



PRAISE REPORT September 1, 2017

SEX AND THE STREETS

This afternoon, I stopped at the local King Soopers to pick up refreshments for our weekly “Friday Night at the Park” ministry for the homeless youth. We provide dinner, refreshments, games and counseling in the quiet setting of the park.

As I walked out of the store, I was surprised by a familiar voice that joyfully said. “Hi Skip.” As I turned to see who it was, I was totally shocked. We hugged each other. I was so happy and relieved to see her! It was Jade, one of the regulars who attended our Community Center. She had been the last youth I had talked to before I closed the doors of the Center for the last time.

I remember it as if it was yesterday. Jade was beautiful, but very quiet, didn’t really have any close friends, and stayed to herself at the Center. On that day, as I ushered all of the youth from the Center for the last time, she was the last in line. She was hesitant to leave and I asked her if something was wrong. Jade immediately began to cry. I locked the doors and ushered her up to our quiet room, the room where the youth can feel safe and know that what they say is confidential. After several minutes, when she had composed herself, she said, “Skip I am so afraid. I don’t know what to do.” “ A year ago, I was forced into prostitution, by this Black gang. They threatened to kill me if I didn’t obey. Fearing for my life, I did what they asked.”

I did not want to make her relive the experience, so I asked how I could help. She continued with her story, telling me that the FBI had made contact with her, by posing as a “John”. They asked her to testify against the gang, and in return they would protect her. If she didn’t agree to help, they would arrest and prosecute her. !

When she finished, we just held each other, while I prayed, asking GOD for strength, wisdom, and protection. Then we discussed her options. If she remained quiet, she could go to jail, but more importantly, the gang members might go free, putting more young women in danger. I told her that I did not believe that the FBI would prosecute her; that they were just trying to scare her into helping.

Then I asked her, “Do you realize, that if you don’t cooperate with the police and don’t testify, that other young girls will be forced into prostitution, just like you? After what you have experienced, could you ever let another young girl be abused and beaten like you?” I told her that I believed that GOD had put her in this position for a purpose. She did not respond. I offered to put her in a motel, but she declined and left. I never knew what happened. Since that day, Jade has always been in my prayers.

As we talked in the parking lot, Jade told me that she had testified for the FBI, knowing that she could never let another girl go through that hell! She also told me that she had accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior and again thanked me for my help. I invited her to come to our “Lost and Found” church for homeless youth. She promised that she would attend the church soon. As she walked away, I tearfully prayed, thanking GOD.

GOD IS GOOD!!!!!!