

# Ministry Update - 3rd Quarter, 2003

The Lord has opened a new door of opportunity for us to bring our Love Lifted Me Recovery meetings to the Playa Del Rey area. Tom met with Pastor Matt of Del Rey Hills Evangelical Free Church earlier in September, because he said they had a desperate need for a Christian recovery program in their church, and there were none in the area at any other churches. Tom met with Pastor Matt for several hours, then later he showed us their facilities, and the room where we would meet, and we talked about a lot more of the details of having our Wednesday meeting move there. Having our Wednesday meeting in our home for the past few months was only a temporary thing anyway, until the Lord provided a better place. There is a great need in this church, and in the whole Playa Del Rey, Manhattan Beach area, so we believe this is an open door from the Lord. We did our job of praying and asking God for guidance, of course, and all the lights have been green. I am reminded of the man of Macedonia in the book of Acts, only this is a man of Playa Del Rey saying, "Come over to Playa Del Rey and help us!" Our first meeting at the Del Rey Hills location was Wednesday, October 1, 2003, and we started at Step One.

**"And a vision appeared to Paul in the night.  
A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying,  
'Come over to Macedonia and help us!'"  
Acts 16:9**

The Monday meeting continues with a great group of people, and they will keep going on Steps 10, 11 and 12 until the end of the year. Several of the people in the Monday meeting are stepping out in faith to lead Bible study groups in their own churches. It's good to see the growth and healing in peoples' lives. The Monday group also has some long-term members, some with two, three, and even three and a half years of attending Love Lifted Me Recovery. Love Lifted Me Recovery celebrated its fourth anniversary on September 21, 2003.

**Prison Ministry update: EXPANDING!** Almost overnight, it seems, the Lord has brought our ministry into four California state prisons, one Oregon state prison, and the L. A. County Jail. We are corresponding with and have sent "Serenity" Bibles, 12-Step materials, and other Bible studies and "helps" to inmates in Soledad Prison, Mule Creek Men's Prison, L.A. County Jail (Twin Towers), and Chino and Lancaster State Prisons. Also, to one Oregon State Prison. The men are Joseph, Jay, Gerald, David A., David B., Aaron, Matthew, Bryan, Brandon, and Mike. Keep them in your prayers, as there are many temptations even in prison. Joseph was transferred to Soledad, but he said he left a healthy prayer group there in Lancaster, along with leaving them the materials we had sent him. We are sending him new materials now that he's in Soledad, and he has referred some new people to us as well. David B. in Mule Creek has referred several men to us. Jay was transferred to Chino from Twin Towers, but not until after he had led Gerald to faith in Jesus Christ. All these men are desiring to walk closer to the Lord, serve Him either in or out of prison, and are working on the "issues" that led to their addictions, which ended them up in jail or prison. Joe, Jay, and David B. are discipling others and leading others to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. We got a letter recently from Joseph in Soledad Prison, and he had great news about three more men coming to know the Lord Jesus Christ! He is discipling them by letting them all read our papers and Bible studies, and the comics and tracts (many of them are Bible stories). Tom continues to help any of these men who are coming up for parole to get into the Bible Tabernacle Men's Ranch in Canyon Country, so that they have a place to live that is safe, and where they will continue to be fed with the word of God. Several inmates have requested us to send materials to unsaved family members on the outside. We have sent books and tracts to the mothers of two of the inmates, and the daughter of one, so far. These men are concerned for the salvation of their family members. We have no women's prison ministry, because we have yet to have anyone refer a female inmate to us. If you know of someone serving time in prison, either men or women, please give us their names and addresses, and we will write to them.

**David B. in Mule Creek - letter of 9/20/03** - "I have been doing the Bible study you sent me. My eyes and heart take in your words as they make me understand more clearly just why Jesus died on the cross. Through Him I have been freed, praise be with Jesus! Through you both, may I renew my mind in your words. Again, praise be to Jesus. I have come to accept who I am, and now that I am clean and sober, my relationship with you two is much more meaningful than it was before. Please know in your hearts that God has brought us together, and through you, God is showing me the meaning of being a Christian."

**Joseph B. in Soledad - letter of 8/6/03** - "By now you may have heard from a couple of guys here. It seems as if the "fishing" is a little better in this pond. I've gotten the prayer circle off to a shaky start - same old problem of when and where. I'm sure it'll get ironed out and up and running soon enough. There's plenty of interest; it's just finding a spot that fits everyone's "agenda." I'll hit it, I did before, and I can do it again. I got the Best Help there is! These tracts are going around pretty good, too - I can hardly wait to get my hands on the comics. I've been telling everyone about them."

**"But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased."**

**"And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it;  
or if one member is honored, all the members REJOICE with it.  
Now you are the BODY of CHRIST, and members individually."**

**I Corinthians 12:18 & 26-27**

**Baptisms, Weddings & Exorcisms:** This summer became a time for performing weddings, baptisms, and even one exorcism. The Lord brought certain ones to us who were without a church home at the time, and Tom performed one wedding and four baptisms in July and August. We always encourage the ones who come to our groups to find a good church home, but sometimes there are ones who have fallen through the cracks, and need help "right now". We consider it an honor to be used by the Lord to help His children in any way we can. We continue to be involved in prayer for the sick, and deliverance and casting out of demons. "Freely you have received, freely give." We don't claim any special powers or gifts for these ministries, but are just doing what Jesus said His disciples would do. We feel overwhelmed that God would even use us, and that He would entrust His little lambs to us. We certainly feel like we are some of those "weak and foolish" ones that God has chosen, just so that He would get the glory, and not us. Glory to God!

**"For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh,  
not many mighty, not many noble are called.**

**But God has chosen the FOOLISH things of the world to put to shame the wise,  
and God has chosen the WEAK things of the world to put to shame the things which  
are mighty;**

**and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen,  
and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are,  
that no flesh should glory in His presence."**

**I Corinthians 1:26-29**

**Evangelistic Outreach:** We finished putting our ministry information on the inside front covers of 200 evangelistic booklets, "The Key to Personal Peace" by Billy Graham. With the help of several members of our recovery groups, we have begun to pass them out in the neighborhood, going door-to-door. We are also using them in our meetings, and for mailings, for those who do not know Jesus Christ. They are a good tool to spread the gospel in our neighborhood, and we are also continuing to pass out the "Creator or Liar?" booklets (we've passed out about 3,000 so far, with the help of our recovery group people). We made up some great fliers with all the information for our church and our ministry's meetings, but most important, all the information a person needs to be saved. All on one page! We'll take them to Kinko's and have them printed up on colored paper.