

Meeting Basic Needs

Offering Physical and Spiritual Assistance

Story by Carol Savage

Photos by Jonetta Andrepont

For the past three years, Calvary Chapel Beaumont, TX, has served the city's low-income residents, homeless people, and others in need through quarterly visits to the downtown area. Due to its warm climate and location, Beaumont has become a stopping place for transient people and a home to many without permanent shelter. The church's inner-city ministry takes several forms, including prayer stations, distribution of food, clothing and hygiene items, and free Bibles for all who want them. As a result, "Many people have rededicated their lives to the Lord," said Tim Roosevelt, pastor of CC Beaumont, "and some have given their lives to Christ."

Tim, who founded CC Beaumont six years ago, said, "This type of outreach was on my heart from the beginning. It's about showing people the love of Christ through the moving of the Holy Spirit." He and others from CC Beaumont began serving alongside a local homeless shelter three years ago, and they soon found a niche in leading people sometimes overlooked by society to Jesus—or back to Him. Tim, his wife Levette, and a team of believers from CC Beaumont collect and distribute donated supplies, Bibles, and Gospel tracts in Beaumont's inner-city area four times a year. They minister to an average of 80 people per visit and see these outreaches as an avenue for reaching others in Jesus' name.

One man who has been impacted by the church's involvement in the community and love for individuals is John Persons. "I was saved in 1974," said John, "but when everything in my life fell apart, I backslid." John had served at his church for many years, but in the 1990s after an unwanted divorce and major medical issues, including three heart attacks, John became cynical. "I stepped away from everything and became a hermit," he related. "I knew I was missing something. I didn't go out or do anything; I became a



A man looks through the clothes being given away at Calvary Chapel Beaumont's local outreach to the needy. Adia Smith, center, and others from the church assist.

nobody." John lived this way for many years, until in 2008 he volunteered at a job fair—and was placed at a booth right next to the one where Pastor Tim was volunteering.

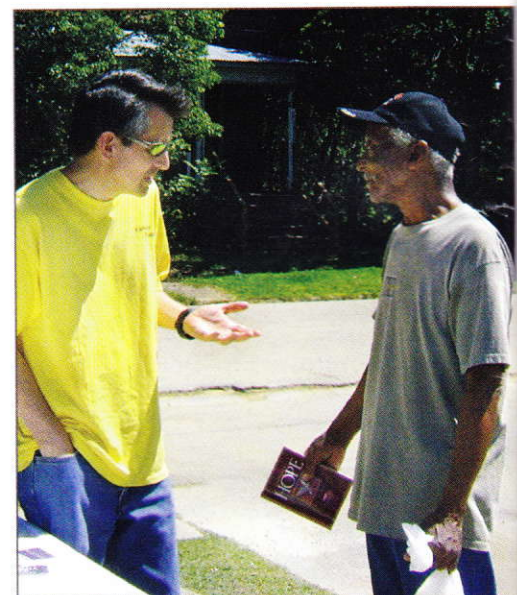
"We started talking like we had grown up together," said John. "It was amazing the way we connected. Then, we started talking about how cold the water in the cooler was. He looked at me and said, 'I feel like I'm supposed to tell you that you need the Living Water of Jesus.' Then it clicked; I knew that was it!" John concluded, "I had been sinking pretty fast. It was time for me to stop running. God hadn't moved; I had. I'm still a work in progress, but that was the day that turned my life around."

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Don Durr, left, an assistant pastor at CC Beaumont, discusses Jesus with a Beaumont resident.

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