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Greetings,

For the past two years, we have faithfully walked through the community on Friday mornings to meet people and to pray with them. Some of the places we go are considered high risk and dangerous. One of these places is an apartment complex within a mile from our home. We started going there about five months ago. We have witnessed firsthand some hardcore wicked life. The apartments are known for high crime and drug activity. When we enter the complex, we acknowledge that if true change is going to happen it will take an act of God.

As we faithfully go to the apartments to pray with individuals, we have built some relationships; and some who live there have shown interest in the Lord. However, not everyone is receptive. We often make a circle in the middle of the complex to pray. While praying, drug activity goes on all around us. The apartments seem to be the "Grand Central Station" for drug activity in our area. The outside distractions never intimidate us. They only remind us that we are where God wants us to be. One Friday, an individual with us who has a gifted voice stood boldly for the Lord singing a song of praise right in the middle of the complex. People stopped and listened.

Another Friday, we knocked on a door; and were invited in to pray. There were individuals throughout the apartment that did not seem to live there as part of their family. I was led by the Spirit to share the gospel with the group. While I was sharing, there was a knock at the door. Believe it or not, it was someone with a large amount of cash looking to buy drugs. I was expecting a younger individual to deal with the situation, but to my surprise the grandmother said she would take care of the situation. She took the person outside the door to make a deal. That was a shocking eye-opener. I continue to visit the apartment, but I have not been invited back inside. If someone wants to talk or wants me to pray for them, they step outside. There are always one or two people who will join us outside for prayer.

Today the apartments are being boarded up, and the tenants are being evicted. The complex was bought by the city and will probably be torn down as a new junior high school is being built across the street. I am reminded of the scripture, "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:7-8).

I am a firm believer in the power of prayer and the Word of God. Please pray for the future of the south Dallas area. A lot of police and church leaders have ideas of what needs to happen here. Pray that we all will seek God's will and not our own. For lasting effect, it is imperative that we do this. Also, pray that it will be change that will bring us together and not move us further apart.

Thanks for your support and prayers,

Jim and Becky Elam