

JULY 2008

Chicago – 32 years later

By Steve Cohen

THE first foray of my missionary career was on June 22, 1976 at Trinity College in Deerfield, Illinois. There we rendezvoused with 60 others for initial outreach training. The days were overly hot and muggy. We schlepped from our campus site each day for sorties in downtown Chicago. Even then the traffic could slow us to nearly 45 minutes for the short trip.

Fast forward to 2008; The Apple of His Eye hosted our first Chicago-land outreach. My memories were over 30 years old, but I still was concerned for lost time and oppressive weather. Praise God for answered prayer in that we lost very little time to traffic, and the weather... well it was amazing, low 80's, low humidity and almost no rain.

We had initially planned on a set amount of broadsides needed, but after the first day it became clear that we were going to need to print more, 15,000 more to be exact. ***All in all, we distributed over 60,000 Gospel tracts, received over 200 names for more information, individually gave 125 "Ablaze" presentations of the Gospel, and saw 1 person confess Christ on the last day.*** The follow-up is where we expect to see more people hear and respond in faith! We also invested time going door to door offering the Gospel in Rogers Park and around Burr Ridge, and we also marched in the July 4th parade with Jews For Jesus in Skokie.

As with any army, it can move forward only as well as the support team enables the logistics of food and supplies to be available. To that end we are deeply grateful to the following people for their help behind the scenes, in prayer, doing laundry, fixing meals, leading in devotions, and folding our newly minted broadsides: Rev. Matt & Kathy Gunia; Rev. Ivan Peterson; Glenda Smith; Trinity Ladies Aide; Trinity LWML; Nancy Montelbano; Jack Folkerts; Glenn & Kathy Fritschel; Sharon Wendte; Jeanne Arturi; Eileen St. Clair; Carol Ball; Kendalla Puckett (9 years old who helped bundle tracts); Gil & Yvonne Meyer; Laurie Verba; Joanne Stastny; Rev. Bill Reinhardt & Deaconess Susan Ziegler; Linda Zimmerman; Mary Lou Gafke; Mary Ann Schmidt; Joyce Tomes; Lisa Haak; Chuck



& Irma Hoffer; Ed & Shirley Bluhm; Darlene Ciolek; Sharme Singer; Michele Geaschel; Jesse Geaschel (10 years old helped bundle broadsides); Joan Hagen; Kelly Hagen; Ruth Kutz; Jason & Beth Lyons; Rev. Luther Albrecht; Rev. Steve Lange; Rev. Lou Vician; Rev. Jared Eggebraaten; Rev. Ted Groth; Rev. Daniel Wegrzyn; John Walz, Dorothy Anderson; Gene & Elaine Rall; Judy Gustafson; Linda Bakalyar; Robbie Gasparas; Linda Steichen; and Cathy Roginela.

Those on the front lines included pianist Sam Rotman; Alan Butterworth, Steve & Nancy Cohen, Ellen & Courtney Ascher, Shelley Edelman, Marilyn Hendricks, Ryan Lannihan, Kim Millegni, Brian Borcharding; Kathi Graham; Marianna Cymbala, Jessica & Peter Rodzen and special thanks to our friends at Jews For Jesus – Alan Bond, Micha Cohen & Amer Olson.

Now we are gearing up for stage two of the Chicago outreach taking place on several campuses in the Chicago-land area from September 21-26, 2008.

You are invited to come and learn with us and join in the fun of telling the Good News of Jesus. Call 636-326-4040.



We are an RSO of The LC-MS.

An Ordinary Bag With An Extraordinary Purpose. – Jean Thormodson

Apple of His Eye is a ministry dedicated to reaching the Jewish people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Much of the work is done right on the streets—teams of volunteers will go out to events like The Taste of Chicago which attracts more than 2 million people, or to local events such as the balloon fest or art fair in Clayton, MO. We spend hours handing out thousands of Gospel tracts. Over the past twelve years, these street workers have put the Gospel message into the hands of over 500,000 people.

The bags they use work almost as hard as they do, carrying countless Gospel tracts, pens, water bottles, and personal items for several hours at a time. The bags look professional and are designed to attract Jewish people with Apple of His Eye logo, which includes the Star of David. Unfortunately, due to such hard use over so many years, the bags of these street volunteers were falling apart. Many were ripped and had broken clips, making work a lot harder for those using them.

When this was brought to the attention of the LIGHTS group at Blessed Savior Lutheran Church in Florissant, MO, they saw the need for new bags and wanted to help. However, there was some hesitation, because donating 40 bags (the suggested number) would be a costly undertaking, and they were just a small women's group.

The president of the group, Norma Masters, was committed to seeing the project through. They put up a poster with 40 candles on it. When someone

adopted a bag, their name was written under the candle and the flame was colored in. The LIGHTS group indeed got very excited about the project, and the funds were raised in no time.

The bags were purchased and, with an additional gift from a caring couple in Oklahoma, were embroidered with the Apple of His Eye logo and website along with the word "Y'SHUA," the Jewish name for Jesus. With much joy and celebration, the 40 bags were dedicated for service by Pastor Roeglin of BSLC. He prayed that the Gospel tract bags

would go on to help in a way that, God willing, will impact thousands of lives.

The first bag was used on June 18th, 2007 in St. Louis by Steve Cohen, the founder of The Apple of His Eye, when he went down to Busch

Stadium for a noon time game and handed out several hundred Gospel tracts. Each one is a seed planted in the lives of others.

Norma Masters commented about how good it feels to be involved in missions and to know that what our group is doing will make a difference in sharing the gospel with others. These small gifts quickly add up to become something bigger than imagined. The seemingly insignificant bags are helping the volunteers of Apple of His Eye in enormous ways. It doesn't take much to make a big difference!



Please remember The Apple of His Eye in your estate planning by giving the gift that keeps on giving!



**THANK YOU ALL
FOR HELPING
US GET NEW
BAGS!!!**

- SC

Chicago: My Kind of Town!

By Alan Butterworth

There are two words that come to mind when I think about our recently completed Outreach in Chicago: teamwork and loved. Those of us who came to the Windy City became a team. And our hosts at Trinity in Burr Ridge made us feel loved!

Sharing the Gospel is all about teamwork. In Matthew 18:20, Jesus said: "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

What kind of a team would we have without Jesus? Not the kind of team we needed as we labored on the streets at the Taste of Chicago, encountering thousands of people. On July 3rd alone we gave out 15,000 tracts! Not the kind of team we needed as we went door to door in Jewish neighborhoods or in the area around Trinity that Pastor Matt lifted up in prayer for two years. Not the kind of team we needed as we invited shop owners in a Jewish neighborhood to allow us to put up posters inviting people to the Sam Rotman concert, a concert pianist raised in an Orthodox Jewish home who shared how he came to believe in Jesus. And, not the kind of team it took for Kim to confess faith in Jesus!

The last day, after lots of team prayer, Shelley and Marianna met Kim at the airport. Kim had never heard the Gospel before, but she was ready and confessed faith! She is from Madison, WI. Dan Haupt, who was on our Outreach in Houston last year, is inviting Kim to hear more at Christ Memorial in Madison. What a team!

Rev. Matt Gunia, associate Pastor at Trinity, started our Outreach with a consecration service, sharing that a corpse cannot feel a weight. But if a corpse comes to life, it can feel a weight. When someone comes to life in Jesus they feel the weight of sin, but also the sweetness of forgiveness and eternal life as Jesus lifts the weight of our sin! We started each day with worship and prayer led by area pastors. We went out knowing Jesus was with us, offering hope based on what He has done for us!

Matt Gunia and his lovely wife Kathy were volunteer leaders. Kathy did an incredible job of organizing the volunteers and resources at Trinity that allowed us to go out and feel so loved! Some of us had done this many times before. Others were trying this for the first time. Everyone learned, was challenged and grew in faith.

What can a small team do? We gave 60,000 people Gospel tracts. Does all of this make any difference? Yes. On July 3rd, I met a Jews for Jesus volunteer who shared that his first encounter with the Gospel came thru a Gospel tract!



More than 125 listened to the Gospel with an opportunity to respond (Ablaze), and Pray for the follow up as dozens of unbelievers, Jewish and Gentile, asked to hear more! I asked one group of three Muslim girls, "What do you think of Isa... I mean Jesus?" They laughed. One of the three asked to hear more about Jesus! I talked with two guys who each were searching and grateful to hear that Jesus loved them so much, he went to the cross to pay for their sin! There are so many special stories.

I remember discussing this idea with Matt almost 2 years ago. He had been with us to Miami, and wanted his congregation to get excited about sharing the Gospel! His prayers were answered! 6 from Trinity came on the streets and experienced the joy of telling others the good news! So many others helped with what was a team effort!

How about you? We will be back in Chicago Sept. 21 to reach students, future leaders of Apple, on college campuses. Will you pray about joining us or inviting others? If not, will you pray for us? Email philemonv6@aol.com for more info.

See you in Chicago? It is "my kind of town...Chicago is" (Oy! My age is showing.)

June 25, 2008

The Apple of His Eye is granted a preliminary injunction against the City of St. Louis.



The issue heard on June 24th, 2008 before Henry Autrie, US District Judge in the Eastern District of Missouri, Eastern Division was presented on behalf of Steve Cohen, Alan Butterworth and The Apple of His Eye by Rick Nelson, esq. of American Liberties Institute based in Orlando, Florida.

The case stems from an outreach event by The Apple of His Eye in Tower Grove Park in 2006 during a gay pride festival. Our missionaries were confronted by park police while peaceably distributing free religious literature and forced to remove the literature from the park under threat of arrest. Later told we were told that we had to leave the park altogether and could not engage the public in personal conversations or we would be arrested. This was in reaction to complaints by the PrideFest organizers.

After the event, several attempts were made to seek resolution with the City and Parks department, but those attempts were unsuccessful and the suit was filed.

Until there is a final disposition of the matter in court, the following was ordered by Judge Autrie:

“... this Court orders, adjudges and decrees as follows:

a. Defendant, its officers, agents, employees, representatives and all persons acting in concert, or participating with them, are hereby restrained and enjoined from enforcing § 22.16.100, R.C.St.L. (1994), which states: “No person shall parade, exhibit or distribute any advertisement, circular or handbill in or adjoining any public park, place of square.”

b. Defendant, its officers, agents, employees, representatives and all persons acting in concert, or participating with them, are hereby ordered to instruct the law enforcement officers who will be present in and/or near Tower Grove Park at PrideFest 2008 of the terms of this Order, and to instruct them as to the implementation of the terms of this Order.

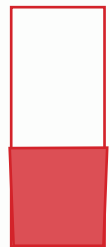
c. Defendant, its officers, agents, employees, representatives and all persons acting in concert, or participating with them, are hereby ordered to meet with the PrideFest 2008 organizers prior to the event scheduled for June 28 and 29, 2008, at Tower Grove Park for the purpose of informing the organizers of the terms of this Order, and to instruct said organizers that Plaintiffs’ distribution of religious literature and/or expression of religious beliefs in said Park, in and of themselves, do not constitute a basis for law enforcement authorities to take actions that would restrict Plaintiffs’ activities.”

Continuing efforts will be made to come to final resolution of this matter, and we have offered to work with the City in order to align laws and practices with rights guaranteed under the US Constitution.

Did you know that each missionary raises his/her own mission support? We rely on YOU to help sustain our ministry now in our 12th year.

Your 2008 mission support enables us to bring the Gospel to the Jewish people and gentiles, too.

\$ 580,000



Thrivent members can have their gifts matched by filling out the form available on our web site or we can mail one to you.



Left: some of the outreach participants and our friends at Jews For Jesus in preparation for the 4th of July parade in Skokie.

Below: Shelley lights the Shabbat candles as we gathered at Trinity Lutheran Church in Burr Ridge for a wonderful meal.



