

**“Love Lifted Me Recovery” - October, 2024**  
**Newsletter for July, August, September, 2024**  
**Pastors/Chaplains Tom & Dottie Hooper**  
**Web Site: [www.Loveliftedmerecovery.com](http://www.Loveliftedmerecovery.com)**

**Fear Not, Little Flock**

Is it really possible to live without fear, worry and anxiety in today's world? God's word tells us that it not only is possible, but we are commanded to “be not afraid” and to “not be anxious for anything.” There may be wars, calamities and terrors of all kinds out in the world, but the Lord is our Shepherd, and He will protect His flock. Not only will the Lord take care of us who are believers in Jesus in the here and now, but He has also promised that we shall eventually triumph and be the inheritors of the whole earth.

•**Luke 12:30-32** “For all these things do the nations of the world seek after; and your Father knows that you have need of these things. But rather seek the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added to you. Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

•**Matthew 5:3 & 5** “Blessed are the poor in spirit (humble), for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” “Blessed are the gentle (meek), for they shall inherit the earth.”

•**Psalm 27:1 & 3** “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 up against me, in this will I be confident.”

•**Psalm 23:1** “The Lord is my shepherd.....even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me, Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies....”

•**Matthew 6:31** “Therefore, DO NOT WORRY...”

•**Philippians 4:6** “Do not be ANXIOUS for anything....”

You can't obey the commands to “fear not” and “be anxious for nothing” unless you really trust God. You must trust that He won't make a mistake, that He has your best interest at heart, that He knows the future outcome of all the events that are happening, and that He has the ability to work everything out for your good. Fear is the opposite of faith, so how do you increase your faith in God and His ability to protect and take care of you? God's word says that our faith is increased as we read and take in His word. Romans 10:17, “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” As believers in Jesus Christ, we know that “God has NOT given us a spirit of FEAR, but of POWER and of LOVE and of a sound MIND.” (II Timothy 1:7).

•**Jeremiah 29:11** “‘For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans for welfare (your good) and not for calamity, to give you a future and a hope.’”

•**Romans 8:28** “And we know that ALL things WORK together for GOOD to those who LOVE GOD, to those who are the CALLED according to His purpose.”

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

**Saturday, July 6, 2024** - Praise the Lord! Our ministry teams today consisted of Tom, me, Kaela, Laura, Felipe, Jose, Sheldon, Victor, Christina, Ricardo, David and Ulysses. Sheldon, Victor and I went to the north end of the Boardwalk, Kaela, Laura and Christina covered the south end of the Boardwalk, and Tom stayed home to keep us covered in prayer. Felipe, Jose, Ricardo, David and Ulysses went out to the streets and store parking lots to find homeless people. We had 184 lunches, lots of socks, used clothing,

hygiene/toiletry packets, and some shoes to give to the homeless, and dog food for those who had dogs. If you've forgotten, or didn't know what we put in the lunches, it's all canned, bottled and packaged stuff, so it will keep. We put in a bottle of water, a can of Vienna sausages with the flip-top lid, a fruit or applesauce cup, some peanut butter crackers, and five granola bars or other snacks. There is also a napkin, plastic fork and a gospel tract in each lunch. Some people were so hungry, we saw them eating the Vienna sausages with their fingers - they hadn't even looked to find the plastic fork there. Sheldon saw a man, and he didn't know if he was homeless or not. Sheldon asked if the man would like a lunch, and his eyes just lit up, and he said, "Oh, yes, please!" We saw another group of four men, and they were sitting under one of those tent-like canopy things, so we didn't think they were homeless. As we were coming back, I asked them if they needed anything to eat, and they said, "Oh, yeah, thank you so much!" It turned out they were homeless, but they were holding a place for one of the vendors who would be setting up later. They got some clothing and toiletries, also, and were very happy. Everyone was very grateful and thankful to get the food and clothing. One woman asked if we had a dress, and I found one that looked like it would fit her. Many of the men asked for pants and shorts, and the T-shirts were also very popular items. Kaela's group gave out all their lunches, and my group had a few left over, so we went up to the Whole Foods parking lot and found a few people there. Sheldon said one man was scratching himself raw and had a big open wound on his arm, but he gladly took a lunch. Victor said he's always honored and happy to be of service to others, and we all had a good time. Felipe, Jose, Ricardo, David and Ulysses went to the streets of Venice, Culver City and West Los Angeles, and Felipe said, "We kept ourselves busy searching for homeless people, even in alleys." We thank the Lord for their diligence in seeking out people to whom they could minister the gospel of Jesus Christ, as well as for the physical needs of the homeless. Felipe said they gave out all the food and clothing, even a pair of very large pants, as they found a big guy who fit them perfectly. On the Venice Boardwalk, we also passed out gospel tracts, in English and Spanish, to people who were just down at the beach for the day. Our job is just to give out the gospel, and it's God's work of bringing them to salvation by faith in Jesus Christ.

**Saturday, August 3, 2024** - The weather was unusually cool and nice, a little overcast, but that's okay. Usually, we roast in the heat on the August outreach. Also, the first weekend of August is usually the Hare Krishnas' big festival down at the beach. They call it "Festival of the Chariots", but there are no chariots that I know of, just a lot of demons. I always pray before the outreach, and Tom stays home to pray while we are down there, but we did extra spiritual warfare this time against the Krishna demons. Satan comes packaged in many names, whatever appeals to certain people, and I guess this stuff appeals to some. We had 184 lunches for the homeless, lots of socks, hygiene/toiletry packets, shoes, a few blankets, and also dog food for those who had dogs. The Lord brought us some fabulous volunteers for the outreach, besides Tom and me, and we had Kaela, Felipe, Christina, Ricardo, David, Ulysses, and Dominic. Dominic used to do our 12-Step program and Bible studies when he was in prison, and he has been out for about a year. We were very happy to meet him finally, and glad he could come on the outreach and help us. Dominic and I went to the north end of the Boardwalk, Kaela and Christina covered the south end of the Boardwalk, and Tom stayed home to keep us covered in prayer. Felipe, Ricardo, David and Ulysses went out to the streets, alleys and store parking lots in Venice and West Los Angeles/Playa del Rey to find homeless people. Dominic and I gave lunches, clothing and toiletries to Lane, Gene, Marco and Flower. I remembered Flower from last time, and she also got a blanket and a bungee cord. We gave out almost everything, and we didn't get names for many of the people, but they were all very grateful and thankful. The people who got the shoes were all extremely happy to find almost new shoes in their exact size. We met Irish Dave, and he remembered me and I him from one time we saw him up by the Whole Foods store. He needed dog food for his elderly bulldog named Bunkers, and he told us Bunkers had recently become blind. Everyone was happy and grateful to get food and clothing and toiletries for their physical needs, and each lunch contains a gospel tract for their spiritual needs. At the Phoenix House, the men were all out in the yard for a break, but they are not allowed to take anything from us directly, so we gave a bunch of tracts to the supervisor, Sam, and also a couple of pairs of pants

for some of the guys living there. Sam said he would hand out the tracts to the men. Dominic was really great in passing out tracts, and he had even brought some of his own to give out. When those ran out, I gave him some of the Chick tracts we had, and we both gave out a lot of tracts in English and Spanish. As Dominic was giving out the gospel tracts, one woman said, "No" and started to walk away. Then, she turned back and said she would take one, and she said, "I had a really bad night last night." We asked if we could pray for her there, but she didn't want to pray in public, but we said we would pray for her at home. She seemed fine with that. Dominic said it was encouraging to see that the Lord had prompted her to turn back and take a gospel tract after all. Kaela said there were not as many people as usual at their end of the Boardwalk, but they gave out all but four of the lunches, and had a good time. Felipe, Ricardo, David and Ulysses gave out all of their lunches and clothing, and Felipe always says they have a great time doing it. They went along the streets in Venice and by the freeway in Playa del Rey, and they even saw some families with children, and gave them all lunches. Every lunch we give out has a gospel tract inside, so the word of God is going forth. We all had a blessed time, and were able to bless many people with things they needed for their physical comfort, and also for their spiritual needs.

**Saturday, September 7, 2024** - The Lord brought us some helpers today, so besides Tom and me, we had Kaela, Felipe, Christina, Ricardo, David, Ulysses, and Dominic. We had 183 lunches, lots of socks, used clothing, hygiene/toiletry packets, and some shoes to give to the homeless, and dog food for those who had dogs. Dominic and I went to the north end of the Boardwalk, and the first person we saw was a guy named Charlie, and he got a lunch, toiletries and a pair of swim trunks. He was so happy, and he said he was going to go in the ocean today, because it was so hot. We saw two men sitting in the shade, and one had a hat, but the other didn't. I asked him if he would like the straw hat we had, and he was very happy to get it. We gave out lunches and clothing to several more individuals, and then we saw a whole bunch of people standing in line waiting for another group that gives out food. I don't think this group is Christian, so we asked people if they would like one of our lunches, too. Our lunches all contain a gospel tract of one kind or another. So many people came over to us, we almost got mobbed, and we didn't have a chance to ask people's names, although many looked familiar. People were even reaching into my bag and asking, "Can I have this?" or "Can I have these socks?" or whatever. One homeless man in the line kept asking, "What organization are you with?" and we told him we were just with Jesus, and that we went to different churches. Finally, I also gave him one of the tracts that has our ministry information on the back, and that seemed to satisfy him. After that, we went on down the Boardwalk and ended up giving out all the clothing and all but eight lunches. The leftover lunches can be given out during the week to homeless people we see while out driving around. Dominic and I also handed out gospel tracts to people just walking about on the Boardwalk. We gave out gospel tracts in English, some Spanish, and one in Russian. I gave a tract to one man and he asked what it was about. I said it was about God and Jesus, and he said he was Muslim. I said, "Well, you can still read about it, can't you?" and he said, "Yes." A young man was playing the guitar and had his guitar case opened for donations, so I put a lunch, a tract and a couple of bucks in his case. Kaela and Christina took the south end of the Boardwalk and gave out all of their lunches. They said everyone was very grateful and happy to get a lunch, as usual. Felipe, Ricardo, David, and Ulysses went to the homeless out on the streets, under freeway overpasses, and to six different public parks in the community. We asked Felipe if he had difficulty finding any homeless people, and he said, "Oh, boy! Not at all! Mostly homeless people were under bridges and in the parks, because people were wanting the shade of the trees because of the hot spell." Felipe also took some photos, but he said he asked permission before taking their pictures. He said, "Everything went wonderful, and we gave out all the lunches and clothes, and had lots of fun."

## **Prison Ministry**

**David Matlock, Sr., CSATF, Corcoran, CA** - "Please forgive the long delay, but it has been a trying time

for me and the ministry that God has entrusted me with here in prison. With lockdowns, quarantines, drama, back-biting and other attacks, and what goes along with suffering for Christ's sake. Hallelujah! Jesus has remained faithful, helping me to be an overcoming conqueror and counting it all joy. Thank you, Pastor Tom and sister Dottie for all your faithful labor of love. You have impacted my life and spiritual walk by feeding me the truth of God's word, and I have gained insight to grow and remain teachable. Your fellow bondservant in Christ, David"

**Don Avey, Mule Creek State Prison, Lone, CA** - "Thank you for your Bible-based 12-Step program. I gave my whole life to Jesus six years ago, and my life has never been the same. I don't even go by my old nickname anymore, why? 'cause I'm not that guy anymore. I no longer use heroin in here. I no longer cuss. I no longer run the poker table or gamble at all. I no longer do horoscopes, or lying, cheating, coveting other people's riches, etc., etc. I have confessed and turned over everything from my past to the Lord, and I only want to serve Him and be a walking billboard for Jesus. I also wanted to tell you I shared the photos you sent me of your beach outreach with some of the Christian brothers here on Level 2 at Mule Creek. They were all so thankful to see you all in action for Jesus, and they all said basically the same thing, "What a wonderful ministry!" Your brother in Christ, Don Avey"

**George R. Palomar, CSP Sacramento ("New Folsom"), Represa, CA** - "I'm doing your 12-Step program and your Romans Bible study. In my 43-plus years of Bible study, these are by far the greatest of all! Thank you so very much, George"

**Aram Sarukhanyan, CSATF, Corcoran, CA** - "First of all, thank you very much for everything you guys do for the family of God and also for those who are outside. Your ministry truly shows God's love for others, and the name of our Father is glorified. I am praying that God will continue to bless you both with health, strength and protection, I am very happy to be a part of your ministry, and for the transformation of my life through your 12-Step program and Bible studies. Sincerely, Aram"

**Vu Pham, Folsom State Prison, Represa, CA** - "First and foremost, I would like to say "thank you" Tom and Dottie, for taking time to write and also help me with the 12-Steps. I read your letters and all the stuff you do like helping homeless people and others. You are showing God's love and kindness to them and those people are blessed to have you in their lives. Sincerely, Vu"

**Erwin J. Sanchez, CSATF, Corcoran, CA** - "I just finished the lessons for Step Ten, and I am putting into practice the "Maintenance Steps". Thank you both so much for all you do for me and the others that you bless. My family feels the change in me, and I am reaching peace in my life. God continues to help me and I am truly grateful for your help. Sincerely, Erwin J. Sanchez"

**Bradley Ware, San Quentin State Prison, San Quentin, CA** - "I want you to know I really learned a lot out of your last lessons and letter. I want you two to know how much I appreciate all you do for me and everyone in here. I know I will get out some day, because I'm not a bad person, I just made a lot of bad choices. I need to let go and let God take control. God bless, Bradley"

**Jonathan David Watson, Corcoran State Prison, Corcoran, CA** - "I just wanted to thank you for the most wonderful Bible studies. As always, you've brought warmth to my heart and a big smile to my face. Over these past five years, you and your ministry have given me hope. You never gave up on me, even though I was a Mormon and had been taught many wrong things by them over the years. I am no longer attending their church services and I finally realize we do NOT believe in the same God, and I am only doing your Bible studies. Oh, my mother is so, so happy and grateful to you as well, because she finally gave her life to Jesus back in 2016. Thank you for believing in me. Love, your brother in Christ, Dave"