

“Love Lifted Me Recovery” - April, 2014
Newsletter for January, February, March, 2014
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Web Site: www.Loveliftedmerecovery.com

Twelve Step Program & Ministry News

Twelve Step Program - We are trying something different beginning in the new year. We are changing our Monday night Love Lifted Me Recovery meeting to a home Bible study called “Victorious Christian Living”. Everyone is welcome, and it is no longer just a recovery meeting. We will study all different Bible topics, but especially those relating to practical Christian living and our daily walk with the Lord. We will still provide Bible-based 12-Step Recovery for those dealing with alcohol or drug addiction, eating disorders, depression, anger issues, co-dependency, sexual addictions, dysfunctional family issues, other compulsive behaviors, and for those needing healing and deliverance from the past, but we’ll work with them on a one-to-one basis, as with a 12-Step sponsor.

Counseling & Prayer Ministry - Our 24-hour prayer line rings at all times of the night and day. Some call for prayer, and others need to talk and get counseling and guidance from the word of God. People find our phone number on the Internet, and we’ve had calls from all over the United States, and even England. The man from London said he couldn’t find any other 24-hour prayer lines on the Internet, and he was surprised to find out he was calling Los Angeles. Our evenings other than Monday night are open for one-on-one counseling in our home, or for prayer for healing and deliverance (James 5:14-15). Tom continues to counsel and pray for people during the day, many times for hours with each individual, and most of them express their thanks that he is there to call when they’re in trouble, or just for support and prayer. Obviously, it’s God that we are supposed to call on when we’re in trouble, but it also helps to have a real live person on the other end of the line, maybe to just confirm that you’re doing the right thing, or to help you figure out what to do. God’s word always has the answer.

Monthly Evangelistic Outreach to Venice Beach

Saturday, January 4, 2014 - The morning started off with fog, but we prayed, and the Lord cleared it up by the time we left the house. Our group consisted of Tom, Dottie, Catharine, Keith, Frank, Brian, Mitch and Brendan. We had 122 lunches, and lots of socks and toiletries for the homeless. On the way to the beach, Frank saw a man pushing a cart, and they pulled the van over, and handed him a lunch out of the window. The man was so happy, and was praising the Lord. Down at Venice Boardwalk, we saw a few familiar faces, but a lot of new ones. Among the homeless, there were a lot of young people, and we wondered if they might be former foster children, because when they turn eighteen, the “system” just turns them out on the streets - very sad. All the homeless people who received food and other things from us were very grateful, and several more people thanked God and said “Praise the Lord!” and “God is good!” Catharine saw an older man, and she asked Brendan if he had one last lunch to give him, and the man was so excited and grateful. There weren’t quite as many people walking along the Boardwalk as during the summer, but we did hand out several hundred gospel tracts, in English and Spanish, and one in Portuguese. There were lots of skateboarders, and one girl took a tract as she flew by on her skateboard. Two teenage boys had skateboards, but weren’t riding them at the moment, and they took tracts. One of the vendors had their children with them, and we gave them several tracts each. I love giving the gospel to children and young people, as they certainly aren’t getting it from school or anywhere else. We had prayed before and during the outreach that the Lord would bring the

ones He wanted to be there, and that they would receive the word of God, and the Holy Spirit would give them understanding of the message. God has promised that His word will not return void, and that it will accomplish the purpose which He has planned for it, and we trust that we were able to reach those certain people that the Lord wanted us to reach this day. It's all in His hands, anyway. We are just the earthen vessels (clay pots) that God uses to give out His word. God the Father must draw them to Jesus, and the Holy Spirit does the rest of the work on peoples' hearts, convicting them of their need for the Savior. Praise His holy name!

Saturday, February 1, 2014 - It was a nice day for February, sunny, but a little windy and cool. Our group consisted of Tom, Dottie, Shami, Keith, Brendan, Frank, Mitch and Ararat, and we broke up into three teams. Tom stayed home to provide prayer cover for us. Keith and I started up at Rose Ave. and worked our way down the Boardwalk. Shami and Brendan started at Venice Blvd., and went out on the beach, tennis courts, and handball courts. Frank, Mitch and Ararat started at Venice Blvd, and came straight up the Boardwalk. We had 124 lunches, lots of socks and toiletries, and some hats, sweatshirts and other items. Frank said he saw a lot of new, young people and they just seemed lost. The people who've been down there a while know us and recognize us, and they come up asking for a lunch. The new ones are always so amazed that someone would come and offer them food and clothing, but whether old or new, young or older, the homeless people all were very grateful for what we gave them. Two very young guys in knit hats came up to me and got my last two lunches. They also seemed amazed that someone would care enough to be down there giving out food and comfort to the homeless. Keith saw a Hispanic man rummaging through the trash can, and offered him a lunch. He said he didn't speak English, but rubbed his stomach to indicate he was hungry. Keith told him God wanted him to have that lunch, but whether he understood or not, he was overwhelmed and almost in tears when he saw it was food. Each lunch contains a gospel tract, but we gave out several hundred more tracts to people who are just down at the beach for a Saturday morning. We gave out quite a few tracts in Spanish, and I gave one in Korean to a man who said he didn't speak English, but spoke Korean (one of the shop owners). When he saw the booklet in his own language, he got a big smile on his face. Shami and Brendan prayed for Michelle and Victor, who said they had jobs, but just didn't have money for a place to live yet. We had some leaflets with information about how to get to the Venice Bible Tabernacle, and several men took them. Keith was talking to a man who had already received a lunch, but then asked where we were from (what group/church we were with, etc.). He said he wanted to get off the streets, but didn't know how. We encouraged him to go to the Bible Tabernacle. All in all, we had a great morning ministering the gospel of Jesus Christ and the love of God to anyone who would receive it. Praise the Lord!

Saturday, March 1, 2014 - It had been raining hard for several days, and the weather report said more rain coming, but our blessed Lord kept back the rain long enough for us to go down to Venice Beach and the Boardwalk to do our monthly outreach. Praise the Lord! It was a little cool, but otherwise a beautiful day. We had prayed for no rain, not because we were afraid of getting wet, but because we wanted people to be down at the Boardwalk so we could give them the gospel. Our group consisted of Tom, Dottie, Shami, Catharine, Bob, Ararat, Frank, Jimmy and Brendan. We handed out our usual several hundred gospel tracts, mostly in English, but some Spanish, and two in Japanese. We had made 122 lunches for the homeless, and each lunch contained a gospel tract, also. We all thought people were very open and glad to receive the tracts, and the homeless community was extremely glad to receive lunches, dry socks (one man even said his socks were wet from all the rain), and toiletries. We also had some sweatshirts, jackets, and two sleeping bags to give out. Catharine and Shami prayed for a man named "Lone Wolf", and gave him a sleeping bag. He played for them a piece on his Dakota Indian flute. They prayed for a man named Rick, who was recently dismissed from the hospital, and very frail. They gave him the other sleeping bag, and he opened it up right away. They also prayed for Daniel in a wheel chair, for health in his leg. Shami and Catharine also shared about God

and Jesus with Ned, a Buddhist. He was concerned for an 82 year old homeless woman having a shelter out of the rain and wild ocean's way. Bettie got a small jacket, and two young men that were traveling together and called themselves "twins separated at birth" were thrilled to get the knitted scarves. Ararat, Brendan, Jimmy and Frank shared the gospel with a man from India named Rasheed, and gave him a lunch. They also prayed for him. They gave out two Bibles, and one man who received one asked, "Is it a full Bible?" and he was very happy to get it. Bob and I ran out of lunches about halfway down the Boardwalk, so we told one group that we would look for others in our group to see if they had any lunches left. We found Ararat and Brendan, and they had six lunches left, and we came back to this group of homeless people, and guess what? There were exactly six people that needed lunches! God is so good! Bob and I also gave out lunches to people in the parking lot and I went clear out onto a concrete "pier" or something, and found one lady there. She said, "Oh! I just knew God would send some of His people to help me!" We told her it was all being given in the name of Jesus, and she was so happy. A man in a turban came up and asked for a lunch, and when I told him it was given in the name of Jesus, he was not so happy. I heard him saying to another man, "They'll miss out on karma because they didn't just say 'In the name of God.'" I told Bob that I didn't care if we "missed out on karma" because we don't believe in it anyway.

Prison Ministry

James Lloyd, Corcoran State Prison, Corcoran, CA - "I just wanted to send you this note to say thank you for all the help you have been giving to my spirit. When I receive my next lessons, they always brighten my day. I've been sober for many years, but each day is still a struggle. You would not believe how much temptation is in prison. I'm offered all kinds of drugs and alcohol on a daily basis, even though most people who truly know me know that I've given up that lifestyle in my path to freedom and acceptance with God. I do not attend church services here in this prison, because I have a hard time watching people play a role in church, and then come out and drink and shoot drugs. Anyway, your lessons bring the church to me, so again I say thank you and God bless you both. Sincerely in God's love, James Lloyd"

Rosina Ricciuti, Central California Women's Facility, Chowchilla, Calif. - "Thank you for being such wonderful warriors for Christ. Besides your lesson, the paper you sent on "Freedom from Generational Bondage" and topics with prayers and Scripture seemed like it was printed just for me, in answer to issues from the past that I've been struggling with. Thank you sooo much. I will read it over and over and be in prayer about it. You both do such wonderful work. I keep all you send, not only for myself, but in case I can share with others. What a blessing to have you as my teachers. Sincerely, Rosina"

Matthew C. Rider, Solano State Prison, Vacaville, CA - "A wonderful job this ministry is doing! Words can't even begin to express the gratitude "Love Lifted Me Recovery" causes one to feel. The word of God tells us that if we abide in Christ Jesus and He in us, that we bear much fruit, but without Him we could do nothing. But the fruit that we bear is not for us to hold in all to ourselves, but it's for us to share with others. That's what God is doing in you and through you in this ministry. Everyone who writes to you are just so blessed, and I thank you for all your help and keep you in my prayers. Matthew"

Reginald Craig, Soledad State Prison, Soledad, Calif. - "I would like to say thank you for helping me change my life. I look at you guys as a part of my family. God knows you are good people for helping people that need your help, just like one guy in here that I told about your ministry. We work together in the dining room - I am the lead man. I will always keep you Tom and Dottie in my heart. From your

friend, Reginald”

Robyn Williams, Central California Women’s Facility, Chowchilla, Calif. - “Thank you so much for this Bible study. I’ve learned so much and I really feel the presence of my Lord like I’ve not felt in a long time. I feel so blessed to be chosen and set apart by God and that He did all this for me, knowing who I would become. I praise God that He saw past my faults and made a way out for me through the blood of Jesus. I know salvation is not based on feeling, but I feel great because of my renewed faith in my Lord and Savior. Thank you for your obedience and for waking this up in me. God bless you and your ministry, Robyn”

Alfonso Canela, Substance Abuse Treatment Facility, Corcoran, CA - “I would like to say that this entire program has been good for me. It has also been difficult at times, when I had to think of what I did wrong for so long. But it has helped me, so that in the future I can make better choices in my actions. I continue more and more to give myself to God, and I read and study my Bible whenever I get a chance to relax. I’m learning to surrender everything to God, and to forgive others who have offended me. I don’t carry anger towards anyone, and I ask forgiveness from God only. Thank you for being there for us, and in taking your time to help me. Sincerely yours, Alfonso”

David Reymundo, Calipatria State Prison, Calipatria, CA - “Along with my lesson I’m enclosing this brief letter to extend my thanks and appreciation for allowing me the opportunity to participate in your 12-Step program. I was enrolled in N.A. in prison for about a year, and honestly it didn’t help much. I just didn’t receive much out of that class. I can see and appreciate that your course is on a much more personal level. Also, I love the fact of it being Christ-centered. I’m not only searching myself and dealing with my addiction issues and recovery, I’m learning lessons out of the Bible. It’s strengthening my personal relationship with my Savior, Jesus. The truth is, I need help and guidance with my personal issues and addictions, as well as with my spiritual growth. This is a much needed course in my life, so once again thank you. Sincerely yours, David”

Kevin Hedemark, Substance Abuse Treatment Facility, Corcoran, CA - “I have some great news to share with you. When I did my Step Nine amends with my sister Kim, she responded. We started writing, one thing built upon another, and two weeks ago we had our first visit together in twenty-two years! God and recovery have given me another miracle. Next month, I will be having a visit with my mom and two sisters at the same time. The last time we were all together was 1987. My heart is filled with joy! I love your ministry and I am so looking forward to one day going with you to Venice Beach and the Boardwalk to witness for Jesus. Thank you both for your love and support. Love, Kevin”

Frank Ford, Solano State Prison, Vacaville, CA (now released) - “Hello! Praise the Lord! I got the lovely picture of you guys on your outreach. It made me think of the verse in the Bible, “How lovely are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things.” Also, I really like in your letter where you compared the resurrection of Lazarus with the new life in Jesus Christ. The carnal flesh of sin being like the graveclothes of our old self tripping us up, if we don’t stay connected to Christ, and lean not on our own understanding. I just love being connected to God, and not worrying about all of the things of this world, by following the gospel of truth in Jesus Christ. This is why I read my Bible daily, it makes all the difference in the world to spend time with God’s family. From your loving friend, Frank”

Jose Sandoval, Ironwood State Prison, Blythe, CA - “I had to write you a few words to thank you for your updates and for all your help you have been providing me to understand God and my recovery. It is a true blessing and for this I give thanks. I did suffer from a childhood where I did not receive enough

love and affection, especially from my father. So, for a very long time (32 years) I had a difficult time believing and accepting God's love. Through your courses I am now aware that I am a child of God whom He loves and forgives. Thank you for helping me realize God's love. Sincerely, Jose Sandoval"