

“Love Lifted Me Recovery” - April, 2021
Newsletter for January, February, March, 2021
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Web Site: www.Loveliftedmerecovery.com

“The Lamb’s Book of Life”

If you are familiar with the Bible, you know that it talks about **having your NAME written in the Book of Life**. And whose book is it? Revelation 21:27 calls it **“The Lamb’s Book of Life”**, which means it belongs to Jesus, the Lamb of God. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, you need have **NO FEAR of the Judgment**, because **Jesus has already PAID for your SINS**. He took our sins upon Himself, so that **WE** will not be punished for them, and **because we believe in Him, our names are written in His book**.

People who do not know Jesus must stand before God at the Final Judgment and **PAY** for their **OWN SINS!!** Romans 6:23 says “The wages of sin is death” (the “second death” in the Lake of Fire, Rev. 20:14).

•**Revelation 21:27** “But there shall by no means enter it (heaven) anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only **those who are WRITTEN in the LAMB’S BOOK of LIFE.**”

Eternal life in heaven, and having your name written in the Lamb’s Book of Life, is simply a gift from God, and you need to receive it. The gift of eternal life comes wrapped in the package, so to speak, of Jesus Christ, so **if you have received Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have eternal life**. “The gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23). “As many as **RECEIVED Him**, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name” (John 1:12). We are all sinners and do not meet with God’s standard of perfection, so no one can say they are too great a sinner for Jesus to be able to save them. Jesus said that “whoever comes to Me I will by no means cast out” (John 6:37). Just come to Jesus and accept Him by faith - He will not cast you out or turn you away! If you want to **KNOW GOD** and have real meaning in your life, and if you want to be sure your name is in the Lamb’s Book of Life, pray this prayer, and **receive Jesus Christ** as your personal Savior today!

Almighty God, I come to You in the Name of Jesus, recognizing that I am a sinner.

You said in Your word, “If you shall confess with your mouth that Jesus is LORD, and shall believe in your HEART that God has raised Him from the dead, YOU SHALL BE SAVED” (Romans 10:9)

I believe in my heart that JESUS is the CHRIST, THE SON of the LIVING GOD.

I believe that JESUS, the sinless Son of God, PAID the PENALTY on the CROSS for MY SINS, and that HE WAS RAISED from the DEAD.

I REPENT of my sins and RECEIVE Him as my Lord and SAVIOR.

Lord Jesus, come into my heart and take control of my life!

If you have prayed this prayer **sincerely from your heart**, then the Bible says you are now a child of God! You have been **born again**, you have eternal life, and **you have been SAVED** from your sins (they are forgiven). **Your name is now written in the Book of Life of the Lamb of God, Jesus Himself**. God is now your Heavenly Father, and His Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, has come to live in you! (Romans 8:9)

It is your **FAITH in the PERSON of Jesus Christ** that **SAVES you, NOT** any religious works or good deeds you may do.

Monthly Evangelistic Outreach to Venice Beach

Saturday, January 2, 2021 - It was a beautiful day, but still chilly. Our ministry team consisted of Tom, me, Shami, Sheldon, Victor, Felipe, Estella, Johnny and Jacob, with Tom staying home to provide prayer

cover for us. We had 178 lunches, lots of toiletry/hygiene packets, socks, used clothing and shoes for the homeless, and dog food in little Baggies for those homeless people who have dogs for pets. Our lunches for the homeless contain a small can of Vienna sausages, a fruit cup, some cookies, several peanut butter or cheese crackers, and another “goodie” or dessert item. Also, a bottle of water, a napkin and plastic spoon or fork, and a gospel tract. We gave out all the food, and almost all of the clothing and other items, and everyone was very thankful and happy to receive the things we gave them. Victor, Sheldon and I saw a man with bare feet, and he took a pair of shoes and socks, and he said the shoes were the right size. We had a pair of warm slippers, and a woman saw them and said, “Oh! Can I have those?” We gave a lot of clothing and things to a couple who said that all their stuff had been stolen, and Sheldon gave them the jacket he was wearing. We had lots of pairs of jeans, and the people who received them got the right sizes and were very grateful. Shami, Johnny and Jacob gave food and clothing to Carol, who was in a wheelchair, and she also said her things had been stolen recently. They also prayed for her, and prayed for Mark and Colette, and Colette was also in a wheelchair. Shami gave warm jackets to Spencer and David, and they were thrilled to get them. They also gave a lot of clothing and things to a lady named “Lala”. We had so much clothing and things, that we just let people take as much as they needed. No one seemed greedy, just in need, so we were glad to give out everything. Because it was winter, there were not as many people just down at the Boardwalk walking around, but we did pass out gospel tracts to quite a few that were there.

Saturday, February 6, 2021 - Our group today consisted of me, Felipe, Kaela, Johnny, Jacob, and Michael Spencer (it was his first time), with Tom staying home again to provide prayer cover for us. We had 182 lunches, lots of toiletry/hygiene packets, socks, used clothing (including some nice, warm jackets) and shoes for the homeless, and dog food for those homeless people who have dogs for pets. All the food and clothing was given out in a short time, as people were hungry and in need of clothing, especially since we'd had rain a week or so ago, so some people's stuff had gotten rained on and maybe ruined. Michael, Kaela and I gave food and clothing to Kenny, Malik, Seren (we hadn't seen her in a while, and she said she just got back from Las Vegas), and Jean (she lives in her van), along with many others whose names we did not get. We saw a young woman who had on a shirt of some kind, but from the waist down, she only had a blanket wrapped around herself. The blanket slipped once, and we saw that she was completely naked, and desperately in need of some pants. We didn't have any right then, but I went back to the car and brought several pairs of pants since we didn't know what size she was. When we left to come home, we saw her wearing one of the pairs of jeans we'd given her, and we said, “Praise the Lord, the pants fit her!” This seemed to be our day for fulfilling the scriptural admonition of “clothing the naked”, because we saw another woman who was barely dressed on top, so we were able to give her two blouses that looked like they would fit her. Johnny and Jacob prayed with several people, including a man who goes by the name of Black Moses. They also saw Carol, the lady in a wheelchair, and she was in need of things again, as she said people keep stealing from her. When they got back to their car, they had one lunch left, so Johnny ran back and found one person who had not been given a lunch before. Michael and I also handed out gospel tracts, and Michael gave out seven pocket-sized Bibles.

Saturday, March 6, 2021 - We had a beautiful day for the outreach today, and those who joined us besides Tom and me were: Felipe, Victor, Kaela, Johnny, Michael, and Felipe's friend Norm. Norm was a 92-year-old World War Two veteran, and when I asked him how that could be, he said he lied about his age and joined the navy at 16 years old. We had 181 lunches, lots of socks, used clothing, shoes, toiletry/hygiene packets and other things to give to the homeless at Venice Beach. Michael, Victor and I gave away all the clothing and everything we had to homeless people, and they were all very grateful and thankful. Many times, you could see their eyes just light up when we offered them food and clothing. We saw Jacob, who we hadn't seen since before the Covid shutdown of the beach last spring. He said he's still living in his van, and Jean, the 85-year-old lady we see most of the time parks her van next to his. He said Jean wasn't there this morning, but would be back later, so we gave him a lunch for her, too. A young

man named Don recognized us, and I recognized him and said, "You used to be living in a tent over there", but he now had a van, and was living in it. He was glad to see us, and he said he is a Christ-follower. He appreciates us, because he said that we don't just preach to people, but we do tangible acts of kindness by giving out all these things to homeless people like him. Johnny wanted to spend more time praying with people, and he and Kaela prayed with quite a few of the homeless people, as well as ministering to their physical needs. Johnny prayed for Mark and Collette (she's in a wheelchair), and Mark said he felt all tingly after his prayer, and told them, "This will last me all week!" Michael, Victor and I prayed with one man, and we also handed out gospel tracts and pocket-sized Bibles. One man came up to Michael and asked if he had a King James Bible, "One with the thees and thous", he said, and Michael was able to give him one. Both Felipe and Victor spoke to people in Spanish and gave out Spanish tracts. Michael saw a young couple who had received lunches, and they were sitting on a bench reading the tracts (there is a gospel tract in every lunch). We asked their names, and they were Christopher and Latoya. We gave them some more tracts, because Christopher said he had never seen little comic book tracts like these, and he thought they were amazing (I think his actual words were, "These are magical!" - not really a word I would use for a gospel tract, but obviously he was enjoying reading them). All in all, we had a great time down at the Venice Boardwalk, and we give God all the glory!

**Matthew 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men,
that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."**

Prison Ministry

God has blessed us with a prison ministry that reaches men and women in every state prison in California, some federal prisons around the country, and prisons and jails in Oregon, Arizona, Missouri, Texas, Oklahoma, Michigan and Colorado. We have well over 400 people doing our Bible studies and 12-Step program by correspondence. Most of them have found the Lord in prison, some have made rededications since coming to prison, and some have come to know Christ through our ministry. They are growing in their faith, because God's word does not return void, but will accomplish His plan and purpose. Here are a few portions of letters we've received from inmates:

Rolando Tut, San Quentin State Prison, San Quentin, CA - "I want to thank you guys for sharing with me your life, and I am amazed to know the great work you guys are doing. I also want to share that these Step 2 lessons were so helpful to me. I did the work of this same Step 2 before, but never experienced the insight I got through doing it with your program. I think it will be a great journey, and thank you for the opportunity to be a part of your family. Sincerely, Rolando Tut"

Terry L Lester, Sr., California Men's Colony, San Luis Obispo, CA - "Your latest letter was received and it's always comforting to know that your latest outreach went well. I can't wait to meet the Hoopers and be a part of the beach outreach. I would like to share something - I've been walking in the path of a Christian for almost eight years, but until several months ago, I had not been fully committed, but was just sort of going through the motions. But through your letters and some other Christian entities, I have now made that full commitment. I now have a purpose for the remainder of my life, to serve God wherever I am. I thank God every day for placing you two in my life, because it's people like you that encourage people like myself to live better lives in Christ Jesus. Thank you, love, Terry"

Cesar Vizcarra, Folsom State Prison, Represa, CA - "I have been incarcerated for 27 years. A long time ago, I got lost in the gang lifestyle, but I am no longer a part of that. Today, I am trying to correct and heal myself and reconnect with Jesus. I hope to grow more with Him and become the person He wants me to be. My mom is a devout Christian, and she's always sharing the word with me. I would like to thank you for your letters and Bible program. I am enjoying them a lot. Your new friend, Cesar"

Binh Nguyen, Solano State Prison, Vacaville, CA - "I was found suitable for parole at my hearing, and after 26 years, there's finally a chance for me to start a new life. I am blessed, grateful and humbled. The Lord was with me in that hearing, I could feel His presence, and He talked for me when I was not able to speak for myself. Thank you both for all these years of support. I told the commissioners that you both are my sponsors, and they talked a little about you and your ministry. They asked me about the 12-Steps and how I work it with your program, and I explained it thoroughly. God bless you both! Binh Nguyen"

Brent Baldwin, California Men's Colony, San Luis Obispo, CA - "What a blessing it was to receive this Bible lesson at this time! I was at a point where I had lost all hope, and I just went downhill fast. I tried to take my own life, but God would not take me yet. By His grace and love He has given me new life, and just like in your study, I am a new man in Christ Jesus. God sent me this Bible study at the time I really needed it, so that I can continue to learn about Him. My prayers were not being answered, because I still had a lot of sin in my life, but now His Spirit has made me alive more than I ever was before. Praise God! Thank You, Jesus! Brent Baldwin"

Tina Rocco, Central California Women's Facility, Chowchilla - "I truly want to thank you for accepting me into your 12-Step program. I really appreciate it, and I have all the faith in the world it will help me towards a successful recovery. God wanted me in your lives! I also received the "Serenity" Bible you sent. It really helps me understand the Steps in relation to God's word. Thank you, Tina Rocco"

Darryl Santiago, San Quentin State Prison, San Quentin, CA - "Since doing your 12-Step program, I've come a long way. Sometimes I wanted to quit, but by the grace of God I didn't. I know a whole lot about myself now, and what makes me "tick" - ha, ha! I look at things differently in all I do. You two have been by my side, pushing me along with your studies in God's word. It's not easy to really look inside and relive some things that you buried. I'm not perfect, I made a whole lot of mistakes in my life, but it feels good to get that weight off my shoulders. Praise God! Love in Christ, Darryl"

Melissa Dean Baumann, Central California Women's Facility, Chowchilla - "I just wanted to thank you for your service. I couldn't have received my lessons at a better time. We have been through some crazy times here, with over 500 positive Covid cases this past month. My roommates and I are all in recovery, and the 12-Step lessons have been very helpful during these times. Love, Melissa"

David Vasquez, Chuckawalla Valley State Prison, Blythe, CA - "I am deeply grateful for all your help and service. I have tried working the 12-Steps before, but none like your program. As a Christian, it helps to understand the Steps biblically, as I aim to live my life according to God's word and the ways of Christ. God bless, David"

Naseli Tagoai, California Men's Colony, San Luis Obispo, CA - "My first name is Naseli, but the brothers in here and my family call me "Kiki." Your ministry is a God-sent blessing to us who are incarcerated. Thank you for the Bible study courses, the 12-Step program, and for sharing your lives with us. I will continue to pray that God will give you both His strength to carry out your great ministry. It warmed my soul and my heart strings were pulled to read about your ministry to the homeless. Sincerely, Kiki"

Reginald Pratt, Folsom State Prison, Repesa, CA - "I am writing to let you know that I am sending you \$100 to help with expenses. Love Lifted Me Recovery has been a blessing to me, as well as to others. Not only do you help those who are incarcerated, but also those who are homeless. Please accept my donation to further your cause in representing Jesus Christ. Your brother in Christ, Reggie"