

Ministry Update Letter - March 2021 (The Divine Appointment)

Dear Family & Friends,

In this newsletter, I want to focus on an outreach experience with Light Patrol. Feel free to contact me if you want to hear more about my Bridletowne and DOXA ministry. I think the title of this newsletter describes what happened on Wednesday, March 3, 2021. On March 3, 2021 myself and three other staff went to the Trinity Bellwoods area like we usually do. There we met a youth. After this meeting, I felt in awe. God truly answered Light Patrol's prayers from that same Monday. Honestly, after the meeting I had no words to say and my body had chills and I was awestruck and amazed at God.

This is the situation that took place on March 3, 2021 at 1:15pm. The following was written by Paula Castrucci in an email sent to Jake, and other Light Patrol staff and myself. (email sent (sent) the night of)

We approached Jake at approximately 1:15p.m. on Wednesday March 3, 2021, only to find out that when he returned to collect his tent (as communicated to Street to Homes), it had been cut down and taken away by the city, all of his stuff included.

Shortly after, his phone rang. It was the city asking him where he was so they could bring his stuff back. Only, when they returned, Jake realized that they had been missing quite a lot of stuff. (His tent and chair, hush blanket, camping stove, pots and pans, cutlery etc.) When the city workers were asked where this stuff was, they claimed to not know.

"That's all that was in your tent", they said. (Meanwhile, our colleague Karen asked the other worker a question and got no response.)

Things became heated between Jake and the one city worker, going back and forth between him asking them where his stuff was and looking for accountability, and the city worker shrugging it off as if he had no idea what Jake was talking about and had no responsibility in the matter.

When both Jake and I asked the city worker who we could talk to about his missing stuff (and the process involved in taking it), he again shrugged it off by saying "The man upstairs." No answers were given for further follow up or accountability, leaving Jake very upset about the loss of his belongings and home.

After we got all his belongings we chatted for a bit then things took a spiritual turn when we asked him if we could pray for him. All four of us did pray for him at the end. He opened up about his past and the church and why he left. It's interesting how we prayed about it before

starting outreach in our prayer and devotional time. We prayed that God would break through the youth's lives and also that He would make a way for us to bridge the connection between us showing up and handing stuff to WHY we do it ... that we would be able to be intentional about sharing Christ.” This was clearly an answer to prayer.

He shared some reasons for why he left the church. I was sorry that he experienced this with people who call themselves Christians.

- Going to church to socialize rather than to serve and to live like Christ.
- Church shouldn't just be a Sunday thing. Our faith should be 24/7 thing
- Oftentimes many of us in churches do not apply the stuff we are being taught on Sunday or even reading the Bible.

We went the next day to give Jake some fish and chips and a blanket. His blanket had been stolen. He was doing better and had slept well because he was exhausted.

But a little encouragement to you all. He said the staff of Light Patrol are what Christians are supposed to be: loving people and building relationships outside of Sunday. This message brought me so much encouragement to why I do what I do, but also encouragement for you who are supporting me financially and in prayer. Your contributions are going a long way and helping individuals like Jake see Jesus.

Like I said at the start, I left that conversation in awe of God, praising Him for all He does. I am left speechless with this divine appointment.

Shalom,
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