

PARMA AREA - OCTOBER 2012



# COMMUNITY AMBASSADORS

*Connection*

## **Only by Prayer and Fasting** by Jeremy Kiner, Co-Director

The disciples entreated Jesus, "Why couldn't we cast out that evil spirit?" "Jesus replied, 'This kind can be cast out only by prayer and fasting.'" (Mark 9:28-29)

Prior to this inquisition, the disciples had unsuccessfully attempted to bring deliverance to a small boy who was possessed with an evil spirit. I can relate to the disciples' frustration that day. I can't tell you how many times I've come before the Lord in prayer and asked, "Why couldn't I cast out that evil spirit? Why couldn't I invoke freedom upon that person? Is it my faith?...or lack thereof?"

Over the past couple months, I've been sharing with you a developing story about a local homeless man that Community Ambassadors has been helping and working with. (To read previous Connection articles, please visit ComAmb.org). In last month's article, I mentioned how important it is to address not only the spiritual needs, but also the physical and emotional needs of the person. There comes a point in our efforts with people, however, when just like the disciples, you feel like, "Man, I've tried everything, but nothing seems to be working. What am I missing?"

I have learned that for people like my homeless friend, a "good, hard talking to," a word of encouragement, or even the best-intentioned act of compassion is not always sufficient. These are complicated, difficult situations, in which the ultimate depravity and malnourishment runs much deeper than the outer man. For them, overcoming dark, destructive vices of evil like alcoholism or depression requires a solution that only a Savior can provide - true deliverance and healing. How do we bring this answer to people? How do we see these kind of mighty acts in our community? I believe.... only by prayer and fasting.



As I go throughout our community and hear so many heartbreaking stories and encounter the faces that bear the signs and scars of broken homes, damaged lives, and hopeless futures, I am made aware of a troubling reality. Our community is in need of far more than just another food pantry or coat drive. Of course, don't get me wrong, I am all for compassion ministries that help to meet the tangible needs of people - these are many of the ministries that Community Ambassadors provides. But what are we, the Church, doing to address the deepest and darkest issues besieging our community? How are we battling the spiritual strongholds and evil spirits that are destroying so many lives and families in the Parma and surrounding area?

I believe that God is calling us out to a greater level of commitment and to an unprecedented dimension of prayer. Like it was said 2,000 years ago, **only by prayer and fasting** will we ever see the deliverance and healing in our community like was recorded in the days of Jesus. And yet, even so, Jesus declared, "...He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and **greater works** than these shall he do..." (John 14:12)

It has been said the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results. Nothing changes if nothing changes, right? To fight the enemy of our communities and homes, we must rise up and carry out a strategy that is God-spoken. We must listen to His voice. We must be vigilant. We must war in the spirit. We must entreat God to show forth His power and have dominion over our cities. God is calling the Church of Parma, Parma Heights, and Seven Hills to the front lines!...(continued on back)

**Call Us: 216-200-7030**

**www.ComAmb.org**

**Email Us: contact@comamb.org**

May this month's article be a petition to all of our local pastors and church leaders to enter a season of focused prayer and fasting. Let us lay aside every weight that besets us. Let us get vertical with our God. Let us intercede for those imprisoned and oppressed. Let us fight for the burdened, hurting, and helpless. Let us call out to a loving and powerful God to release His healing and liberty to our community!



**Please mark your calendars for a Pastors Prayer Summit on Saturday, November 3rd at 8:30 AM at Parmatown Mall. We invite all pastors and church leaders (and spouses) in the Parma, Parma Heights, and Seven Hills area to this time of prayer, unity, and fellowship. More info will be coming to you in the mail in the coming weeks. If you plan to attend, please let us know by email or by phone: [contact@comamb.org](mailto:contact@comamb.org) or 216-200-7030.**



PARMA HEALTH MINISTRY

The Parma Health Ministry (PHM), a volunteer organization founded on humanitarian values, exists to strengthen the quality of community life through the provision of health care services to eligible individuals from age 18 to 65, who, though employed, do not have and cannot afford health insurance and are not eligible for government assistance.

The PHM is a collaborative community service of Parma Christian Church, Parma Community General Hospital, and participating volunteer healthcare professionals. It is made possible by the generous financial support of the Parma Hospital Health Care Foundation.

Address: 7000 Ridge Rd., Parma, OH 44129  
Phone: 440-843-8087

#### **Eligibility Requirements**

1. No medical insurance
2. Not receiving Medicaid, Medicare or Welfare benefits
3. Live within the geographic boundaries of Parma, Parma Heights, North Royalton and Seven Hills
4. Earned and/or unearned income not to exceed 200% above poverty level  
(a current IRS Form 1040 must be provided).

**We would like to spotlight your ministry or outreach!**

**Please tell us about how you are serving your community!**



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**October 23, Tuesday - 6:00pm - 7:30pm**

PCSD Dialogue w/Superintendent Graham at Parma Hts. Baptist, 8971 W. Ridgewood Dr., Parma Hts.

**October 25, Thursday - 8:15am - 9:30am**

Parma Area Family Collaborative Meeting at Parma Health Education Center, 7300 State Rd., Parma

**November 3, Saturday - 8:30am - 10:00am**

Pastors Prayer Summit at Parmatown Mall

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