

**“God Shining Through Us”  
Luke 10:25-37  
First Christian Church  
Omaha, Nebraska**

**May 15, 2011  
Youth Sunday  
Miss Allycin Hild**

### God Shining Through Us

At some point in life's journey, we all have an experience similar to the Good Samaritan story. **(NEXT SLIDE)** We're in a tough situation, an unfortunate circumstance, where we're all alone and crying out for help. Then, against all odds, that close friend or even that random stranger reaches out to pick you back up again when you've fallen.

But what if we took a minute to look back and wonder what would've happened if no one had been there for you. **(NEXT SLIDE)** Just think of all the people who die every day, people suffering from situational depression, and the sky-rocketing teen suicide rates. It helps you realize how lucky you were to have someone who cared. **(NEXT SLIDE)**

I've had a hard time in my life where every sense of stability came crashing down around me. My family went through a tough time about a year or so ago. After going through the rocky foster care system I returned to this church after months of no connection to my old life. **(NEXT SLIDE)** I was welcomed back with open arms. I wasn't treated any differently than when I had walked into this church when I was six years old. It really reminded me how close I had become to this congregation. And I want to thank all of the people who came and helped out when we moved into our new house in the beginning of August last year. These hard workers spent all day carrying around boxes and situating furniture.

The youth group, specifically Mark Tentinger, The Parker Boys, The Bussel's, The Blair-McGee's, and our little buddy John-Boy, were especially welcoming because they're like siblings to me. They can make me smile when I am down and make me laugh when there seems to be no hope in sight. They all have God's light shining through them. **(NEXT SLIDE)** But like I said, we're like siblings. We're always at each other, annoying each other, fighting, and on each other's last nerve. I love you guys, but when we go down to the dinner after service, don't you dare think I like anyone of you.

The church has been a true Good Samaritan to me. Thank you all. I can't imagine how life would've ended up without you. But so many people have no one. **(NEXT SLIDE)**

It's sad when you think about it, considering the US is a predominately Christian country. One nation under god is echoed through schools every day, but it seems we have forgotten the meaning. We shouldn't be looking back on our times of need and feeling lucky. Christian love should be abundant. As Christians, we should be reaching out to those in need without a second thought. As the body of Christ we need to shine god's light into the world through us. How else could we represent his name? **(NEXT SLIDE)**

With the decreasing number of attendance in churches, we need to take the word of god into the world. Actions have always spoken louder than words. Coming to church is like going to school. You come here to learn about god and make your own personal discoveries with Christ. But you can't sit

before me and tell me your Christian duty is fulfilled because you come to church every Sunday. **(NEXT SLIDE)** Sitting in a pew isn't going to save the young man involved in a gang or the abandoned young woman on the streets. **(NEXT SLIDE)**

At my school, there are many self-proclaimed Christians, but only a select few actually prove it through their words and actions. A boy earlier this year got angry at another student for calling him a hypocrite when he claimed to be a Christian and he wasn't living it out. The boy insisted that he was an amazing Christian, probably the best anyone had ever seen. Three weeks later, he was suspended for having inappropriate interactions with a girl during school. Not to mention, he's a total jerk to everyone except for his latest female interests. Too many people are lead astray by those who claim to be Christians when they behave like the everyday sinner. That's no way to spread god's light into society. As a community of Christ we need to step out and be that Good Samaritan to people to show them the true love of Jesus. **(NEXT SLIDE)**

We can show this through random acts of kindness. But this being Youth Sunday, I especially urge young people to go out there and make a difference. And you can't shy away saying little old you could never make a difference. You can't say that this little group you're involved in could never do much. **(NEXT SLIDE)** Martin Luther King Jr. was a perfect example. He took a small group and lead them by the love of god and made the most memorable difference of the century. **(NEXT SLIDE)**

We need to shine the amazing grace of the lord in order to save lives. That's why Rick and Rene stand before you each Sunday; because they want to be part of the amazing changing energy of god's love. **(NEXT SLIDE)**

Rick had started talking about the different generations and their impact on history last Sunday. Well, I think as a youth we need to ignite god's purpose for our generation. Ignite his light in us to shine into the world. Think back, what did you do for your generation? What are you doing now? You can still do more. You're still living and your life belongs to Christ. You are never too young or too old to start. **(NEXT SLIDE)**

Isaiah 52:7 reads, how beautiful are the feet of those who bring the good news. True examples of beautiful feet are of that of Carlos and Eric. **(NEXT SLIDE)** Carlos was walking down an alley on his way home one night. He lived in a rough neighborhood and was all alone. Suddenly, he was shot directly in his head. He lost everything at that moment except for his life. His sight, his hearing, his movement. He lay in a coma in the hospital bed. No one came to visit him. He had no close friends... no caring family. He didn't know god because no one dared to preach in that sinister part of town that he lived in. Carlos was able to get up out of that coma with his hearing and some movement. Just before he left he was visited by a missionary. He was saved and trained and went back to his neighborhood and started a church with the light of god burning bright inside of him. **(NEXT SLIDE)**

Eric used to go to bible study as a kid. He got older and became active in drugs and gangs. A rival gang caught him one night and was about to kill him. For some reason, they decided to beat him senseless instead of shoot him. That saved Eric's life. Only half alive Eric woke up in the hospital singing bible songs. Praise god he had a place to learn the bible from. He got saved and wanted to preach. He

had to change his culture and way of life. So he went to school, got his bachelor's degree and attended seminary. He went back to his neighborhood he grew up in and planted a church there. When asked why he did it, he said he wanted to save those guys who almost killed him since they saved him. **(NEXT SLIDE)**

Those are truly beautiful feet... and the light of God was bright enough to light up the darkest and lowest places in our country. If they can do it, so can you. **(NEXT SLIDE)**

So walk into the world with those beautiful feet. Let the light of god shine through you. On Earth as it is in heaven... Because in the end, it's not what you knew, or what you did. It's how you lived.