet's mother; Hillary Clark.



Above: Scarlet & Mom Hillary.
Right: Stephen Clark with his granddaughter Scarlet and his daughter Hillary Clark.

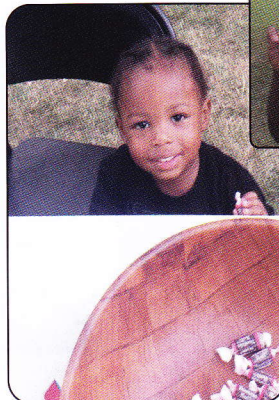


ELECT LEE QUALLS EVENT - SATURDAY, JULY 30, 2016



Lee Qualls standing behind the kids at this event.

Center: One little itty bitty boy, one great big bowl of Tootsie Rolls. He had a big smile on his face as he looked up and wanted a hand full of them.



Left: "The Prophet" with election hopeful Lee Qualls.

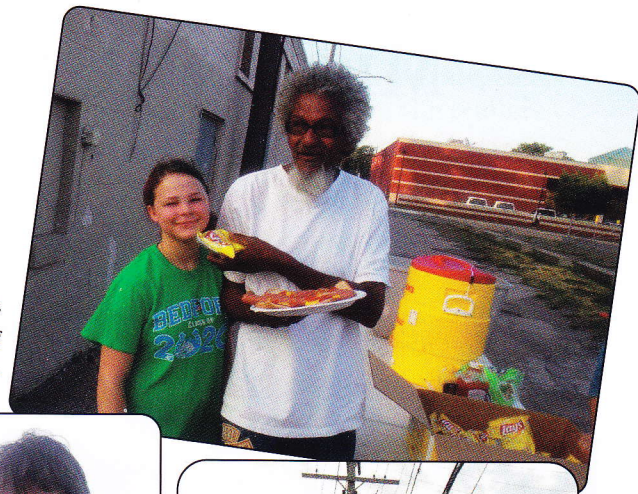
Below: Brother Joe's Rig.



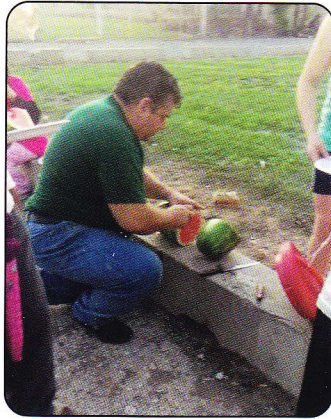
MANY NIGHTS FEEDING IN THE SPANISH ALLEY
SOUTHWEST DETROIT



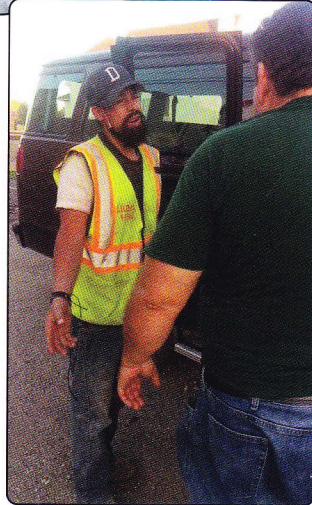
Left: Marie Nogalski, along with Regina, and Sarah Ackerman working the feeding tables.



Right: Sarah Ackerman feeding a homeless friend.



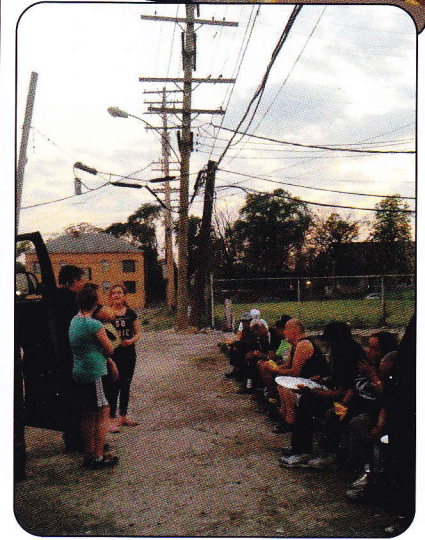
Brother Joe cutting watermelon.



The men in the "Spanish Alley" on the Southwest side of Detroit, asked for a Spanish Bible.



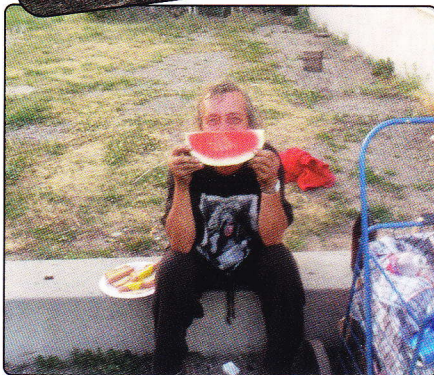
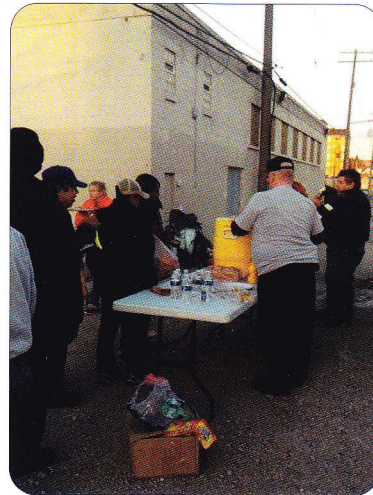
The Gentle Giant" being fed.



Feeding, Preaching, and singing in the Spanish Alley.



Left: "Wheelchair Keith", a Homeless Vet ended up in the Spanish Alley too.

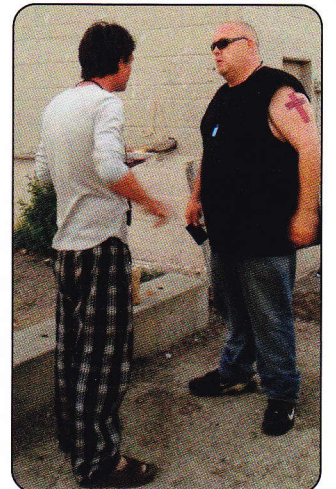


It's Mellon Time with Season Melon



Left: "Big Barry" Newman and a not so big friend.

Right: "Big Barry" witnesses to "The Gentle Giant." Barry makes "The Giant" look small.



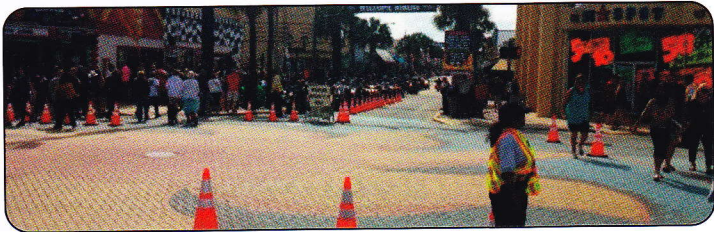
MISSIONARY UPDATE

For the Streets
Kyle "Brother Joe" Hicks

Acts 16:31

MARCH - The month of March 2016 was just WEIRD!

BIKE WEEK 2016 DAYTONA FLORIDA



The last Day of February 2016 Brother Joe helped preach his beloved Uncle Donald's funeral. The plan was to leave for Daytona the next morning but had heard a Snow Storm was blowing into the area. We did not want to leave for Bike Week in bad weather and we were 90% packed, so the decision was made. We rushed the rest of the packing, tossed it into Miss Lisa's SUV then drove to central Ohio to stay south of the weather threat. So March 2016 started with me still in my suit from the funeral and Miss Lisa still in her work outfit, checking into that Hotel in Findlay with VERY HEAVY Hearts.

HOMELESS IN DAYTONA

We ended up working with numerous beat-down and battered Homeless people that we continued to meet on the streets all week long in our day to day activities. IT WAS GREAT!

BUBBA GUMP'S RESTAURANT AN OCEAN SIDE RESCUE MISSION

Possibly the highlight of this Bike Week trip was when Miss Lisa & Brother Joe were sitting on the outside patio of *Bubba Gump's Restaurant* waiting for our meal. The cooks got way behind, and people were angry about how long it was taking for their food to be done. But Miss Lisa & Brother Joe have developed a kind of a NO COMPLAINTS attitude about food because for a lot of years we have seen so many people who "Dumpster Dive", meaning they are eating out of trash cans. So we figure the very fact we do get to eat is a BLESSING!

While waiting there for the meal Brother Joe saw a Homeless man sleeping on a bench across the courtyard of the band shell area. Brother Joe stopped the young lady who the waiter had sent to check on us. Her name was Kalee and she was shook up and almost in tears because all of the patrons were mad about their meals being so far behind.

Brother Joe told her that he wanted to add a Burger & Fries to our order then pointed to the shadowy figure of the Homeless man sleeping on the bench about 50 yards across the band shell area in the dark. She walked off then came back in TEARS and said "I just wanted you to know that you just made my whole night!" It turned out that Kaylee feeds the Homeless with her own Church and that she is married to a soldier.

Ordering a Homeless man a Burger sparked a chain of events. The young man who was our waiter came over and talked with us and was shocked at this "Act of Kindness". Then the manager began to give us discounts and desserts because of what we were doing.

Miss Lisa then went and bought the Homeless man a blanket from the gift shop. The cooks, wait staff, and even the sales people in the gift store had heard about, and were excited about, the Homeless Guy and the Hamburger.

The Homeless man stirred, so Brother Joe walked over to tell him that he had ordered a Burger & Fries for him. He was very surprised and just grinned and said, "THANKS!"

The young waitress, Kaylee, joined Miss Lisa to deliver the Burger and the Blanket. Then again the restaurant wanted to give Miss Lisa & Brother Joe desert for what we were doing but we forwarded it to the Homeless guy.

Brother Joe was in a tearful grin as he watched his beautiful wife "Miss Lisa" and Kalee, this beautiful young soldier's wife, walk back and forth to feed and care for this Homeless man that night. WHAT A BLESSING!

We cannot begin to tell you what a difference it made in the night of those young people and staff who were feeling the wrath of angry customers because the food was running slow due to the overwhelming size of the Bike Week & Spring Break crowds.

When our young waiter tried again to apologize to us individually Brother Joe told him, "IT WAS OF GOD!" Then he looked at us like a calf at a new gate, somewhere between terrified and in tears of joy. Brother Joe honestly thinks it was because he truly understood the Epiphany of the moment!

We can promise you it's a night those young people will NEVER forget! All because of the shadowy figure of one Homeless man sleeping on a bench.



EVANGELIST TIM LEE



On the trip South we ordered the tracts "DEADLINE VIETNAM: THE DAY MY RUNNING STOPPED!" from the Tim Lee Ministry.

The tract is a testimony of how Tim Lee lost his legs in

Vietnam then and his surrendering to the ministry.

Somehow our wires got crossed and the inner office folks did not send the 2000 tracts to our Hotel in Florida as requested. That changed everything that we were planning on doing. But "IT WAS OF GOD" for sure!

Then on our way home Miss Lisa and Brother Joe had a real thrill, Evangelist Tim Lee called and apologized for the tracts not arriving at the hotel, and said he was going to have them forwarded to our house. Miss Lisa talked to him first then he talked to me and apologized again and again. Brother Joe told him, "BROTHER, IT WAS OF GOD!" and was able to tell him that us not having the tracts sent us chasing different people instead, plus provided a much needed rest for us!

Wed. March/16/16~

The BIG #55 SPEAKING OF YOUNG PEOPLE... Brother Joe is not!

When he hit 55 years old after returning from Daytona's Bike Week, he said; "I still act 15... but YEP, I'm 55!"

SPEAKING OF 15 YEARS OLD...

This year is the 40th Anniversary of "Brother Joe's" involvement in the Youth & Street Ministry in Detroit!
FORTY YEARS HOW CAN IT BE?

It is because he started when he was 15 years old!

A LOG JAM OF CLOTHES AND A GREAT OPPORTUNITY



Brother Joe has always told people, "No two winters are alike!" And the Fall / Winter of 2015-2016 was a real DOOZIE! We had to vacate the Collin's Farm property storage, then the truck motor blew up, all the trailers got busted up, and the van's fan belt snapped.



We collected, and had people help separate, tons of winter clothing, but we did not have the trailers to deliver the donations. But even worse was that the big Detroit City run shelter, Operation Get Down #2, on Medbury Street next to the old Packard Auto Factory was closed. We have been their number one supplier for the past few years. But this year they only opened part of their center and the huge Homeless crowd was not even there! So we have Log Jam, and an amazing amount of Homeless winter clothing. We just need to get all the "Mules" fixed and lined up so that we can deliver to several different Shelters early next fall and winter.

MUSIC CD AND THE NEXT MINISTRY DVD

We are at work on our decades overdue music CD that is going to be called "For the Streets". At the same time we are in the midst of hopefully putting out our next ministry

DVD. These things always

get complicated and time consuming, but hey it's my 40th Anniversary in the Street Ministry and we are taking a bit of a "Victory Lap" celebrating God's grace and goodness on us.

Anyone who really knows the dangers we have intentionally faced in our ministry knows that "Brother Joe" could have, or perhaps should have, been killed years ago! But as the song "Amazing Grace" says; "Through many dangers, toils and snares. I have already come; 'Tis' Grace that brought me safe thus far and Grace will lead me home."

BIGGEST BLESSINGS: CLOTHING SEPARATION & STREET MINISTRY GROUPS!

Absolutely the best things that have happened this Fall / Winter have been three things,

- Mrs. Shirley & Brother Greg Mc Fadden and the folks that have helped them to separate the mountains of clothing we have gotten in.
- The clothing separation nights at the 1st Baptist Church of Flat Rock.
- And of course our beloved self proclaimed "MINIONS." The Ackerman's; Larry, Regina, Keith, Rachael, and Sarah, plus Marie Nogalski, John Bryant, "Big Barry" Newman, and of course my beautiful Bride Miss Lisa who have all been a huge help to us this winter.

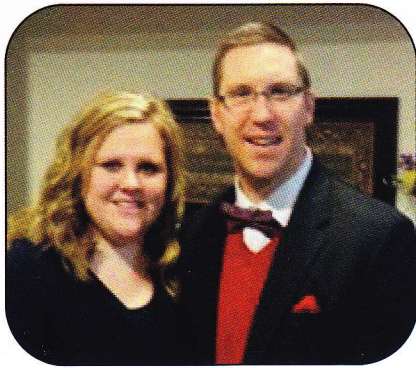
Brother Joe didn't really realize how lonely he got out there so many nights on the streets since we lost our youth group in 2012, until he got this group helping him in the Street Ministry this winter. Man what a BLAST! We love our Minions!



APRIL 2016

Fri. April/1/16~ On the night of "April Fool's Day" we had 7 out in Street Ministry. While feeding by Comerica Park-Tiger Stadium Regina Ackerman made the statement about the differences between people, **"Everybody's Grave Is The Same Size!"** It definitely set the tone for the whole night.

Sun. April/3/16~ While Brother Joe was writing this he realized this is the 1st of 3 times that he and Miss Lisa went through moments of extreme gratitude over the time spent on young people that we knew years before in the Prayer Baptist Church's youth Street Preaching group.



Brother Ryan Buja and his beautiful wife Gina are two young people who were kids at Prayer Baptist.

Ryan is now the Pastor of the Friendship Baptist Church in Warren, Michigan.

Brother Joe was honored to preach and sing in both the morning and evening services today. He and Miss Lisa are **THRILLED** to see young people they have known almost all their lives rising up to becoming leaders!

Tues. April/5/16~ During the day Brother Joe helped the Mc Fadden's and the Edmond's separate clothing at the Prayer Baptist Church.

That night we had 8 out in Street Ministry. It must have been a full moon. No Joke! In one of the areas we go to there were several Homeless folks out as well as Hookers, both male & female.

One man began to tell Brother Joe; "I need a few dollars Mr. Trump and if you give me the money I'll vote for you!" The rest of the night seemed normal until the very last stop, that's when we went over to feed a man whom we thought was "Two Talk Joseph" and when asked if he was hungry he screamed; **"CHICKEN DINNER!"** The rest of the crew got a similar request... We had Hot Dogs... Some nights are just not normal!"

Sat. April/9/16~ We had 10 out in Street Ministry. It was a cooler night and all went well, we really enjoyed the group that night feeding, clothing, and singing.

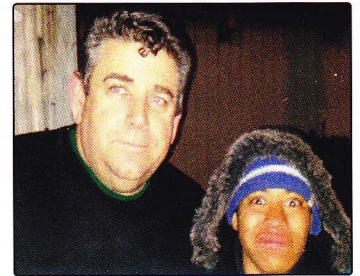
Sun. April/10/16~ Brother Joe literally "slid" up Telegraph Road to I-75 then over to the Rochester Hills Baptist Church in a surprise Snow Squall.

After service and lunch with his mother, he picked up a garage load of clothing, food, and hygiene items from the Rochester Hills Baptist Church, where Brother Hal Hightower is Pastor.

Thur. April/14/16~ Brother Joe met with the Deputy Mayor of Westland, Mi., and John Adams, a Veteran who is the Parks and Recreation Director for the city, searching for more space to keep Homeless clothing as well as offering clothing and supplies to Veterans Centers.

That night we had a small group out feeding folks at the *Neighborhood Service Organization* (NSO) on 3rd Street before the center makes the residents come in for the night. We were able to get about 20 bags of clothing out as well. While there we had one older, strange drunken man whom kept singing **"MY LOVE IS A MONSTER!"**

This guy tried to play Brother Joe's guitar - at the same time Brother Joe was playing it! Plus he was too "friendly" with Brother Joe. It was a **REAL BLESSING** when he decided to take his "drunk self" inside the shelter for the night!



We went to one of the notorious Red Light District "Strolls." While there we saw a gal who we met on the streets last summer when she was a pregnant, drug addicted Hooker. Everything is the same except she is no longer pregnant, she told us that her Mother has the baby and that she lives just a few blocks away... We're glad she's still alive but her condition is heart breaking!

Fri. April/15/16~

GUENTHER BROTHERS SINGING GROUP REUNION

Too much to explain, but when Ryan, Tim, and Daniel, were teen aged boys they traveled with our Street Preaching Ministry Group, and started a singing group. Brother Bill Keen had them sing for his church, then at a tent revival, and then the Guenther Brothers began to meet preachers, book singing, and preaching engagements... and then they were off to the races! Many years later they are all married; Tim Gunther, along with his wife Joy, and their children are heading to New Zealand to be Missionaries. This was a reunion, a fund-raiser, and a farewell to Tim & family before leaving.

Sat. April/16/16~

DRUG INDUCED DISEASES EVERYWHERE!

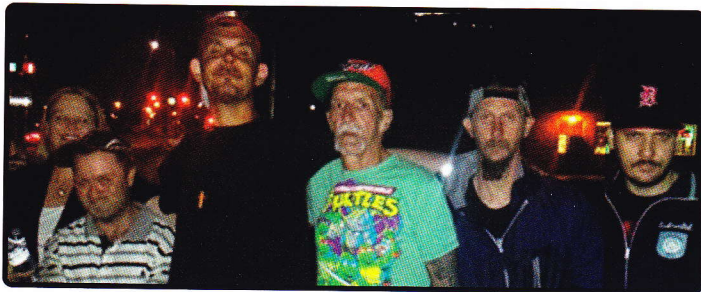
We were joined by Kempf, Emmeline, and Amanda Luetz for Street Ministry when we got back to Detroit. It was a HEART BREAKING night. We saw Penny, a young woman who we tried to send to West Virginia this past winter. She has been diagnosed with different STDs and Hepatitis C, plus she lost most of one of her index fingers to drug use. We went on to feed other street girls that night and were told by them of the rage in disease among the girls on the stroll there, including a girl that Miss Lisa and Brother Joe went to see in the hospital the next day.

We went on to feed a Homeless man who looked very much like the Country Singer Merle Haggard who had just passed away. Over all a great night but so moving!

Sun. April/17/16~ Miss Lisa and Brother Joe went to see one of the girls in the hospital. Her years in drug addiction and prostitution have left her in terrible shape. Her sister told us that she is actually improving... but then she died.

Mon. April/18/16~

SPECIAL DELIVERY



Miss Lisa (far left) and Brother Joe took a special order to this crew of Homeless men and Homeless Hookers. We took them medical supplies, shoes, clothes, and we fed them. Once again as the warmer weather comes in we are meeting the next wave of new addicts and street girls.

Tues. April/19/16~

**"TENNIS SHOES & TATER CHIPS"
with WENDY JONES**

Brother Joe was interviewed again on the Wendy Jones Radio show called, "NEXT STEP FOR SENIORS". Several times now Wendy has had him on her show to speak about serving others. The topic that day was "TENNIS SHOES & TATER CHIPS" kind of the flip side of our ministries winter time "BOOTS & BLANKETS" drive.

Weds. April/20/16~

OUR NEW DVD

"CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF MINISTRY"

It took almost all day, and an immense amount of effort, but our next DVD titled; "CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF MINISTRY" is in for printing. Yes!!! Brother Joe has been at it since 1976.

That night Brother Joe & Miss Lisa went to hear Brother David Peacock from Jacksonville, FL., who was preaching at Ryan Gunther's Bible Conference at the Victory Baptist Church in Hartland, Mi.

Thurs. April/21/ ~ Fri. April/22/16~

**BIBLE CONFERENCE AT THE VICTORY
BAPTIST CHURCH IN HARTLAND, MI.**

We were able to attend the Bible Conference services at Victory Baptist Church in Hartland, Mi. where Ryan Guenther is pastor.

Again Miss Lisa & Brother Joe are just THRILLED to see another young man that we have known, and been involved with, serving the Lord, Pastoring Church, with a family and doing right! It seems like just the other day Ryan, the oldest of the Guenther Brothers, was a teen aged boy in the van on Friday nights going Street Preaching with the Prayer Baptist Teens, and now he pastors a growing Church with a GREAT Bible conference. THANK YOU LORD!!!

Sun. April/24/16~ Brother Joe was blessed to be able to sing and show the original copy of our upcoming DVD to the folks in attendance at the Missions Conference at the Loomis Park Baptist Church in Jackson, MI., where Brother Rich Zawadzki is pastor. Wonderful people at the Church and the Preacher is a BLAST!

Mon. April/25/16~

**THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE
AMANDA JEAN HAGER'S VIGIL #6**



Alicia, Briana, and Christiana

We had a group of 7 that put on the 6th Candle Light Vigil for Amanda Jean Hager who was the Mother of 3 girls in our ministry; Alicia, Briana, and Christiana (who we all called Lulu.) Nikki, their

older sister, is living down south again. Shot in the face, Amanda was killed back in 2010.

This event was a very well attended with Channel 7 photographer Craig Mooreland coming and filming an interview with Alicia Garcia. The footage was carried on the on both Channel 7 and 2 news. THANK YOU! With a Special THANKS to Lisa Gass at Channel 7.

We had some amazing things happen we had around 15 people who prayed with Brother Joe after he street preached. Some of the folks were adults, some were Muslim, who called on the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. And then "AJ" who is Adam Proveaux, Jr. the son of some of the young adults who used to attend our services. "AJ" told Miss Lisa, his mother, and his sister Brooklyn that he wanted to HURRY to the street meeting because; **"I want to get SAVED!"** Family have given AJ the verses over the years but had not led him to the Lord.



That night AJ and a dozen or more also asked the Lord Jesus Christ to come into their hearts to save them. The night ended again with the candles being lit and singing **"THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE"** right as the sun was setting.

Wed. April/27/16~



Brother Joe drove and picked up a load of clothing from sister Terri Berringer and her daughter Bethany at the Northwest Baptist Church in Toledo, Ohio, were Brother Joe's friend since their teen

years, Brother Andy Edwards, is Pastor. Brother Andy's wife "Miss Vicky" (Keener) Edwards grew up right down the street, and was the "Bus Stewardess" on the old 17-B Bus Route out of the Rochester Hills Baptist Church in the old Cass Corridor of Detroit, where Brother Joe is still in the ministry almost 40 years later... yep Brother Joe told everybody he was not going to quit!



Brother Joe and Pastor Boyce

That evening Brother Joe preached the last meeting of the Missions Conference for the 1st Baptist Church in Flat Rock, Mi. where Brother Robert Boyce is Pastor. GREAT NIGHT!

Fri. April/29/16~

GUENTHER BROTHERS PART TWO

Miss Lisa and Brother Joe attended another of The Guenther Brothers Concerts. On May 9th Tim Guenther and his family will be flying to New Zealand to become Missionaries.

While driving home after the concert Miss Lisa and Brother Joe talked quietly, actually reverently, saying "It seems like just the other day..."

Yes, just the other day, back in the mid 1990's Ryan, Tim, and Daniel Guenther were 3 teenaged boys who helped us in the Street Ministry. Brother Joe had introduced them to preacher friends, and they did great as a singing group. All 3 boys married preachers daughters and all 3 are in ministry. We drove home quietly contemplating about what the term **"BLESSED"** really means.

We are SO ETERNALLY GRATEFUL that somehow, someday, we were a blessing to these young men back when they were teens. It really makes ALL the "STUFF" you go through in the Ministry so worth it all!

Tim Gunther wrote a song about Brother Joe called **"BROTHER JOE"** which is a young man singing about the CRAZY things that an inner city of Detroit Missionary- Street Preacher has done. So Humbled and BLESSED!

Sat. April/30/16~ RE-ENLISTED!

Today Brother Joe attended the monthly meeting of the Vietnam Veterans Chapter 9. The pressure is on Chapter 9 because their building has been sold and the pressure of it all has the STRESS level up.

At the very end of the meeting where all new officers were elected or appointed, they asked Brother Joe publicly if he would be their Chaplin again for the next 3 years. He said it would be an honor, and told them all, **“I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE!”** Again the term BLESSED takes on new meaning when serving the ones you really want to serve.

At the end of the meeting Brother Joe requested using the building for a 40th Anniversary Concert...

~~~~~  
Well, what a BLESSED and Broken Hearted month. So glad to see Ryan and Gina Buja pastoring and serving God at the Friendship Baptist Church in Warren, MI., Ryan and Kara Guenther pastoring the Victory Baptist Church in Hartland, Mi., and Tim and Joy Guenther heading out to New Zealand as Missionaries, while Daniel and Rachael are working with the youth down at Hope Baptist in Romulus, Mi. Not to mention Zack and William LeFevere missionaries in Eastern Europe, Robert Bratcher pastoring in Kentucky, and others who are also serving the Lord. Just GOOD to see these “Teenaged Kids” who are now adults with families of their own going on for God!... GOD BLESS YOU “KIDS”!  
BROTHER JOE and MISS LISA LOVE YOU ALL!!

But the reality of the other end of our ministry, like Amada’s Vigil due to her murder, and hundreds of diseased street girls we are watching die slowly, is we are in a WAR down here and it is VEXING!

**MAY 2016**

**Sun. May/1/16~** Brother Joe & Miss Lisa picked up goods for our Homeless and Street Outreach from the Faith Baptist Church in Dearborn Hts., Mi.

**Mon. May/2/16~**



We had a group of 8 out feeding, singing, and street preaching. We passed out close to 30 bags of clothing to the men and women by the *Neighborhood Service Organization* (NSO) on 3rd Street.

**Tues. May/3/16~** We had another big night but in a very different way. We fed over on the Southwest Side, the Hart Plaza, River Front area, and the Business District. The streets are filling up because the weather has started to warm up.

We had one woman who had blisters and abscesses on her feet, to which Regina Ackerman peeled off her own brand new tennis shoes and gave them to “Miss Felicia”.

**Wed. May/4/16~** Miss Lisa & Brother Joe delivered food and goods to Alicia and Jocelyn Garcia, who are the daughter and granddaughter of Amanda Hagar, the woman we have held several candle light vigils for who was murdered in 2010.

**Thurs. May/5/16~** We had 7 out in Street Ministry and had a big Spaghetti night, feeding at the *Neighborhood Service Organization* (NSO), and Business District.

**Fri. May/6/16~** We had 5 out in Street Ministry, again passing out multiple bags of summer clothing, feeding, and singing. Later we went up and fed the hard core street crowd in a different area. The “Transgender / Female” prostitutes were out due to the warmer weather, and we were able to minister to them also.

**Sat. May/7/16~**



*The 5 Ackermans; Keith, Regina, Rachael, Larry, Sarah, and Miss Lisa*

We helped with cleanup day at the Prayer Baptist Church in Westland, Mi. We did help with some of the building clean up but our group of 8 consisting of the 5 Ackerman’s, Debbie Dee, Miss Lisa, and myself, concentrated heavily on the TONS of clothing items, food, and the hygiene items that have been donated to our Outreach. We ended up emptying out 2 trailers and mega packing a 3rd for weeks of Street Ministry.

**Sun. May/8/16~ MOTHER’S DAY ~** Miss Lisa & Brother Joe attended services at the Rochester Hills Baptist Church where his Mother is a member. They then had lunch with his mom, and sister, Twyla. (See “*Rosie The Riveter*” on the Back Cover.)

**Thurs. May/11/16~**

***AMERICAN HOUSE EVENT***

Miss Lisa & Brother Joe attended an American House fund raiser event held by Rob Gillette at what was once the American Motors-Jeep Head Quarters in Southfield, Mi. This fundraiser event was exquisite. It had all kinds of very tasty finger foods, and raises money to help poor seniors, especially those in the Detroit and Pontiac areas. They even deliver fresh fruit to numerous seniors in the Pontiac area that could otherwise not be able to afford it.

Bob Gillette, who is a Vietnam Veteran and is Rob's father has been supplying Brother Joe's "OutCry Youth and Street Ministry" with all beef Hot Dogs every week for years now. We are so very grateful!

After that event, we stopped by the last night of Brother Larry Bell's Revival Meeting at the 1st Baptist Church in Garden City Mi. where Brother Luther Stanley is Pastor. Great Preaching!

**Fri. May/12/16~**

***THAT'S A LOTTA CHIPS MISS SHERRILL!***



Sister Sherrill Adkins had a large load of potato chips for our Outreach that Brother Joe picked up that morning. THANK YOU!

That night we had 8 out for Street Preaching and feeding. We spent most of the night by the NSO and were able to get tons of the clothing out that we prepared during the previous Saturday's "Cleanup Day" at Prayer Baptist Church.

Then we tried to help a Homeless woman who was in tears and wanted to get away from the NSO. We could not find an empty bed for her anywhere and the longer the night went on the weirder she got. We fed folks while we drove around seeking a shelter for her. However, when we got a Hotel Room for her she got angry and Miss Lisa had to try to calm her down. Our entire group got to see what is possible with some of the folks we work with. It was not until late that night Miss Lisa told me; "She never blinked one time the whole night!"... Zombies? Yep!

**Sat. May/13/16~**

***ZEALAND SPA SALON  
GRAND RE-OPENING EVENT***

Yowzers! For the second time in one week Miss Lisa & Brother Joe went to a beautiful event!!!

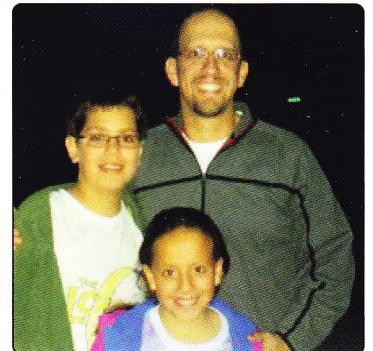
A little over a year ago Brother Joe met Channel 7's Stephen Clark, his beautiful wife Larenne, and their daughters Hillary and Sophie through their granddaughter Scarlet. The Clark's had started the Zealand Salon and Spa a few years ago, but due to Miss Lisa's hectic schedule it took forever to get her to the Salon to get her hair trimmed. As soon as she did Larenne, Hillary, the hair stylists, and Miss Lisa all became instant friends!

Having outgrown their original space, the Clark's were re-opening the Zealand Spa in a larger building a few doors down from where they were before. Brother Joe & Miss Lisa had a good time at this enchanting event.

Brother Joe is in awe of how kind Stephen, Larenne, and the crew have been to him. And he is in shock that for as many times as he has been up to the Zealand Spa, which is in such a nice area of Commerce Twp., that he still has not been arrested for vagrancy!

**Mon. May/16/16~**

Brother Joe picked up chips, canned goods and other items from Pastor Santiago Santantu who has a Spanish Speaking Church in Rochester Hills, Mi. THANK YOU!



**Tues. May/17/16~**

We had left over banquet food that had been donated to the outreach so we made a "Mulligan" or "Brunswick" Stew... You just toss in a bunch of stuff and hope it comes out good. All the Homeless we fed that night loved it!

**Thurs. May/19/16~** One of the things we hear so often about the Homeless is; "Why don't they just get jobs?" Well many do work. On this night Miss Lisa & Brother Joe gave money to a man that contacted us. He is living in a Shelter in downtown Detroit and takes a City Bus to the Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi. All he asked for was enough money to buy a bus pass to get back and forth! We want to help anyone but especially a working man! For the record he was Homeless at Hart Plaza and his bus ride from there to the Twelve Oaks Mall is 29.1 miles. Imagine how long that ride is by City bus with all the stops, and no freeway!

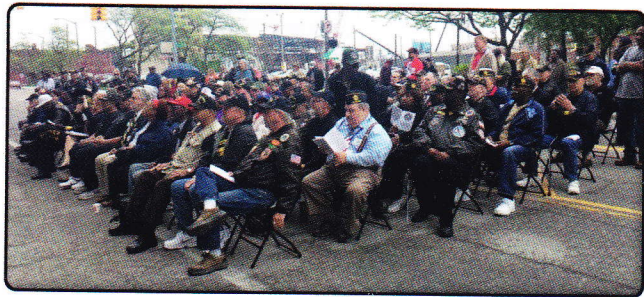
**Fri. May/20/16** ~ Brother Joe and Miss Lisa took a trip back out to the old Collins farm, that was purchased by another family named Collins, to help them with a situation out there. Larry and Regina Ackerman came out to help also. Thankful for a group that is willing to work so hard!

**Sat. May/21/16**

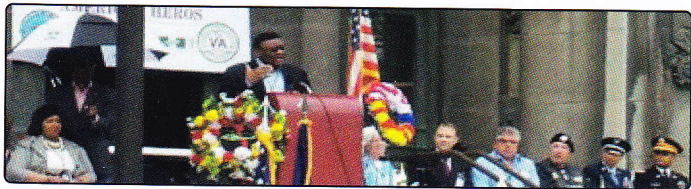
**VIETNAM WAR 50TH ANNIVERSARY  
AND PINNING EVENT**



Brother Joe, Miss Lisa, and Larry & Regina Ackerman helped with this event which was set up partially at Cass Park or "Jercassic Park".



Seating was in the middle of Temple Street with the speakers & singers on the steps of the Masonic Temple at Temple & 2nd Street.



Several Veterans & Politicians spoke, plus they had a young woman sing. It was often a very emotional event, emotions were really high where the Veterans received their 50th Anniversary Pins. Brother Joe was at the end of the line to shake these Vietnam Veteran's hands after they received their pins. He said it was just over whelming to see all these aging "Rambos" together in one place.

Brother Joe has had a special love for the Vietnam Veterans since his childhood and he hates the way our Country turned it's back on the Vietnam Veterans after the war!

**Sun. May/22/16**

After the morning Church services Miss Lisa & Brother Joe attended an Acoustic Concert & Lunch that Stephen Clark sang at. Tom Limbaugh

accompanied him on acoustic guitar. It was great to see and sit with Little Scarlet, Hillary, and Larenne. Miss Lisa & Brother Joe were also privileged to meet Channel 7's newest Meteorologist Denise Isaac. She is a very friendly, beautiful young woman who was at a TV station in Miami before coming to Detroit. After Church that night Miss Lisa & Brother Joe went down to feed the Homeless. A Full Moon with no mishaps on the street. But the Homeless folks are leaving the Shelters and Missions to sleep in doorways as the weather is warming.

**May 24, 2016**

**LISTENING TO THAT  
"STILL SMALL VOICE"**

Brother Joe had just picked up Larry & Regina Ackerman from the parking lot at the Vietnam Veterans Chap. 9 building at Woodward and Temple, turned north off of Mack Ave-Martin Luther King and I-75 when he just felt the Lord was urging him to go the other way. He announced "We're headed the wrong way. We were heading up to Sodom, and the Lord wants us to go to Gomorrah tonight!"

Everyone just assumed that "Brother Joe" was just "Nuts" as usual. Stopping by several normal places to feed there was almost no one out and he began to question if he was hearing the wrong spiritual voice! Heading back towards the Business District & Cass Corridor area away from the South-west Side Brother Joe looked up and saw several folks sitting on a block wall in an alley. He pulled up to them and Miss Lisa asked them; "Are you hungry?" The guys there almost cheered! All too soon there were dozens of Homeless, addicts, hookers and other extremely poor people sitting, and eating, while we sang, passed out tracts, and witnessed to them.

Street Preaching there was almost impossible because most of the crowd there were Spanish speaking!

Glory to God for His Leading, and for the "Still Small Voice."

**Thurs. May/26/16**~ Brother Joe picked up yet another load of potato chips from Sister Sherrill Adkins a member of Lighthouse Baptist Church in Lincoln Park, Mi.

**Fri. May/27/16**~ Big Barry Newman and Brother Joe went to Toledo, Ohio after dropping off a load of tires to the back of the ministry's broken down Ford Pickup truck. They ran the errands there and were headed back up US 23 when Blam!... the right front tire shredded! Well... the idea was to get back and go out feeding and preaching on the streets that night... But, Uhhh... They had thrown the spare tire into the back of the pickup also! Brother Joe called for a AAA tow truck, then pulled out his Red, White, and Blue Guitar and practiced all his songs, singing for Big



Barry who was begging God for the tow truck to show up and stop this road side concert!

Truthfully it was so stinking hot, they both just cooked while Brother Joe sang. About 2½ to 3 hours later a tow truck arrived... seems Memorial Day travel had tow trucks pulling double duty!

**Sat. May/28/16~** Miss Lisa & Brother Joe attended the graduation party for Aaron & Tracy Speck's sons.

**May/29/16~** Miss Lisa & Brother Joe attended the morning services at Lighthouse Baptist Church so Brother Joe could retrieve his easel & chalk board he had left while preaching there before the new pastor took the Church. He needed the chalk board for an upcoming Missions Conference in PA.

**May/31/16~** Marie Nogalski accompanied Miss Lisa & Brother Joe on the streets that unbelievably beautiful night. We picked up a donation from Greg T, then fed the folks in that alley on the Southwest side now affectionately called the "Spanish Alley".

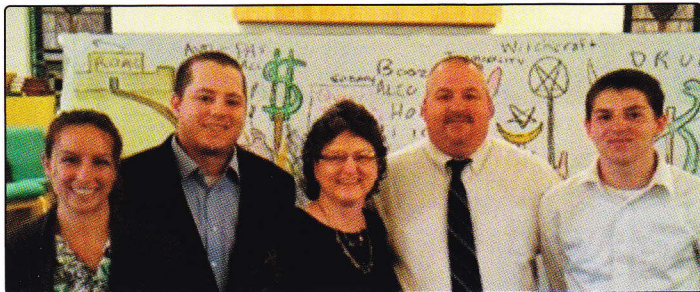
Next we noticed a Homeless man standing where Frank, Raymond, and Sadie used to sleep at Michigan & Washington. The man even looked like Frank, an older black gentleman with a white beard.

We fed in several spots after meeting with Greg T but it was not until the next morning that Greg T contacted me to say that the Coroner's Office Vehicle was there to pick up that man's dead body. Brother Joe wrote a internet post called "*What A Beautiful Night To Die!*" This saddened all of us because of the irony that we'd just passed by him, when we came back by he had laid down for the night and forever!

## JUNE 2016

June was very fast paced with many miles traveled.

**Fri. June/3/16**



Brother Joe preached, spoke to teens, sang, and did a "Chalk Talk" at a Missions Conference at the Old Bethel Church in Somerset, PA. where Brother Dwayne Riddle is Pastor. It was a great conference!

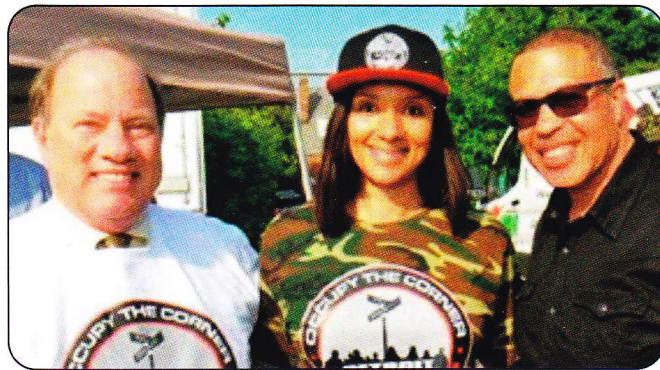
**Tues. June/7/16~** Brother Joe unloaded a trailer for the upcoming "Occupy The Corner" event with Mary Sheffield, Detroit City Councilwoman - District 5.

**Wed. June/8/16~** Between jet lag from the road, the heat, and allergies Brother Joe was sick.

**Thurs. June/9/16~** Brother Joe spent most of the day purchasing supplies for the "Occupy The Corner" event, and loading the trailer.

**Fri. June/10/16**

### *Occupy The Corner with Councilwoman Mary Sheffield*



*Mayor; Mike Duggan, City Councilwoman; Mary Sheffield, & Police Chief; James Craig*

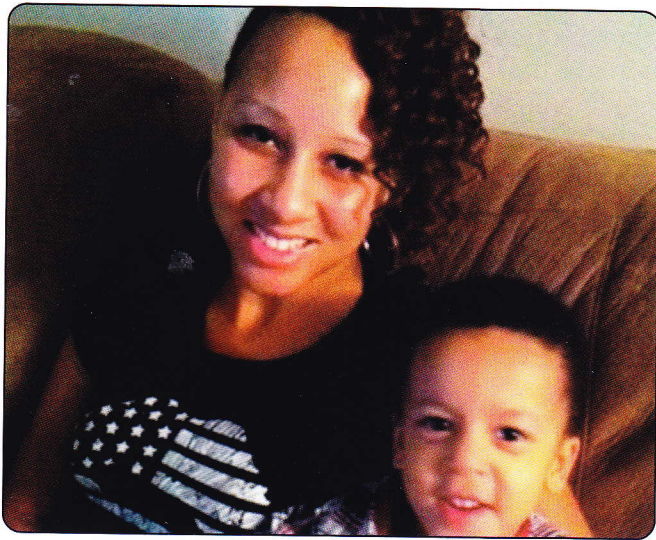
After cooking Hot Dogs, Spaghetti and picking up 200 pieces of Fried Chicken, Brother Joe picked up "The Minions" and special helpers Monica Gamet, Violet Dean, and Greg T. We had a total of 10 helpers in our group. We arrived at Mary Sheffield's "Occupy The Corner" event at Pingree Park on Detroit's Eastside and it was huge!



After sitting our tables up we helped feed the crowd, handed out tracts, treats, canned goods, hygiene items, and clothing items. There were numerous city officials & organizations at the event, including Mayor Mike Duggan, and Police Chief James Craig. During that evening Miss Lisa brought a set of teenage twin girls over to our table. They had just been taken to a shelter from an abusive situation and they had nothing but the clothes they were wearing. Thankfully we had clothing and hygiene products for them to have for their move to the shelter! Glory! Thank you to City Councilwoman Mary Sheffield for the Invite!

Mon. June/13/16

**TRAGEDY STRIKES - TIERESS TINGLE DIED**



*Tieress Tingle with her son*

After a Great Missions Conference and Great Event with Mary Sheffield, her staff, and the City of Detroit, Brother Joe received the worst possible news. A 24 year old girl from our OutCry Youth Street Preaching group, Tieress Tingle, died in an area hospital of a rare genetic blood disorder. She leaves behind her 4 year old son, her Mother Angela, her Brother Michael, and her Sister Chentia.

Miss Lisa and Brother Joe never had any children of their own and are very parental to hundreds of kids and teens in this ministry. We Loved Tieress so very much!

Wed. June/16/16

***"No More Prayer  
And Bible Reading In The School"***

There is an old song that Brother Kendal Smith sang in Sunday School by that name. Today Brother Joe sang, recorded, and put that song on the internet.

On June/17/1963 the Supreme Court of the United States kicked Prayer and Bible Reading out of our Public Schools. For 53 years we have watched the youth of America suffer from this decision.

Fri. June/17/16

***Oakland Woods Baptist Church Teens***



A good sized youth group from the Oakland Woods Baptist Church in Clarkston, Mi. where Brother Steve Sheridan is pastor, joined us on the Streets of Detroit. It was hot and we ran from place to place feeding, clothing and distributing hygiene items most of which were brought by their Church group. Words would fail to fully express both the heart break and joy that we see in Street Ministry, but we need God to help us much more in helping the people on the streets.

Tues. June/21/16

***"Lift Him Up!"***

Today Brother Joe sang and recorded his newest song called *"Lift Him Up"* dedicated to our long time friends Karla and Ted Hines. Ted is the Pastor of the Lakeside Baptist Church in Pahokee, Florida off of Lake Okechobee, and Miss Karla has always shouted to the preachers *"Lift Him Up!"* as in lifting the Lord Jesus Christ up!

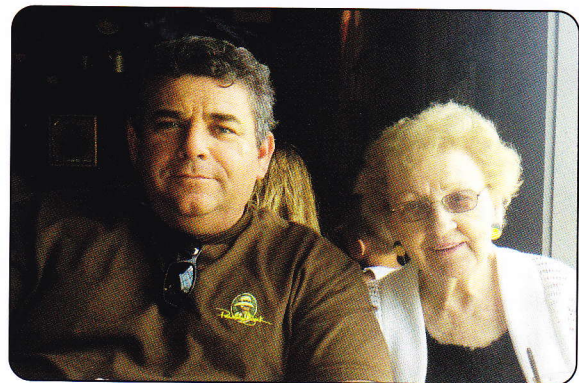
Later that morning Brother Joe picked up a load of clothing from Karen Gulli in Clawson, Mi.



*Inside a Heroin "Shootin Gallery"*

That evening our group of 7 fed on the Southwest side, and even in a Heroin "Shootin Gallery", then up town trying to avoid the Tigers Ball Game traffic. We returned to the Business District to feed and promptly ran out of Hot Dogs. We fed bunches and bunches of people that night!

Thurs. June/22/16 - Mon. June/27/16



Brother Joe drove his Mother Marion Hicks, Aunt Mildred, and her granddaughter Samantha Scott to Jonesville, Arkansas for the Kegly family reunion.

It was hot down there just west of Memphis and the Mississippi River. But even though Brother Joe learned many heart breaking things about the hardships that his family went through before and during the Great Depression, he was still amazed at the Love and Christian character that the Kegly family showed in marrying into, and adopting the Pillow family of whom my Mom, Aunt Mildred, Aunt Wanda, and my late Uncle Donald Pillow were all essentially “Grafted in” as part of the Kegly family.

**Mon. June/27/16**

*40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Missionary Update /  
Hard Copy Newsletter*

It's in, It's Amazing...  
And soon Brother Joe starts  
his 40<sup>th</sup> year of Ministry  
on the Streets of Detroit!



**Weds. June/29/16~** Larry, Regina, Keith, Rachel and Sarah Ackerman all came up and helped stuff envelopes! We did about 2 week's worth of work in 2-3 hours! Thank You All!

**Thurs. June/30/16~** Brother Joe cleaned out a trailer then went to pick up donations from Mike Sand at the Vietnam Veterans Chapter 9 in Detroit.

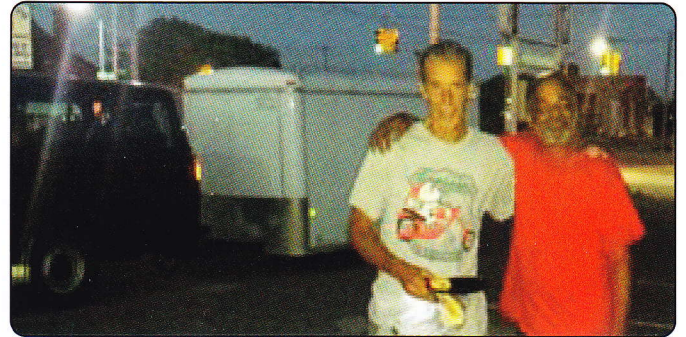
Items including a sofa, love seat, assorted goods, and clothing were donated by a family who had just lost their 36 year old son.



## JULY 2016

**Fri. July/1/16~** Brother Joe spent all day unloading and reloading one of the ministry's trailers. He worked himself to the point of what he calls “Dead Legs.” That is you do not really realize how tired your legs are until you have driven a spell then try to get out of the van to work, and then realize you have almost no strength left in your legs.

That evening Brother Joe was joined by Miss Lisa, Larry, Regina, Rachael & Sarah Ackerman for street ministry. The group fed & clothed at “Shorty's Corner” and fed some of the Homeless there. In that same area we stopped by an abandoned building where Brother Joe went in brought everybody out.

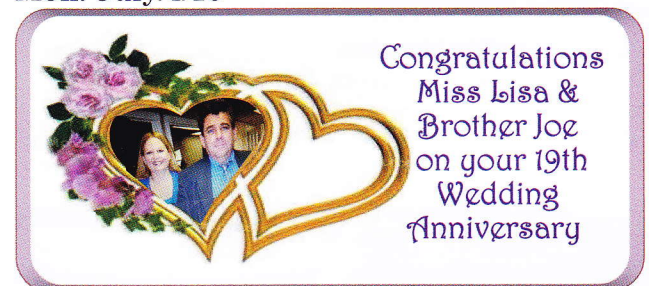


That building is “home” to both these Homeless folks shown here, and is also a Heroin “Shootin' Gallery” to several of the folks that have hung with Shorty and the others there.

**Sun. July/3/16~** Brother Joe GOOFED! He was scheduled to preach at the Watertown Missionary Church in Watertown, Mi. for pastor Paul Melcher. Then he flat messed up by agreeing to preach on short notice for Pastor Bob Nogalski at the Victory Baptist in Clarkston, Michigan. By the time he realized what he had done Brother Bob was long gone out of state, and Brother Paul Melcher, while laughing at me, told me to just “rebook the meeting”.

Brother Joe lives in the state of sleep deprivation anyway... But this is more the fact that he is a self professed “Bird Brain”! But both services that day were very good and its good to see young people that we have known almost all their lives keeping on for the Lord!

**Mon. July/4/16**



**Tue. July/5/16 ~ Mailing Days**

Larry, Regina, Keith, Rachael, and Sarah Ackerman helped Brother Joe compile the majority of the huge mailing that was now ready to go out.

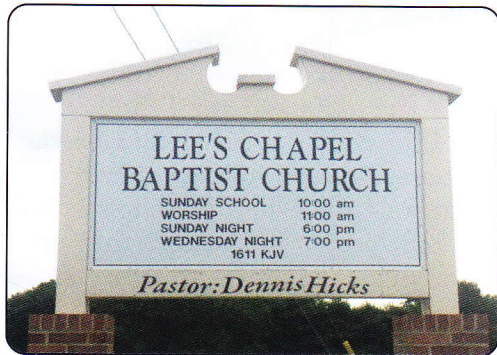
**Thurs. July/7/16~** Brother Joe went to drop off the mailing at the Coleman A. Young City County Building and then stopped to deliver newsletters, and the new DVD, to the District Representatives, and the Mayor's Office, only to find out that Ike McKinnon, a Vietnam Veteran, former Police Chief, and the current Deputy Mayor of Detroit has retired! A Hero to me and a man of Character for the City. A Sad Day for the City of Detroit, UGH!



*Brother Joe Hicks with the retiring Ike McKinnon*

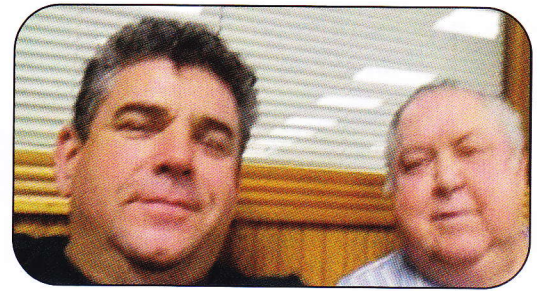
**Sat. July/9/16 - Sat. July/16/16**

**Lee's Chapel Baptist Church Revival / VBS**



Brother Joe drove to the Sweet Water, Tennessee area where he preached, and did "Chalk Talks" for the adults during the Vacation Bible School (VBS), at the Lee's Chapel Baptist Church where Dennis Hicks is the Pastor.

*After a rewarding day of VBS Brother Joe Hicks poses for a "Selfie" with Pastor Dennis Hicks.*



**Sun. July/17/2016**

***Happy 40<sup>th</sup> Year in Detroit Youth and Street Ministry Brother Joe!***

Without Fan Fare, A Congratulations Card, A Party, A Parade, or even a "Way to go!"

Brother Joe hit that Mile Marker. It's been 40 Years since Brother Joe first went to the Streets of Detroit back on July/17/1976!

**Weds. July/20/16**

Greg T helped Brother Joe feed that night, and there was one notable thing that blessed their hearts... A Homeless man who after seeing the donated Cracker Jack's called himself; "The Cracker Jack Kid". Again it is just amazing how so many of the rough tough Homeless street guys grin like little kids over Animal Crackers, and much more so by Cracker Jacks.

**Fri. July/22/16**

**Occupy The Corner - Basketball Edition**



The office of Detroit District 5 Councilwoman Mary Sheffield contacted Brother Joe about an upcoming event in September. He also volunteered to help with the Occupy The Corner Anti-Violence Event that was held tonight. Brother Joe's OutCry Ministry provided all kinds of food for the Youth Basket Ball event. Miss Lisa, plus Larry, Regina, Keith, Rachael and Sarah Ackerman helped with the feeding. There were several notable sports and entertainment personalities that night at Brady Park and we were able to meet Kristin Peirce, yet another beautiful lady from the Channel 7 Family.

It was an extremely hot night and Miss Lisa had a "slight Migraine" which led to her almost passing out in the heat. Miss Lisa is as tough as she is beautiful and this is a first for her to feel faint like that.

Sat. July/23/16

**MORE & MORE & MORE CHIPS**



Brother Joe met with Sherrill Adkins and Colleen Stoddard who purchased hundreds of dollars worth of Potato Chips and treats for the Street Ministry. Thank you Ladies!

**Sun. July/24/16**~ Miss Lisa & Brother Joe yanked a proverbial “Ox out of the ditch” separating and bagging all the ministries Tax Receipts late that evening... It’s all part of the Ministry’s work!

**Tues. July/26/16**~ Irene Adkins, one of Miss Lisa & Brother Joe’s neighbors passed away. Her children donated all the left over funeral food to our Ministry.

So late that evening Greg T helped us feed the Homeless in the Business District, Greektown & the River Front, these folks ate like kings that night!

**Thurs. July/28/16**~ Again Greg T and Brother Joe fed late this night. “Late” seems to be the ministry’s new “Modus Operandi” since the ministry’s taxes are being worked on. It has been a hot dry summer and the streets are filled with people.

Sat. July/30/16

***The Elect Lee Qualls Event***



During Mary Sheffield’s Occupy The Corner Event the week before our workers met a 26 year old young man named Lee Qualls. He asked us if we could provide food and fixings for him at his event where he is running to be the State Representative for Detroit’s District 3. Brother Joe agreed and after the Business Meeting at the Vietnam Veterans Chapter 9 where Brother Joe is the Chaplin, he went out and set up tables and fed at a park near Outer Drive and Mound Roads. It was absolutely Great!

In recent days we have been able to serve at some of these events that we have been able to minister to a lot of Youth. Well there were kids everywhere at this event and the kids were an absolute blast!

Then once again late that night Greg T and Brother Joe fed folks downtown. It became a late night kind of summer real quick!

**Sun. July/31/16**~ Brother Joe ended the month by attempting to run down to Forest, Ohio and pick up a load of Homeless clothing and goods, but instead he spent over an hour and a half stuck in traffic at the Luna Pier exit just before Toledo, Ohio.

**August 2016**

**Mon. Aug/1/16** ~ Brother Joe met Greg T at Hart Plaza at 11:00 am where we picked up supplies for a “Flash PicNic” that Greg roped him into. That evening Greg accompanied Brother Joe out feeding on the streets. Another late night that night.

**Tues. Aug/2 ~ Weds. Aug/3/16** ~ Brother Joe spent these days prepping for the upcoming “Flash PicNic”

**Thurs. Aug/4/16**

Miss Lisa & Brother Joe brought 200 pieces of chicken, over 300 hot dogs, buns, several water-melons, hundreds of bags of chips, cookies & treats for the Flash PicNic at Capitol Park. We set up the serving tables and assisted Greg T, and friends of his from St. Al’s Church and proceeded to feed around 300 people there. Brother Joe was able to plug in to play guitar and sing. He then preached with a microphone and speaker at the park they used to preach at every Friday night with their youth group back when this was both the Detroit City Bus Depot & Crack Cocaine Central. It’s all beautiful & renovated now.

**Fri. Aug/5/16**



Sadly Brother Joe’s Uncle Leonard fell terminally ill. Fortunately, Brother Joe was able to stay bed side with his uncle until the pain killers allowed him to fall asleep. Uncle Leonard was dozing off so Brother Joe asked if he wanted the light turned off. His answer was; “Yes, I think it’s time.” Brother Joe turned off the light, and that was the last time Brother Joe saw him alive.

**Sat. Aug/6/16** Morning ~Uncle Leonard passed away.

**Sun. Aug/7/16**~ Fed solo tonight.

**Mon. Aug/8/16**~ Fed solo tonight.

**Tues. Aug/9/16**~ We went to the funeral viewing in the morning. That night Greg T helped me feed.

**Weds. Aug/10/16**

Brother Joe was the 1st preacher at his Uncle Leonard's funeral. Pastor Jim Combs from The River Church preached the second message. Miss Lisa was with me during this sorrowful yet blessed time for our family.



Uncle Leonard

That night Brother Joe and Greg T fed again, and Brother Joe hit a spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical wall.

It has now been 13 years since Brother Joe's Cross Over Ministry became a legal 501 (c) (3) entity renamed "OUTCRY Youth and Street Ministry". As an Independent Baptist Missionary he has had to pull a legal organization down the road that was set up to advance the ministry but unfortunately became like a friend Paul Erdos said about the area he lived in, "IT'S A BUNCH OF PEOPLE GATHERED TOGETHER TO DO NOTHING!"

That evening Brother Joe watched Greg T step out of his ministry's van door, walk several feet then "Nose Dive" into the grass of a park where he was to sleep that night.

After getting home Brother Joe retraced every attempt he has made in "Secular Promotion" as he was advised to do by the OUTCRY Board. The DVD's, TV, News Papers, Radio, Stickers, Magnetic Signs, and more, and now 13 years down the road every avenue has dead ended in much more effort & expense for no real results...

Like the "Good Book" said, "WOE TO THEM THAT GO DOWN TO EGYPT FOR HELP;" *Isaiah 31:1* (Egypt is a type of the world.) It has been God that has provided all the way. And God and the people that we work with are more important than the opinions of man...

It is truly a very humbling thing when you come to grips with your failures and just how needed this outreach is to people with no hope... Brother Joe has strived for 13 years and wants to be back where he was 13 years ago in heart & spirit... Brother Joe's heart is broken for people & he needs your prayers!

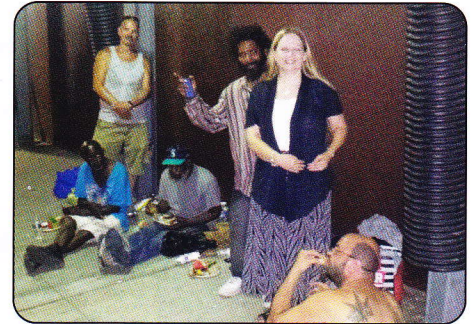
**Thurs. Aug/11/16**~ Fed solo again tonight.

**Fri. Aug/12/16**~

Miss Lisa and Brother Joe fed on this sweltering night in "Barney" the purple van that knocked us out

of Youth Ministry in 2012 and even though we've tried it still has no air conditioning. We still desperately need volunteer mechanics in our ministry! On nights like this there are so many people who sleep out in the streets it's surreal!

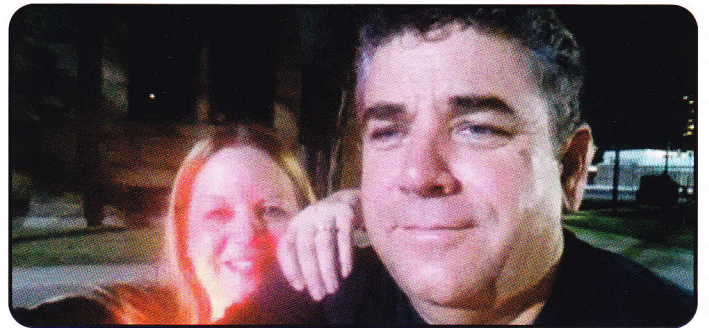
*Standing directly behind Miss Lisa is "Mayor CJ", the 2nd Mayor of "Tensile Town." He's back on the streets now with the other guys.*



**Sat. Aug/13/16**~

Miss Lisa & Brother Joe attended the Faith Baptist Church PicNc with Lisa's Dad, Brother Claude that morning. That evening Brother Joe went to Prayer Baptist Church in Westland Mi. to separate Homeless clothing.

**Sun. Aug/14/16**~ MISS LISA'S BIRTHDAY



Miss Lisa & Brother Joe had a nice meal after Church, then when he asked her what else she wanted to do she said; "Go out and feed on the streets!" We are glad we did. We met Michael an Iraq Veteran with stage 4 cancer. We fed Michael, Don, Patrick, and Alicia a gal who is Michael's ex-girlfriend that he had a child with.

**Mon. Aug/15/16**~ Larry & Regina Ackerman, and their daughters, helped Brother Joe in Street Ministry and feeding. We also delivered tennis shoes to several people that night as well as other summer clothing items. It was a good night.

**Tues. Aug/16/16**~ We fed numerous people on the Southwest side, then a shocking thing happened. We had filled the plate of one of the Heroin addicted Homeless men, and we were helping others when a SUV pulled up with two women in it. One woman asked sarcastically "Are you feeding the fiends?" She knocked the plate full of food out of his hands. Turns out she is a drug dealer they call "Cheetah" on the streets.

**Thurs. Aug/18/16 — Sat. Aug/20/16~** Miss Lisa & Brother Joe went on a mini vacation up to Ludington & Traverse City. On Saturday we got caught in a Great Big Traffic Jam called the Woodward Dream Cruise where we picked up clothing items from Julie Kahl Schroeder & Brother Joe's High School friend Mel Templeton... God we love that boy!

**Sun. Aug/21/16~** Fed solo on the streets tonight. Sometimes you hear one liners that just touch your heart Big Time. A man that night just said, "I'm kind of hungry tonight." Sure makes you remember to be thankful if you have a refrigerator in your house where you can get a bite to eat anytime you choose.

**Weds. Aug/24/16~** Miss Lisa & Brother Joe drove to Tawas, Mi. to hear Brother David Peacock preach. It was great! On the way home we stopped at a motel & we were swarmed by a bunch of POKE-MON-GO Kids... One in a Pikachu costume, Yep that's normal!

**Thurs. Aug/25/16** Brother Joe spent the entire day preparing for Mary Sheffield's next Occupy The Corner Event - School Supplies and Homeless Edition.

**Fri. Aug/26/16~** Violet Dean, Greg T, Miss Lisa, and Brother Joe fed hundreds of people Fried Chicken, Hot Dogs, Watermelon, Chips, assorted treats, and non-alcoholic "Purple Stuff" to drink.

**Sat. Aug/27/16~** Brother Joe attended the Vietnam Vets Chapter 9 meeting where he is the Chaplin.

**Sun. Aug/28/16** - Miss Lisa & Brother Joe drove down to the 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church in Forest, Ohio where Brother Mike Hannah is pastor. On the way traffic came to a stop due to an accident. Again the lack of air in Barney was an issue as we got cooked! Brother Mike preached and we had a great morning service! That evening Brother Joe fed, preached, & sang solo.



**Mon. Aug/29/16~** Larry & Regina Ackerman joined Miss Lisa & Brother Joe for Street Ministry. We fed all over and found Jessie & Jessica Valez, a brother & sister from our old Youth Group. They were on their way to see Jessie's baby being born. We had not seen the since 2012. It was great to see them again.



**Tues. Aug/30/16** (See "Heroin Summer" on page 24)

### THE HEROIN EPIDEMIC IN AMERICA



**Well its true... And it is not just in Detroit...**

We have a Heroin epidemic in America, just that plain & simple! Brother Joe has dozens of pictures from that night that Brother Joe put on the internet in an article called "The way of the transgressor is hard!"

Young & old Heroin Junkies, young street girls with abscesses, folks that have scars all over their arms that would make Frankenstein jealous! So heart breaking, so much work to do!

**Weds. Aug/31/16**

Brother Joe & Miss Lisa attended the 96 Birthday Party for Mr. Melvin Dirden. Melvin was in WWII fighting under General Mac Arthur, awarded a purple heart after he was bayoneted by a Japanese soldier. Melvin is Brother Joe's Sister Twyla's Father in Law & he definitely keeps people on the straight & narrow, as he always says, "Carry On!"

*Until next time.  
Please keep us in your prayers!*



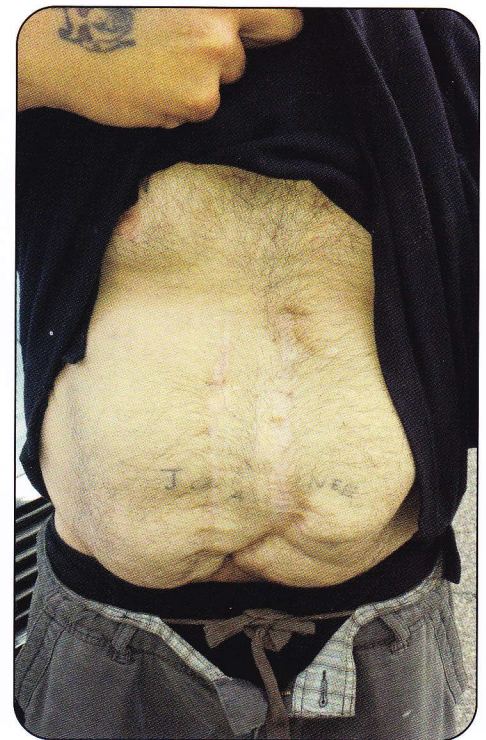
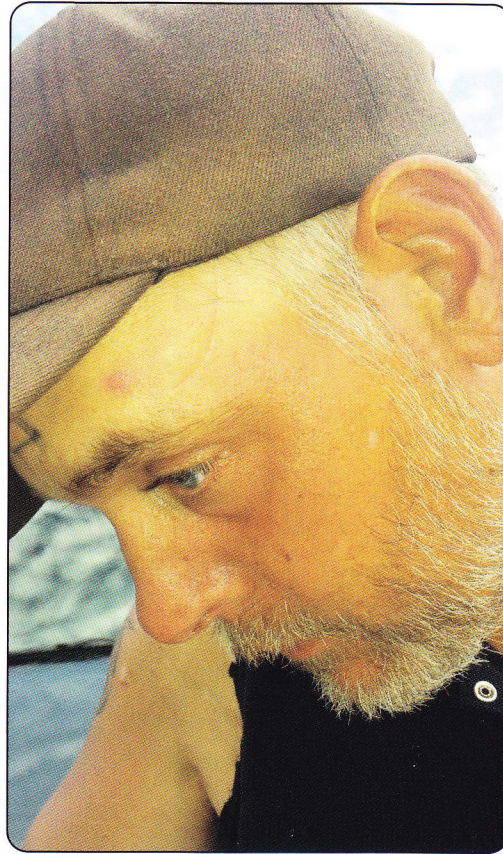
### ANNUAL CHARITY SOFTBALL GAME



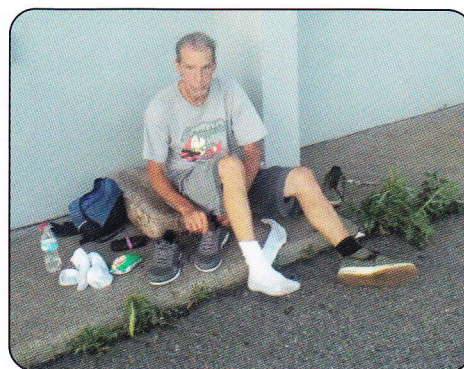
Channel 7  
Action News  
vs  
Dearborn  
Heights  
Fire  
Department

*On July 16 our friends at Channel 7 Action News competed in the Annual Charity Softball Challenge against the Dearborn Heights Fire Department. Money raised this year went to the Great Lakes Burn Camp. Through the years Channel 7 Action News Detroit has been very good to Brother Joe and his Ministries.*

# Street and Homeless Ministry - Southwest Detroit



*Homeless Iraq Vet Michael shows the battle scars on his face, (Above) his battle scarred forearm (Lower Left), and the bullet scar to his shoulder (Right). He also has scars from stomach cancer as seen in the photo to the Upper Right. The Upper Left photo shows his feet that are bloodied, and blistered from tennis shoes that are too small.*



*A new pair of socks and shoes.*

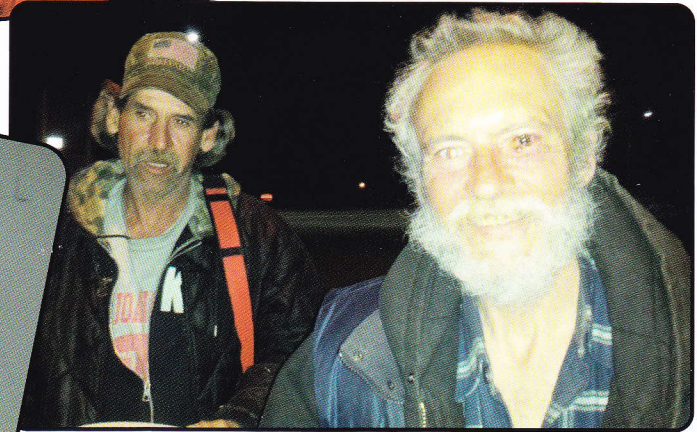
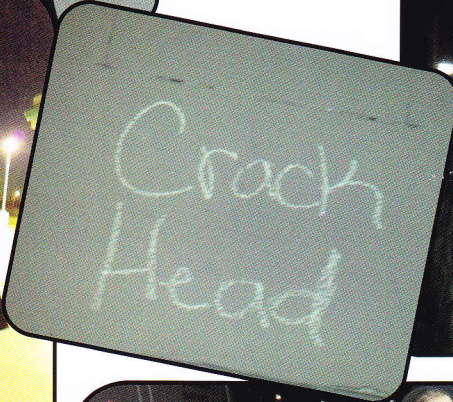
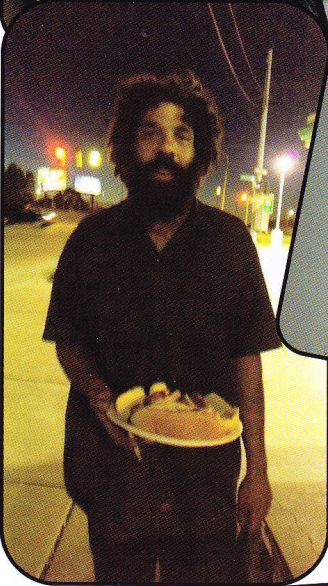
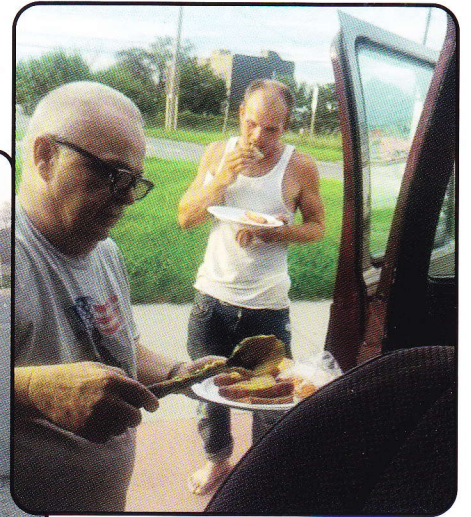
*Left: Larry & Regina Ackerman took this photo. It is a classic! It seems to capture the loneliness so many of these folks feel.*



*Regina Ackerman with Tina, one of our former Youth Group girls, now Homeless and on the Streets.*



# Feeding The Hungry



*Shorty and friend at "Shorty's Corner" in Southwest Detroit.*



*"Fashionista Tracy" with Miss Lisa in Detroit's Business District.*

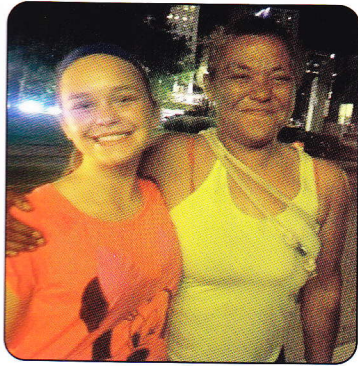
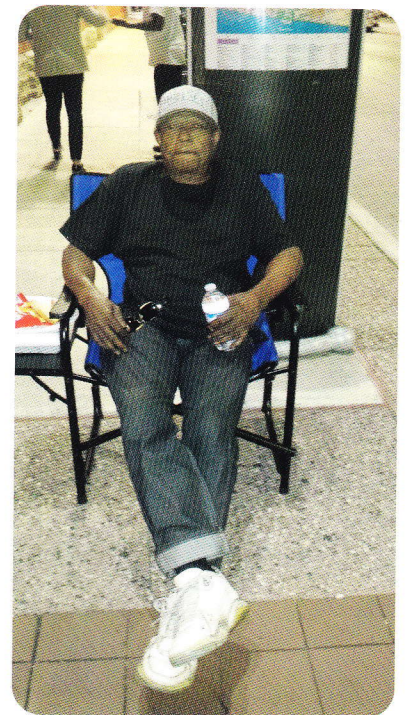


*Regina Ackerman with the Drunk-O-Cycle.*

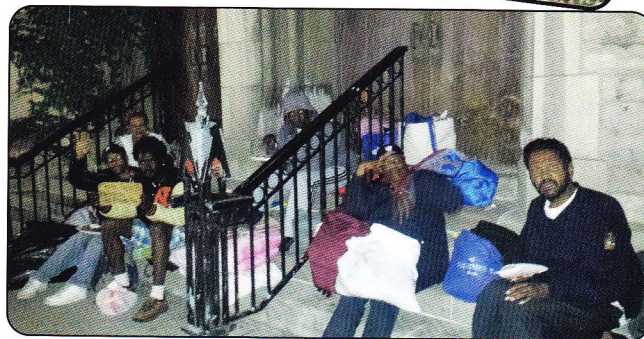
**Street and Homeless Ministry:  
Cass Corridor – Business District – Greektown–Riverfront**



*Miss Lisa and Racheal Ackermen found out that Cracker Jacks, more than an other treat, can put a smile on the faces of even the hardest street folks.*



*Racheal Ackerman and Racheal Taylor*



*The Adam's Family*

*This is Detroit Royalty, Coleman Coats. A Former Homeless Veteran. He was the "Governor" at "CAMP Wet Vet" at Hart Plaza before he and 1st "Mayor" James Hicks moved the tents to Lafayette Park and started "Tensile Town". He is a 71 year old Vietnam Vet.*



*Mr. Romania put on a show for everyone celebrating "Happy Trans Bathroom Day" (It doesn't happen often but Brother Joe actually said; "I'M SPEECHLESS!")*



*This lady in Greektown was happy to receive a Hygiene kit.*



**FROM THE  
DESK OF:  
KYLE  
"BROTHER JOE"  
HICKS**



### *It Has Been Quite A Year So Far!*

Back in March of 2016 I wrote that 2016, the year of my 40th Anniversary in ministry, was going to be a "Victory Lap" and a time of "Celebrating". Part of it has been....

But between the death of my Uncle Donald, Uncle Leonard, Tieress Tingle, "Mr. Melvin" Dirden, my own brother Frank, and my dear friend "Rabbit", 2016 into 2017 has been very rough emotionally. And on top of all that we had no idea that we would be up against what became the "HEROIN SUMMER"!

Road trips to Florida, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Arkansas, fighting "Heroin Summer" on the streets, constant computer problems, putting out our 40th Anniversary DVD, restarting our Music CD, and unpredicted supplies from both the Lee's Chapel Baptist Church, and Donna Yost's Life Chest's "Operation Goodness". I honestly stumbled under the load! And so I am attempting to catch up, especially on our correspondence.

Please accept my apologies on the Ministry Update / Newsletter running a little behind schedule. Currently we have a "Special" newsletter in the works, as well as a Fall Newsletter, and a Music CD.

Keep Us In Your Prayers..... Love To You All, Brother Joe

### *Brother Joe Discovers He Is Related To A "Rosie The Riveter"*



*My sister; Twyla, My Mother; Marion Hicks,  
or My Beautiful Wife, Miss Lisa.*

Usually it's the children surprising the Mom with flowers or some sort of gift for Mother's Day. However this year my mom turned the tables. This year she surprised us!

Miss Lisa and I attended services with my mom at the Rochester Hills Baptist Church where she is a member. After service we were joined by my sister, Twyla, for a Mother's Day Dinner.

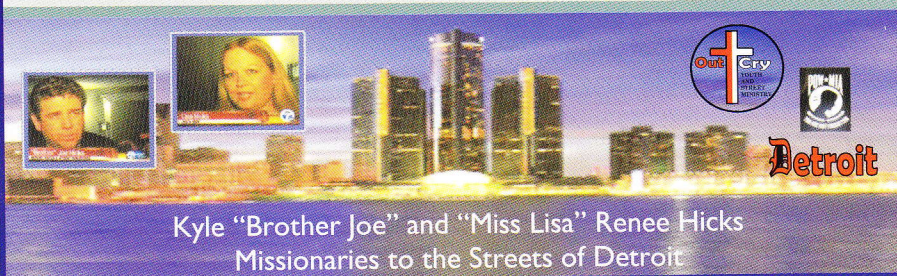
It was during dinner that Mother surprised us by telling us that when she was younger she had been a "Rosie the Riveter!" We were as shocked as we were thrilled! She waited till she's 90 to tell us that she had worked on Jeep flywheels during World War II.



And she cracked up laughing as she told us how she was on crutches for 2 weeks when she dropped a flywheel on her foot.

My wife, Miss Lisa added that she now thinks it's genetic that I love Jeeps and motorcycles. My dad was Motorcycle Recon in WWII, and although I am not a motorcyclist myself, I have an extreme love for the Bikers, and I really love the big roaring of the Harleys!

## MINISTRY CONTACT INFORMATION



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**Please send support to:**

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c/o Word for the World  
P.O. Box 849  
Rossville, GA 30741-0849



### LOOKING BACK... A MINISTRY SNAPSHOT

MARCH -- AUGUST 2016

- 15 Souls Saved
- 48 Street Ministry Feedings & Preaching
- 15 In Church Preaching & Singing
- 26 Pick-ups / Deliveries
- 1 Radio Program
- 17 Special Events
- 2 Gunther Brothers Reunion Concerts
- 1 Biker Rally
- 6 Vietnam Veterans of America
- Many Clothing Separation Parties
- 3 Funerals
- 1 Candle Light Vigils
- 1 SMA Event - Scarlet Smile  
(Spinal Muscular Atrophy)

**MINISTRY UPDATE AND NEWSLETTER**  
**Editor and Layout Design**  
Mrs. Linda M. Leggitt