



The Year in Review

What is "car tracts"?

"car tracts" is a newly developed news-letter for a ministry called "Cars of Clay," an automotive ministry located in Indianapolis, Indiana dedicated to helping people with their automotive needs when they are unable to meet them alone. We serve primarily single women who struggle with car repairs or need dependable transportation.

Cars of Clay was formed 5 years ago by a group of men from a local church and has now grown to a multi-church city-wide effort by serving our local church, the greater community, and other ministries throughout the United States.

Why are YOU receiving this newsletter?

First, to give God the glory for what He can do through His people when they are obedient to His word and walk by faith.

Second, this is a way to communicate to those currently serving in this ministry. This newsletter includes news about upcoming events, fruits of our past labors and current prayer needs.

Last but not least, this is a way to encourage those not currently involved in this ministry to come alongside of us as we seek to "be the church."

It has certainly been another exciting year in the car ministry. This past year proved once again these two facts are constant; there are people ever-present who will benefit from this ministry, and the Lords hand of provision is ever-steady.

Some exciting "firsts" that occurred in 2007:

- Several new mechanics volunteered from inside and outside the church body of PRCC
- Mother's Day oil change event was created and well received
- Newsletter *Car Tracts* was developed and sent to people in several states
- Upgraded website has helped connect people in need from central Indiana and other states as well
- Budget/donations doubled from 2006 to 2007

Additional facts from 2007 include:

- PRCC created a network with area churches for the Mother's Day event
- Received support from businesses locally and throughout the U.S. for the Mother's Day event
- Volunteer mechanics ranging in ages 26 to 70 something
- Approximately 10 cars gifted in 2007
- Repaired approximately 4 cars per week or 192 per year

The following goals are in focus for 2008:

- Organize a city-wide Mother's Day event
- Partner with area churches/ministries
- Participate in a car ministry mission trip to Central America

I see a pattern that has developed in 2007. People and ministries are approaching us and wanting to join us as we minister to those in need. The following are a few examples:

- A large sister church in Indianapolis has approached PRCC about dropping their car ministry and joining ours by sending people and resources

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Cars of Clay
"Helping others along the way"

"But we have this treasure in *jars of clay* to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." 2 Corinthians 4:7

"It is more blessed to give than to receive"

This is a passage found in the Bible that is quoted often. These words can be found in the book of Acts chapter 20 verse 35. Here the apostle Paul, one of Jesus' followers, quotes Jesus as saying "it is more blessed to give than to receive." Just what does this mean and are we *really* more blessed when we give than when we receive?

Like all of us I often recall events from my childhood. Some of the times were good, some of them not so good. The fact is my sister and I did have some hardship growing up because we lived in a single parent home due to divorce. We did not have bad parents we just had parents that made some bad choices. Consequently we had to deal with the economic impact of a single parent home where our mother was the main wage earner. There were times we had our utilities were turned off, no food and no adult supervision. I am not bitter this is just how it was and we dealt with it, we lived through it, no big deal.

No matter what financial hardships we might have had during the year we always seemed to have a wonderful Christmas. I still remember the excitement and anticipation my sister and I experienced leading up to the most important day of the year, Christmas Eve. That is when our entire family would gather at my Grandparents home and everyone would receive a gift from everyone. They were joyous occasions that will never leave my memory and are extremely hard to put into words. Simply put, when Christmas time came, all was right with the world.



The best Christmas I can recall was the year my sister got a brand new bike. Not just any bike, but a brand new *Schwinn Fair Lady Sting-Ray*. It was green with a white basket on the front and had that awesome "banana" seat. I remember that bike, but more importantly, the joy that it brought to her face like it

was yesterday. I have no idea what I received that year I was just truly grateful to see her get something that nice. Even though I didn't pay for that bike out of my own pocket, that was the first time I remember that feeling; the feeling that it was better to see someone else enjoy a gift they received rather than be so concerned over what I received or my feelings. She was happy and that is all that mattered to me.

In Acts 20:13-38 Paul is giving a farewell message to the Elders in Ephesus. He uses his own life as an example and encouragement to them, a "charge to service" so to speak. Paul had lived a modest life, not coveting anything in this world, but he had lived a life of service to God and he was rich toward God. That is why he quotes Jesus during this farewell message, "it is more blessed to give than to receive." Paul's message to the Elders was this: it is better to live a life for the benefit of others in service to God than to live a life that is self-centered and always asking ourselves, "What's in it for me?"

It is more blessed to give than to receive. This sums up the life of Jesus. This is exactly the kind of life Jesus lived for my sake, for your sake and for the sake of the entire human race. Jesus lived a life of poverty, yet He is King. He had no material possessions to speak of, yet He is Heir of All Things. He held no diploma, yet He is Teacher. He did not come into this world to be served but to serve, He is Servant. He came into this world to die so that we may live, He is Redeemer.

The Creator of this universe gave of Himself through His Son Jesus Christ. God did this so that we could have an everlasting relationship with Him. He offers this opportunity to all as a gift. When a person truly receives this gift and allows Jesus to be Lord of their life, they will be blessed. They will be blessed for all of eternity.

Then and only then will a person be able to understand, live and enjoy life as summarized by the words of Jesus Himself ...

"It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Cars of Clay has opportunities in the following areas:

Car donations: We are always looking for car donations. The donated cars can be refurbished and put into the hands of those in need. Every donated car carries some sort of tax deduction, depending on the condition of the car and the purpose it is used for.

Mechanics: We meet every Tuesday night from 6 to 9 p.m. We welcome any individual interested in using their talents to serve others.

Corporate sponsors: We are always open to the business community coming along side of us to help others.

Please contact us at 317-898-4945, x124 for more details.

Praise & Prayer Updates

- A local not-for-profit ministry has offered to support my salary 1-2 days a week starting early in 2008 with the vision of full-time support by the end of 2008.
- Our new Youth Minister Jeff Stalnaker shared with me that one of the reasons he and his wife accepted the position at PRCC was because of the car ministry. I could not make the connection so I asked him to explain. He said while researching PRCC, they found information about the car ministry and decided they wanted to be a part of a body that has such a ministry.
- A new not-for-profit ministry in Indianapolis was founded in 2007 called *One Direction*. This ministry has contacted COC and asked how they can "come alongside" of us and support this ministry financially. We look forward to their support in 2008.

What a wonderful testimony this is to all who serve diligently in this ministry and many other ministries as well at PRCC. This reminds me of the book by Henry Blackaby, *Experiencing God*. The main theme in his book is this: to find where God is working and join Him. I see that happening at PRCC!

Jim Raftery oversees a compassion ministry of Post Road Christian Church located in Indianapolis Indiana called "Cars of Clay." For more about this ministry please visit carsofclay.com.

Praises

- 6-8 people have agreed to join the ministry "team"
- Area churches have shown interest in partnering with us
- Additional mechanics have come forward from area churches
- Monetary donations are on pace to triple in 2007

Prayers

God sends us approximately 200 individuals per year to minister to. Please pray --

- God would continue to supply us resources to meet their needs through us and others as well
- We can minister to their Spiritual needs as well as the physical needs
- Other churches and/or ministries would be encouraged to take up this endeavor as well across the Nation

People we have ministered to lately --

- Hispanic family undergoing persecution
- Woman battling depression
- Men and women looking for employment
- Father in hospital paralyzed
- Financial struggles

Ministry needs

- God will lead good-quality car donations to us
- Co-Leader for the Cars of Clay ministry

Suggested Reading

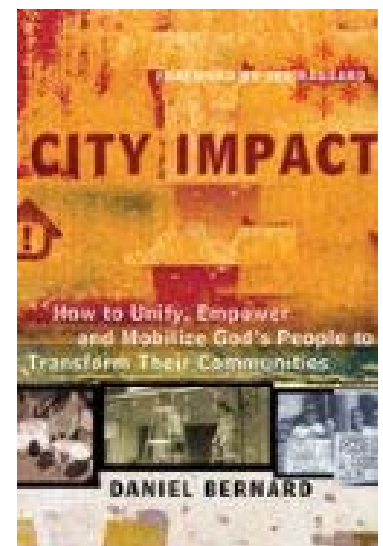
City Impact By: Daniel Bernard

You can transform your community!

God calls His Church to take the Gospel into the world. But what about meeting the day-to-day needs of *your neighborhood*? Daniel Bernard uses practical, motivating examples from his ministry, *Somebody Cares – Tampa Bay*, and from Christians all over to illustrate the power of partnership between local churches and businesses to transform communities.

City Impact gives you tools to impact problems close to home. Bernard offers scores of effective ideas including:

- ◆ 25 suggestions for bringing local pastors together
- ◆ 80 ways to promote unity among churches
- ◆ 27 reasons the Church needs the poor
- ◆ 56 ways businesses can be vehicles for ministry



Car Care Saturdays

This is a monthly event where we provide free oil changes and light car repairs. This event is held the last Saturday of every month and is on a first-come first-serve basis. So, please call ahead to make an appointment.

When you call, you will need to know the following information: *Year, make, model and engine size of the vehicle you would like serviced.*

The Car Care Saturday schedule is as follows:

January 26

8 a.m.-12 p.m.

February 23

8 a.m.-12 p.m.

March 29

8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Register online at carsofclay.com or call 317-898-4945, x124 (*leave a message*).

Regular Schedule

Appointments made in advance are appreciated

Car Repair Night

Tuesday nights
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Cars of Clay is also pleased to announce that beginning in March 2008 we will offer quarterly automotive **Car Care Classes**. We will be covering the basic car care subjects such as:

- ◆ What's under the hood
- ◆ What's that light mean
- ◆ Maintenance schedules

Space is limited so please register online at carsofclay.com or call 898-4945, x124.



Cars of Clay currently operates from Post Road Christian Church, 1112 N. Post Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46219. Car repairs and oil changes take place in the pole barn on the southwest end of the church campus. Appointments made in advance are appreciated.
317-898-4945, x124 or carsofclay.com