

# Ministry Update - 2nd Quarter, 2003

Both the Monday and Wednesday meetings have been great, with some new people really committing to do the steps and walk in obedience to the Lord. There were several healing and deliverance services for individuals, as well as the usual one-on-one counseling, 24-hour telephone counseling, and teaching from the word of God at the meetings. We have seen several answers to prayer, and we have seen a great deal of overall spiritual growth and breakthroughs in recovery for a number of people. Because we were on Steps 4 and 5 in April and May, we were particularly busy these last three months. Anyone who does not have a sponsor or accountability partner for their 5th Step is welcome to use us - Tom for the men, and Dottie for the women. The 5th Step is reading of the "moral inventory," so it takes anywhere from 3 to 5 hours, and Tom had one that lasted 7 hours. Below is a quote from Tom in our "Introduction to Step Four" -

"If you do an honest and thorough 4th Step, you will bring up a lot of things that MUST be brought up, so that you can face it, confess it, and give all the bad to your Heavenly Father so that He can forgive it (see I John 1:9). You will at the same time bring up some good things, and those you keep. With God's help through Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, the good will just get better, because you are not dragging around all that baggage from the past anymore. Remember, you give the bad to God in the 5th Step, and He and you do not have to remember any more of that stuff. It is gone! What a relief! I truly believe the 4th and 5th Steps are the turning point in a person's recovery, and the place where we find out what makes us tick. It certainly is not easy - it takes WORK, FAITH, TRUST, HOPE and complete HONESTY! No more denial, no more cover-ups, no more lies. God knows it all anyway! We are only deceiving and harming ourselves by failing to do a thorough inventory. By doing an honest 4th Step, you will learn some things you have needed to know about yourself. And praise God, with a good accountability partner, the knowledge can only result in positive things for the future. God bless!"

**"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the EQUIPPING of the saints for the WORK of MINISTRY, for the EDIFYING of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect (mature) man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."**  
**Ephesians 4:11-13**

**Prison Ministry update: REVIVAL!** We have been sending tons of materials to Joseph, our "missionary inside" at the California State Prison in Lancaster, **equipping him for ministry.** The most effective materials continue to be the Christian "comic books" and gospel tracts from Chick Publications. Here's the latest in Joe's own words:

**From letter of 4/27/03** - "Well, I got this big old pile of materials here, thank you so much! .....our prayer circle had **a big revival last night.** We've been having problems over when and where to do it, until yesterday I just called it, right after 6:00 count at night (which is about 6:45-7:00 or so), at Jim's bunk! We had a good showing - 8 or 9 of us, and all walked away "high" on the Spirit. What a trip. We all just gathered around, held hands, and after I opened things up, worked our way around the circle, each one speaking his piece. We all got a blessing! **The Spirit is working around this Gym** - you can walk up and down the aisles and find guys studying, praying together, witnessing to each other, showing signs of love. It seems infectious, as even the Bad Apples are being affected. You can feel it in the atmosphere - man, this is great! Thanks so much for the Spanish comic books - those things went around like wildfire!"

**From letter of 5/22/03** - "Hi, there! Well, I got the last shipment of comics, 2 or 3 letters, etc. ....Our group is growing like crazy, it simply blows my mind. I am seeing actual miracles happen before my very eyes on a daily basis. Our record remains unbroken, every prayer has been answered, even down to my asking for just one unbeliever, one not written in the Book of Life, to have a change of heart, to receive God's call, for God to let us have just one of the unsaved, only to be interrupted not 30 seconds later by a guy breaking into our circle. Yeah, you guessed it - **he said he'd been watching us for days, and that he just "felt a Call" from Jesus and he had to come!!!** He's still with us, converted, saved (that night!), growing and learning. Our group is about 12-15 strong now, and boy, I tell you..... **we have diligent, fervent people here**, and we all keep exhorting and challenging each other on to better things - it's awesome!"

**More equipping and edifying!** Twelve Step and Bible study materials were sent to individuals who requested materials in California and Colorado, including sending tracts and materials into the L. A. County Jail. We received a letter from David \_\_\_\_\_ in the Mule Creek Prison in Ione, California, and he wants to do the 12 Steps with our materials. We were corresponding with him about two years ago, but then he "dropped out" for a while. It was good to hear from him, and good to hear that he wants to get his life right with the Lord again. Besides 12-Step materials, some of the types of materials requested from individuals were for refuting Jehovah's Witness and Roman Catholic doctrine, and others were just basic soul-winning tracts and materials. We thank the Lord that we are able to offer Bibles and materials free of charge to anyone, and especially to those in the jails and prisons, because of the faithfulness of other Christians in supporting "Love Lifted Me Recovery" and our various ministries.

More Bible studies and materials have been added to our website. We are also working on getting together some testimonies from people whose lives have been changed by the Lord through our ministry, and we'll have a "Testimony Section" available soon. Again, the web address is: [www.LoveLiftedMeRecovery.com](http://www.LoveLiftedMeRecovery.com).

Ministry of encouragement - Tom went to a parole hearing as a character witness for Jay. Jay will be getting out of jail in November. Meanwhile, Jay is doing ministry there in the County Jail, and has already referred one other man to us, and we've sent materials to him, and are waiting to hear back from him. We also just began ministering to Jay's son Jesse in Colorado. We've sent him materials, and are waiting to hear back from him, too.

Tom was invited to the Bible Tabernacle in Canyon Country by their Board of Deacons to come and present "Christian Twelve Steps" to them. He went on May 17th and presented our ministry, answered questions, and offered our website materials to them. Pastor Willie Pace will be contacting us for help in training their people to run Christian 12-Step meetings at their Venice facility for the women, and at Canyon Country for the men.

June 7th was "Jesus Day" in Venice, at Oakwood Park. Our friends, Steve and Regina Weller of "Addicts for Christ", invited us to come and join them. The activities were put on by the Venice Foursquare Church, "Set Free Ministries" and some other ministries, with a big barbeque, a live band, and even a small parade through the streets of Venice. Tom and I had a table set up with our ministry stuff, and also a lot of Chick tracts. We handed out a hundred or so tracts, and made some good ministry contacts, one of whom is Dwayna Litz of "Light the Way International." We gave her some of our materials for her table down on the Venice Boardwalk. She has the only Christian table among all the psychics, cults and weirdos who peddle their wares at Venice Beach. We are continuing to share in ministry with her through prayer and materials.