

Ministry Update - 1st Quarter, 2003

Before we tell you what has been going on in the ministry, we would like to first explain our ministry goal, or "mission statement".

PURPOSE: First, here is our "purpose" as written in our Federal and State applications when we became a non-profit organization: "To work alongside and with the conventional church to help people who are struggling with alcoholism, drug addiction, sexual addictions, eating disorders, co-dependency, or suffering from depression, or with dysfunctional family issues. To use Biblical principles and the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous to bring people out of their addictions and to reach their full potential in Christ Jesus. To help those whose lives have been damaged by any of the above issues, and to restore them to productive lives in society, and to be fruitful members of God's kingdom."

Second, here is our purpose and mission statement from God's word:

- **Luke 4:18** "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, and to set at liberty those who are oppressed."
- **Ezekiel 34:12 & 15-16** "As a shepherd seeks out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out My sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day." "I will feed My flock, and I will cause them to lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick...."
- **Jeremiah 23:3-4** "And I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countriesand will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, says the Lord."
- **John 20:21 & 21:15b** "Then Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be unto you: as My Father has sent Me, even so I send you.'" ".....Feed my lambs."

METHOD: We teach Biblical principles and use the Twelve Steps as an outline or format. We are basically a Bible study and discipleship ministry, with our focus on the principles from God's word that bring deliverance from bondage, and help in solving problems of the past and of daily life today.

GOAL: To help those whose lives have been damaged by sin - either their own or others' sins against them - to help transform them into productive and fruitful members of God's kingdom."

- **I John 2:14** ".....I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the WORD of GOD abides in you, and you have OVERCOME the evil one."
- **Romans 12:2** "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."

1.) Update on the ministry for the quarter of January, February, and March, 2003 -

(a) Attendance has been good at both the Monday and Wednesday meetings. There were eight healing and/or deliverance services for individuals, as well as the usual one-on-one counseling, 24-hour telephone counseling, and teaching at the meetings. We have seen several answers to prayer that were a result of these prayer sessions, and we have seen a great deal of overall spiritual growth and recovery in a number of

people. Several have come back to meetings after being out of the program for some time.

(b) Prison Ministry update: We are still corresponding with Joseph _____ at the Calif. State Prison in Lancaster. We are sending him Twelve Step and Bible study materials, and we visited him in prison on February 22, 2003. The results are as follows: (1.) he is now holding nightly Bible studies with 5 or 6 other Believers in his "dorm"; (2.) he is sharing our Bible study materials with many men that are interested; and (3.) he is sharing the "Chick" Christian comic books we sent him with almost the whole "dorm" and having phenomenal results.

Says Joe _____, "I got the comic books - those things are the most effective thing I've seen yet, at least with this crowd. I can hardly keep track of them, they're making the rounds so fast. People I wouldn't even suspect any response from are reading them! They're opening more doors than I can handle for ministering. I've got big, tough looking guys coming up to 'look at the comic books,' and hanging around talking about the Bible and what's in it, that you just wouldn't even think would be. Guess I gotta step up my prayers and study." Later he says, "Y' know, these things even have the Spanish speakers getting help interpreting them so they can read, too. If you have any Spanish tracts they might make a hit, too." And, "Oh! this is just too much!! I never thought I'd be capable of doing anything to help out in God's work. Now it's coming by the truck-load."

(c) Twelve Step and Bible study materials were sent to a number of individuals who requested materials in California, Hawaii, Arkansas and Oregon. We had a call from a woman in Missouri who asked if she could use our materials to start a group in her church. Her son had been to one of our groups while visiting in California, and we had given him a packet of Steps 1-3. We told her she could access the rest of our materials from our website. The mother of a young woman who used to come to our meetings called from Northern California, and she also wants to start a group in her church.

(d) Our website is being worked on, and most of our 12-Step materials, and many other Bible study materials are being added. The work was being done at first by someone from church, but for several reasons, she needed to quit, and Dottie's daughter, Grace Anderson is taking over as our "web master." Web address is: www.LoveLiftedMeRecovery.com.

(e) Other - Tom has gone to court six or seven times, and written letters for Jay _____, for support and as a character witness. The outcome of his case is a miracle of God, and Jay will only be serving a few more months in jail.

2.) Update on custom-printed gospel tracts from Chick Publications with our ministry information on the back cover: about one thousand tracts have been given out already, and one person is coming to our meetings regularly as a direct result of finding one of the tracts. Of course, the primary purpose of the booklets is to get out the message of Jesus Christ, but it is also good to see someone finding our meetings as a result. The young man who has been coming regularly is a new Christian, who grew up in the Jehovah's Witnesses. He is coming to meetings, and also we are discipling him one-on-one.

3.) 200 evangelistic booklets by Billy Graham were ordered, "The Key to Personal Peace," and will be given out in the neighborhood, and in our meetings, for people to give to those who do not know Jesus Christ. We are in the process of putting our ministry information on the back cover of each booklet.