

“Love Lifted Me Recovery” - January, 2018
Newsletter for October, November, December, 2017
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Web Site: www.Loveliftedmerecovery.com

The Maintenance Steps, Steps 10, 11 & 12 - In Step 10, you learn to keep short accounts or mini-accounts for each day. It is suggested that you keep a log of each day, so that you can see any patterns that may develop. Also, it is extremely important to put our thoughts down on paper, and talk with God about the day — both the good and the bad, whether we did what He had for us to do or not (there are sins of omission as well as sins of commission). They must be faced and prayed about, so we can get the job done as God leads. May the Lord bless you richly as you seek His will for your life.

In Step 11, we will be developing an even stronger prayer life with the Lord, seeking His will first for our life. In every decision we make and direction we take, we must let God speak to us through His Holy Spirit as we seek Him in prayer and meditation on His word. It is the Holy Spirit who gives us the strength and wisdom we need to live godly in Christ Jesus.

In Step 12, we will find that through the months of reading God’s word, we have found some favorite verses, and have memorized some of them. That is really great! The Psalmist said, “Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee.” In this phase of our recovery, we need to share and be equipped to share our healing process and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ with a sin-stained world. We pray that you will be able to stand firm on who you are in Christ, and be able to share Him effectively with the unsaved of this world. It is, of course, our prayer that our Lord will use you in a mighty way as you dedicate your life to service for the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

It’s important that we keep in mind that “soon this life will be past, and only what’s done for Christ will last.” In His love and service, Pastor Tom

Monthly Evangelistic Outreach to Venice Beach

Saturday, October 7, 2017 - For today’s outreach, we had a great ministry team of people which consisted of Tom, Dottie, Frank, Mitch, Ararat, Moses, Raul (first-timer), Johnny, Keith, Bob, Shami and Sheldon. We were blessed to have lots of things to provide for the physical needs of the homeless, and as usual, we always give out gospel tracts to provide for their spiritual needs. We had 168 lunches, lots of socks, hygiene/toiletry packets, used clothing and shoes, and a large number of knit hats especially made for our outreach “with love” by my friend Debbie, and sent to us from Phoenix, AZ.

The weather is getting cooler, especially at night, so the knit hats, jackets, sweatshirts, and even a few blankets we gave out to the homeless were much appreciated. Raul said he used to do ministry, and he was so blessed to be back doing work for the Lord again. Moses said he prayed for one man for his health and healing, and afterwards, the man quoted some Scripture and it blessed everyone. Mitch and his group went down the alleys and found a lot of homeless people there, and we thought maybe the police had come by and shooed them off the Boardwalk, and they had gone there to hide out until it was safe to go back. Sheldon was amazed that he found a man who needed a size 44 waist pants, and he gave a pair of jeans and shorts in that size to the man. Sheldon offered one man a lunch, and he said that he had already gotten one from Mitch. After we gave out everything to the homeless, we continued to hand out gospel tracts to the people just walking up and down the Boardwalk. We trust God to bring forth a harvest from the seed that has been planted.

“Now the parable is this: The SEED is the WORD of GOD. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their HEARTS, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rocky soil are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation (testing) FALL AWAY. And the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a NOBLE and GOOD HEART, keep it and bear fruit with patience.” (Luke 8:4-15)

Saturday, November 4, 2017 - The night before the outreach, we got a call from Frank out at the Bible Tabernacle in Canyon Country, and he said they didn't have anyone to drive the van, so they couldn't come. We prayed for the Lord to send us enough people to carry all the lunches and clothing and things, and we also prayed for good weather, because rain was supposed to be coming later in the day or evening. Well, only Shami and Keith showed up, so Tom even went out to the Boardwalk with us (he usually stays home and prays), and we had the two small groups to carry everything. The weather was beautiful, so we were grateful for that, and we actually didn't have any problems giving out 169 lunches, tons of socks and toiletry/hygiene packets, used clothing, and knit hats, so our outreach was a success! God doesn't need a big army of people, He just needs a few dedicated bodies, and He took care of everything (like Gideon, in the Book of Judges). Shami and Keith said they saw a lot of new homeless people, and not many of their "regulars". On the way back, they talked with a man with a boom box who shared his testimony, and said he was a former addict. He said the Lord set him free of all addictions, filled him with the Holy Spirit and now he was ministering to others there on the Boardwalk. His name is Don. Tom pulled the big wagon full of lunches, and he was huffin' and puffin', and I know his back was hurting, but he managed. For the most part, everyone of the homeless people were thankful to receive food and the other items, but Tom and I did run into a few picky ones. You've heard of the expression "Beggars can't be choosers"? Well, I guess some of them can, because a few people wanted to know what was in the lunches before they would take one. We said that it was food, and if you're hungry, you can have a lunch. If there's something in there you don't like, give it to someone else. But really, most of the people were very grateful and thankful. We did hand out some gospel tracts (there's also a tract in each lunch), but we had our hands full just giving out the stuff to the homeless, so not as many tracts as usual were distributed. Tom was especially blessed by a young homeless man who came up to him and asked for prayer. Tom prayed with him, and he said it was a good feeling to have someone ask for prayer. To God be the glory!

Saturday, December 2, 2017 - Today, for our monthly beach outreach, the people who came to help us were Johnny, Cody, Keith, Sheldon, Apple, Suchart, Kathleen, Bob, and Tony. Tom stayed home to provide prayer cover, and I went out with the others. We had three carloads of people and stuff, which included, 168 lunches, lots of socks, used clothing (especially quite a few sweatshirts and jackets), toiletry/hygiene packets, and about ten backpacks for the homeless. Sheldon said the people who received the backpacks were overwhelmed with joy. Everyone was very thankful for the food, and we had some mittens that were received with joy, because the nights are getting colder. One young man asked if we had a zip-up hoodie jacket, and I just happened to have a nice, thick one that he was thrilled to get, and he put it on right away. Johnny, Cody and Keith actually walked out on the beach (usually we just stick to the Boardwalk), and they found some homeless people out there. One group of young people they found were very grateful to receive the lunches and some clothing, and the young woman who was pregnant put her new shirt on right away. It was Kathleen's first time to go out with us, and she said her heart really went out to the homeless people, because she could see how difficult things were for them. She was also concerned for those who had dogs, and she had brought some dog food and treats she gave to them. We are planning to have more dog food for our upcoming

outreaches, as the homeless people should not have to give up some of their own food for their pets. Tony prayed with a lot of the homeless people, and he said they really appreciated someone being willing to listen to their problems, as well as the prayers. Everyone got a gospel tract in their lunch, and we also handed out many tracts to the people who were just down at the Boardwalk for the day.

Prison Ministry

Our prison ministry reaches men and women in every state prison in California, some federal prisons around the country, and prisons and jails in Oregon, Arizona, Missouri, Texas, Oklahoma and Michigan. We have well over 400 people doing our Bible studies and 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:

Esteban Garcia, Calipatria State Prison, Calipatria, CA - "Thank you for all that you do for us prisoners, and also for the homeless. I have been with Love Lifted Me for about one year now, and I'm doing the Romans Bible study and the 12-Step program. I can't quite come up with the correct words to express my gratitude. Words seem inadequate to tell you what your program has done for my life. I thank our Lord for your ministry. I hope one day to be out, so that I can join you guys in your outreach, but I know that is up to God, and I put my life in His hands. Sincerely, Esteban"

Bernard Plummer, Solano State Prison, Vacaville - "Truly I thank you more than the both of you can imagine. I love you both, and yes, it will be an honor and a blessing to start the 12-Step program again from the beginning! You two have been the best thing in my life. Lessons 33 & 34 of the John Bible study are enclosed, and I will send in my Step One lessons shortly. God bless, Bernard Plummer"

Michael Foster, Centinela State Prison, Imperial, CA - "Greetings in the name of Jesus! Thank you for your Bible study for Steps 6 & 7 and the study in Ephesians. It made my day and brought me joy. These Steps are so good because they are based on the word of God, and God's word reaches so far into every area of our lives, and leaves nothing unturned. It also heals, strengthens, restores, enlightens, and sets us free. I did not know that "accepted" means "highly favored and honored with blessings". That's awesome to know how our Heavenly Father feels about us. Also, your letter was touching to see how people react to you all passing out blessings to the homeless in the name of Jesus. It almost brought tears to my eyes. Love, Michael"

Benjamin Jung, California Men's Colony, San Luis Obispo, CA - "I received your letter and the studies, and I feel like I am getting to know you both more and more through your letters. Your dedication, commitment and sacrifice to God's children is appreciated and is a reflection of what it is to be Christlike. It was very humbling to read of your day-to-day routine. I am motivated to do even more to help others. I can't do much, but God has put it in my heart to donate a book of stamps, which is enclosed. I hope it will help. I look forward to doing more to help and assist you in the future. Your brother in Christ, Benjamin Jung"

Adolfo Real, Jr., Calipatria State Prison, Calipatria, CA - "Whenever I get your letters, it puts a smile on this old fools face. Yes, I'm only 47, but when I look around here at times, I have children older than some of these inmates. I just want to write you two to show my gratitude for all the things you do, especially helping me through a lot of difficult times. I am doing the 12-Steps as well as the Romans Bible study. I enjoy them, and they help me in growing closer to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thank you for walking me through the 12-Steps. I do it also in here, but I found that with a

combination of the prison's A.A. and your 12-Step program, it is much more easy to understand. May God bless you, love, Adolfo ("Fofu") Real, Jr."

Frank G. Martin, California Men's Colony, San Luis Obispo, CA - "Your ministry has been very instrumental in my spiritual growth and success in my sobriety. I just want to say "thank you" for all that you do for the incarcerated. You both are truly a God send, and I love you both! Your Bible courses have kept me spiritually grounded, especially after my parole denial in 2014. The lessons have kept me busy in God's word and focused on what's important. Peace and love! Frank"

Mary Jane Richardson, California Institution for Women, Corona, CA - "You two are the greatest! I sit here answering the questions in this Step and you won't believe how this Step is reflecting my life at this moment. I'm going to come away from these 12-Step lessons definitely a changed person. At age 63, who would've thought? Blessings to both of you, Janie"

Geno Gomez, Calipatria State Prison, Calipatria, CA - "It's been over a year since I've been going to church, and the Lord has blessed me with so much, and I can't even begin to tell you how many doors He has opened for me. I went from being in my cell all day to being out of my cell every day and placed in great programs. Before I started going to church, I never could get into these programs. I finally got sick and tired of being sick and tired, and have been on this Journey with Jesus Christ for some time now. I pay attention to everything, and I see the Lord has picked me up and put me on His shoulders, and He is carrying me on this part of my journey. I threw my hands up, because I couldn't do it without Him. As I sit here writing you this letter, I'm getting choked up and tears are in my eyes. I had to back up and wipe my eyes, because I didn't want my cellie to see me. I know God has a plan in my life, and I thank you for helping me along on my journey. God bless you, love, Geno"

Daniel James Peck, Stephens County Jail, Duncan, Oklahoma - "I would like to start by telling you how much I appreciate you allowing me to join in your Bible studies. It was a jailor here who looked up Bible study courses and gave me your name and address, and that's when I wrote to you. And now I see that you have a 12-Step correspondence course, and I would love to take both courses. I think it's amazing what you do to help people in their relationship with God and their recovery - you are a big inspiration to me. I want to dedicate my life to Jesus Christ and helping others become close to Him. Sincerely, Daniel James Peck"

Steven Webb, R. J. Donovan State Prison, San Diego, CA - "I thank you for reaching out to us in prison, and for feeding the homeless in Venice. It's because of your dedication to the Lord that gives opportunity for people like me to experience His love. I remember when I first started writing to you, I was not a Believer, but a pagan. I got saved during the Christian program they do here in prison called KAIROS, and everything changed for me. Your Bible studies have helped keep me on track with the Lord. Warm regards, Steven"

Rufus A. Avent, Jr., Folsom State Prison, Represa, CA - "Thanks for the certificate I just received. I'm highly appreciative. I started with you guys as a broken man, struggling with my addictions and with anger and impulse issues. Thanks to you guys, I wrote my first testimony, and I had my first experience with the Holy Spirit's power as He just took over. Also, I got one of your letters, and it touched me, and I was on fire for the Lord. I went to my x-ray appointment, and I told the x-ray lady about your ministry, and we prayed for each other, and we both cried like babies. I hadn't cried in over twenty years, so it was cleansing. Then, I was telling someone on the yard about how God has changed my life, my attitude and my actions, and most importantly my friends. Today, I am 32 months clean and sober, thank You, Lord! Thank you for helping me get closer to the Lord and building a

relationship with our Lord and Savior, He is good. Love and loyalty, Rufus”