
*When they heard about the resurrection of the dead,
some of them sneered, but others said, "We want to
hear you again on this subject."*

-- Acts 17:32

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Easter 2011

Dear Friends:

Working at Washington Street Mission often brings the Bible to life for us. As we teach the children in the afterschool program or interact with the men and women who come for coffee and doughnuts in the mornings, we are reminded of passages of Scripture and see them in a whole new way. This is especially true during the Easter season.

There are a number of connections to Easter in this passage from Acts 17. Paul has been presenting the message of the Gospel to sophisticated intellectuals in the city of Athens and the focus of his message is the resurrection of Jesus, the central event we celebrate on Easter Sunday. In a very real sense it is an Easter sermon.

Notice the mixed reaction to Paul's sermon. Some people sneer. They turn their backs on the message without really considering it. Others are curious and want to hear more.

We see both reactions to the Easter message among the people we serve at the Mission. Some see it as irrelevant or meaningless for their lives. How do you explain such a negative response to the most positive initiative in history? In the resurrection of Jesus, victory over death is proclaimed. The whole power of God is unleashed.

We also see many people respond with curiosity. They see the difference that Jesus is making in the lives of other people and they want to know more. They are curious about the new life that a living Jesus can bring. They may not be ready to place their faith in Jesus and trust him as their Savior, but they have seen a positive demonstration of the difference that Jesus makes, the kind of new life and grace he can give.

If we are called to be the salt of the earth as Jesus says, an essential part of our ministry should be to make people thirsty, ready

to try the living water that Jesus offers. All of our service at Washington Street Mission is aimed at making men and women, children and families thirsty for Jesus.

We know that the reactions of people to the Easter truths we demonstrate at the Mission are not really up to us. They are in God's hands. We know that some will sneer at the message, but others will be curious and hungry to hear more. We want to be ready for both and continue to show God's love and grace to all kinds of people.

We would invite you to become a partner with us in this ministry. With your financial gifts, your prayer support, your donations, your time as a volunteer or whatever you can contribute you can join us in extending the reach of the Easter message to people who need to hear it and see it in action in a way that can change their lives.

Please give as generously as you can. Thank you again for your continuing support.

Sincerely,



Kenneth E. Mitchell
Executive Director

Several members of the Board attended the Heroes Breakfast sponsored by the American Red Cross on March 25, 2011. Ken and Mary Lynn Mitchell were recognized at the breakfast as workplace heroes for their service at Washington Street Mission in helping to meet the needs of the growing number of homeless people in Springfield. Here Board president Bob Paoni holds the poster of the Mitchells that was displayed at the breakfast. He is flanked by Gordon Fidler who serves as secretary of the Board and by Laura Catherwood who serves as vice-president of the Board. The recognition was deeply appreciated by the Mitchells and accepted on behalf of all the people who contribute in so many ways to the heroic ministry of Washington Street Mission.

