

## Small Town...Big Heart

**2 Corinthians 1:3-4 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.**

I was at a leadership summit in Chicago when a gentleman behind me bumps me with an iPhone and says, "Aren't you from St. James?"

I said, "Yes." And he hands me the phone and says it's on national news, "Two St. James busses in tragic collision on I-44."

My first thought was, "What? No way. Two of ours in a crash? And if they really crashed...who was on them?" But sure enough, it was true. When I came back into St. James there was a heaviness of grief that enveloped the whole community. We suffered horrendous loss this day.

I know that sin brought bad things like tragedy, cancer, and loss to our world. But this week I saw what God brought into this world. A community of people that love each other so much that we grieve for our loved ones.

You may live in a big city, small town, or a rural sub-division. But what you bring is you. As a person, you either re-instill in every person you meet what it means to be human and what it means to be loved. Or, you can live a life that de-humanizes people wherever you're at.

I've heard so many people say, "I'm mad at God!" or, "How could he let this happen?" and, "Why do bad things happen to good people?" I understand those questions, but why not ask this one: "Why did God put me right here?"

Think of it, all the bad stuff that's happening right now, but God put you here. Use your life to show people how valuable they really are to God and you.