

**Love Lifted Me Recovery Ministries - July, 2017**  
**Newsletter for April, May, June, 2017**  
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**LoveLiftedMeRecovery.com**

The Bible tells us that we are made up of spirit, soul and body (I Thess. 5:23). In fact, the real YOU is your spirit, you have a soul, and you live in a body. The SOUL is made up of MIND, WILL and EMOTIONS. The **“natural man” is governed ONLY by his soul and bodily appetites**, because he is spiritually dead (I Cor. 2:14; Eph. 2:1-5). The born-again Christian is to be governed and **controlled by the Holy Spirit and our own born-again spirit**, which is created in the image of God, NOT by our SOUL.

Our soul, which includes our EMOTIONS, is **UNRELIABLE, we must not trust it**. We MUST renew our minds with the word of God (Romans 12:1-2; Eph. 4:23) and we are RESPONSIBLE (using our FREE WILL) to be careful of what we put before our eyes and allow to enter our minds, because that will AFFECT our EMOTIONS (see Phil. 4:6-9). If you find that your MIND (thoughts) or EMOTIONS are **out of line with what God says**, you MUST NOT allow your SOUL to be the final authority. God’s word must be the FINAL AUTHORITY, and **we are told to “take EVERY THOUGHT captive to the OBEDIENCE of Christ”** (II Cor. 10:3-5), which means we must deal with our thought-life and emotions, rather than ALLOWING them to rule us.

“I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

And be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” **Romans 12:1-2**

“For the WORD of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the DIVISION of SOUL and SPIRIT, and of joints and marrow, and is a DISCERNER of the THOUGHTS and INTENTS of the HEART (emotions).” **Hebrews 4:12**

“And be RENEWED in the spirit of your MIND; and that YOU put on the NEW MAN, which was CREATED according to God, in righteousness and true holiness.” **Ephesians 4:23-24**

## **Monthly Evangelistic Outreach to Venice Beach**

**Saturday, April 1, 2017** - Well, to start off, we had a phone call from Frank, out in Canyon Country, and he said none of their guys could come on the outreach on Saturday. The truck that had the accident last month, where Robert died, was not able to be used, and a big job had come up, and the Bible Tabernacle needed all available vehicles for that job. So, I told Frank we would miss them all, but would pray for the Lord to bring enough people for the outreach. Either God has a sense of humor, or He just wanted us to trust Him, because we had a very small group show up. We had Tom, me, Bob, Keith, Shami and Tony. We knew we would be okay, though, because I Samuel 14:6 b says, “For there is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few,” so even with our “few”, we could get the job done. We had 175 lunches, because there were still some left of the ones the Sunday school kids had made up. We gave out all the lunches except for seven of them, and we would just look for homeless people during the next few weeks, and give them out that way. Tony brought some extra pastries, and we had lots of hygiene/toiletry packets, socks, used clothing, some jackets and a few blankets. All of these things were given to the homeless people down at the Venice Boardwalk, but there didn’t seem to be as many as usual, so that’s why we were left with a few lunches. Everyone was very grateful, and Shami, Tony and Keith prayed for quite a few of them, also. A man named CJ asked for prayer for his son, Cody, who was in the military in Afghanistan, and for his daughter, Cathy, who has cancer. They also prayed for Rob, Jenna, and several other groups of homeless people. Jenna also received a nice jacket. Bob and I went up to the north end of the Boardwalk, and found a lot of homeless people on the edges of the parking lot, alongside a little retaining wall. They all received food, clothing, and toiletries with thankfulness, and many gave thanks to

Jesus when we told them it was all being given in His name. One young man asked if we had any blankets, and we gave him a nice warm comforter. A young woman took a courderoy jacket, and said, "Oh! I love courderoy!" We had a blessed time of fellowship and ministering the gospel to people, and we managed to get it all done with our small group. Praise the Lord!

**Saturday, May 6, 2017** - Today for our Venice Beach outreach, here are the people who showed up besides me and Tom: Keith, Bob, A.J., Apple, Frank, Harold, Johnny and Jose. We had 162 lunches, lots of toiletry/hygiene packets, lots of socks, some shoes, 4 or 5 blankets, a bedroll, some backpacks and satchels, and some pillows. The amazing thing is that people actually asked if we had backpacks or something to carry their stuff in. We have more of those we'll bring for next month, now that we see how popular they are. We also had knit hats made by my friend Debbie, who sent them all the way from Phoenix. I took photos of those who took the knit hats, so that we could show her how much the people enjoyed them (they all put them on immediately). Harold said everyone was very receptive and thankful, not only of the food, but also of the clothing and blankets. The weather was getting colder again, after a little warm spell, and we saw one man happily wearing his new warm sweatshirt as we passed him going back to the car. Apple and I ran out of lunches, and one man was following us until we could find some more people from our group who might still have lunches. We caught up to Frank, and he still had some lunches, so this man was very happy to get one. After that, we continued to hand out gospel tracts, mostly in English, but some in Spanish, and one in Arabic.

**Saturday, June 3, 2017** -.The evening before the outreach, we got a call from the guys out in Canyon Country at the Bible Tabernacle, and they would not be able to come on the outreach, as there was no vehicle for them (again!). We were disappointed, but were praying the Lord would bring us enough people to go on the outreach without them. So, the day of our outreach, we had Tom, me, Shami, Bob, A.J., Tony, and Apple. Everyone had been on the outreach before, at least once, so we went out in two teams of three each, and Tom stayed home to provide prayer cover. It was a smaller group than usual, but the Lord provided, and we all had a great time. We had 174 lunches, because we ran out last time, but wouldn't you know it, this time we had some left over. Tom and I kept a few, and Bob and Tony each took a few to give out to any homeless people we might see during the week. For the outreach, we had lots of toiletry/hygiene packets, socks, used clothing, including underwear (that was a big hit!), and lots of shoes. We also had lots of backpacks that had been made up by Girl Scout troop #15751 (from out in the San Fernando Valley), and each backpack contained toiletries, socks, and a small rolled up blanket. I took photos of everyone receiving those, so that the girls in the troop could see who got their backpacks. The food, clothing and other items were all received with thankfulness and even joy by the homeless people to whom we gave them. One man was so happy to get two pairs of clean underwear, and he said that was one of the things that is hardest to come by out there. Shami, Tony and Bob prayed for John and Rob, who also received a lot of "goodies" and information on how to get to the Bible Tabernacle, if they are serious about getting off the streets. We all gave out the BT info, and we hope many will go there to get help and a place to stay. Apple and A.J. came with me, and we gave out everything we had, and could have given out more. The shoes went over really well, but we were one pair short, and one guy didn't get any. Also, we saw something we hadn't ever seen before, and that was a young mother with a toddler and a baby. She may not have been actually "homeless" though, as she was in one of the vendor spots. She was sitting on the ground, playing on a keyboard, and had a jar labeled "donations". So, even if she wasn't homeless, she was in need, so we gave her two lunches and a toiletry packet, and a pair of pants that looked like they would fit her. She was very thankful. On our way back to the car, at the parking lot at the end of Rose Ave., we saw Dan, who goes to Breakwater Church in Redondo Beach, and he comes down to the Boardwalk there every Saturday with groceries that the markets give him, because they are past their expiration dates. He stays in one place and lets the homeless come to him, whereas we go out into the "highways and hedges" so to speak, and give them our stuff. We saw one man going by with bananas and a loaf of bread, and I asked him if he would like a lunch. He showed me his bananas and bread, but I said, "That's not a whole lunch. Don't you want a lunch, too?", and he

gratefully took one. Shami, Tony and Bob prayed with a lot of people, and our group prayed for some, including a young man named Mark. Mark said he needed a job, and also that he was struggling with drug addiction. He thanked us for the gospel tract we gave him, and said, "I really need this!" We gave out a lot of gospel tracts to people who were just down at the Boardwalk, and not homeless. Each of the homeless people who received a lunch got a gospel tract in their lunch. Praise the Lord!

## Prison Ministry

**John McClelland, Calipatria State Prison, Calipatria, CA** - "My parents were alcoholics, and I started to drink more and more as I was growing up. When I was in high school, I had a job in the bowling alley and was involved in sports at school, but I started hanging out with the neighbors. That is when I first tried smoking pot, and soon after that, crack and cocaine. My parents got divorced, and I was living with my mother, and later, my mom died in a car accident. I started drinking more and more, started using crank, as well, and soon got kicked out of high school. My step-mom was the first one to give me the gospel and tell me about Jesus, but I said, 'No, I was not interested.' This was October, 1986, and eight months later, I went to prison for burglary, assault with a deadly weapon, and inflicting great bodily harm on the house owner. In prison, someone else shared the gospel with me, and I repented and asked Jesus to be my Lord and savior. However, I didn't do well with persecution for my faith, and I would get in trouble. I didn't stay in the word of God and prayer, either, so I "backslid". I paroled in 1993, but after eleven months got a DUI and lost my driver's license. Then I left the state without permission and was sent back to prison for parole violation. After thirty days out of prison, I committed a petty theft, and was sent back to prison under the Three Strikes Law for 25-to-life. That's when God really got a hold of my heart and showed me that He really wants obedience. He began teaching me His word, and building a right relationship with Him, and I have been faithful to Him since 2006. In two to five years, I will be eligible for parole - glory to God! I have been in prison for twenty-one years under the three Strikes Law. God bless, sincerely, John"

**Renato Lopez, California Men's Colony, San Luis Obispo, CA** - "Well, my brother and sister, one of the reasons I'm writing is because I want to tell you I love you all in Jesus' name. But I also want to share with you the mighty and wonderful things our Father God has done in my life. I've been incarcerated twenty-one-and-a-half years. Throughout the first fifteen years, I was running around like a chicken without a head. I was angry and resentful for all the mistreatment, scoldings and beatings I received from family members that affected me through my childhood. I started rebelling against my mother at age sixteen, as I started with the gang, and drugs and alcohol and making poor choices. This behavior carried me on to commit crime, like it was a normal thing to do, disregarding the rights and well-being of others. In 2010, when I started your Love Lifted Me Recovery program, I was able to open the word of God and read a Scripture that at the time broke me down into tears, and ever since my life has not been the same. Right after that, the Lord found me and pulled me out of that pit I lived in, and set me on the solid foundation of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Today, I evangelize to those who do not know the Lord and have no hope. I thank you both and your awesome ministry for being part of my growth and maturity. I thank you for your support letters, your friendship, and for the genuine agape love you always transmitted to me. Your brother in Christ, Renato Lopez"

**Darryl Alexander, Sierra Conservation Center State Prison, Jamestown, CA** - "I hope this letter will find you in good health and being blessed in the Name of our Lord. As for myself, I'm doing well, and have much to be grateful for, and it's the Lord Himself who is keeping me through it all. I'm grateful for the presence and power of the Holy Spirit - I can feel His love with me all the time. I'm also grateful for the power of prayer, as we have access to heaven because of the shed blood of Jesus on Calvary's cross. Thank you for continuing to send my Bible lessons. I really enjoy doing them, and they help keep me focused and centered in my recovery. May the Lord Jesus Christ continue to bless you. Sincerely,

Darryl”

**Clifford Garrett, Folsom State Prison, Represa, CA** - “Love and respect to you. Enclosed is my Step 10 lessons. I’m getting even more out of the program this time, as it is my second time for doing your 12-Step program. My cellie is helping me with the Steps this round, so we both did it, and had discussions and prayer. I thank you for your time. You guys help a lot of people. God bless, Cliff”

**Yoland Pena, Central California Women’s Facility, Chowchilla** - “I am very thankful for all your prayers. They are really helpful, and being in this place, it is a must to stay close to God. I enjoy reading your letters, and like to hear about other than the usual in here. Oh, about my son, he went to be with the Lord in December. So, starting this year, it has been very hard for me. But one thing I know for sure is that he’s in no pain and with the Lord. I really like doing your Bible studies, and would like to do the 12-Steps again. I really appreciate your ministry. Yolanda”

**John Barton, Calipatria State Prison, Calipatria, CA** - “I just wanted to thank you both for all you do to provide the tools that help us to grow in God’s word and as His children. I have learned much about myself through the 12-Step program, and my walk with the Lord Jesus is strengthened as I grow in my knowledge of God’s word. I thank you for that - God bless you both, and I hope He gives you much joy and happiness. In Christ Jesus, John”

**Mary Elizabeth Campbell, Calif. Institute for Women, Corona, CA** - “Thank you for my recent assignments, I am getting so much out of them. Thank you for all the postage, envelopes, course materials, and your energy and time in preparing all the courses for us all. Thank you so much for caring about us all. When I get out, I want to give back to Love Lifted Me Recovery by helping on the beach outreaches. I look forward to meeting you both in person. In Jesus’ name, love, Liz”

**Benny Perez, Calipatria State Prison, Calipatria, CA** - “Enclosed is my completed Fourth Step inventory. It was difficult at times, as it should be, but I made it. There were times I actually wanted to give up, or other times I was procrastinating, but I pushed through. I just asked the Lord for wisdom and guidance, as you told me to. It worked. I want to thank you for your patience with me, and for your prayers. I have issues that go way back to my childhood, and it wasn’t until this inventory that I was able to bring them to light. I felt such a relief afterwards, because I now have learned that I no longer have to carry them around. Thanks be to our Lord and Savior! My prayers are with you both, love, Benny”

**Kevin Dykes, California Correctional Institution, Tehachapi, CA** - “I know the Lord has taken my negative situation and exposed the good for me to see, and He is protecting me and guiding me by His Holy Spirit. The Bible study papers you sent, “The Importance of Obedience” and “Recovery, Backsliding & Relapse”, mean much more to me than I would have thought. I underlined so much and wrote reminders by them to help me with my life with the Lord. Thank you for this material and for everything. Love, Kevin”

## **Thank You to our Ministry Supporters!**

We want to acknowledge our ministry supporters, as we could not do any of this ministry without you. Those who support us financially, or with prayer, or by going out on the outreach, or by giving us toiletries, socks, or clothing, you are all loved and blessed by God, and we love and appreciate you so much! You will receive rewards in heaven for your part in every soul that is saved, or Christian who is encouraged and restored to fellowship with the Lord. One more thing..... we have new photos of the outreach on our website, if you would like to look at them. Website is [Loveliftedmerecovery.com](http://Loveliftedmerecovery.com). The old photos from 2013 will come up first, but just keep going, as the new ones are tacked on after them.