

EVANGELISM OUTREACH

Kyle "Joe" & Miss Lisa Hicks - Missionaries
to the streets of Detroit, Jacksonville & Daytona

OPERATION VERTIGO

**DECEMBER 2024
- FEBRUARY 2025**

**OPERATION
VERTIGO**

**December 2nd-21st
2024**

**Shawn Ley
WDIV Channel 4
Detroit Reporter
Fri Dec/6/2024**

**"Brother Joe" Hicks
313-414-8190.**

**NO EVIL
Psalm 23:4
BROTHER JOE**

(313) 414-8190.

On Monday December the 2nd 2024 Brother Kyle “Joe” Hicks better known as “Brother Joe” here woke up at around 3:00 a.m. to use the restroom and I felt fine, then at about 5:00 a.m. I woke up again and I realized that my sinuses and mouth were very dry and I felt like I was spinning to the right. I closed my eyes again for about 15 minutes and then thought to myself, “I’m Hungry!” So I got up and felt like I was spinning to the left and after I finished cooking breakfast then I walked over to my chair and by then I felt like I had just got off a Merri-go-round... Then I thought to myself, YEP, I’m going to throw up! And I went to our shower and began to dry heave.

I sat down and made a mental list of what all I had eaten the day before just case in food was the reason for this dizzy spell, and sat there from about 5:00 a.m. until Miss Lisa woke up, every time I had to use the bathroom, I would get dizzy and start dry heaving again. I wondered if I was having a heart attack or stroke or what in the world was going on and I kept remembering Lee Iacocca’s autobiography where he spoke about having Vertigo while in the Halls of Congress while he was trying to save Chrysler back in 1979 and I just figured that if there was anything else going on, one thing was sure I definitely had Vertigo.



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After Miss Lisa woke up, I asked her to write the list of what I had eaten and I told her I was not joking and that I was sick spinning had Vertigo or "Sea Sickness". Lisa was upset that I did not wake her up but I did not want to scare her, then fall down on the floor or start dry heaving in front of her.

I did not eat breakfast or eat anything all day long because I knew what the results of that would be, I just sat there with my eyes closed because every time I opened my eyes, I felt like I was spinning. Miss Lisa spoke to a Lady co-worker of hers who said that she had "Benign Vertigo" caused by COVID. Lisa gave me several COVID tests during the day and they all came back negative. I wanted to wait until dark to see if this might just blow over, but it did not. Miss Lisa gave me Dramamine and then a bit later took me to an Urgent Care in Garden City Michigan.

I had to hold on to the rails on our porch, then grab the front of her vehicle, then hold on to Miss Lisa as I stumbled across the parking lot, then both Miss Lisa and one of the Ladies at the Urgent Care had to hold me up when I went into the back. A young Doctor asked a bunch of questions and then held up his index finger up and moved it across the front of my face from right to left and as I followed his finger and my left eye started twitching and freaking out, and the Doctor said to Miss Lisa "This is not normal right?" and Miss Lisa confirmed that something was definitely not right.

Everything felt really wrong except for my sense of humor, I was cracking jokes with the medical staff and I started thinking to myself with all the hardcore drunkards and drug addicts that we work with and watch stumbling around if this Vertigo thing is anything like being drunk or high NO THANKS! Plus, the whole "PARTY TIL' YA PUKE!" stuff again NO THANKS that just is not for me!

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MINISTRY REALIZATION- Miss Lisa drove over to Walgreens to get a prescription of Mecilizine for me and I was about to experience something that was big reminder about the Homeless folks we Minister to. I was sitting out in Miss Lisa's SUV; the motor was running and the heat and radio were both on as I sat in the dark with my eyes closed. After about 15 minutes the motor turned off and so did the heat and it was cold outside! I was O.K. to begin with then it started to get cold and about 15 minutes later the radio shut off and Miss Lisa and I are Enlighten Radio's Southern Gospel Music fans and I laughed when I thought, "Now God isn't even gonna' hang out with me!"

After a few more minutes I took my hoodie and put it on backwards so that it would cover more of my legs and once again I had that "So THIS is what our Homeless men and women feel like when they are sleeping in cars or abandoned buildings or "Abandos". We have been giving out lots of winter clothing and the previous Saturday night Brother Scott Hartzel helped me on our first "BOOT RUN" in Greek Town and at "Danny's Lot" off of Michigan Avenue. There is nothing like feeling this kind of cold yourself to help you realize how important what we do really is!

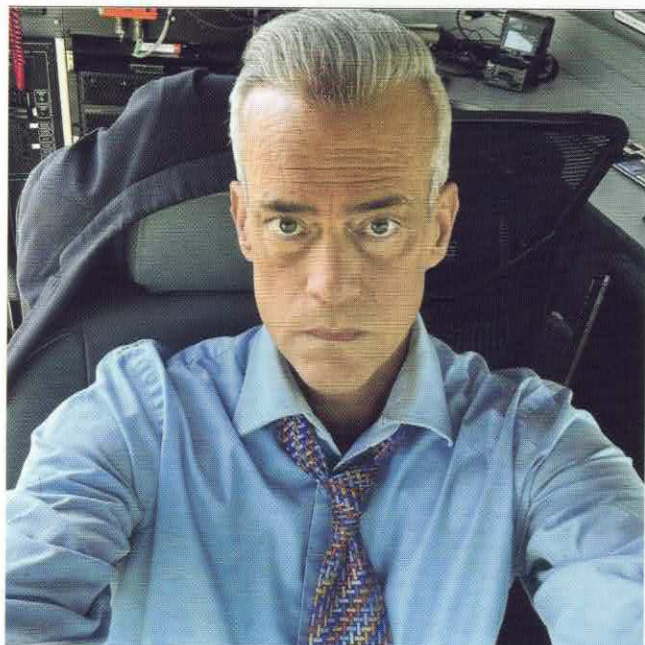


For the next 2 days I had to hold onto furniture and counter tops while walking around and by the 4th day I was back to walking a bit and that was the day I finally decided to send out a post requesting prayer for myself because it was just maddening that I was not out in the cold taking care of our people on the Streets of Detroit.

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“HELLO BROTHER JOE MISS LISA?” I heard my phone ringing in the other room and by the time I got out I saw that Shawn Ley the Detroit area famous former Channel 4 WDIV reporter had called and text my number. I returned his call and then later Shawn Ley called me back. He was very concerned about our Street Outreach because he read that I had both the supplies and vehicles but could not get to our people on the Streets because at that time I could not drive. Shawn and a Channel 4 Photographer came and interviewed me at our house and the big question was “What do you need?” I said “I need help; I need drivers.” I was both Shocked and Thankful that Shawn made this effort.

THANK YOU, SHAWN LEY AND CHANNEL 4 WDIV, AFTER THE INTERVIEW I REALIZED, I DID NOT HAVE TO JUST SIT AND STILL AND WAIT TO GET BETTER, BUT I COULD STILL USE THIS TIME TO MOUNT AN OFFENSIVE AGAINST WINTER AND FROST BITE EVEN DURING THIS SICKNESS AND OUR NEW “# OPERATION VERTIGO DECEMBER 2024” WAS BORN RIGHT THEN AND THERE!



That night the interview was aired on WDIV Channel 4 and immediately I had people volunteering and lots of sudden medical advice as well. There was only one man that actually fit what I really needed though several offered help but they did not have transportation and I could not drive to pick them up.

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A local business man Rich Marentette picked me up on Mon Dec/9/2024 and we went and rented the first of two big U-HAUL Cube vans that week, just like Miss Lisa and I had done back in October for our Biketoberfest 2024 and “#Motown Mission To Hurricane Milton” Street Preaching trip down to Daytona and Jacksonville Florida.

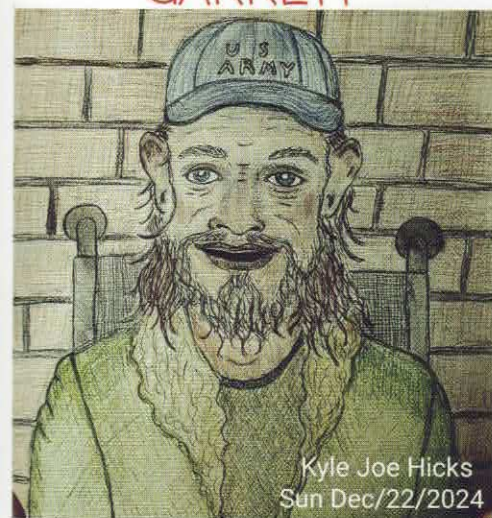
Rich drove me up to the Joe’s Army Navy Surplus store in Waterford Michigan where I purchased \$3,500.00 worth of BOOTS from Jeff Goldsmith with the \$3,444.00 check donated to us by Pastor Brian Donovan and the Bible Baptist Church in Pensacola Florida back in back in September.

We drove up on Telegraph Road and drove through Pontiac then back to downtown Detroit on Woodward Avenue.

“WE NEED GAS” – “GARRETT” - Rich Marenette told me we really need to get gas in the U-Haul Van and we stopped as we pulled up to the gas pump, we could see that there was a Homeless man sitting in a wheelchair outside that gas station on the corner of Woodward Avenue and Forrest Avenue.

I started fueling the van and then Rich and I went over to talk to the man in the wheelchair and I said loudly and cheerfully, “HELLO YOUNG MAN HOW ARE YOU DOING?” and THANK GOD I looked down and realized that both of this man’s legs were gone! I thought THANK GOD I did not say loudly, HEY BUDDY DO YOU NEED ANY BOOTS?” That would have been embarrassing for all of us!

OPERATION VERTIGO
GARRETT



His name was Garrett and he had on a worn-out U.S. Army cap, dirty shredded clothes and told me that he was a Veteran. His stories about having a Home and Military Service dates were conflicted but one thing was for sure his legs and feet were gone, HEART BREAKING!

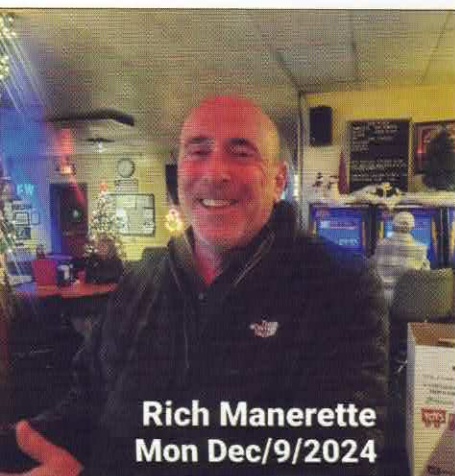
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We had had been going and going and going as fast as we could to get back downtown to do our BOOT RUN #2. And it was just like we slammed into a physical, emotional and Spiritual wall when we met Garrett.

My mind spinning around not just from Vertigo as we left, I could not help but think seeing Garrett's toothless grin, this poor guy has no feet, no legs, no teeth, no family, no home and no money! I gave him a few bucks but all those Boots in our truck could not help him a bit. We went to say "Good Bye" to Garrett but he was already inside the gas station buying junk food. We went down and met Michael Morris one of the kids from our old Youth Ministry Street Preaching group and Homeless Outreach who is now 24 years old.

We passed out more BOOT'S in Detroit's Greek Town area and then at Danny's not again and then we gave out several more pairs of BOOTS to some of our Veterans at the VFW Post 3323 in Westland Michigan.

My Dad Clifford Hicks Jr, my Uncle Leonard Schlitcht were both WWII combat veterans, my Father-in-Law Claude Gilbert was a Korean War Navy Veteran, my Uncle Donald was a Veteran, my Brother Frank Hicks was a National Guard Veteran, both of my Brother-in-Laws Gilbert Dirden and Sean Harris are Veterans, and Miss Lisa's Daddy had a brother Floyd Gilbert who was killed in WWII.

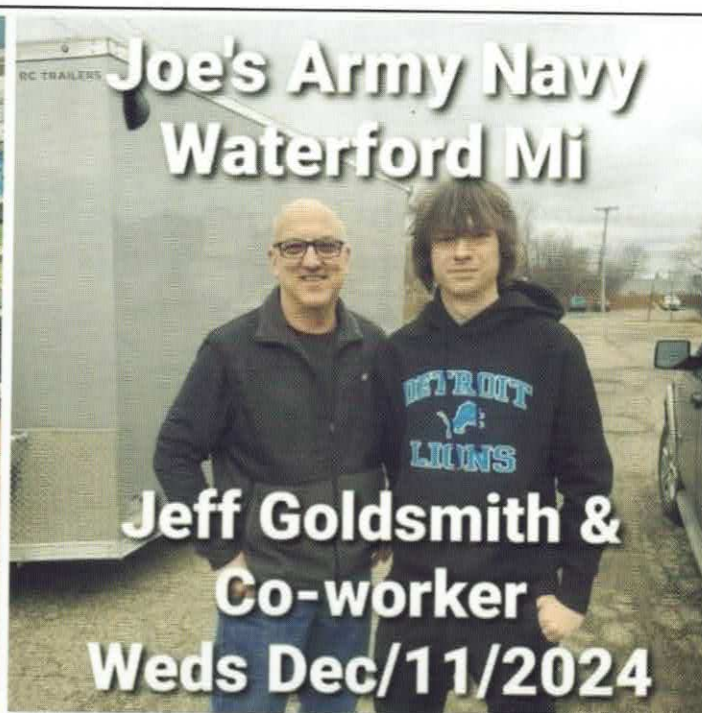


I have had the privilege to be the Chaplin of the Vietnam Veterans Chapter 9 in Detroit and recently have gotten very involved with the V.F.W. Post 3323 in Westland Michigan. And our Ministry works with hundreds of Homeless Veterans every year, and our Biker

Ministry is filled with Veterans and of course our Veterans outreach is all about Veterans!

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PASTOR MIKE & SISTER GRACE RAGAN



Pastor Mike Ragan contacted me and told me he had heard about my problem with Vertigo and drove the Bible Believers Church's van and brought their trailer down too on Weds Dec/11 /2024 from South Lyon. We went back up to Waterford Michigan and bought another load of BOOTS and socks for our Homeless crew and then Pastor Mike drove to the Ross Mortgage in Troy Michigan. We picked up a box of clothing there and I met several of the employees and the owner Tim Ross.

Brother Mike and I talked and had a good time together as he drove and did a little bit of the Biblical "Iron Sharpeneth Iron" kind of thing.

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Later we dropped off the BOOTS and socks at the V.F.W. Post 3323 in Westland and we were able to give out multiple pairs to the Veterans there, Brother Mike told me, "Thank you, I needed to be part of this!"

FINALLY DRIVING AGAIN!

I was able to drive locally and soon I was to working about 8 or 9 days after Vertigo hit me, Miss Lisa and I were invited to a Christmas Party at the Fairhaven Baptist Church where Brother Andy Briggs is Pastor on Friday Dec/13 /2024. And our last booklet titled BACK TO THE FUTURE about last year's Fall Winter outreach came in and Miss Lisa and I picked up multiple boxes of those with help from Eddie Jones and family. I could still lift and carry stuff but I just could not really bend to pick things up at that point.

On Saturday Dec/14 /2024 Miss Lisa and I pulled our packed out "CURTY" trailer to Danny's Lot in South West Detroit and we had a huge feeding, clothing, Boot delivery and I preached on "Joseph The Step Father Of Jesus" there that night. It was cold but it felt so good to be back on the Streets, but I set a goal to have the whole # OPERATION VERTIGO completed by December 20th or 21st when we were scheduled to head out of town to see Lisa's sister down in North Carolina.

DAVID CARR, KEN POPCHOCK, CHRISTY PORTER & CREW DOLLAR
GENERAL LAKE ORION-

On Mon Dec/16/2024 I rented yet another U-Haul Cube van which was the 3rd one this Fall and winter and the second one since I started "#OPERATION VERTIGO DECEMBER 2024" and our biggest issue was we had donations coming in but I had been down sick with Vertigo for over a week and could not get bulk clothing out plus our "BOOT RUNS". These BOOT RUNS are just that BOOTS, socks, hats and gloves which also slows down getting bulk clothing out on the Streets so our CURTY Trailer was full and our big blue "Jeremiah" trailer was filling up.

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That night we were running late because of rush hour traffic from Westland up through Pontiac to the Lake Orion area and I had contacted Pastor David Carr at the Shalom Baptist Church to tell him I was going to try to pick up his load of clothing donations up and I had texted Ken Popchock and told him to tell his friend Christie McConnaughay Porter and the other ladies with her to go ahead and start doing the shopping of mostly hygiene items.

I have lost count how many years now that Ken Popchock the proprietor of Guidos Pizza in Brighton Michigan has bought \$1,000.00 worth of assorted products for us at the Dollar General in Lake Orion where Christie McConnaughay Porter was once a manager, and General Dollar there has also donated multiple clearance items to our Outreach as well.

We picked up the load at the Shalom Baptist Church and it was good to see Pastor David Carr and Ken Popchock came down to help load also. And Miss Lisa and Pastor David helped load most of the donations I tried but I was a little bit slower than normal.

We followed Ken Popchock to the Dollar General where Christie McConnaughay Porter, Tina Cole and Jackie Baenziger had already done most of the shopping because we were running almost an hour late due to rush hour traffic. Miss Lisa helped the ladies with the last of the shopping as Ken Popchock, Greg Cole, Jason Moore and I started loading the U-HAUL Cube Van.

After we loaded up everything we went with Ken Popchock, Jackie Baenziger, Greg and Tina Cole and ate with them at a Burger Restaurant there in Lake Orion.

IRONICALLY NO JOKE the Newsletter Booklet that I gave them that night was right where our # OPERATION BACK TO THE FUTURE STARTED!

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It had actually started a year before in that very restaurant when Danny who some folks call "Pack Rat" on the Street called me. Danny was one of the folks that we fed and clothed at the corner I nick named "THE AVENUE" and Danny had not heard that the Detroit Police ordered us off of the corners in Southwest Detroit's 4th Precinct. Danny used to take huge loads of supplies from us and would deliver them to everyone on the Streets, he would "Squirrel things away" for others and it was Danny's phone call that started our whole # Operation Back To The Future" during the winter of 2023 - 2024.

Why others called Danny "Pack Rat" is because he really is a bit of a "Street Saint" helping others on the streets. Like I was saying it was Danny's phone call last year while we were eating at that same Burger Joint "Pack Rat" Danny called me and told us about his unusual living arrangement working as both Security Guard and Clean up man, and just a few days after picking up Ken Popchock's donations we started feeding in what we nick named "Danny's Lot". Back Story- It turns out that the Detroit Police ran us out because of Ford Motor's \$950 Million Dollar Michigan Central Train Station renovation. Back on Friday night May/26/2023 the Detroit 4th District Police abruptly shut us down due to "Ordinance Violations" and it was a mix of me using a loud speaker system and the fact that all of our bags and boxes of clothing, feeding tables, trailers and the huge crowd were all on the SIDEWALKS... bottom line is that it is all the "Optics" that night on an already "Hot Corner". The "Spanish Alley" area is changing and the dreaded "GENTRIFICATION" is pricing the folks in that neighborhood out as real estate prices and taxes are being driven sky high due to the nearby Cork Town neighborhood being renovated by FORD Motors and other multi-Million-dollar investors.

I previously wrote in our Booklet "# OPERATION BUMMER SUMMER" how that Detroit News reporter, Journalist and author George Hunter who is a genuine Detroit "Cass Corridor" neighborhood kid contacted me asking me if we had any problems with FORD MOTORS, I was totally clueless about what was going on besides the Central Train Station was being renovated.

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**Pastor David Carr
Shalom Baptist
Church
Mon Dec/16/2024**

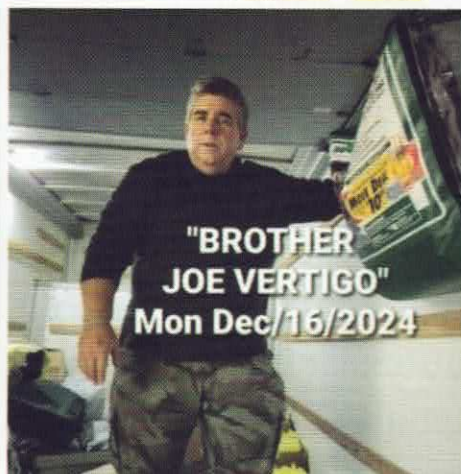


**Ken Popchock
Mon Dec/16/2024
with the Dollar
General receipt**



**Ken Popchock &
Crew with
Brother Joe &
Miss Lisa**

Mon Dec/19/2024



**"BROTHER
JOE VERTIGO"
Mon Dec/16/2024**



**Miss Lisa & Ken
Popchock's crew
Mon Dec/16/2024**

Back in the Summer of 2017 Pastor David Peacock from the Bible Believers Baptist Church in Jacksonville Florida explained to Miss Lisa and Brother Joe here what was happening to almost all the major Cities in America and how investors, City Government spread sheets and renovations one day would change everything that we were doing. WELL, IT IS HAPPENING a few years back both "Brother Joe" and Miss Lisa were local Media "Heroes" even with the Detroit Police and City Council, but after many MILLIONS of Dollars' worth of renovation and then we "Heroes became Zeros" and it's weird when I realized that we are kind of a Dinosaurs and getting "Kicked to the Curb" and crushed by the wheels of Progress.

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Meeting in a privately own lot in the alley behind a closed down "Topless Bar" is just so very fitting for our tough scrappy dirty little Hard Core Street Ministry, and hopefully if City Council President Mary Sheffield becomes Detroit's new Mayor perhaps Detroit's 4th District Police and Brother Joe & Miss Lisa's Out Cry Ministry might be able to get along again...

BUT THE CITYWIDE CLEAN UPS HAVE BEGUN!

All of this reminds me of what a woman screamed at us one night in the Death Valley area on West Vernor Hwy, "DON'T FEED THE ANIMALS!" she was talking about our Homeless Crowd, Hookers and other Hardcore Addicts, in her neighborhood. Unfortunately, that is how way too many folks really think about our "Street People" as they are called!

At this writing and printing I just turned 64 years old and have been in the Inner-City Sunday School Bus Route, Youth and Street Ministry since 1976 that's now over 48 years now and realistically I'm not sure how long I can physically go on and Pastor David Peacock has repeatedly advised me to keep my Testimony clean and right, "Because people only remember how you start and how you finish."

On occasion I have wanted to get in the flesh and pull an Evangelist Laster Roloff and debate and go to Court with the Police, but I know the Police Officers lives and work are hard enough without a me becoming just another Wise Guy Baptist Street Preacher giving them flak, so right now it's all in God's hands. But I tell people that we lost 3 corners that one night in Southwest Detroit and that's like a "Normal Preacher" loosing 3 different 100 member Church congregations in one night. HEART BREAKING for Miss Lisa and I... but MONEY TALKS! And like the World's "GOLDEN RULE" says; "He who has the Gold Makes the Rules."

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RICH ZAWADZKI LOOMIS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH- Once again this year Pastor Rich Zawadzki brought a shuttle bus load of clothing donations to me at the Cracker Barrell Restaurant in Belleville Michigan I was hoping to get his and everyone else's donations earlier but then I got hit by Vertigo. He had a large load of sweat shirts, sweat pants and blankets from a Henery Ford Hospital in Jackson Michigan, THANK YOU!

MIKE SAND IN PLYMOUTH On Wednesday December/18/2024 Once again this year Miss Lisa and I met Mike Sand at a Church in Plymouth Michigan where we picked up 40 handle bags of Christmas Dinners THANK YOU TO THE WES SMITH FAMILY & The Vietnam Veteran's Chapter 9, VFW Post 6691 in Frasier Michigan.



HAMS AND CHRISTMAS DINNERS- On Thurs December/19/2024- I drove our 2001 Dodge Pickup truck "Silver" up to Schotts Grocery store to pick up the Hams that go with the Dinners the night before.

OPERATION VERTIGO 2025- The New Year came and I did not have a nickname flashier than # OPERATION VERTIGO DECEMBER 2024, So I just continued it and called the next part of our Mission and Objective # OPERATION VERTIGO 2025 and "#Joe Vertigo" became a new Hashtag thing also.



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MISS LISA THE ONE-WOMAN RESCUE MISSION- On Friday Jan/10/2025- we had a Snow Storm blow in and we were faced with a few problems.

1. I did not want our most recent helpers Brother Scott Hartzel and Brother Michael Morris out driving in that snowy mess anymore than they had to be.

2. I did not get breaks put on any of our trailers this past Summer and so the trailers dangerously pushed the van around in snowy or icy weather.

3. I did not have a 6 – 9 inch “Drop Down” trailer hitch for our old 4 X 4 Pick Up Dodge Pickup truck “Silver” yet.

BUT... Miss Lisa and Brother Joe have picked up a really weird hobby over the years of kind of actually Loving these heavy Snow Storms and they have become our own version of “Four Wheeling” and it gives us an opportunity to continue a whole different part our ministry, which I have termed “BOOT RUNS”.

Years ago a former Fashion Model whose Street name was “Jackie No Toes” who was a mentally ill Homeless woman that slept down at Hart Plaza on Detroit’s River Front, she lost all of her toes to Frost Bite and that broke our hearts!

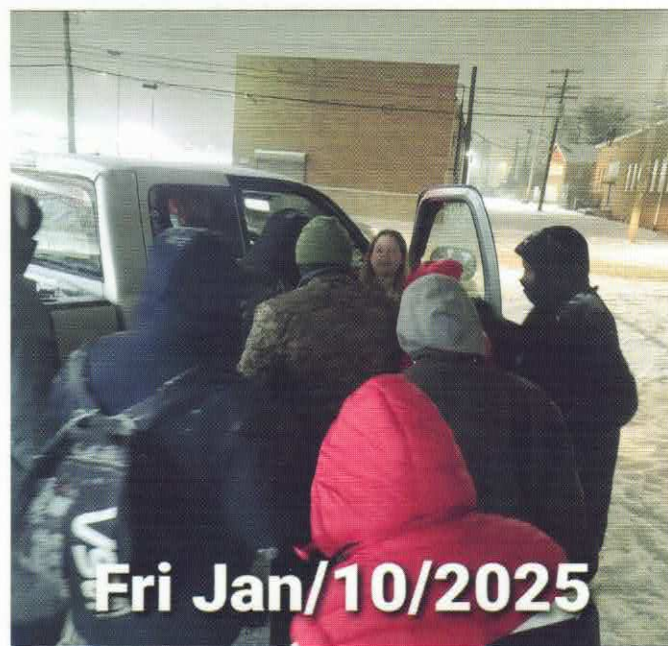


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And then every bit as bad was when I saw Cheyanne at Male “Tranny” Hooker who lost most of both of his feet due to frost bite which involved more of our “Hard Core” Street crowd too. But it was that middle episode with Joyce & Link that really emotionally sent me over the edge and FROST BITE became as big an adversary to me as Booze, Heroin or Crack addiction.

All these years later only God Himself knows how many “Gently Used and New BOOTS” that our little Ministry has put out on the Streets of Detroit, or how much money other Churches and our own Ministry has spent on New BOOTS! But to think that Detroit the “Paris of the Midwest”, “The Arsenal of Democracy” the “Motor City” or “Mo-Town” and to think decades later that in Detroit Michigan that so many people would be on the Streets freezing their feet and toes off is absolutely unimaginable to me and downright UNPATRIOTIC and UNAMERICAN!

MISS LISA “A ONE-WOMAN RESCUE MISSION”- On Friday night January/10/2025 I stuffed the truck bed with all the new BOOTS and bags of industrial sized trash bags full of gently used BOOTS that it could hold and stuffed so much “STUFF” into the truck cab that Miss Lisa and I had to bend forward even to see each other and off we went into yet another Snow Storm!



Michael Morris met us over on Michigan Avenue where we dropped off Paper work to him, and we gave out BOOTS to several folks in that lot and we were living up to a promise I had made by giving BOOTS to a guy and his friend that were staying in two tents behind a business.

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He is like a Street Version of the famous Mountain Man Jeremiah Johnson, I mean some of these Homeless guys get rough, I think that some of these tough dudes could catch, clean and cook Pigeons and Rats to survive if they had to NO JOKE! We just met this guy and he is a sweet kind of guy but you could tell he is one very tough Homeless Street Survivor!

Later that night we went up to the area where Cheyanne who lost his toes and feet while “On the Stroll” and where that man sells himself while dressed up as a woman to feed his drug addiction, in the area I have nicknamed “The Uptown Transylvania /Area 51 District.”

The “UPTOWN AREA” is on the near Northeast Side of Detroit. An area that has had all it’s financial Blood Sucked out of its years ago and at night it looks like a perfect setting for a Dracula Movie. About a mile to the North the main corner where we preach, feed and clothe folks is a “Squat House” that another of the male Tranny Hookers moved into that ironically and humorously has a lot to do with “UFO-LOGY” and the whole lore of the infamous “AREA 51” and thus my nickname for it “The Uptown Transylvania/Area 51 District”.

Our biggest objectives that night was to get BOOTS to Johnny who we are not really sure if he is Mentally Challenged or a Crack Cocaine addict or both. Johnny is a tall thin African American young man who really is a sweetheart of a guy and really does try to help us and is always doing some sort of physical work to “Hustle Up A Buck” but sadly I fear that most of that goes to his drug habit and the rest he will try to buy a Hot Pocket to eat at the gas station or party store. Miss Lisa and I love him dearly but sadly he is so very self-destructive.



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We pulled into the gas station parking lot instead of our normal spot on the sidewalk because we needed to borrow the gas stations lights to see what all we were doing. I took Johnny's Boots into the Gas Station to the attendant and left them as Johnny had asked us to do.

Almost immediately we were "Bum Rushed" (pun-intended) and what I was thinking was going to be a short simple night in a snow storm, became a huge and I mean H-U-G-E night, at times we had about 20 people around the truck at times.

I was busy asking people their sizes and handing out BOOTS and Bottled Water while keeping my eye on my beautiful Miss Lisa as she was standing on the ground by the passenger side door of the vehicle handing out Socks, Hats, Gloves, Scarves, Chips and sweets.

Soon all the new BOOTS that we had over 50 pairs were gone and I backed up a bit and took a picture of Miss Lisa feeding the crowd and I had the thought, "MISS LISA LOOKS LIKE A ONE-WOMAN RESCUE MISSION". Needless to say our Hard Core crowd is a very "Tough Crowd" but Lord knows these folks LOVE their Miss Lisa and bunches of them call her "MOM", including "Johnny" who showed up too!

Man, what a night! Fighting a mix of Vertigo and the snowy roads was shall we say entertaining on the way home as the snow had gotten much thicker. I told Miss Lisa on our way home how much more she makes my heart LOVE HER for loving our people. Miss Lisa had a very good and safe "normal life" until "Brother Joe" here came along but Miss Lisa is so good and loves these Hard-Core addicts and Street People so much.

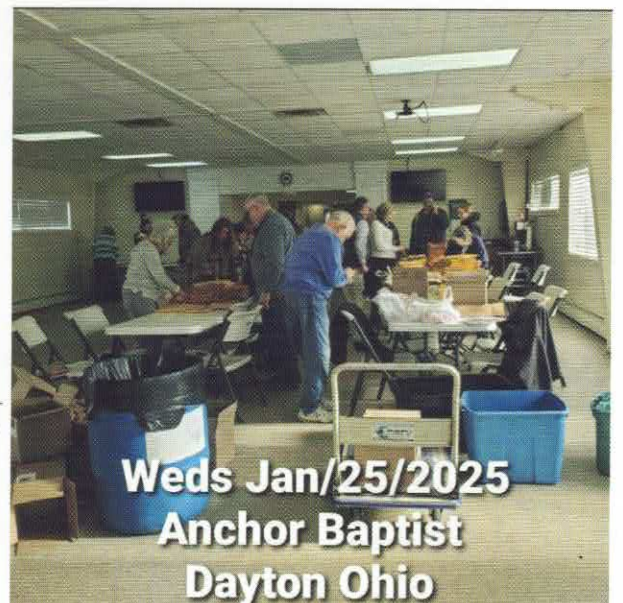


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ANCHOR BAPTIST CHURCH WINTER REVIVAL- On Saturday Jan/11/2025 I took my suits, shirts and ties then packed a smaller U-HAUL rental van full of boxes of our last # OPERATION BACK TO THE FUTURE booklets and then headed down to the Winter Revival at the Anchor Baptist Church in the Dayton - Beaver Creek Ohio area for a four-day Revival Meeting where Brother Mike Elliott is Pastor.

I was one of 4 preachers there and the Motel that we all stayed in was beautiful. Our time of food and fellowship was GREAT and the preaching by Pastor Jay Scruggs, Pastor Dennis Knowles, Evangelist David Spurgeon and Brother Kyle "Joe" Hicks here really seemed to bless the people.

I was very diligent as I was in that Hotel during a very cold snap, I addressed all the list # 1 mailing envelopes during the day time and then asked for help from the Church members and it turned out that Jay and Sheila Scruggs, Dennis and Darby Knowles, Dave and Susan Spurgeon and Brother Mike and Bethany Elliott all came as well as several folks from the Church including longtime friends Brian and Tina Berry came to help stuff and tape down the envelopes.... THANK YOU ALL THAT'S A LOT OF WORK! And at the end of that mailing time we had Pizza and Brother Mike Elliott asked me if the Church could put out our mailing for us, I said No at first and he kept after me and I finally said "Yes". THANK YOU SO MUCH PASTOR MIKE ELLIOTT AND THE ANCHOR BAPTIST CREW!



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The Church gave me a HUGE \$4,000.00 love offering and I told Pastor Elliott that every dime would go towards BOOTS and Socks for as many of Detroit's Street People and needy families that we would minister to on the Streets of Detroit, and I kept that promise!

“NORMAL PEOPLE DON'T DO THIS”-

I have been feeling guilty for over a year now that we have not been back to a newer spot on the Eastside of Detroit that we were going to that I nicknamed “THE LEVY” which for safety reasons I'm not telling anyone where it's at. Because the Streets are filled with “Serial Killers” and some of those are not from “Downtown” some Serial Killers are sickos from the “Burbs”, in fact one of them who was arrested lived in the same City where Miss Lisa and I live... NO JOKE.

Anyway, from late September 2023 until January 25th of 2025 I planned on getting back to “The Levy” this spot is currently the furthest spot that we go to and truthfully between my 4 Vascular Ablations procedures on my legs and then this whole Vertigo thing I just have not recently had the physical strength to tackle either the Uptown Transylvania Area 51 or The Levy area.

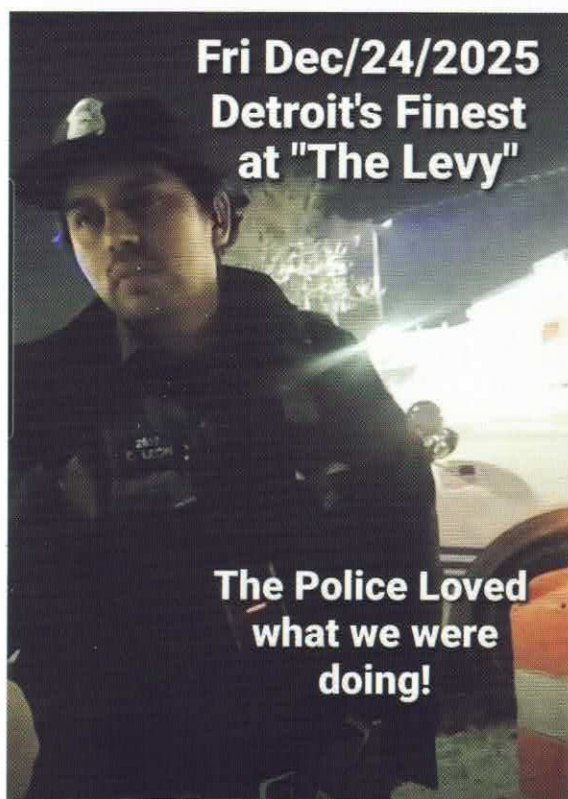
That night the whole time we were heading up to The Levy Miss Lisa kept telling me that she thought this was “Going to be a waste of time!” I kept telling her that we really NEEDED to get back up there. She got really quiet just before we got there and I knew she was not happy with old Brother Joe here. We finally got there and I was it was FREEZING!

I felt cold and really did much feel like setting up but I began to grab bags and set up there and just carrying all the clothing bags and boxes and bags of BOOTS warmed me right up! I had set the tables and food up for Miss Lisa and that corner was just as dead as Miss Lisa had had said that it was going to be... at first.

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A man in a dark blue Dodge Ram Pickup like our truck "Silver" but a newer model pulled up and abruptly asked me, "Hey Man what are you doing?" I told him that we are going to be feeding, clothing and passing out BOOTS, He just said. "Oh" then spoke again and said "Really? MAN THAT'S GREAT!" I offered him BOOTS too but he said, " no thank you I don't need them and I don't want to be greedy."

Scott Hartzel arrived sometime in the midst of all this and we could tell that poor guy was absolutely FREEZING!



I had just started shooting the video for that night when I saw a Police S.U.V. pulling up and I saw the "Flashing Blue Light Special" against the wall of the building we had sat the bags out by and it reminded me of the old days at K-Mart, "ATTENTION K-MART SHOPPERS!" And I said on the live stream video, "And that would be the Detroit Police."

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There was a pretty female Officer who was driving who began to speak to Miss Lisa while I spoke to a young male Officer who after I told them that we were feeding, clothing, and giving out BOOTS he had a confused look on his face then said "REALLY?" It was probably the Gentleman in the Blue Dodge Pickup truck who had called the Police on us earlier.

I offered the two Officers BOOTS they declined and were very friendly towards us. I gave them my name and number and told him that we have helped the City Council President Mary Sheffield for years now, and that I am currently the Vietnam Veterans Chapter 9 Chaplain and that Miss Lisa and I have helped hold the Law Enforcement & First Responders Appreciation Luncheons for years. They drove away and they were actually glad that we were there.

Then people began to show up and soon we had people going through the clothing bags, getting BOOTS and eating, I was all caught up preaching a new message called "WHAT THE PRODIGAL SON DID NOT NEED!" Out of Luke 15:11-21.

Several of the guys who showed up were going around the edge of one of the building next to where we were to tell the folks hanging out by the Gas Station that we were handing out food, clothing and BOOTS.

One guy named Corey told his friends that he did not believe them, in fact he later told Miss Lisa that he thought that somebody was "Setting Him Up" to get robbed or worse! Then after the 4th or 5th person walked into the Gas Station and was putting on new Socks and BOOTS, he finally came around the other side of that building and was shocked, so shocked he told Miss Lisa a classic one-liner "NORMAL PEOPLE DO NOT DO THIS!" Umm... I think that he called us weird.

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When I tried to take a few pictures by Lisa he would look down or he would look away. I said to him “You were in Jail, weren’t you?” He grinned and said Yeah. We had another man about my age who is a retired Detroit Police Officer who said, “I’ve lived here almost 49 years and I have never seen anybody doing this!” He was thrilled and said that what we were doing was “Good for this area.” He and I hit it off when I told him that this next Summer was going to be my 49th year in the Youth and Street Ministry in Detroit.



We had one young man hand Miss Lisa his phone and then that young man’s Grandma asked Miss Lisa for BOOTS over the phone because she had a Mentally Ill son who lived in a Group Home and needed a pair of BOOTS. Another young man asked for a men’s size 11 or 12 pair of BOOTS for his “Sister” and told Miss Lisa, “My Sister is a guy”.

As we left that FREEZING cold night Miss Lisa was then convinced that us going back to “THE LEVY” was really a GOOD thing! That whole night was so much like our entire Ministry! The Police, the Street People, the “Jailbirds”, the Mentally Ill, the Homeless addicts and the “Tranny’s” too.

SHORT BACK STORY a few years back I received a call when I was at a Blue Guitar Family Event up in West Bloomfield at the Kingsley Inn and a Lady called me and asked me if we would go and help the people on that very corner. No joke a short time later I received a text message where yet another woman asked us if we ever did anything in that area, Man talk about the Apostle Paul’s “Macedonian call”!

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This was around the time that the Detroit Police kicked us out of the 4th Precinct in Southwest Detroit and it was really becoming a Hot Spot for us. Then a few bad health issue days and a way too busy winter that I called # OPERATION BACK TO THE FUTURE that we put out an entire Booklet out a few months back... Including pictures of our last time there in September of 2023... I'm regaining my strength and balance after this whole # OPERATION VERTIGO thing and I cannot begin to tell you how happy I am that we got back to "THE LEVY" WHAT A BLAST!

PATTON PARK AND DETROIT'S WINTER FLOOD - Weds February/19/2025

A young man named Emilio Colon who was once one of "Our Little Boys" in our Youth Ministry Street Preaching Group posted a video of a huge watermain break that happened in South West Detroit, the water gushed and flooded an area, then the severe cold froze the water which blocked the rain vent drains which caused a one-mile square area to flood. That frozen mess froze vehicles in place up to their door handles and it also flooded and froze many people's basements which destroyed both their furnaces, appliances and electrical in numerous houses basements on multiple streets and a weird new form of forced Homelessness happened.



Immediately the conspiracy folks were filling the internet with talk about all the "15 Minute Cities" stuff and were accusing the City of Detroit of causing all this intentionally, but contrary to what a lot of them were saying it was not a City-wide flood but in one area in Southwest Detroit. The City of Detroit has it's own plan a thing going that it calls a "Twenty Minute City" based in the idea that people in Detroit who do not have transportation should not have to travel by bus.

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cab or Uber all the way out of the City of Detroit to the Suburbs to get groceries or do basic shopping.

Soon there were terrible frightening videos of all the water that soon became thick ice and other videos of people riding down the streets inside the buckets of earth moving vehicles being taken away to safety from their own flooded and frozen houses and streets, IT WAS REALLY BAD!

I saw online that people and agencies were setting up a donation center at the Patton Park Recreation Center in Southwest Detroit which is named after a personal Hero of mine, General George S. Patton. That Community Center is located at the far western end of where our Youth Ministry was located and just a few blocks from where we Street Preached, fed and clothed people in the highly dangerous area that I nicknamed "Death Valley" due to all the overdoses, killings and just addiction related deaths in that one small area.

The day before Miss Lisa and I picked up our last load of BOOTS for the Winter of 2024 – 2025 and we bought more socks from Jeff Goldsmith and crew up at the Joe's Army Navy Surplus in Waterford Michigan and we dropped them off at our National Storage unit in Westland Michigan.

On Wednesday February/19/2025 I told miss Lisa what my plans were and she helped me load BOOTS and winter gear into our "Curty" trailer from our National Storage unit and then we went over to the V.F.W. POST 3323 on Wayne Road where they are allowing us to park our public donation trailer and we pulled even more winter clothes out of it.

We drove over to the Patton Park Recreation Center and one older worker there was not too keen on what we were doing and Miss Lisa and I had hauled about 10 bags and boxes of BOOTS each inside of the building when two friendly Hispanic women got out of a couple of vehicles and asked us if we needed help,

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I said, “Yes Ma’am Please!” and she ordered a bunch of teen aged kids out of their S.U.V.s and everything got real exciting really quick as some of the girls jumped right up into our Curty trailer and were tossing the bags to the other teens and young adults outside and what would have taken Miss Lisa and I an hour or more to carry in only took about 20 minutes to unload the whole trailer load!

These good looking sharp Hispanic teens reminded Miss Lisa and I so much of the hundreds of kids and teens that we worked with in that neighborhood over the years and even though it was exciting it really did make me miss our Youth Group kids and teens so bad!

Miss Lisa became a real Hero to these teens when she started handing out our Chips and Sweets to them, their adult leader Jessica told me that the teens were starting to get grumpy because they had not eaten lunch yet and I said to her, “Hangry Huh?” and she smiled and said, “Yes very Hangry!”

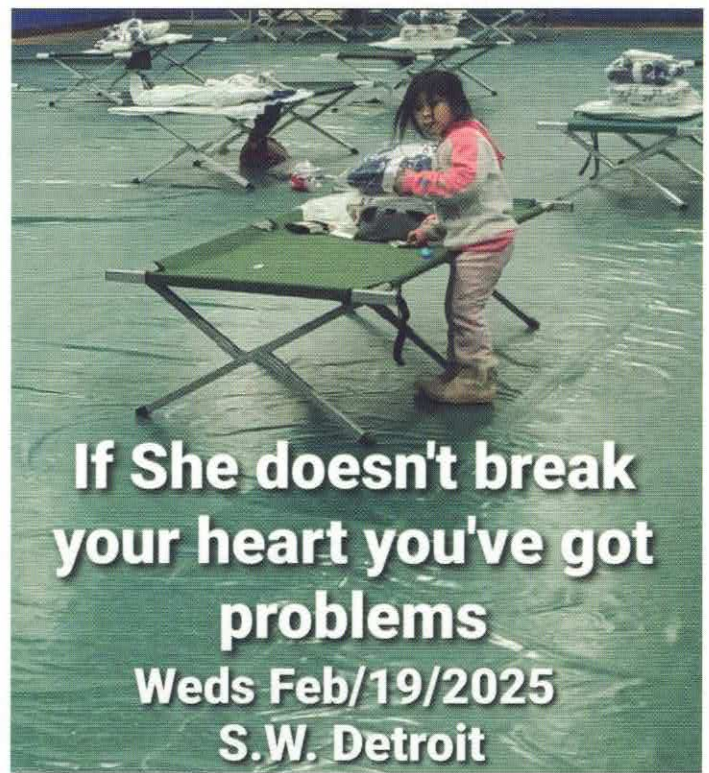
As we all were talking we saw numerous families getting new BOOTS for themselves as well as lots of the clothing that we had just taken in and then were going out in industrial size bags and some boxes too, WE LOVE IT!

Before we left, I went inside to the gymnasium to see all the food items, clothes and cots set up for the emergency warming and sleeping area for many of the residents that were pushed out of their homes by the watermain break and flood.



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I snapped a picture but did not really see its importance until I got home and enlarged it on my phone. Then I saw a precious little girl whose clothes were tainted by mud stains standing by one of the sleeping cots it was heart-breaking! After leaving the Patton Park Community Center we went over and dropped off some items with Sandra Williams one of the gals we used to feed and clothe years ago right there in the "Death Valley" area just a few blocks away. I started that afternoon to load stuff up for our next adventure to Bike Week 2025 in Daytona Beach Florida. What a great way to end this crazy Winter and my whole #OPERATION VERTIGO Mission.



This was one the toughest Winters in Street Ministry that I have ever had due to the dizziness of this weird thing called "Bengin Vertigo", Thank God I'm still getting better, GOD HAS BEEN GOOD!

SPECIAL THANK TO: Pastor Bill Keen and the Victory Baptist Church family in Beaver Creek Ohio for all the donated BOOTS and socks etc. And to Pastor Brian Donovan and the Bible Baptist Church Family in Pensacola, Florida for the \$3,400.00 check that we used on purchasing BOOTS and Socks, and to Pastor Mike Elliott and the Anchor Baptist Church in Dayton Ohio for a \$4,000.00 check that we applied it to purchasing BOOTS, Socks, Gloves from Jeff Goldsmith at the Joe's Army Navy Surplus Store in Waterford Michigan. Due to me not being able to get out and travel and promote we spent over \$10,000.00 on a credit card for BOOTS for the Hard Core Street people and needy families on the Streets of Detroit as well as getting BOOTS, socks and other goods to numerous Veterans as well.

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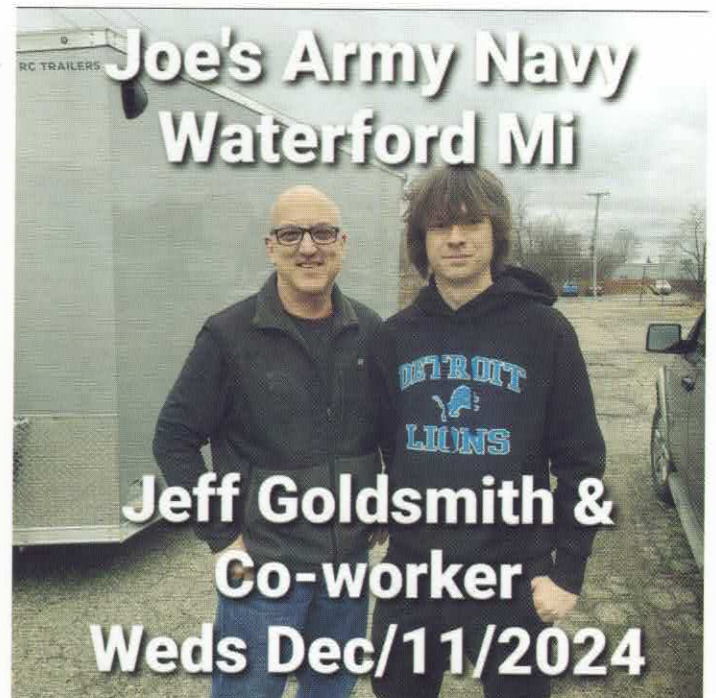
THANK YOU to Ernie and Brenda Meadows in Jacksonville Florida for all the knitted Hats for the Streets of Detroit and to the Ladies Knitting Circle at the Beacon Baptist Church and so many other donors also, #OPERATION VERTIGO really was a weird WILD success!

And THANK YOU to Shawn Ley and Channel 4 WDIV for interviewing me in a really weird moment in life and Ministry and giving me the courage to attempt this weird Mission that I called # OPERATION VERTIGO”!

Love Y'all For the Streets, Brother Joe



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Weds Dec/11/2024

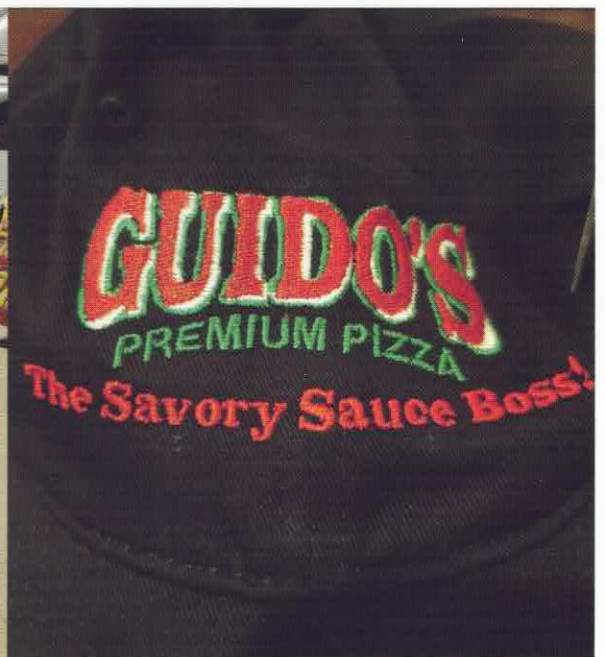
**Pastor Mike Ragan &
Tim Ross, Ross
Mortgage Troy Mi**

Weds Dec/11/2024

**More coats
Ross Mortgage
Troy Michigan**



**Ken Popchock
Mon Dec/16/2024
with the Dollar
General receipt**



**"BROTHER
JOE VERTIGO"
Mon Dec/16/2024**

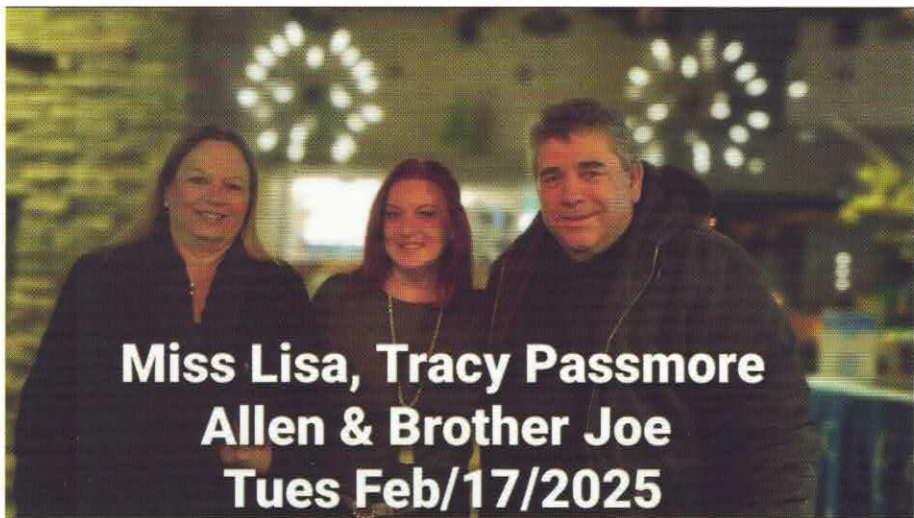


**Pastor David Carr
Shalom Baptist
Church
Mon Dec/16/2024**



**Miss Lisa & Ken
Popchock's crew
Mon Dec/16/2024**

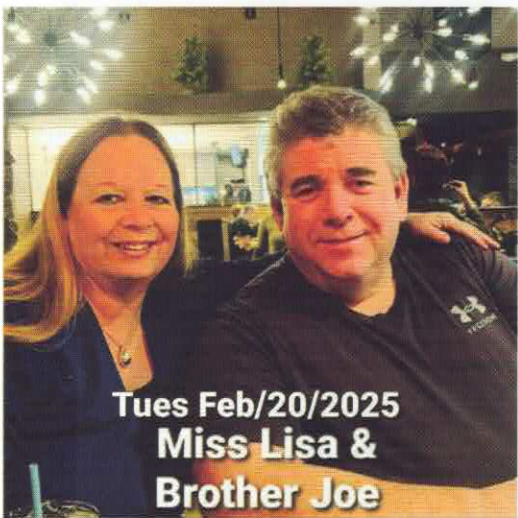
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**Miss Lisa, Tracy Passmore
Allen & Brother Joe
Tues Feb/17/2025**



**PARIS
BLESSMAN
Tues Dec/10/2024**



**Tues Feb/20/2025
Miss Lisa &
Brother Joe**



**Tracy Passmore
Allen & Friend with
Miss Lisa
Tues Feb/17/2025**



**Josh Rutas & Susanne
Forbes Dicker
Tues Feb/20/2025
Troy Michigan**



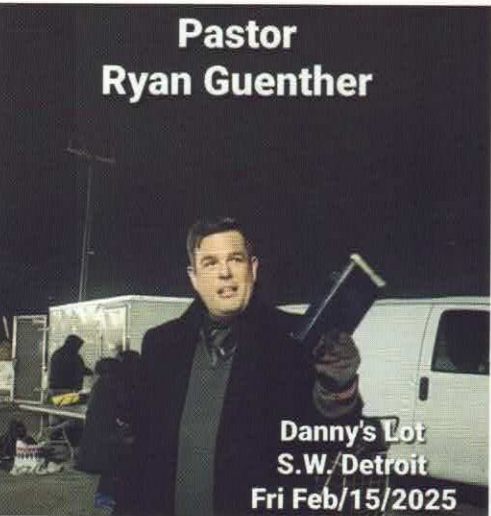
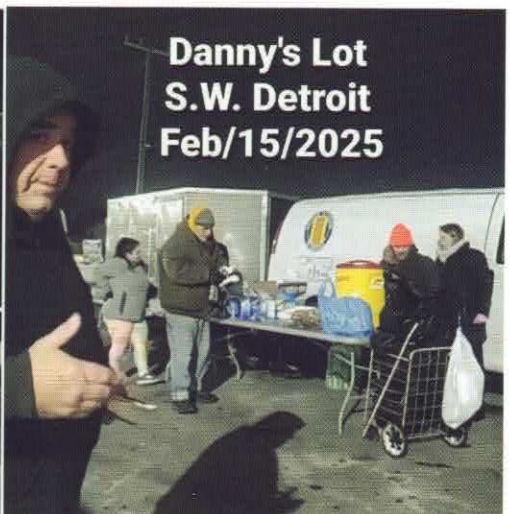
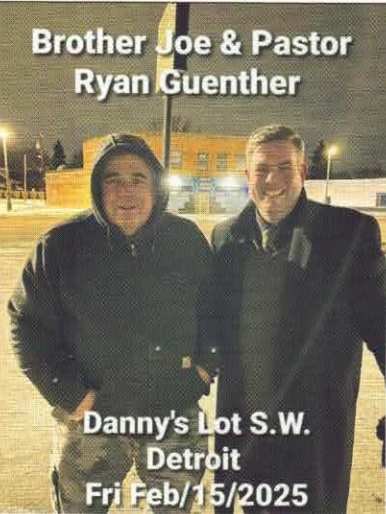
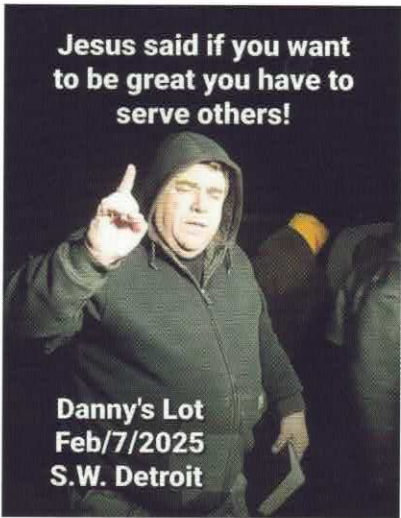
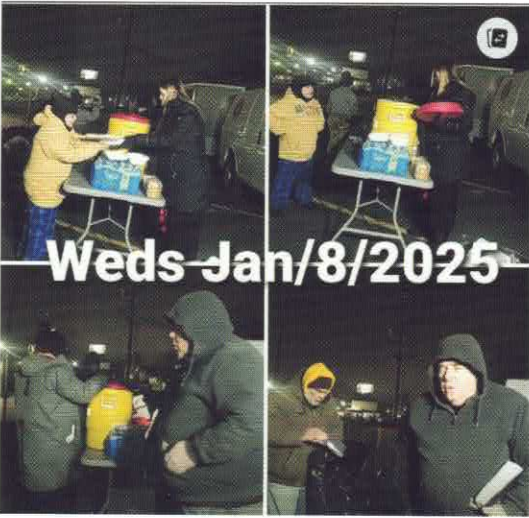
**Mary Sheffield
Tues Dec/10/2024**



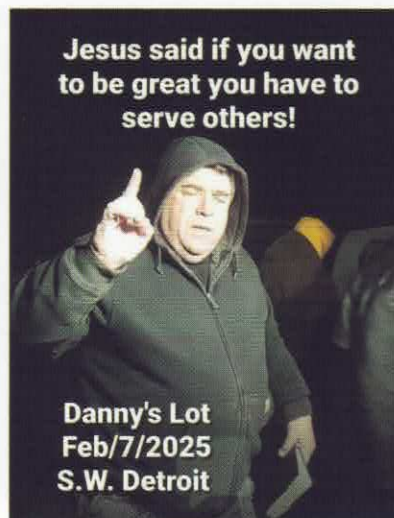
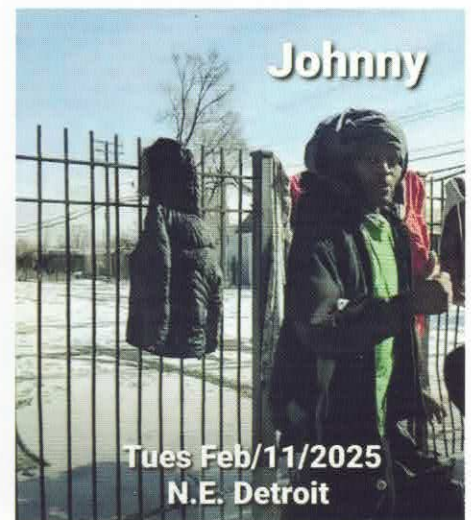
**ARI
RUTTENBERG
TuesDec/10/2024**



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Fri Jan/10/2025

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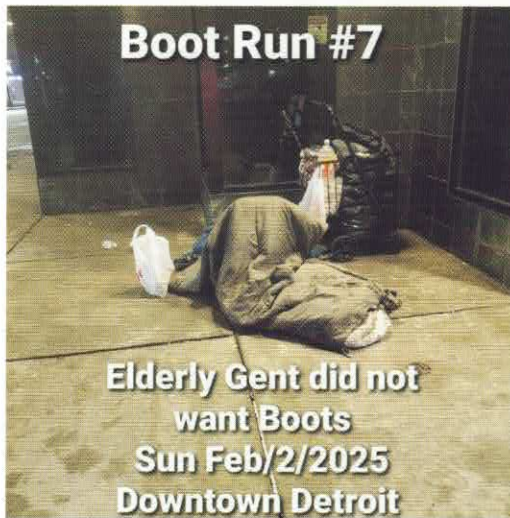
Sun Feb/2/2025



**Downtown Detroit
Sun Feb/2/2025
Boot Run #7**



**BOOT RUN #7
Sun Feb/2/2025
S.W. Detroit**



Boot Run #7

**Elderly Gent did not
want Boots
Sun Feb/2/2025
Downtown Detroit**

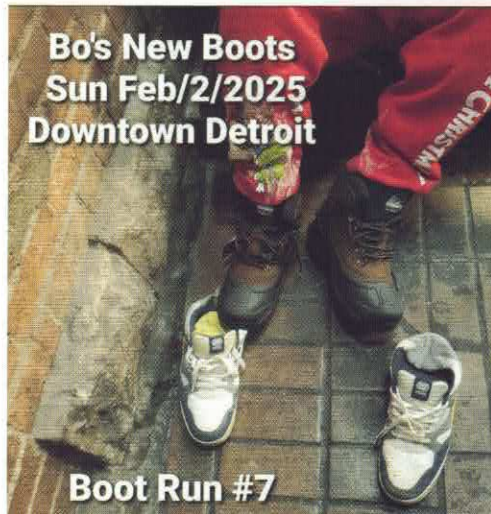


Boot Run #7

**Cody
Sun Feb/2/2025
Detroit**



**Vershon with
Miss Lisa
Downtown Detroit
Sun Feb/2/2025
Boot Run #7**



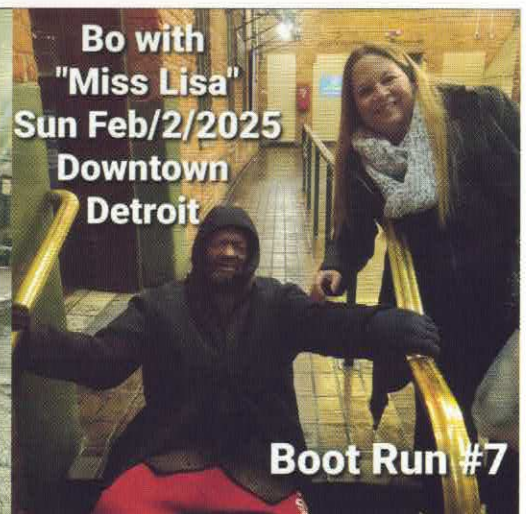
**Bo's New Boots
Sun Feb/2/2025
Downtown Detroit**

Boot Run #7



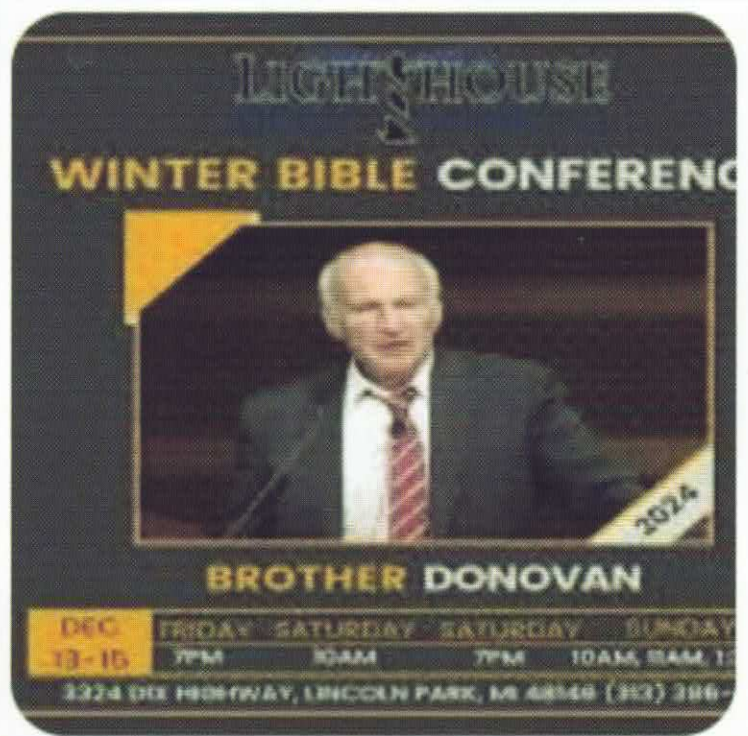
**Cody & Miss Lisa
Downtown Detroit
Sun Feb/2/2025**

Boot Run #7

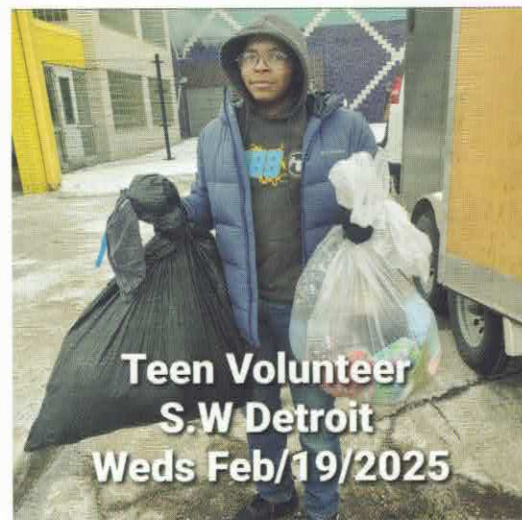
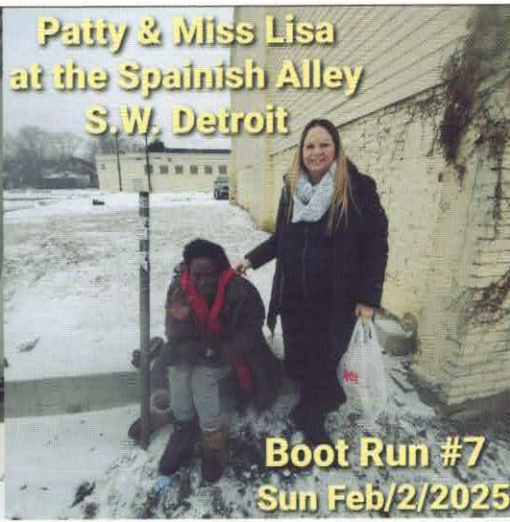


**Bo with
"Miss Lisa"
Sun Feb/2/2025
Downtown
Detroit**

Boot Run #7

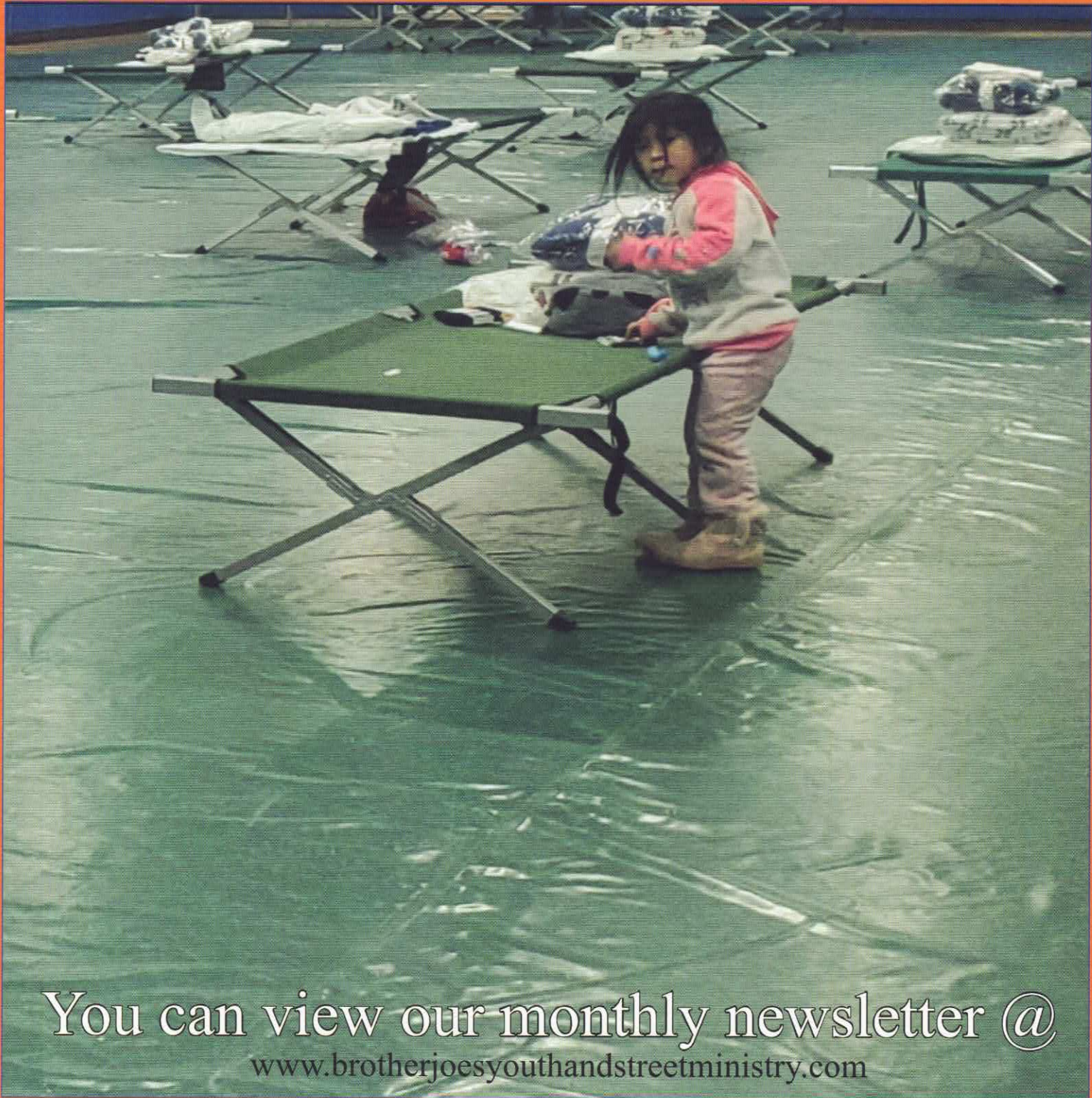
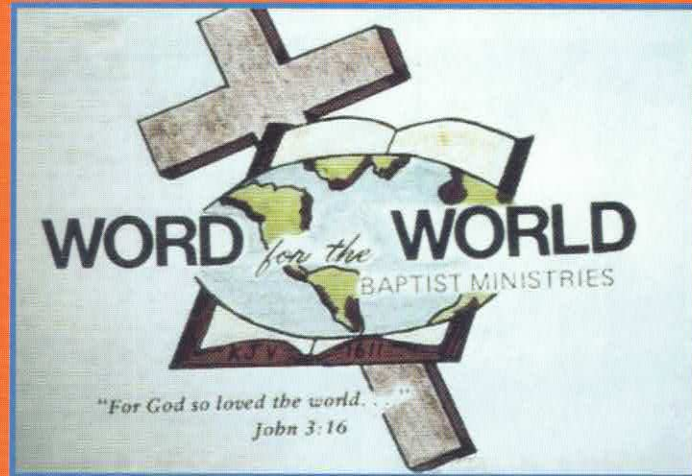


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