

# city beautiful

## CHURCH

October 29, 2012

*“Effective action begins with, is sustained by, and ends with prayer.”*

Cole NeSmith

Last Friday I met Betty. I started my prayer walk in my old neighborhood. I was having a hard morning and was at a loss when it came to knowing where to start. I decided to tell the Lord what I was grateful for and after a pit stop at City Hall Plaza for a free Cirque du Soleil performance (amazing!), trekked onward along my normal path. Feeling tender about some things going on in my life, I cried and asked the Lord to speak to my heart.

Walking along the sidewalk at the bus station, I began to notice other people again and invited Him to show me how to pray for them. An old song kept running through my mind, “He gives beauty for ashes, strength for fear, gladness for mourning, peace for despair,” and I let it become my prayer for the people I saw, the city, and me. I wondered how God views this city in light of that truth and asked Him to give me eyes to see how He is accomplishing those things. Eventually, I rounded the corner onto Colonial Drive and

quickly caught up with a woman who was walking rather slowly ahead of me. As I approached her from behind, I noticed that her left foot was turned strangely inward--it looked painful to walk on it.

“How is your day going?” I asked as I reached her. She replied, “It’s so good!! I just applied for a job and an apartment and I feel like I did what I was supposed to do this morning!” We continued to chat and she told me that she had been praying for these things and was believing God to provide. I mentioned that I was out on a prayer walk for our city and we introduced ourselves to one another, stopping right there on the sidewalk to pray together.

Betty has had a challenging road, but I was so struck by her faith and the way she desired to care for people in the midst of her own hardship. I asked about her foot and she shared what the doctors had said about it. Again, we stopped and this time I knelt down, placing my hand on her foot, and thanked Jesus for healing it. He gave me some other words for her as I prayed and after, through teary eyes, she told me

that God had spoken some necessary things to her in that moment. He showed her what she needed to do and affirmed some things He has been telling her recently about her healing.

Our church community has been engaging very intentionally in prayer this month and God has been moving in sweet ways like this as we step into faithfulness in this arena. I’ve been reminded to put on my spiritual armor, as well. One of my favorite descriptors that Paul provides in Ephesians 6 comes in the form our our footwear--our feet are fitted with the shoes of the gospel of peace. I love this--it always reminds me that we are prepared to take the Good News *wherever* we go. We walk in are carried by it! The Lord is so kind to remind me of the Gospel and allow me to carry it to others--those, like Betty, who believe and those who have yet to believe.

THANK YOU for investing in what God is doing in Orlando!!



**musings**  
in  
**ministry**

#### PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Praise! I have new tracks to run on for group discipleship at City Beautiful Church! Please continue to pray that I would hear well and walk confidently in the things He is instructing me to do.
- There are several areas in which I need to see God provide--Please pray that He would provide soon.

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