

“Love Lifted Me Recovery” - October, 2017
Newsletter for July, August, September, 2017
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LoveLiftedMeRecovery.com

Choose to Walk in the Fear of the Lord

**Psalm 33:8 “Let all the earth FEAR the LORD,
Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in AWE of HIM.”**

The “Fear of the Lord” means **reverential AWE and RESPECT for God**, especially as EVIDENCED by OBEDIENCE to His commands and DOING His will. The New Testament equivalent is HOLY living, being filled with the Spirit, and “walking in a manner worthy of the Lord.” Some people have trouble with the concept of FEARING God, because it seems like a negative thing, or has connotations of punishment or abuse from a parent in their childhood. If this is your case, whenever you see the words “fear of the Lord” or “fear God” just substitute “obedience to the Lord” and “OBEY God.” Some people just don’t like the idea of fearing God, because they want a “touchy-feely” religion, and want to think of God ONLY as a loving, indulgent Heavenly Father. Well, God IS a loving God, but He is not indulgent - **He practices “tough love.”** Since the fear of the Lord is the knowledge and wisdom of God, **it is the OPPOSITE of thinking YOU KNOW it ALL.** Proverbs 1:31 talks about those who will be “filled with **their own** devices” and Proverbs 3:7 says to “be not **wise in your own eyes**” but rather “FEAR the LORD and depart from evil.” Those who fear the Lord hate evil, they are open and ready to REPENT whenever they are reproved by God (shown to be wrong), and they listen and incline their ears to His instruction.

●**Proverbs 2:1-6** “My son, if you receive My words, and treasure My commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; yes, if you will cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her (wisdom) as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the FEAR of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth (God’s word, the Bible) come knowledge and understanding.”

●**Proverbs 8:13** “The FEAR of the LORD is to hate evil; pride, and arrogance, and the evil way, and the perverse mouth do I hate.”

Monthly Evangelistic Outreach to Venice Beach

Saturday, July 1, 2017 - The evening before the outreach, we got a call from Frank and 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! This is the busy season for the work crews, and they needed all the vehicles). 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 the Lord provided, besides Tom and me, Danny, Darryl, Tyrone, Patricia, Keith, Sheldon and A.J. Danny is one of our former prison guys, and he is now out on parole and in a program downtown called Health Right 360. Tyrone is also one of our former prison guys, but has been out for several years now. Darryl is recently out of prison, but wasn’t one of our guys then, but he is now! It was truly an answer to prayer to have them all come and help us today. We had 165 lunches, lots of socks, toiletry/hygiene packets, used clothing, and some of the backpacks that the Girl Scout troop made up for us. When I asked Darryl how he liked it, he said, “I loved it!” He said it was great to see the peoples’ faces when we offered them the food and other

things. Everyone was very thankful and grateful, and Danny was surprised, because he somehow thought we would meet with some resistance from people. Tyrone and his wife Patricia gave a lunch to one man who immediately gave some of the food to his dog, and they thought that was really sweet. All the first-timers were surprised at how most of the homeless people were willing to share with their friends. One woman asked for a pair of socks, and a pair for her son. Then, another man asked for socks, and when they told him they were all out, this woman gave him the extra pair she had. Later, more from our group came and they had more socks, so they gave her another pair. Danny, Darryl and I stopped at the Phoenix House, and the men were outside on a break. We asked if any of them were recently out of prison, and they said they were, so Danny and Darryl gave them a little testimony of how long they'd been in prison, and it was just by the grace of God that they were out now. While we were up in the north parking lot, a woman pulled up in her car and asked what we were doing. We told her we were giving food and clothing and things to the homeless, and she was so happy. She said it always bothered her to see so many homeless people, and she was glad there were some people willing to help them. We gave her information about our ministry, told her to go on our website, and she said, "You changed my whole day!"

Saturday, August 5, 2017 - Today, the Lord provided laborers to go forth into the harvest, and we had Tom and me, and Frank, Mitch and Kyle from the BT in Canyon Country, and Sheldon, Bob, Apple, Tony and Suchart. Praise the Lord! We had 169 lunches, lots of socks, toiletry/hygiene packets, some used clothing, and some shoes. Everything was given out and much appreciated by the homeless population down at Venice Beach. The BT guys brought a huge pile of new T-shirts, all in bright orange, that had been donated to them, but they all were given to people who were happy to get a new shirt, and didn't seem to mind the orange color. Mitch said they saw one lady who had no teeth, and she was sitting by the alley. When he gave her a lunch and some other things, she said, "Thank You, Jesus!" We always tell people that we're giving these things out in the name of Jesus, but she said that before we even said anything. Bob said a woman asked him what they were doing, and he told her we were giving out food and clothing to the homeless. She said, "I used to hate 'born-again's', but I think I'm changing my mind, because you're the only ones out here doing anything!" He tried to give her a gospel tract, but she wasn't quite ready for that. We'll keep praying for her. We gave out information and directions to the Bible Tabernacle for people to find help and a place to live, if they want to get off the streets. Some homeless people prefer to stay that way, because they don't like to live under anybody's rules, or they're still drinking and using drugs, so they stay out on the streets. Mitch, Kyle and Frank saw a man on a bicycle, and offered him a lunch. His name is Teddy, and he was so overcome with gratitude, he started crying, and then said he wanted to pray for them. Sheldon had a pair of jeans, and he offered them to a man who said, "That's exactly my size!" The pants he had on were way too large and hanging on him, so he was very thankful. After we gave out all our stuff, we continued to hand out gospel tracts and plant the seed of God's word.

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase (caused the growth). So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor." I Corinthians 3:5-9

Saturday, September 2, 2017 - The Lord blessed us with a large number of team members today, including some that hadn't come for a while, and we were glad to have them back. Besides Tom and me, we had Shami, Keith, Sheldon, Tony, Frank, Mitch, Moses, Ararat, Bob, A.J., Apple and Suchart. We had 167 lunches, lots of socks, toiletry/hygiene packets, some T-shirts, and quite a few backpacks for the homeless. The food, clothing and everything was received with gratefulness and thanksgiving by everyone. Moses and Mitch saw a man named Robert and his friend Cory. Cory had no shoes, and although Moses offered him his own shoes, they were the wrong size. Moses and Mitch ended up

walking all the way back to the Venice Bible Tabernacle (about one mile each way) to get Cory a pair of size thirteen shoes. He was very grateful for their efforts, and also, Sheldon stayed and talked with him while they were waiting for Moses and Mitch to get back. Sheldon gave some lunches, shirts and a backpack to a young couple whose names were Vincent and Deedee, who said they had just arrived from Texas and the hurricane area. A.J., Bob and I saw a man named Richard, and he had two small bags of his stuff next to him. After we gave him a lunch and some other things, we offered him the nice rolling (with wheels) backpack that we had, and he was thrilled to get it. All the backpacks were well-received, as people need something to put the little bit of belongings in that they have. Ararat, Shami and their group prayed for Angel and his family, and for a man named Chuck, and Pat and Sid. After we gave out all the food and things to the homeless, we continued to hand out gospel tracts for a while, but it was getting so hot (having a bad hot spell right then), we did come home a little earlier than usual.

Check out our website for photos of the Venice Beach outreach. LoveLiftedMeRecovery.com

Prison Ministry

God has blessed us with a prison ministry that reaches men and women in every state prison in California, L.A. County Jail, some federal prisons around the country, and prisons in Oregon, Arizona, Colorado, Texas, Missouri and Michigan. We have well over 400 people doing our Bible studies and Christ-centered 12-Step program by correspondence. 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 recently:

Raymond Gutkosky, CSATF State Prison, Corcoran, CA - "Thank you again for your 12-Step program and the Bible studies. The power of our Lord Jesus is in every word and I can feel it in my heart, as I feel my life changing for the better every day. Thank you both for your love and support. God bless you, Ray"

Carlos Lopez, Kern Valley State Prison, Delano, CA - "I'm so excited to finally finish the 12-Step program. This 12-Step program has helped me a lot in my life, and brought me closer to my Higher Power, something I never thought would happen, considering the kind of lifestyle I was living. This program has helped me open my eyes to all the negative things I was doing, which was hurting myself and all my loved ones. It's made me a better human being, and has put me on the right path, and has made me find a new friend in God. I would very much like to start your Romans Bible Study Course now. Thank you, and may God bless you always, love, Carlos"

Charles Hunter, California Institution for Men, Chino, CA - "I want to thank you both so much for all your love and support you have given me. I am very anti-social, and it's good to be able to release all my anger and bitterness I've bottled up over the years. I don't think I could've even been more honest in my Fourth Step inventory if I had to do it in person. It didn't seem too hard to admit to God all my wrongs, since He's already paid for my sins on the cross. At first, it was kinda hard to bring back up all the wrongs I've done in my life, but now that I'm starting to understand how many people I hurt, the wrongs done to me look petty. It's so hard for me to forgive myself for all the pain and hurt I've caused, and to think Jesus paid for it all on the cross! I hardly feel worthy of His mercy and grace, but it's because of His mercy and grace that I'm saved. I am just a babe in Christ, but it is my life-long decision to love and praise our Lord for the rest of my life on earth and in heaven. In Christ, Charles."

Joaquin Chavarria, Centinela State Prison, Imperial, CA - "Just wanted to write and thank you for

the lovely pictures you sent me of your beach outreach and going out to feed the homeless. The photos really touched my heart to see how God works and moves in others' lives by all your love and hard work. I hope one day to be able to do the same, as God continues to work in my life with helping others in here. Thanks for all you guys do in helping us inmates in here. May God be with you guys always, Joaquin Chavarria"

L. C. Cunningham, Kern Valley State Prison, Delano, CA - "Thank you so much for the opportunity to take your 12-Step course and Bible studies. I have grown so much in God's word, and have learned the importance of forgiveness. I truly enjoy reading your letters and seeing the wonderful work you and your Christian brothers and sisters are doing in the name of Christ. I want to thank you personally for the many hours of hard work you put in for the prison ministries and giving to the homeless, as well as all of God's work you do. It is our job as Christians to be His humble servants. I am still learning how to be so myself, and your example really helps lead me down that right road. Your brother in Christ, L.C."

Miguel Pech, Avenal State Prison, Avenal, CA - "Sorry for not writing sooner, but I finally finished my Step 4 inventory. Through honesty and a lot of pain, I was able to complete my Step 4, and because of that, the peace of God is even stronger in my life today. I held nothing back, and opened my heart, and I feel like I'm having a breakthrough in my recovery. Thank you both so much for your support and encouragement in our Jesus Christ. Love and respect, Miguel"

Raye Simmons, Soledad State Prison, Soledad, CA - "I received your letter with my Bible study assignments today. I must say, reading your letter describing your outreach to the homeless has touched me in a profound way. As I'm searching for the right words to write, I can't even see my paper because I'm so filled with tears of joy. As you describe the outreach, it touches me in so many ways, but the most important lesson to be learned is that just because a person is down and out, it doesn't mean that they don't have compassion for others. I loved hearing of the lady that wanted two pairs of socks for her and her son, but then sacrificed one of them to give to another who needed a pair. Also, the man that shared his meal with his dog. They are all very appreciative to receive help from people. I serve the Lord's will in here, but I really want to look into the eyes and heart of the homeless, and share their pain and concerns. I used to be self-centered, greedy and selfish, but now I would like to open a shelter for the homeless some day, and God has given me a passion to help others. Love, Raye"

Anthony Howard, Folsom State Prison, Represa, CA - "I give all thanks to God for getting me this far in life, as I continue to examine myself through Step 4, by learning to clean out the wreckage of my life and replace it with something more positive and constructive. I learn to put my faith and trust in God's hands. I cannot do this alone, especially being in an environment like this (prison). I have been in prison for a long time, but I am not the person who I used to be, and I no longer do the things I used to do that got me here in the first place. I thank God that I am learning to do things through Christ who strengthens me, and gives me the courage to stay focused and believe His word. I am very thankful to have wonderful people like you both who take time to write us letters and send us Bible lessons that keep us on the right path. I try to help other people in here, and I sit down and talk with some of the young men who seem so lost, and tell them they can make a difference by turning their life over to Jesus Christ. Sincerely yours, A. Howard"

Jose Martinez, CSATF State Prison, Corcoran, CA - "Thank you so much for this program Love Lifted Me Recovery. It's really helping me out a lot, as I reinvent my image and attitude for the better in my recovery. But we know this will never happen without God's will helping my mind set and giving

me self-control of my emotions. I'm determined to make that change on my new journey with the Lord.

Thank you and God bless you, and I hope to see you one day with whatever plan God has for us.

Sincerely, Jose Martinez”