December 23, 2015

Dear RE-CHRIST Supporters

Merry Christmas to you and your families on behalf of RE-CHRIST MINISTRIES and those whom we serve. Christmas day is a wonderful day of reflection. Over 2,000 years ago God gave mankind the best gift we have even been given, His son. While not all have received the eternal gift of salvation that was offered to us two thousand years ago in a manger, the gift is still waiting and available for people to receive. That is how awesome God is, he does not resend his gift, and rather, he waits patiently for all to receive and delight in the gift of his beloved son, Jesus.

 Can you imagine a gift sitting in your home for over two thousand years in hopes each person would open it? Could you imagine watching some people open the gift, and enjoy all that the gift had to offer, but refusing to open it for themselves? What would it be like for the recipient of the gift to show great joy and gratitude for the gift he received, then beg others to open their gift, only to be refused year after year? There is a story in the Bible about a man who finds a treasure in a field. Upon finding the treasure he goes joyfully and sells all he has to purchase the land so that he can keep the treasure. When you think about Jesus lying in a manger, what do you see? Do you see a cute baby or do you see the Christ? I love cute babies, but I will not give everything I am, and own, to follow any cute baby. However, when I look into the manger and see the Christ I freely lay down my life, and all I have, so that I can follow Him. The revelation of who is in the manger is the essence of Christmas. The irony in the story concerning the man in the field was that he had to dig below the surface in order to discover the treasure. People also must look below the surface level of life and themselves to truly see their need of being saved. It is only when a person sees their need for being saved that they will joyfully sell all they have to receive the best gift ever given to man. Come Jesus Come!

This week I was given a wonderful update on a testimony that started a year ago. There was a family of five, four kids under the age of 14 and a single mom. One kid is autistic and the others have smaller learning disabilities. The mom works diligently to provide, but often comes up short. As the mom and I talked a year ago, but not our first time talking for I have known the family for some time, the mom was informing me that she had been evicted and was living in a motel. In that moment I felt the Holy Spirit say cancel her debt and get this family back into their apartment for Christmas.

I immediately began making phone calls to assess the situation and started raising support. Their back payment bills plus monies to move forward were well over $6,000, but that is nothing for the Lord. Within days we were able to jump through all the necessary hoops with the local apartment community and get the family back into their home for Christmas in 2014. It was a miracle that the apartment community even allowed them to return and renew a new lease. Normally a business would rather cut their losses and not run the risk of going through the same issue again in a few months with a delinquent resident. God is awesome!

The days after Christmas last year provided us the opportunity to transition this blessed family into the hands of another ministry who could help them with the details of their life. Over the past year the Hope Ministry has provided all the TLC needed to get this family aligned with certain government assistance. The kids are now able to receive proper medical care. The mom has a new job. The family was able to remain in our ministerial care. They found a tremendous advocate and friend in Mr. Tom with one of our local church partners. Tom makes sure the family has all they need and checks in on them a few times a month. A true Christmas miracle that continues to be revealed each day to this family. This all happened because the baby in the manager is not just a cute baby, rather the baby is the Christ! This morning my wife was reading our son his daily devotional, they have been reading a special advent devotional, when Noah learned that Jesus name means God saves! It is great to know that God wants to save the world from sin and death, and has done everything to provide a way. Now, all one must do is understand that Jesus came to save and follow Him home to heaven. That seems very reasonable to me.

Give your life to Christ. Dedicate yourself to following Him. Sell all you have and place your thoughts on eternity, not on the things of this world. Give of yourself and the things you own so that others can be blessed by the miracle of Christ. Thank you so much for giving to RE-CHRIST MINISTRIES and wanting others to be blessed. This is one of many testimonies of God is and has been doing through RE-CHRIST MINISTRIES. Jesus will be returning someday to receive His gift. His gift is all of those who accepted him as the Christ and when He returns there will not be any more opportunity to open God’s gift. Do it now, do not delay. Stand in awe and wonder of the Christ who came; Emmanuel, God with us!

Gifts to RCM can be given through the mail:

RE-CHRIST MINISTRIES

PO Box 922518

Norcross, GA 30010-2518

Or

Click on the below URL and give online.

<http://msc.kintera.org/faf/donorReg/donorPledge.asp?ievent=1023666&lis=0&kntae1023666=BC031317865541F9A8FE7C34F38BDCA4&supId=356649368>

Servant of the Lord

Matt Johns

PS

The following page is a summary from 2015

**RE-CHRIST MINISTRIES 2015 Summary**

* Our local church partnerships are growing in ownership and responsibility to the missions we jointly serve. They are preparing themselves to take the next steps of faith in our partnership. This is no easy task and I rejoice greatly in who they are and who they are becoming. Special thanks to Rocky Creek Baptist, Simpsonwood United Methodist, and Peachtree Corners Baptist.
* There were 11 people who made a first time decision for Jesus Christ this year as they stepped out of death and into life. God has touched numerous other people through physical healing. His power is at work!
* Our student discipleship plan to local apartment communities is continuing to deepen and widen. We made a few changes this fall in terms of leadership structure and things are working great. We have about 75 students enrolled in our discipleship process again this year, and have expanded the discipleship process for high school students to include Friday morning prayer in addition to Wednesday and Friday night discipleship. Here is our student ministry discipleship process:

Elementary after school (foundation) + middle school (youth group assimilation) + high school (mentoring) = life time follower of Christ

* Our students had opportunities to attend summer camps and VBS- VBS was held twice for elementary kids, beach trip for middle and high school kids, and Camp Grace for high school kids. Thank you for giving to support scholarships for these summer camps.
* RCM hosted just shy of a dozen outreach events this year to support lower socio economic families with family fun events in which the Gospel was presented each time.
* This year Valencia Park started a summer lunch program and ESL program via our church partner at Simpsonwood United Methodist. This is the same model used at the Columns apartments which provides year-long opportunities of ministry to each community via three means. We then weave family fun events, benevolent giving, door to door evangelism and other activities through these three means of building relationships over the course of a given year. RCM is looking to open new missions and reproduce itself over and over again throughout metro Atlanta. Over the past year we have been breaking up the ground on our third mission and expect a wonderful harvest season in 2016.
* RCM continues to provide benevolent needs to people in need. Honestly the year end season usually presents itself for great opportunity. As you think about the opportunity to give, think about the people you could bless this season. However, you must not delay and give immediately so that we can be prepared to respond. Thank you
* Personally, some of the most rewarding times I have had this year have been centered on the older students and their extracurricular activities. It is amazing to witness these young men and women grow from elementary school kids to near graduating high school students. They are beginning to shine and I anticipate wonderful things in the next couple of years as we witness our first full class of the above mentioned discipleship process (elementary through high school and beyond). At this point a legacy will be born with hopes of many more classes of disciples to come.
* This year we have been able to start establishing many new relationships as we have gained traction on the third mission. We have really focused on getting back to the basics and developing relationships that occur naturally in our everyday life. It takes time and intentionality, but for those who stay the course, they will be blessed, amen. Thank you for staying the course with us over the years.
* I attribute God’s blessings to the discipline of prayer and fasting. “Leadership means plugging away until the breakthrough comes” (unknown). This year we have been tested on every front- critics, finances, unbelief, stalling of momentum, heavy spiritual warfare, larger church wide shifts, and other occurrences. However, what remained was our focus on our calling and our pursuit of God. Core principles and foundations matter when one’s integrity is challenged. The discipline of prayer and fasting keeps one humble and broken. Two requirements of God for Him to work through any individual