

**“Love Lifted Me Recovery” - July, 2024**  
**Newsletter for April, May, June, 2024**  
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**Web Site: [www.Loveliftedmerecovery.com](http://www.Loveliftedmerecovery.com)**

**Amazing Grace**

**What is God’s grace all about?** *Grace* means unmerited or UN-EARNED favor. **God’s grace is being accepted and loved by God** when we have done NOTHING and CAN DO NOTHING to EARN or DESERVE it. In other words, you cannot earn your way to heaven by doing “good works”. Since you can’t EARN your salvation, you must **RECEIVE it by FAITH in Jesus Christ**, because God offers it to you by His grace.

•**Ephesians 2:8-9** “For by **GRACE** you have been saved **through FAITH**, and that not of yourselves, it is **the GIFT of God; NOT of WORKS**, lest anyone should boast.”

•**Titus 3:5-7** “**NOT by works of righteousness** which we have DONE, but according to His mercy **He saved us**; by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through **Jesus Christ our Savior**. That having been JUSTIFIED by His GRACE we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life”

**Pray this prayer, and RECEIVE Jesus Christ as your personal Savior today: Almighty God, I realize that I am a sinner, and that I cannot save myself. I am willing to REPENT and TURN AWAY from my sins, and accept the WAY that You have provided for me to be saved - JESUS! I believe in my heart that You, Lord JESUS are the CHRIST, the SON of the LIVING GOD. I believe that You, JESUS, are the sinless Son of God who PAID the PENALTY on the CROSS for MY SINS as You shed Your BLOOD for me. I believe You were RAISED from the DEAD - You are ALIVE and able to save me. I RECEIVE You as my Lord and Savior. Lord Jesus, come into my heart and take CONTROL of my life!**

If you have prayed this prayer **sincerely from your heart**, then the Bible says you are now a child of God! You have been **born again**, you have eternal life, and you have been SAVED from your sins (they are forgiven). God is now your Heavenly Father, and His Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, is living in you! (Romans 8:9) It is **the PERSON of Jesus Christ** who saves you, and your faith in Him, **NOT** any religious works or good deeds you may do.

## **Monthly Evangelistic Outreach to Venice Beach**

**Saturday, April 6, 2024** - Our ministry teams today consisted of Tom, me, Sheldon, Felipe, Ricardo, Brian, Ulysses, David, Lalo, Victor and Keith. For the homeless, we had 180 lunches, hygiene/toiletry packets, socks, used clothing (including jackets, knit hats and shoes), some blankets, and dog food for those that have dogs. Felipe, Ricardo, Ulysses, Brian, and David went to the homeless encampments under various freeway overpasses in Santa Monica, West LA and Playa del Rey. Victor, Lalo and I went to the north end of the Venice Boardwalk, and Sheldon and Keith went to the South end of the Boardwalk, and Tom stayed home to provide prayer cover. We gave out all of the clothes and shoes, and all but a few lunches. The leftover lunches will be given out as we see people on the streets or parking lots in town. The people who got the blankets were very thankful, as it is still very cold at night. A man named Elliott was so happy to get a nice leather jacket, and all the people who got shoes were thrilled to get shoes that fit them. We saw Jean, who lives in her van and is almost 89 years old, and she got a lunch, a knit hat, some toiletries and a washcloth. I also had a large-print “Our Daily Bread” and crossword

puzzle book for her. We saw Kim, who gave me a big hug, and another man who was near her said he remembered me. They all got lunches, toiletries and some clothing. Sheldon said it was a real blessing today, and one guy was so happy to get a lunch, he asked, "Are you Jesus?" Sheldon said, "No, but I work for Him." Another young man named Kai said he knew about the Bible Tabernacle, and that he was looking for a church. A young couple in a tent asked if there was anyone coming that offered shelter, and he told them about the Bible Tabernacle. Felipe said they had an "incredible" time giving out everything, and people really needed the clothes and personal hygiene items especially. At one location, there was music playing, and David asked a homeless woman to dance with him. Of course, he also gave her a lunch, and to the other people there. There is a gospel tract in every lunch, and we also handed out tracts in English and Spanish to people who were just down on the Boardwalk enjoying the nice day.

To give an example of how we give out the leftover lunches, I went to the "99-Cent Store" and saw a bunch of homeless people by the parking lot. I went over and asked if anyone needed something to eat, and they looked at me kind of funny. Then, one guy, who was wrapped in a blanket, said, "Oh, yes, please!" and held out his hand, and I gave him a lunch. Then I guess the others realized what it was and they asked for lunches, too. I ended up giving out five lunches. Kaela said she gave out seven lunches to homeless people by the 7-Eleven near her house. Another time, I was at McDonald's, and there were five homeless guys outside, and they were all very happy to get lunches.

**Saturday, May 4, 2024** - Our team members today were Tom, me, Felipe, Jose, David, Ricardo, Victor, Lalo and Keith. Tom stayed home to keep us covered in prayer, and Lalo and I went up to the north end of the Boardwalk. Victor and Keith went to the south end of the Boardwalk, and Felipe, Jose, David, and Ricardo went to the homeless encampments under the various freeway overpasses around West L.A. We did not see as many homeless people on the Boardwalk, so the city may have had a "sweep" and moved some of them off. I told Lalo we could look for homeless people along the side streets off of Lincoln Blvd., but when we got there, the whole street was closed off! Police were directing people to other streets, and Lalo said he could see a bunch of people up ahead on Lincoln. We didn't know what was happening, but we could not go where there were any homeless people, so Lalo and I had quite a few lunches left over. Later, we found out there was a Cinco de Mayo parade, and since we didn't see any parade at that time, they were probably just setting up and getting ready for it. Keith and Victor gave out all of their lunches, and we all gave out clothing, shoes, toiletry/hygiene packets, and also dog food for those with dogs. All the homeless people were thankful and happy to receive the food and other things for their physical comfort, and many of them were giving thanks to God, as it says in Second Corinthians 9:12-13, "For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through MANY THANKSGIVINGS to GOD, while through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your generous sharing with them and all men." Lalo and I saw Jean, who lives in her van, and she saw us before we got to her, and she came running out of her van (as fast as an 89-year-old can run) hollering, "Dottie, Dottie, over here!" She got a lunch, a towel and wash cloth, a knit hat, and some thick, warm socks. We asked one man if he wanted a pillow, and he said, "Oh, yes! I would love a pillow!" He also got a lunch and some clothing. Another man took a lunch and asked, "Are you the Christians?" We said "Yes," and he said, "You always have those little booklets inside," and we again said "Yes, we do." It didn't seem to keep him from taking a lunch, so praise the Lord! A man named Rishon had no shirt, and only a blanket around his shoulders. We gave him a lunch, two T-shirts, some socks and shoes, and he was full of smiles. He saw we had a roll of toilet paper, and asked if he could have that, also, so we gave it to him, and I gave him a big hug. One woman got a lunch and toiletries, and then she saw we had some personal wipes, and she was very happy to get a packet of wipes. Felipe, Jose, David, and Ricardo had a great time and gave out all of their lunches and clothing, and also reached homeless people along the streets and freeway entrances and exits. Some of the people were asking for money, but Felipe said,

“We gave them lunches instead of money, and a lot of them were terribly thirsty.” All of our lunches contain a bottle of water, and each lunch contains a gospel tract for their spiritual thirst, as well.

**“And Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who BELIEVES in Me shall never THIRST.’ (John 6:35)  
“And He said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will GIVE of the fountain of the WATER of life freely to him who THIRSTS.’” (Revelation 21:6)**

**Saturday, June 1, 2024** - God sent forth “laborers into the harvest” for us today, so besides Tom and me, we had Felipe, Ulysses, David, Sheldon, Kaela, Victor, and Christina. Felipe, Ulysses, and David went to various homeless groups in West L.A. and Venice, and also to a large group of homeless at Wilshire Blvd. and Bundy in the Ralph’s parking lot and Staples parking lot. The city seems to be moving homeless people off of the Boardwalk, but these may be some of them, now just on the streets. We are blessed that Felipe and his group make the effort to find these ones scattered about the city. Felipe said these people were really surprised when his group pulled up and started offering them food and clothing.

We find that many homeless people are surprised when we say we’re there to help them, as they are more used to people wanting them to move somewhere else. Victor, Sheldon and I went to the north end of the Venice Boardwalk, and Kaela and Christina went to the south end. We had 182 lunches, lots of socks, used clothing, shoes, blankets and hygiene/toiletry packets for the homeless. Some of the homeless people seem to have nicknames, and we gave out food and clothing and blankets to “Boston”, “Winter”, and “Flower” and they were all very thankful. As we walked away from Flower, she said, “Oh, let’s see what we have for lunch,” and she tore open her bag. Another lady got a lunch, and she said, “Oh, thank you, I’m so hungry!” Sheldon gave a lunch to a man named Christian, and he also prayed with him. Christian confessed that he is an alcoholic, but he was glad to have Sheldon pray for him. After we finished at the Boardwalk, we drove up to the Whole Foods store, and Victor saw a homeless man, and gave him two lunches, because he seemed to be in really bad shape. As he was giving the man the lunches, a woman came out of the store and offered to buy the man coffee, but he asked for a soda instead, and she went in and got him a soda. We gave out a few more lunches there, also. This was Christina’s first time going on the outreach, and she really liked it. We also handed out gospel tracts along the Boardwalk, in English, Spanish, and one in Korean. The Korean lady, one of the vendors, said her name is Esther, and she asked for a couple of lunches to give to homeless people if she saw someone in need. Felipe said, “We gave out all of the lunches and things with joy and pleasure.” We all had a great time, and all the homeless people were very grateful and happy to get some things for their physical comfort, and every lunch has a gospel tract inside for their spiritual comfort.

## **Prison Ministry**

**David Partain, Calif. Health Care Facility, Stockton, CA** - “It wouldn’t surprise me if you’d given up on me, because it’s been many months since my last mailing. I suffered a radical compound fracture on my femur that required emergency surgery, and now I’m recovering in the Calif. Health Care Facility in Stockton. I am recovering slowly, and I didn’t have your address for a while, but I finally received my property with the James Bible study lessons in it. Enclosed are my Bible lessons for James. I’ll close with the trust you are blessed in our Father’s loving care. Sincerely, David”

**Jorge Rodriguez, California State Prison LA County, Lancaster, CA** - “I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for teaching me and showing me how beautiful God really is. I have learned so much and I will continue being a good soldier for Jesus Christ. I highly appreciate your help with my 12-

Steps lessons, and I am applying what I have learned into my daily life, and I will carry the message to others. I would also like to continue doing your other Bible studies. Sincerely, Jorge”

**Tom Bertinuson, Calif. Health Care Facility, Stockton, CA** - “I just received the governor’s approval of my parole grant. If it was not for your help and guidance over the many years, none of this would have been possible. You kept me on track with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and without Him, nothing would be possible for any of us. So thank you and God bless you! Love, Tom”

**Jesus Romero, CTF Central, Soledad, CA** - “I want to thank you for continually sending my lessons and being diligent in the work of our Lord Jesus. Your lesson for Steps 6 & 7 on being diligent in our recovery and not procrastinating affected me greatly, and your words have helped me understand that we have to be diligent by earnest and energetic application of God’s word in our lives. I have been procrastinating, and I need to be more active in my recovery by using the power and strength of the Lord. May the Lord be glorified and continue to bless your work in His name. God bless you, Jesus Romero”

**Randall Houseman, Calif. Men’s Colony, San Luis Obispo, CA** - “I just wanted to say “thank you” from the bottom of my heart to the top for everything you guys have done for me. I am grateful to have you both in my life all of these years, and in different prisons, you’ve always been there and I appreciate all the love and guidance from you both as my friends, sponsors, and spiritual advisors. Bright blessings to everyone! Love and respect, Randall Ray Houseman”

**Alberto Hernandez, Calif. Health Care Facility, Stockton, CA** - “I have been doing your 12-Step program and Bible studies since 2013, and believe me, I’m very happy about it. I’m learning many things about the word of the Lord, I’m very grateful to both of you, because my life has changed a lot. I’m a new person, with good feelings and good mentality. I’m another person, a new man in Christ, thanks to God. God bless you, Alberto”

**Robert Alex Covington, Calif. Men’s Colony, San Luis Obispo, CA** - “I just finished Step 9, the making of amends. I made amends by writing letters to family members and friends. Also to my wife for what I put her through with my addictions. The hardest ones were to my uncle, grandmother and brother, however, they understood. I do believe this helped me make peace for past bad decisions, and I’m ready for Step Ten.. In Christ, your brother Alex”

**John Salazar, Calipatria State Prison, Calipatria, CA** - “I recently just finished the 12-Step program and I want to start doing one of your Bible study courses. I love your program, and you guys have been a light for me in my darkest days. You have always inspired me to be and stay on the right track, and you do make a difference, and I’m so grateful. From your brother in Christ, John”

**Timothy Hertzog, Calif. Health Care Facility, Stockton, CA** - “Your Bible studies and 12-Step program have sustained me over the past four years. I first wrote to you at the beginning of the Covid lockdowns, seeking help as our prison programs were being shut down, leaving us without a pastor or a place to hold services. The few of us that were able to get together shared in the responsibility of lesson planning, with each of us taking a different week. Your Bible studies came at a time when we needed them most. I was able to strengthen my knowledge of the Bible as well as guide others with the word of God. I was able to carry through even when our limited contact with the outside world seemed to diminish altogether. With your guidance, I was able to work all 12 Steps and have gained an understanding of myself and my addiction I never thought was possible. You both have been a beacon of light in my life, and I am committed to living in God’s light as I continue on my path. Sincerely, Timothy”