

“Love Lifted Me Recovery” - October, 2021
Newsletter for July, August, September, 2021
Pastors/Chaplains Tom & Dottie Hooper
LoveLiftedMeRecovery.com

Twelve Step Program

Love Lifted Me Recovery Ministries exists that men and women will reach their full potential in Christ Jesus by studying and putting into practice the principles set forth in the Bible, God's word (II Timothy 2:15). Our goal is to put into practice a loving Father's guidelines for a complete and joyful life, as set forth in His word, the Bible. We must expose our individual problems and face them, and repent of the sin they may have caused, so we as a people may be productive and equipped to share the healing and forgiving truths that God has provided for us through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. We believe the Bible is God's word, inspired by the Holy Spirit (II Peter 1:20-21). We enlist the "12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous" because we believe they work, and because the originators first trusted in Jesus Christ as their Higher Power. We believe these steps were given to mankind that we may heal and aid in the healing of others. This healing is free to all who seek it, but it will take honesty and commitment to defeat the enemy. The word of God will be our text, Jesus Christ our foundation, and the Holy Spirit our motivator, strength and power. We seek to reach out to anyone who is willing to try to better their lives and become better equipped for service to the Lord and our fellow man.

Monthly Evangelistic Outreach to Venice Beach

Saturday, July 3, 2021 - There was no outreach in July, because Dottie was out of commission with a broken arm.

Saturday, August 7, 2021 - We had been hearing for weeks that the L.A. County Sheriffs were herding all the homeless people off the beach and Boardwalk, so we didn't know what we would find down there. We had 178 lunches, lots of socks, toiletry/hygiene packets, used clothing, shoes, and some blankets and pillows to give to the homeless. Felipe showed up early, just getting off a night shift at work, and he took some lunches to give out in his neighborhood, which is the Hollywood area. We figured that would be okay, since we expected to find fewer homeless people at the beach, and we know there are plenty in Hollywood. The other two groups, who went to Venice Beach, were composed of: me, Shami, Johnny, Victor, Sheldon, Michael and Kaela. Tom stayed home to keep us covered in prayer. There were indeed fewer homeless people down at the beach, but we managed to give out almost all of the lunches there. The few we had left over, we gave out in another area, a few blocks from the beach, where homeless still had their tents set up, and they were thankful to get a lunch. Each lunch contains a bottle of water, a small can of Vienna sausages, a fruit cup, some crackers, granola bars and cookies, and most importantly, a gospel tract, so we were also ministering the gospel of Jesus Christ to each person. One woman was barefooted, and she was so happy to get a pair of sandals, and she put them on right then and there. Another woman saw a bright colored shirt and said, "This is just perfect for me!" We had pairs of long pants, jeans, and some shorts, and quite a few T-shirts, all of which were gladly taken by the homeless people we found. We did find Jean, the lady who lives in her van, and gave her a lunch, some socks, and a large-print "Our Daily Bread", which she really appreciates, because she's 85 years old and needs the large print. Johnny and Kaela were approached by a man who asked if he could pray for them.

He said he went by the nickname of “J-Man”, and he also asked where they went to church. They told him, and he actually showed up for our worship service at Sunrise Church on Sunday. He said he is a 68-year-old Vietnam war veteran, and we all welcomed him to church, and hope he will come again. After handing out everything to the homeless, we all continued down the Boardwalk giving out gospel tracts. Michael was recognized by a couple who knew him from his ministry that he does on Sundays at the Boardwalk. He and Eugene, another brother from the Bible Tabernacle, have a spot where they set up a table and do street witnessing and give out Bibles every Sunday afternoon.

Saturday, September 4, 2021 - Praise the Lord! Today was the day for our monthly outreach to Venice Beach. Besides Tom and me, the people who came to help us were: Johnny, Jacob, Kaela, Felipe, Victor, Jose, Sheldon, and Michael. Felipe and Jose came by on Friday and picked up the lunches they would be giving out to the homeless. Because of Felipe’s work schedule, he said he couldn’t come on Saturday, but we told him he could give out the lunches to the homeless in Hollywood, which is near where he lives. He brought with him Jose, who has come on the outreach with us before. Both Felipe and Jose, and also Victor, were doing our 12-Step program and Bible studies in prison, and they have been out for several years now. Last month, there were so few homeless down at the Boardwalk, we had lunches left over, so this is why we let Felipe and Jose give them out in a different area. The L. A. County Sheriffs had been moving all the homeless off the Boardwalk for the summer season. All our groups together gave out 180 lunches, lots of socks, toiletry/hygiene packets, used clothing, and a few blankets to the homeless. Johnny, Jacob, and Kaela said everyone was very grateful to receive the lunches and clothing. Victor said one woman almost cried when he gave her a lunch, she was so thankful. Sheldon said one man came up to him and just started talking, but when he saw Sheldon handing out lunches, he asked for one for himself, too. Sheldon said one woman got a lunch and some clothing, but then she asked if we had any women’s underwear. We didn’t at that time, but when we went back to the car to get more lunches and clothing, he saw some, and saved a pair for her. She was so thankful to get them. We had lots of T-shirts, which are always a favorite. One big guy asked if we had any T-shirts in a large size, and I found one in a triple X, and he was so happy, he gave me a big hug. One man who took a blanket said he needed it because the nights were getting colder. Next month, we will have more blankets and warm jackets to give out, too.. We gave a lunch to a man who plays the guitar down there almost every time we go, and I said to him, “We see you here all the time, but I don’t know your name.” He said his name is Dale, and he usually sings Johnny Cash songs, and sounds very much like him. We handed out quite a few gospel tracts to people who were just down at the beach, and each lunch we give to the homeless also contains a gospel tract. All in all, we had a great time down at the Venice Boardwalk, and we give God all the glory!

“Then He also said to him who invited Him, ‘When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor your rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind.

And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just.” Luke 14:12-24

Prison Ministry

The total number of inmates doing our 12-Step program and Bible studies is around 350-400. We have women in the women’s prisons: Central California Women’s Facility in Chowchilla, and California Institution for Women in Corona. We have men in the men’s prisons: San Quentin,

Soledad State Prison, Salinas Valley State Prison, Avenal State Prison, Solano State Prison, California Medical Facility State Prison in Vacaville, CA, California Correctional Institution in Tehachapi, Calif. Men's Colony in San Luis Obispo, Kern Valley State Prison, Chuckawalla Valley and Ironwood State Prisons in Blythe, CA, High Desert State Prison in Susanville, L.A. County State Prison in Lancaster, Mule Creek State Prison in Lone, Centinela State Prison in Imperial, Pleasant Valley State Prison in Coalinga, Chino State Prison, Calipatria State Prison, RJ Donovan State Prison in San Diego, two prisons in Corcoran, Calif., Folsom State Prison and CSP Sacramento in Represa, CA, Pelican Bay State Prison in Crescent City, and Sierra Conservation Center in Jamestown, CA. We have men in two new prisons, which are: Calif. Health Care Facility in Stockton, CA, and CAC in California City, CA. We also have a few inmates scattered across the country in Federal prisons.

Emigdio Preciado, Sierra Conservation Center, Jamestown, CA - "Thank you guys for your dedication and devotion to us here in prison, as your ministry helps us with our struggles. Your program helps me to get closer to Jesus, and to understand that I need Him to succeed in life and stay on the righteous path. I really appreciate the 12-Step lessons. They are helping me and others like me to understand the word of God and His blessings. Sincerely yours, Emigdio Preciado"

George Lowery, Avenal State Prison, Avenal, CA - "I have to tell you Steps 8 & 9 were tough for me. My sister is one of the ones I could make direct amends to, and I hadn't heard from her in about thirteen years. Just last week I got a letter from her, and I was really surprised. I started making amends to other people from my past, and I started to remember more and more, so my list ended up being very long, but I'm glad I did it. With Jesus in my life, things don't seem as bad as they used to be. I have to thank both of you for helping me along this path. Love, George"

Luis Villaneda, Folsom State Prison, Represa, CA - "I hope all is well with you and your family. I'm sorry I'm late with my lessons. I lost my grandmother in May. I never lost a family member since I've been in prison. It was hard for me, because she raised me, so that was "mom" for me. I'm doing better, I'm just taking it one day at a time. God bless you and your family. Luis V."

Paul Cain, Calipatria State Prison, Calipatria, CA - "Praise God! I'm thankful for you both. I'm participating in a discipleship small group in our dayroom weekly, with seven or eight Christian brothers. Your example and your ministry have made a profound difference in the lives of many of us, there's no doubt! Jesus takes us from where we were resigned to think we were, to where we were meant to be, via the cross. Your courses have helped me start right where I am, and His promises are true. I thank God for giving me the victory in Christ and breaking the chains that the enemy and my poor choices of the past had placed upon me. With godly love, called for his purpose, Paul"

Theresa Barroso, California Institution for Women, Corona, CA - "Thank you so much for the opportunity to do the 12-Steps through the Bible. It's helping me understand it in a whole new way. Thank you for taking the time and effort to work with people like me. May God bless you and your ministry. Sincerely, Theresa"

Jason Eurich, San Quentin State Prison, San Quentin, CA - "I just finished Step 5, and your lessons on forgiveness for Step 5 really touched me. I have worked through forgiveness for many before these lessons, and thought I had forgiven them, yet I realized I had not really let go of all the bitterness. These lessons helped me organize my thoughts and more deeply understand my own heart and awareness. God bless you both. Sincerely, Jason Eurich"

Diego M. Sobalvarro, Kern Valley State Prison, Delano, CA - "I truly enjoy working the 12-Steps with you guys, because it is Bible-based, and in my life, it was Jesus Christ who changed me from the inside. My process of change continues by daily renewing of my mind with the word of God. Thank you for all your help, support and prayers. I keep you both, your family and your ministry in my prayers always. May God continue to bless you. Your brother in Christ, Diego"

Jay Evans, Chuckawalla Valley State Prison, Blythe, CA - "I love you both, and I thank you, and I give God all the glory and praise for my changed life through you and your ministry, and your true devotion to the Lord. Thank you for sharing your love with me, for your continued love and support through the many years we've been together. Thank you for taking time out of your lives to make my life better, and for being a great example of a Christian family and of being of service to those in need. Thank you for helping me to learn and grow and mature in our Lord Jesus Christ. Love, Jay Evans"

Chris Cunningham, Kern Valley State Prison, Delano, CA - "I truly appreciate the kindness you show us guys in prison. Just so you know where I'm coming from, I've only been saved since March 27, 2021. I'll never forget the day that my life as I knew it ceased to exist, and I was born again to live a new life in Christ. Since I'm in the Hole, I've been figuring out how to study the Bible by myself. I've reached out to kind people like you who have generously provided me Bible studies and other resources, for which I will be forever grateful! I've been reading my Bible every day, and every Bible-related book I can get my hands on. I still have a long way to go as far as my walk is concerned, but I'm fully committed to surrendering my life to the Lord. I came here a violent, drug-addicted gang member, and after just a few months with the Lord, I'm a completely different person. Love in Jesus, Chris Cunningham"

Pao Jake Thao, Folsom State Prison, Represa, CA - "I've been a Christian since 2010, and I've waited a very long time to meet Christian brothers and sisters who are sincerely doing God's work, and I believe that the two of you are it. I wish to understand the words of God, the Bible, so that I may understand what is His will for me. I will write back later to see if there is a place for me in the 12-Step program, but in the meantime, please send me any Bible studies you have available. The Bible helps me to see things differently. I've learned to view all things, good or bad, as life learning lessons. I am who I am today because of the Bible. I thank God for allowing me to cross paths with a brother and sister in Christ like the two of you. Sincerely, Pao Jake Thao"

Carlos Lugo, Pelican Bay State Prison, Crescent City, CA - "I'm writing to you to inform you that I completed writing out my amends list for Steps 8 & 9. It was a humbling experience, hard to do, but well worth it. I believe I'm ready for the next step, Step 10. Thank you for the opportunity to be in your 12-Step program. I've gained a lot of insight since my participation in this curriculum. This program has challenged me like never before, and I look forward to the next lessons. Yours truly, Carlos"

Mitchell Savolt, Chuckawalla Valley State Prison, Blythe, CA - "I really enjoyed the Bible study and how it helps me reinforce my relationship with God through prayer, supplication and living my life in the fruit of the Spirit. These lessons have helped me stay sober for the last eleven years. Praise God! I pray that your ministry continues to do God's work in reaching out to the homeless and to us here in prison. We have been corresponding since 2011, so ten years now, and I have a lot of love for you guys, and you are always in my prayers. Thank you for everything, sincerely, Mitch"