

**“Love Lifted Me Recovery” - January, 2019**  
**Newsletter for October, November, December, 2018**  
**Pastors/Chaplains Tom & Dottie Hooper**  
**Web Site: [www.Loveliftedmerecovery.com](http://www.Loveliftedmerecovery.com)**

**Saved By 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** that saves you, and your faith in Him, **NOT** any religious works or good deeds you may do.

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

**Saturday, October 6, 2018** - The people who came to volunteer for going down to the Boardwalk today were: Tom, me, Sheldon, Shami, Tony, Keith, Johnny, Apple, and Suchart. We had 165 lunches, lots of socks, toiletry/hygiene packets, T-shirts and other clothing, lots of mens’s and women’s shoes, knit hats and headbands, and quite a few blankets, all to give to the homeless at Venice Beach. We saw a lot more than usual homeless people in tents out on the beach, so Johnny and Keith, being more athletically-inclined, took lunches and gave them out on the sand (our carts won’t go in the sand, so you have to just walk out there and take the lunches by hand). Tony prayed for a lot of the homeless people, including an older man named Tom who said that his friend was murdered just the night before, and he was very distressed about it. Sheldon talked to a guy who said he lived in his van, because although he had some money coming in each month, it wasn’t enough for rent. Johnny and I gave food and clothing to a lot of people, and one woman was especially happy with a colorful new blouse. The men and women who got the shoes were happy to get them, and all the people we ministered to were very grateful for everything. For Shami, Apple and Suchart’s team, the first group they gave food, toiletries, sweater,

socks and blankets to were Elena, Alicia and Firmington who is an Army veteran. They also gave food, socks and toiletries to Doug, "Buddha" and "Bear", and prayed for them. The knit headbands were welcomed by the women who got them. They also gave out dog and cat food, and the homeless people were happy to get them for their pets. Johnny and I also handed out gospel tracts to the passers-by who were not homeless, and we were particularly successful at the Phoenix House. The Phoenix House is a recovery program for men who are released from prison, and also who just need rehabilitation from problems in life. There were twenty or so men out in their yard for a smoking break, and we offered them some of the Chick comic book-type tracts. Most of the men took more than one, some asking for different ones and ending up with four or five. It was so encouraging to see them not only taking the tracts, but asking for more. Praise the Lord!

**Saturday, November 3, 2018** - It was a beautiful fall day for our outreach, and the people who showed up to help Tom and me were: Shami, Keith, Sheldon, Apple, Suchart, Kaela, Felipe and Ricardo. It was the first time to go on the outreach for Kaela, Felipe and Ricardo, and they all said they enjoyed it very much and want to come again. We had 171 lunches, lots of socks, toiletry/hygiene packets, used clothing, blankets, knit hats, and shoes to give to the homeless. All but one pair of shoes found a good home, and one young man was so happy to get a pair of sandals that fit him, he was just overjoyed, and couldn't stop thanking us. He said his feet sweat a lot, and he doesn't like to wear enclosed shoes, so these sandals were perfect for him. Shami, Apple and Suchart found two women right at first, and they not only were glad to get women's clothing, but they had a dog and cat, and were given cat food and dog food for their pets. Shami gave one man a blanket, and he said he had just given his old blanket to someone else, so was glad to get this one. Felipe, Ricardo and Kaela came with me, and we went up to the north end of the parking lot at Rose Ave. I saw some homeless people whose names I remembered (Jacob and Malik, among others), and also gave them big hugs. We were walking on the Boardwalk later, and saw two men sitting down. We walked past them, because they didn't "look homeless." They came up to us and asked for lunches, and I said we were sorry that we passed them by, but the man said it was a compliment to him that we didn't think they looked homeless. Sheldon and Keith went together, and they met Thomas, a young guy with a dog. Sheldon gave him cat food (which he said his dog preferred due to the high protein content), a lunch and some toiletries. Sheldon also prayed with him. Thomas said he had only been down on the beach for a couple days, and spiritually, he's a seeker, so Sheldon prayed that God would reveal Himself more to him, and to give him wisdom to make right choices and for protection while down there. They also met Steven and Patrick. Steven was an older guy who said he was getting treatment for cancer, and they prayed for his healing. Later, they met a couple with a young teenage boy: Maria, Justin ("Dragon") and they forgot the boy's name, and they gave them toiletries and socks and lunches. Sheldon said he tried to interact with as many homeless people as he could, and at least get their names. He said he and Keith work together well, and they gave away all the lunches they had, most of the clothing items, most of the socks, and all of their toiletry kits. As usual, we also hand out the gospel tracts, after we finish with all the lunches. I thought many people were open to accepting them, and we always pray for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and draw them to faith in Jesus.

**Saturday, December 1, 2018** - We'd had a lot of rain, so we didn't know how many homeless people would still be down at the beach and Venice Boardwalk. Our ministry team consisted of Tom, Dottie, Shami, Johnny, Sheldon, Cody, Kaela, Felipe and Bert. We had 176 lunches, and because of the rain, there were fewer people out on the Boardwalk, so we ended up with ten lunches leftover. We gave them out during the next month to homeless people we saw out on the street. We had lots of socks, shoes, and clothing (including two nice warm jackets), a few blankets, and hygiene/toiletry packets, as well as dog food for the ones who had dogs. Kaela came with me, and while we were still just unloading the lunches into our big cart, a young woman came up and asked for help. We gave her a lunch, and then a nice sweater, a scarf, a pair of shoes, and some toiletries. She was thrilled and so thankful, as I don't think she expected all that. Sheldon and his group gave a pair of shoes to William, and also

prayed for him. They also gave food and dog food to a woman who had two pitbulls who had just had a litter of puppies. Shami prayed for two men named "Hippie" and Jeremy, and "Hippie" had had his big toe amputated, because a car ran over it. This was the first time for Bert to go on the outreach, and he even went down some of the alleys to find homeless people, and he said they were all very grateful to receive the food and other things. 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 liberal sharing with them and all men." We also gave out gospel tracts and two New Testaments to people who were just down at the Boardwalk for the day, and to the men at the Phoenix House who were out in their yard for a break.

## **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 Oregon, Arizona, Missouri, Texas, Oklahoma and Colorado. We have well over 400 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:

**Maurice Lotten, Folsom State Prison, Represa, CA** - "I really appreciate and am thankful for your help and guidance during my recovery. All the Steps are good, but Steps 6 & 7, being entirely ready to have God remove my character defects and shortcomings, was very important to me. These Steps gave me a better understanding of myself, a better understanding of my addictions, and how to recognize those negative behaviors and to deal with them in a positive way. Steps 8 & 9, making amends, was really tough for me. I had done so much wrong - lying, cheating and stealing from family and friends, I did not believe that I would ever be forgiven, or if I could forgive myself. God is good! Once I put it all in His hands, the healing began. I'm still in the process of making direct amends, but surprisingly, it's going pretty well. Thank you both, and please send me Step Ten. God bless you, Maurice"

**Wanda Williams, California Institution for Women, Corona, CA** - "I'm very blessed to receive your letter and Bible study lessons. I really enjoyed doing the lessons - please send me more. Yes, I am staying very close to Jesus, He has done a whole lot for me. I'm so grateful we're on lockdown now, so I have time to write my letters and do my lessons, but I can hardly wait to hear from you again. Love, Wanda"

**Khoa Nguyen, Solano State Prison, Vacaville, CA** - "I want to thank you for this program. You're right, this program is not for wimps. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Steps were quite challenging. I had to look at a lot of the things I had kept buried because of shame. I committed my horrible murders when I was twenty-one. I was a selfish, impulsive, callous, and unempathetic gang member that killed three people. I am now forty-five years old, and no longer that hurt, lonely, confused kid. I am deeply remorseful for my sins against God and man. As God has forgiven me, I have forgiven myself and learned to love myself, and see my self-worth in Christ. You both inspire me to volunteer and give back to society when I get out. Thank you for all you have done for me. Love, Khoa"

**Chris Kelly, Ironwood State Prison, Blythe, CA** - "I participated in your 12-Step program back in 2016, and I've been sober since July, 2016. I haven't even had an urge to use drugs, and I attribute it all to the grace of our great and mighty God. It's utterly amazing, and truly has opened my eyes to the salvation I

have through Jesus Christ. I have remained faithful to Him, remaining constant in prayer, reading His word, and staying in fellowship and service in the church here in prison. Thank you for all your help. Love, Chris Kelly”

**Victor Flores, CSATF State Prison, Corcoran, CA -** “Wow! You are awesome people and I feel blessed doing your 12-Step course. I’m forty-five years old, and I’ve been in prison since I was sixteen. Please don’t feel bad - I needed this in my life. It took prison to make me realize that God has a plan for me. Plus, I wouldn’t have come across your course in the lifestyle I was living before. When I read in your letter about the outreach you do at the beach, I teared up. I really wanted to cry, but I held back. I also want to be of service for the Lord, and give to the needy, and give my testimony that God is good. God bless you both, Victor

**Tai Dang, Avenal State Prison, Avenal, CA -** “Tom and Dottie, thank you for allowing me into your program. I started knowing God ever since you provided all the information about God, and I promise now and the rest of my life I will follow His rules and serve others. I’m also very blessed that God has brought my family back into my life after two decades. Without His blessing, this would never have happened. Love, Tai Dang”

**Joan Carrafa, Central California Women’s Facility, Chowchilla -** “It’s been a while since I thanked you for donating your valuable time to prisoners so that we could learn about God and grow as Christians, and do our part in making this world a better place. You are dedicated servants of Christ, and I’m sure I’m not the only one you inspire. God bless you and your family. Sincerely, Joan”

**Tim Russell, Solano State Prison, Vacaville, CA -** “I just wanted to write a short note to let you know how much I appreciate you guys. God blessed me with the most beautiful thing on earth, and that is having you guys in my life. You have taught me how beautiful God is, and how important it is to have God in my life. If or when I get out of prison, I want to be able to pay back for the kindness and love you sent me, maybe by going with you to help on the beach outreach. Thank you for being true friends and teachers of the gospel, and you are always in my prayers. Love, Tim”

**Ramiro Fonseca, Soledad State Prison, Soledad, CA -** “My adventure with your ministry began about twelve years ago. Love Lifted Me Recovery has been a blessing for me all these years. I am grateful for all the brothers and sisters who are a part of your ministry. I will always be a part of your ministry, even when I get released. Keep on with your good work. Your brother in Christ, Ramiro”

**Harmeet Singh, Solano State Prison, Vacaville, CA -** “I am getting ready to go in front of the Parole Board for my fourth parole hearing soon. I am feeling really good that the Lord is with me this time. When I was doing your 12-Step program, I really didn’t understand it at first, but today I live by the Steps. I’ve made it my way of life, and this is the Lord Jesus Christ working in me. It took me twenty years, but better late than never! Thank you for all your support. Love always, Harmeet Singh”

## **Thank You to our Ministry Supporters!**

We want to acknowledge our ministry supporters, as we could not do any of this ministry without you. Those who support us financially, or with prayer, or by going out on the outreach, or by giving us toiletries, socks, or clothing, you are all loved and blessed by God, and we love and appreciate you so much! You will receive rewards in heaven for your part in every soul that is saved, or Christian who is encouraged and restored to fellowship with the Lord. Don’t forget ..... we have photos of the outreach on our website, if you would like to look at them. Website is [Loveliftedmererecovery.com](http://Loveliftedmererecovery.com). The old photos from 2013 will come up first, but just keep going, as the newer ones are tacked on after them.