“Love Lifted Me Recovery” - April, 2026

Newsletter for January, February, March, 2026

Pastors/Chaplains Tom & Dottie Hooper
Web Site: www.Loveliftedmerecovery.com

A Psalm of Encouragement in Tough Times

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Though an army should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war should rise against me, in this I will be confident. One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple. For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me..... Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord. Teach me Your way, O Lord, and lead me in a smooth path, because of my enemies.... I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the Lord!” (Psalm 27:1, 3-6, 11, 13-14).

Monthly Evangelistic Outreach to Venice Beach

This year, in March, **we celebrate twenty-two years of doing this beach outreach**. Praise the Lord!

Saturdays, January 3 & 10, 2026 - Our usual day for the outreach had to be canceled because of heavy rain, but we went the next Saturday. When it rains, there would not be anyone down at the Boardwalk, so we trusted the Lord that He had a better day for us to go. The Lord sent forth laborers into His harvest field for today, and they were: Tom, Dottie, Andrew, Kathleen, Felipe and Ulysses. Tom stayed at home to keep us covered with prayer. We had 183 lunches, hygiene/toiletry packets, socks and used clothing, dog food and cat food for those with pets, and lots of warm, heavy jackets and blankets, and also some sleeping bags for the homeless. Andrew, Kathleen and I went to the north end of the Boardwalk, and Felipe and Ulysses went to the south end. Last Saturday, Felipe and Ulysses went out even in the rain, and they found a lot of homeless people in tents on a side street by Costco, under the freeway overpasses on Sepulveda Blvd., on the streets in tents on Glencoe, Beethoven, and Centinela Avenues in West L.A., and around the Windward Circle in Venice. Felipe had our lunches, clothing and hygiene packets, and also some extra food, blankets, tents, and rain ponchos from other organizations and people who donated to him. He said they had a great time and gave out everything. So, today was a second round for Felipe and Ulysses - they did double-duty and are certainly dedicated servants of Christ! Praise the Lord! Andrew, Kathleen and I were still unloading the car when Robbie came by, and he took a lunch, a warm jacket, and a sleeping bag. A man named Mark was shirtless and we gave him a long-sleeved shirt, a jacket, a lunch, a hat, a towel, and dog food for his pitbull. A man named Lowayne got a warm sweater, a lunch, toiletries and some other things. A man named Eric was up on the grassy area, and I gave him two lunches, some toiletries and clothing. I said, “Have a blessed day” as I left, and he said, “You’ve already blessed me!” Many others got jackets, sweatshirts, food and other clothing. One man said he was living in his car, and he got a warm sweater, lunch and other things. Another man opened his lunch and said, “I’m going to eat the Vienna sausages and applesauce now, and save the granola bars for later.” As we were walking back to the car, Andrew saw some people who had already gotten lunches and were eating them, and they said, “These lunches are great! You really hooked us up!” Everyone was so happy and blessed to get all these things for their physical needs, and each lunch also contains a gospel booklet, so the word of God was given out to everyone. Kathleen said, “A friend who donates to the outreach always tells me to be safe. I did feel

safe. The area is monitored, unlike skid row. People are down and out but grateful and kind toward us." There were not as many people down at the Boardwalk as usual, so we headed up to Rose Ave & Third Avenue where there were many homeless people in tents. We also found Jean there, who lives in her van and is ninety-one years old. She was so glad to see us, and we gave her two lunches, a towel and wash cloth, some crossword puzzle books, and an "Our Daily Bread" in large print. She was parked by a laundromat where she was using their WiFi, but she said she pays the owner to use it. Finding Jean was just an extra blessing for us. We gave out all of our lunches, dog food, and most of the clothing. Felipe and Ulysses today went to the south end of the Venice Boardwalk, but just like us, found not as many homeless as usual, so they went to the streets. They found homeless people in the parking lots of Ralph's and other stores and restaurants, at the dog park on Westminister, and on Mindanao in Marina del Rey. They gave out all of our lunches plus some food Felipe picked up from the local food bank, and they gave out everything. We all had a blessed day serving the Lord.

Saturday, February 7, 2026 - God blessed us today with volunteers to go out and minister the gospel to those in need. Besides Tom and me, we had Sheldon, Kathleen, Andrew, Felipe, Ulysses, Anthony and Josue. Kathleen and I went to the north end of the Boardwalk, and Sheldon and Andrew went to the south end. Felipe, Ulysses, Anthony and Josue went to find homeless people on the streets. On the Boardwalk, we found 91-year-old Jean and her friend Leon, and we gave them lunches and some clothing. A very sweet Christian lady named Esther said a man beat her up badly last week, and she had to go to the ER. Her ribs were bruised, her arm was hurt, and the man sprayed something in her face and eyes. We prayed for her safety, since the man is still down there on the Boardwalk and the police didn't do anything to him. Esther is not homeless, and the man is not homeless, but there's always a lot of stuff that goes on down there at the Boardwalk. We gave a lunch and clothing to a man named Kyle, and he was very thankful. A young woman named Cody got a pair of sweatpants, some women's underwear, a pair of shoes, toiletries, a rain coat and a lunch. We saw a man pushing a grocery cart full of stuff and offered him a lunch. He said, "Oh, I recognize you, you're down here all the time and I trust your lunches not to be poison." The odd thing is that Andrew said they offered a man a lunch and he wouldn't take it, because he said it might be poison. Don't know if it was the same guy, and don't know if anyone was really poisoning people or if it's just paranoia from his mental illness. We found men outside at the Phoenix House, and their supervisor had on a hat that said "I Love Jesus", so we gave him a bunch of gospel tracts to hand out to the men there. There were not as many homeless people on the Boardwalk as usual, so we also went to the streets in Venice. Kathleen and I found Naomi and Dan, and we gave them a sleeping bag, a blanket, some lunches, dog food, and shirts and pants. Dan said the pants were his exact size. Another couple, Dermott and Victoria got a sleeping bag, dog and cat food for their pets, and various clothing items. They were so grateful and said they hadn't had anything to eat in a few days, so we gave them several lunches. Sheldon and Andrew saw a man on a bike and pulled up next to him and offered him a lunch, which he was very glad to get. We had made 182 lunches, but we had some lunches left over. Sheldon took some (he sees homeless people near his work), Kathleen took some (she sees homeless people near her church), and Tom and I will give out some to homeless people we see during the week. Felipe, Ulysses, Anthony and Josue ministered to homeless people in tents on a side street by Costco, under the freeway overpasses on Sepulveda Blvd., on Washington Blvd. to people in motor homes, and in the parking lots of Ralph's Market, Subway Sandwiches and McDonald's. They gave out all their lunches, clothing, dog food, sleeping bags and toiletries. Afterwards, they all went to the beach to enjoy the sunshine and ocean, and later, Felipe came by to pick up some of our leftover lunches, as he likes to give them out during the week, also. Every lunch contains a gospel tract, so we are ministering the gospel of Jesus Christ to people as well as meeting some of people's physical and material needs. and we also handed out gospel tracts to people who were just down at the beach for the day. Praise the Lord!

Saturday, March 7, 2026 - We had a good group of helpers today for our outreach to Venice Beach and the streets of our community to minister to the homeless in the name of Jesus. Besides Tom and

me, we had Sheldon, Eddy, Bonnie, Kathleen, Andrew, Felipe, and Ulysses. Kathleen, Bonnie and I went to the north end of the Boardwalk, and Sheldon, Eddy and Andrew went to the south end. Felipe and Ulysses went to find homeless people on the streets, and Tom stayed home to keep us all covered in prayer. We had 184 lunches, lots of socks and used clothing, especially jackets and warm coats and sweaters, as the weather is still pretty cold. We also had toiletry/hygiene packets, dog and cat food for those with pets, a few Bibles to give out, and a couple of sleeping bags. If you don't know or forgot what's in our lunches for the homeless, they contain a small can of Vienna sausages, a fruit cup, some cookies, several peanut butter or cheese crackers, and several granola bars or other "goodies" for dessert. Also, a bottle of water, a napkin and plastic fork, and a gospel tract. On the Boardwalk, Kathleen, Bonnie and I found Bill, who got some pants, shoes, a jacket, a lunch and some other things, and he was very happy. Next, we found Joseph, who said his nickname is "Shorty", and he and his girlfriend got a sleeping bag, some clothes and toiletries, as well as lunches. "Boston" got a pair of shoes in his correct size, because he said the ones he had were too tight. We saw Kyle, who remembered us from last month, and he was very thankful to get some food and clothing. Of course, we found 91-year-old Jean and her friend Leon, and we gave them lunches and some clothing, along with crossword puzzle books for Jean. At the Phoenix House, Robert the supervisor had on a hat that said "Jesus Paid It All" and we gave him a bunch of gospel tracts that he said he would gladly hand out to the men there. We talked to Esther, who had been beaten up by a man last month, and she said that man tried to attack someone else, and three homeless men beat him up and he had to go to the hospital. Hmmm.... maybe he got what he deserved? There were fewer homeless people than usual on the Boardwalk, so we headed out to the streets again, finding many people in tents along Rose Avenue and Third Street Catherine and Jessica got lunches and lots of clothing, and they were especially happy to get women's underwear. Catherine (she goes by "Cat") said she had just been to the church up the street to get some food, and I said, "We're the Church-on-Wheels, because we're giving this all out in the name of Jesus." She said, "Oh, the Church-on-Wheels - I like that!" A young man walking by with his dog needed a lunch, and we also gave him dog food for his dog. I asked him if he would like a Bible, and he said, "Oh, yes!" Sheldon, Eddy, and Andrew gave out a big suitcase, lots of clothing and most of their lunches. Eddy took notes on his phone of those who asked for prayer, and they were: Roy, for protection; Danny for healing; Rosa and Sophia for spiritual and physical healing; and Chip, for strength to stay walking with Jesus and avoid the temptations of evil there at the beach. Felipe and Ulysses covered the streets of Venice on the other side of town than our group, and he said they gave out all of their lunches and everything. Felipe said they found homeless people by the Venice Library, on a street where lots of people live in their motor homes, people in tents on a side street by Costco, and by the traffic circle in Venice.

Prison Ministry

God has blessed us with a prison ministry that reaches men and women in every state prison in California, some federal prisons around the country, and prisons and jails in several other states. We have 300 or so people doing our Bible studies and 12-Step program by correspondence. Most of them have found the Lord in prison, some have made rededications since coming to prison, and some have come to know Christ through our ministry. 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: This year, in January, **we celebrate twenty-five years of doing this prison ministry**. Praise the Lord!

John Diaz, Kern Valley State Prison, Delano, CA - "I would like to begin by thanking you for sending me the 12-Step lessons, the Romans Bible study lessons and the "Serenity" Bible, which I am so grateful to have. The best tool for my sobriety is to stay busy with positive and productive courses like this. Thank you for your time and dedication to help others succeed in life. Sincerely, John Diaz"

Joseph Alcoriza, CSATF State Prison, Corcoran, CA - "Thank you for the wonderful opportunity to study God's word with you, and thank you for all your updates of your daily routines and doing God's work and helping us here in prison. I am learning a lot from this correspondence course. It has enlightened me and given me hope. I love your 12-Step program. I was a lost man before taking this course, and now I am found. I am now a full-time follower of Jesus Christ. I have found my purpose and meaning in life, and that is serving God with all my heart and soul. You guys showed me the way. Thankfully yours, Joseph"

Timothy J. Risley, Salinas Valley State Prison, Soledad, CA - "Thank you for everything you've done and continue to do for me. I am happy to have been a part of Love Lifted Me Recovery Ministries since 2018, you guys have become a part of my family and you're a part of my future for many years to come. Love Lifted Me Recovery is becoming one of the most popular correspondence courses here in prison. Also, could you send me some of the Christian "comic books" to give to some of the guys I'm talking to every day? They seem to be interested in God's word, but they're having a difficult time following along, so I thought maybe the pictures in the "comic books" could help with teaching them. I promise you they will be put to good use. Love always, Tim"

Donald Edge, San Quentin State Prison, San Quentin, CA - "I had no idea that I have been with you since September, 2016 - that's almost ten years! Above all, I want you to know that I am so happy that God has placed you both in my life and as a part of my life's journey. Please keep me in your prayers. I've been extremely busy with doing homework, and also I facilitate two self-help groups here in SQ: a veteran's PTSD group and a re-entry organization. With forever gratitude, Donald"

Cesar E. Ronquillo, CSATF State Prison, Corcoran, CA - "I have completed your 12-Step course in which I was delighted to partake. It has helped me understand the Twelve Steps and now I facilitate two Twelve Step groups here at CSATF in F Yard. God has blessed me with so many opportunities and living a life of service has given me the insight to help the community in which I live, and to help spread His word as well. Through Christ Jesus, everything is possible, as long as I have hope, faith, strength and love in which is my foundation to all spiritual principles. God bless you both, Cesar"

David Ry, Calif. Health Care Facility, Stockton, CA - "I have great news! I am saved and washed by the blood of Jesus Christ. Also, I went to the Parole Board and I was given a grant for parole. Hallelujah! All I did was tell them about what God has done for me. I told them that five years ago, I was wallowing in sin and didn't have a clue of who I was. Then, I met Jesus and started reading the Bible and I prayed to God to send one person my way that could have an impact on my life for change, and He sent me twenty ministries, including yours, Love Lifted Me Recovery. Thank you for your obedience to God and your support all these years. Sincerely, David"

David Martinez, CSATF State Prison, Corcoran, CA - "Thank you for the photos of your beach outreach. I enjoyed seeing what some folks are doing out there in order to reach out to those less fortunate than we. I am in prison, serving a life sentence, but I feel very blessed to have a bed to sleep in and three square meals a day, a shower and a toilet to use. I realize that not everybody has those sorts of things today and I will keep them in my prayers. I am returning these latest lessons and look forward to receiving the next, as they help keep me focused on God's word. I continue to clean and sober today in no small part due to your efforts and these lessons. Sincerely, David"

Alberto Gonzalez, Calipatria State Prison, Calipatria, CA - "I would like to thank you very much for your letter and lessons I received. I appreciate it and it feels good to know there are good people out there in the real world that care for people like us in prison. I'm looking forward to my next lessons. God bless, Alberto"