

# *Better than Endust*

From the second she opened her door she was ranting. She wanted Connie to know that she hated God and was angry at all he'd allowed. As Connie cleaned her home this elderly lady spewed forth her complaints against a God who she just couldn't understand. Her parents had both been in concentration camps and were victims of the Holocaust. She had lived her seventy plus years engulfed in bitterness.

Connie listened as she scrubbed floors, walls and toilets. She vacuumed and polished and made the place shine, then she sat down on the sofa and told her story. Connie said she too had been very angry at God. She too had resented a God that seemingly stood by while she sexually abused and beaten, until she came to know Jesus. The love of Jesus had healed her hurts and enabled her to move forward.

Tears began to fall down the cheeks of Connie's new friend. She wanted prayer.

What is amazing to me is that from the beginning of time those moments were written down in heaven. I love how our Sovereign God puts His followers into the brokenness of our world, one person at a time. I love that His love is stronger than hurt and brings a peace that is beyond earthly understanding. Nothing changes, yet everything changes. Our painful pasts are not erased but there is a grace that makes it okay and because of that we are able to make a room really shine with His presence long after we leave and the dust has once again settled.

That's what the followers and lovers of Jesus did in Orillia on their "We are Christ Day". They made the place shine! Whether they were giving foot massages, cutting hair, changing diapers or chopping carrots for the feast, Jesus shone through them. 350 hampers full of blessings were given to the needy. A toilet was repaired, rose bushes were trimmed and logs were stacked. A team of men did some dry walling and painting, another team worked on a deck. Kids were treated to an excellent afternoon full of excitement and left knowing that Jesus loved them. One Mom who had just gotten out of the Women's Shelter came to our store where everything is free and left with winter coats and scarves for all seven of her kids. There were no empty chairs at the feast but there were a lot of tears as Maury Blair shared his journey to Jesus and an equal amount of hands when he offered to pray with them.

May Jesus continue to shine as His followers in Orillia continue to be His hands, His feet and His heart.

May they be constantly wowed by how He puts them right into the darkness so that He can shine.