

## **Winchester Outpouring Updated: February 23, 2009**

**Since the Outpouring meetings began last summer, Agape, Crossroads and Greenway Churches have all felt the ripple effects of the Holy Spirit's release of healing, spiritual gifts, salvation and deliverance in their midst:**

**Greenway Spirit and Word Fellowship** has been significantly impacted since the Lord broke off some denominational bondage last fall. When asked what the most significant change has been, Pastor Bob Vineyard states, "Standing room only!" He shares that their two Sunday morning services have been packed and they are considering a third service to accommodate all the hungry worshippers. In one month alone, they had twenty new families come through their doors. Baptisms of new believers are so commonplace that it's a rare Sunday when they don't have someone to baptize.

Healings are also commonplace ranging from back pains, joint pains and other maladies to seeing Pastor Bob's mother totally restored after having a stroke – in only 3 days. Someone diagnosed with breast cancer went back to the doctor after receiving prayer to find that a lumpectomy, a minor procedure, was all that would be needed to bring healing.

There is a new openness to the gifts of the Holy Spirit as well as various manifestations of God's power. Last fall when a skeptical elder received a gold tooth, it rocked the congregation and seemed to bring an even greater release of faith and expectation. Not everyone has been so pleased with the changes, however. One woman became uncomfortable with what was happening and asked her husband if they could leave the church. Upon leaving – he received a gold filling.

**Agape Christian Church** has often been known for its hunger for and pursuit of God's presence in their worship services. Since the outpourings began, Pastor Lee Prock says the anointing and flow of the Holy Spirit has continued to increase in their midst. Gifts of the Spirit flow freely, not only among the adults, but in the youth and children. Words of knowledge from elementary aged kids are common and they are encouraged to lay hands on the sick and pray – many times bringing immediate results. Someone with fibromyalgia was recently healed. Pastor Lee also sees more repentance and confession happening in addition to more deliverances.

One major difference, states Youth Pastor Jamey Mason, is that much of this ministry is happening outside the church, and beyond leadership. Sharing in the marketplace is becoming second nature to many as they are stepping out with boldness to pray for the sick. One young teen prayed for a clerk at Lowes who stated she had "floaters" in her eyes that kept her from seeing well. The doctors had told her there was nothing they could do. As soon as the teen said "Amen" the clerk opened her eyes and exclaimed, "The floaters are gone!"

One marketplace ministry has seemed especially anointed. D&S Auto is a shop owned by one of Agape's church members. One of the first manifestations of signs and wonders in the outpouring happened in this small garage. The owner started having words of knowledge for people in addition to declaring that God was giving out gold fillings and gold teeth! It started happening almost immediately. As soon as the declaration was given, people would open their mouths to find a new gold filling or gold tooth. Non-believers who wandered off the streets into this garage began to receive gold teeth which served as a springboard for salvations. People have been miraculously healed in the garage and then gone home to bring back un-saved family members to experience this first-hand. At this point, they've lost count of how many people have received gold teeth at D&S Auto.... When the local paper asked for a dentist's confirmation of these "miracles" most all the recipients have simply said, "I know what I've experienced!" Several prophetic intercessors feel that this particular manifestation is God's word to this community that the glory of God is "in their mouths." A spirit of boldness is growing as people realize what an awesome God they serve.

**Crossroads Community Church** has seen the most dramatic change in the area of finances. When the outpourings began several words were given indicating a release of finances to the church. Pastor Bobby Alger took it a step further and had the congregation begin to declare, on a weekly basis right before receiving the offering, for a release of finances. Within the first week of these corporate declarations, people began to testify of financial breakthroughs. Several started to receive rebates in the mail; someone received an unexpected inheritance – with the relative still living! Others had debts cancelled, pay raises and even new jobs in a market of unemployment. People also started finding dimes in uncommon places, sensing it was God's blessing on and affirmation of the tithes. Even with the economic downturn, people are rich in faith and expectant in God's provision.

One man with a shriveled hand due to an accident was healed; a woman with a crooked spine who walked in with a cane left the meeting standing straight without the use of the cane. Others have been healed of back pain and stomach problems and in one meeting a woman's leg grew out so she could walk straight. One father laid his hands on his estranged daughter who was diagnosed with multiple kidney stones in both kidneys. When he found out later that week that the kidney stones had almost totally disappeared, he was overwhelmed – this was the very first time he had ever laid hands on anyone to pray for healing!

In addition to financial and healing breakthroughs, Crossroads is growing numerically after several years of little increase. First time visitors come on a weekly basis and several families who left the church, even years prior, have returned. Ministries and community outreaches are breathing new life and fresh vision and people are hungry for more. They are currently on an extended fast for several members diagnosed with terminal cancer and many in the congregation are participating.

**All three of these pastors say the same thing that has been undeniable since the outpourings began – there has been a shift in the atmosphere and attitudes. A spirit of expectation and faith has transformed weary hearts and disappointed believers. People are coming ready to receive and are excited about living in the Kingdom. At one of the last encounter meetings, the cry of spiritual hunger was so strong that when the worship team stopped their set, the people continued to worship without any accompaniment. This continued for several minutes as the people cried out for a visitation from heaven. The prophet in the house declared a river was flowing in the valley and revival was coming to Virginia.**

**With community transformation as the goal, pastors and business leaders recently met for the first Winchester Transformation Forum. Thirty-eight community leaders met to discuss and share vision of how to reach the region with the transforming power of God. A weekly prayer movement, called Pray First Winchester, is being launched soon as a vehicle for ministry and marketplace leaders to gather for prayer over this community and region.**

**The Winchester Outpouring is growing strong and continues to gain momentum as the people pray and seek God. Though signs and wonders initially caught everyone's attention, it is the changed hearts and lives of friends, family members, neighbors and co-workers that remains the greatest prize. God is pouring out His Spirit in this region and people are being empowered and activated to do the greater works that Jesus commanded. To God be all the glory!**