

PRESS RELEASE

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Immediate Release
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BETHEL CHURCH OF SAN JOSE HAD A GREAT TIME BEING DUMPED ON BY THEIR NEIGHBORS!

San Jose, CA- "It was a great day," Senior Pastor Bret Allen of Bethel Church of San Jose said as he walked away from one of four 40-yard dumpsters towering with debris. Cars were lined up around the block long before the 10:00 A.M. time the church had scheduled to start receiving the waste neighbors brought in.

People as far as Fresno lined up to dump junk and enjoy a free carwash and barbeque. "This outreach is so great it reached me all the way in Fresno," Jesus Sustaita said. Sustaita's father-in-law was one of the neighbors invited to participate in the community service day. "My father-in-law called me and said you all were doing this, so we loaded up some old computers and stuff we were going to get rid of and came here," Sustaita added.

Pastor Bret (as he's known to his congregation) lined up with a band of associate pastors and their families, each one strategically placed and ready to serve the neighborhood guests.

With a big smile and an enthusiastic wave Pastor Charles Self of Adult Education, greeted each car that entered onto the property. Cars were directed to drive to the rear of the property to "dump their junk" where they found Pastor Bret and staff waiting to unload the cars. Many of the cars and trucks were unloaded before the driver was able to get out of their vehicle.

After each vehicle was unloaded they were directed back to the front of the property for a free car wash. "I'm so impressed by all of this; everything is so well planned and efficient," local neighbor Gary Kramer said. "And the young people are so enthusiastic, I'm so impressed with them," he added.

As each car drove to the front of the property they were met by the pulsating beat of Christian music and Pastor Matt Blankenship's crew of teenage car washers. "We're all just having a great time out here. Young people want to serve and will if given the chance," Pastor Matt of Youth Ministries said.

As neighborhood guests waited for their cars and trucks to be washed and dried, they enjoyed barbeque grilled by Harold Litfin, assistant pastor of Creative Arts.

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Bethel Church of San Jose
Neighborhood Appreciation Day Follow-up

A lounge area was set up under the trees and the atmosphere very quickly became festive as neighbors and church staff visited with one another.

Staff and neighbors got a treat when Councilman Pete Constant stopped by to lend his support for the project.

Not everyone that came had junk to dump. Some came just for the free carwash and grilled goods. "This is a neighborhood appreciation, so everyone is welcomed. I think we have accomplished what we set out to do, and that was to show our community how much we care about them," Pastor Bret said.

At the end of the day the church collected over 120 yards of e-junk and other household waste, and the youth washed a little more than 100 cars in a three hour window.

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