

“Love Lifted Me Recovery” - October, 2026

Newsletter for July, August, September, 2026

Pastors/Chaplains Tom & Dottie Hooper

Web Site: www.Loveliftedmerecovery.com

In the Bible, in the book of Romans, in describing the wonderful salvation we have in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Apostle Paul uses the expression **“much more”** several times. This expression is used as a contrast to show us how our New Covenant in the blood of Jesus is so much better than any other covenant God had with mankind before. Hebrews 8:6 tells us that Jesus is the “Mediator of a **BETTER covenant**, which was established **on BETTER promises**,” and Hebrews 11:39-40 says that the Old Testament heroes of the faith never received the fulfillment of the promises, but that “God has provided **something BETTER for us**” in that the blood that Jesus shed on the cross PAID for our SINS as the blood sacrifices of animals in the Old Testament could never do.

•**Romans 5:8-9** “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **MUCH MORE then**, having now been JUSTIFIED by His BLOOD, we shall be saved from WRATH through Him. For if when we were enemies we were RECONCILED to God through the death of His Son, **MUCH MORE**, having been reconciled, we shall be SAVED by His life.”

•**Romans 5:15-17** “But the FREE GIFT is not like the offense. For if by the one man’s (Adam’s) offense many died, **MUCH MORE** the grace of God and the GIFT by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the FREE GIFT which came from many offenses resulted in JUSTIFICATION. For if by the one man’s offense death reigned through the one, **MUCH MORE** those who receive abundance of GRACE and of the GIFT of RIGHTEOUSNESS will REIGN IN LIFE through the One, Jesus Christ.”

What if you are not sure if you are a part of this wonderful “much more” salvation? You can be absolutely sure, as I John 5:13 tells us we can “know that we have eternal life (salvation).” If you have never prayed to ask Jesus to be your Savior, or if you’re not sure, 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!**

Monthly Evangelistic Outreach to Venice

Saturday, July 11, 2026 - Our ministry teams today consisted of Tom, me, Kathleen, George, Felipe, Ulysses and Josue. We gave out to the homeless 182 lunches, new and used clothing, socks and shoes, toiletry/hygiene packets, and dog food for those with dogs. George, Kathleen and I took the north end of the Venice Boardwalk, Felipe, Ulysses and Josue took the south end, and Tom stayed home to keep us covered with prayer. We found Kevin, Eric, “Dee” and Ken who we’ve seen before and they remembered us. Ken had a beautiful dog, and we gave him dog food and a lunch for himself. Several others had dogs and were happy to get some food for their pets as well as for themselves. George said one man said, “Oh, thank you! You’re a lifesaver” when he gave him a lunch. A lady in a wheelchair gave a big sigh and said, “Oh, thank you so much. God bless you!” A man named Jonathan got a lunch and then asked us to pray for him. Joe, who comes to our church, got two

lunches, and I told him we had a pair of shoes in his size, but I did not bring them today, because I was going to give them to him on Sunday at church. He was very grateful and asked if he could pray for us, which he did. Everyone was thankful and grateful, and with the hot weather were especially happy to see a bottle of water in the lunch bag. After we gave out about half of our stuff on the Boardwalk, we went down Rose Avenue in Venice and found more homeless people. A woman named "Cat" was one we'd seen before and she remembered us. She was with a group of several men and women, and they all got lunches and clothing and dog food. Cat and Dixie were happy to get women's underwear and sports bras, as well as some other clothing items and shoes. I told Dixie that I liked the dress she was wearing, and she said she had just gotten it from the church down the street. I told her, as I had said to someone else a couple of months ago, that we were "the church on wheels, because we're giving this out in the name of Jesus." Dixie thought that was great. Two other women desperately needed some pants, and we found some jeans and shorts for them. The young woman who got the shorts put them on right away, as she had only been wearing a T-shirt and underwear. We continued on up Rose Avenue, looking for Jean's van, but we didn't find her. We stopped at Penmar Park and gave lunches to quite a few homeless people in the park. When we were on the Boardwalk, I handed out gospel tracts in English and Spanish. I also overheard a man (not homeless) talking on his cellphone in either Russian or Ukrainian, and I showed him tracts in both languages, and he took two in Ukrainian. He was already reading the tracts as we left. Dennis, the security guard at the Jewish synagogue took two tracts, and we'd given him some before. Felipe's group gave out everything, and ministered to homeless people on the streets, going all over town, as well as on the Boardwalk, and they all had a good time. All in all, we had a great time and blessed many homeless people with things they needed for their physical comfort, and many others with the gospel tracts. Each lunch we give to the homeless also has a gospel tract inside, so they are blessed with spiritual food, as well as material things. To God be the glory and praise!

Saturday, August 1, 2026 - Our ministry helpers today were Tom, me, Kaela, Felipe, Josue, Ulysses, David, Sheldon, and George. George and I went to the north end of the Boardwalk, and Kaela and Sheldon went to the south end. Felipe's group went to the streets and parking lots, and Tom stayed home to keep us covered with prayer. For the homeless, we had 180 lunches, lots of socks and used clothing, shoes, toiletry/hygiene packets, and dog food for those who have dogs. Some of the people whose names I remembered were Madison, Chastity, Oscar, Coco, Sean, Eric, Robert, Brett, Joe, "Boston" and "Irish Dave". I remembered Irish Dave from several years ago and asked him about his dog, and he said she was old and had died (she was blind the last time I saw him with her). He had a new dog this time, and many other homeless people who had dogs were happy to get some dog food for them. Robert was glad to get a Bible, along with his lunch and clothing. We found 92-year-old Jean and Leon, the young man who helps her, and gave them lunches and some towels. Jean also got a large-print "Our Daily Bread". All of these and many others received shoes, hygiene items, clothing and lunches and were very thankful. Coco was bare-footed and got a pair of sandals, and she was thrilled to have them in her size. We found the men at the Phoenix House outside for their break, so we found their supervisor, a young lady named Briana, and she said she would give the men the gospel tracts we gave her, because the men are not allowed to take them directly from us. As we were leaving, one man asked if he could have a pair of shoes, so we went back over there and ended up giving three men shoes in their exact sizes. The Phoenix House is a halfway house for men, so they don't have much in the way of possessions, and they were happy to get the shoes. Sheldon and Kaela said they had a great time and gave out most of their lunches, because there were two events down at the Boardwalk, so not as many homeless people as usual. Sheldon said the events were the Hari Krishna's yearly parade, and a youth basketball tournament. Sheldon said, "There were crowds of people, but God was with us and sent us to a lot of people in need around us." A man named Nico asked them for prayer, as well as Andre and Jonathan. George and I gave out most of our lunches on the Boardwalk, and then went up to Rose Avenue and Lincoln Blvd. by "Staples" and found several groups of homeless people there. We also handed out gospel tracts along the Boardwalk, and each lunch contains a gospel tract. Felipe,

Josue, Ulysses, and David ministered to the homeless by Costco, Ralph's, and by the freeway near Culver Blvd. They also covered people living under the freeway overpass in Santa Monica by Cloverfield Ave. Felipe said they gave out everything and had a good time.

Saturday, September 5, 2026 - Our volunteers who came to help Tom and me were Felipe, Ulysses, David, Sheldon, George, Victor and his wife Anelfy. Victor, Anelfy and I went to the north end of the Boardwalk, and George and Sheldon went to the south end. Felipe's group went to the streets and parking lots, and Tom stayed home to keep us covered with prayer. We had 184 lunches for the homeless, plus used clothing, socks, shoes, toiletry/hygiene packets, and dog food for those with dogs. Victor, Anelfy and I found Eric, Paul, Kyle, Boston, Ken, A.J. and Araceli, and they were all thrilled to get shirts, pants, shoes and of course lunches. One guy ripped open his lunch and said that he hadn't eaten in two days. At the Phoenix House, I gave some gospel tracts to Briana, the supervisor there, so that she could hand them out to the men. Everyone on the Boardwalk was thankful and happy to get food and clothing, and after we handed out most of our stuff there, we went up to Rose Avenue and found more homeless people. Victor got out of the car to give two men lunches, and while Anelfy and I were waiting, two other men came by, and she jumped out and gave them each a lunch. One of the men we found later, who had no shoes, was so happy to get a pair of shoes in his size, a size thirteen. Sheldon said he and George tried to find a pair of shoes to fit one young man, but his feet were swollen, and none would fit him. Sheldon also said they met a guy who called himself Jesse James, and he had just come out here from Las Vegas (many of the homeless in L.A. are from out of state, and either come here for the weather, or because it's easier to be on the streets here than in other cities). We all gave out most of the clothing and things we had, and all of the lunches. Victor hadn't been able to come on the outreach for months, because of having to work on Saturdays, and he said it felt so good to be doing something for others, and that he "really needed this." It is a good feeling to help others, and we also gave out gospel tracts, and every lunch contains a gospel tract. We saw two women who said they were from a church in Woodland Hills, and they had big signs saying "Jesus loves you" and were witnessing to people walking by. We talked to them for a few minutes and encouraged them to keep up the good work. Felipe, Ulysses, and David found homeless people by Ralph's market, McDonald's, near Costco, and on Washington Blvd. where there are still a few people living in their motor homes. The city has moved a lot of them away, but they still found some, and everyone was happy to get food and clothing, and just to know they are not totally forgotten. Felipe's group also had extra lunches from a church where he does volunteer work, and they gave them out to people by the freeway on-ramps. Praise the Lord! We had a great time in doing His work!

Prison Ministry

Andrew Rodriguez, CSATF State Prison, Corcoran, CA - "I wanted to write a quick note to let you know I finally got the Serenity Bible you sent me, as it got held up in the mail room here. But I can't begin to express how thankful I am to you both, for it's my first Bible of any sorts. I was using my cellmate's Bible before, so it means a lot. I look forward to my next lessons. God bless, Andrew"

Daniel Murray, Mule Creek State Prison, Ione, CA - "All praise to God for what you have done for me all these years (since 2019) by the grace of God. For most of my life, I went by my own power and had my own agenda, and was blinded to the truth. But you guys, Tom and Dottie, through your Bible studies, have given me the victory in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit has given me the power to exercise self control, overcome weakness, gain wisdom and knowledge from God's word, and be a witness for Him. The Lord has lifted me from my destructive behaviors I once had, and has set me on the path of a life of peace. From your student in ministry, Daniel Lewis Murray"

David Garcia, Avenal State Prison, Avenal, CA - "I appreciate you guys taking the time and effort to

send me the 12-Step studies. I'm really trying to let God lead my life, and now I know He is, because a friend in Christ came up to me and noticed the change in me, and also he said he can see that God is working in me. I'm still in shock to hear that, but also relieved to know I'm on the right path. Sincerely, David"

Ronald Eugene James, CSATF State Prison, Corcoran, CA - "I would like to be transparent with you. When I first started doing your course, my only intention was to do as many as I could to look and appear righteous for the Parole Board. My heart was in the wrong place, and I was still living for my flesh, and my focus was only for getting out of prison. In reading your letters and doing the Bible studies, I got convicted of my sin, and now I truly want to serve God, and not just to get out of prison. I catch myself crying often when I read His word, and sing to the Lord, because I know for the first time in my life that I'm actually saved! So keep planting the seed and watering it, because I am a testimony of God providing the increase. Keep being a blessing to us all and may the Lord bless me so I can bless your ministry. Your brother in Christ Jesus, Ronald Eugene James"

Alex Cruz, Pelican Bay State Prison, Crescent City, CA - "Thank you for the Bible studies, I appreciate it very much. Also, thank you for everything you do in the name of the Lord. May God bless you. Sincerely, Alex Cruz"

Daniel Zabuski, CSATF State Prison, Corcoran, CA - "I would like to continue on our present program of recovery, self-help and Bible study. I would like to know if it's possible to re-take your 12-Step program to refresh myself on all the concepts I learned when I took it the first time. It was your 12-Step program that led me to one of my first "aha" moments where I was able to connect the dots from my maladaptive behavior as an adult to childhood traumas that I experienced as a child and adolescent. That was a very meaningful and powerful turning point in my recovery, and I give you thanks and praise for that insight. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your kindness and consideration on my behalf. You have always brought me such comfort and hope and a sense of optimism for the future. Love, Dan"

Jennifer Fry, Central California Women's Facility, Chowchilla, CA - "Wow! I am done with my Fourth Step inventory and that was a lot of work and very emotional. Also, I just want to thank you for all that you have done and continue to do to help me and all of us here in prison, and for being there for me without judgment, it's actually very refreshing. I have a lot of goals and dreams and really want to be a drug & alcohol counselor or peer support person. I have all of the life experience needed, and am also taking college courses to get my bachelor's degree. Blessings to you both and I send my love and prayers. Sincerely, Jennifer"

Michael Gray, CSATF State Prison, Corcoran, CA - "I have completed Steps 8 & 9, as I have been working on this one for quite some time. I have had a lot of amends to make, more than most. I've tried writing, calling, sending them certificates of achievement and completion, and I can state as a matter of fact that it all went badly. I did what I could, but I have no control of whether they forgive me, I can only do my part. I gotta move on, so I'm letting you know I'm ready for Step Ten. Thank you. Love, Mike"

Donald E. Brooks, Pelican Bay State Prison, Crescent City, CA - "I thank the Lord for bringing us back together again. You have put joy and hope back into my life and I truly thank you from the bottom of my heart. I would love to do the 12-Step program again, and also Bible studies. I need to stay close to God and His spiritual principles, and my sobriety. My sister is my only family left, and she always tells me that God has a purpose for me. I would like to use my experiences to help the addict who still struggles, and to share with troubled youth. If I can take what I've learned and even help to change one person, then the thirty years I've spent in prison will not be in vain. Sincerely, Donald Eugene Brooks"