

**“Love Lifted Me Recovery” - January, 2021**  
**Newsletter for October, November, December, 2020**  
**Pastors/Chaplains Tom & Dottie Hooper**  
**Web Site: [www.Loveliftedmerecovery.com](http://www.Loveliftedmerecovery.com)**

**HOW TO HAVE GOD’S PEACE**

- **Isaiah 26:3** “You will keep him in perfect PEACE, whose mind is stayed (focused) on You.”
- **John 14:27** “Peace I leave with you. My PEACE I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not LET your heart be troubled, neither LET it be afraid.”
- **John 16:33** “These things I have spoken to you, that IN ME you may have PEACE. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”
- **Philippians 4:6-9** “Be anxious for nothing, but in EVERYTHING by PRAYER and supplication, with THANKSGIVING, let your requests be made known to God; and the PEACE of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus”
- **Colossians 3:15** “And LET the PEACE of CHRIST rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be THANKFUL.”
- **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.”
- **II Timothy 1:7** “For God has NOT given us a spirit of FEAR, but of POWER and of LOVE and of a sound MIND.”

These are only a few of the verses where God promises you His peace, but EXPERIENCING His peace is not automatic. First of all, these promises are for BELIEVERS in Jesus Christ. Then, you have to **LET His PEACE rule in your heart**, and **NOT allow your heart to be troubled**. The only way you can do that is to **TAKE your thoughts captive** whenever negative thoughts come into your mind, **REPLACE those negative thoughts** with the WORD of GOD, and **be THANKFUL and PRAISE the Lord** for EVERY situation and circumstance in your life, no matter how unreasonable that may seem. Jesus said that **you CAN have PEACE** in the midst of tribulation (John 16:33) simply because you TRUST in Him. When He says that He has “overcome the world,” part of the meaning in the original Greek is “I have deprived it of power to harm you.” The storm may be raging all around you, but you are SAFE in Jesus. He has deprived that situation of whatever harm it might have done you, and He promises that He will work ALL things together for your GOOD (Rom. 8:28). However, you will not **experience His PEACE** until you BELIEVE it, and start thanking Him for EVERYTHING and PRAISING Him in all situations. You **CAN’T AFFORD** to lean and rely on your own understanding (Proverbs 3:5-6). God is much smarter and far more powerful than you are, and **He is in control of your life! Start acting like it!** Then and only then will you have real peace and victory in your life, and then God will be able to start making whatever changes need to be made. Until you trust Him completely, you block His power from working in your life by your unbelief (Matthew 13:58).

**Bible Study Lessons on the Internet**

Our many Bible studies are always available on our website, and we are happy to report they are still being used during the Coronavirus pandemic, as churches are still closed here in California. The residents at the Bible Tabernacle are currently doing our Gospel of John Bible study, since they can’t meet for daily Bible studies in person. Since the Bible Tabernacle is not only a church, but also a residential ministry for homeless men, women and children, the people living there are required to have Bible study every day, so this works out great for them. They have done our Romans study, our Ephesians study, Colossians study, and are now doing John. Praise the Lord! Pastor Richard Libby is the one who

corrects the lessons for each day. These are the same Bible study courses that are used in our prison ministry.

## Monthly Evangelistic Outreach to Venice Beach

**Saturday, October 3, 2020** - It was a beautiful day, and kind of hot, but we had a very good outreach to Venice Beach. Our volunteers to help me and Tom were Johnny, Felipe, Kaela, Alberto, and Juanita. We had 177 lunches, hygiene/toiletry packets, socks, and lot of used clothing and shoes for the homeless. Johnny gave a pair of cowboy boots to one man, and he tried them on and they fit him perfectly. He was so happy! Another man tried on a pair of size eleven shoes and said they fit him perfectly. A woman named Michelle said she had nothing, so we gave her several pieces of women's clothing, and she was very grateful. She said she remembered me from last time we were down there. Johnny prayed for several people, including a man named Kenny who said he was trying to kick meth, and was going to try to find a rehab place as soon as he could. Meanwhile, he needed food, so we gave him a lunch and some food for his dog. Please pray for Kenny, that he will be successful in keeping off drugs. We gave a lunch and a pair of slippers to a woman who said her name was Choi, and she said, "Thank You, Jesus!" when she received them. She was sitting at a picnic table and had bare feet, so she was very thankful to get the slippers. All the other shoes we had were men's shoes. I handed out a lot a lot of gospel tracts in English, and one in Chinese. The man who took the Chinese tract thanked me over and over for it, grateful to find out we had something in his own language.. Felipe, Alberto and Juanita handed out tracts and spoke to people in Spanish. Juanita was up here visiting from Mexico, and she said she didn't speak any English. They stayed down at the beach a little longer after they finished doing the outreach, just to walk around and enjoy the beach. Kaela, Johnny and I saw men outside of the Phoenix House, a rehab place for men, but they said they weren't allowed to accept anything from us, but could ask their supervisor. The supervisor said he was glad to see we were giving out gospel tracts, but that he still had to obey the rules of the facility, but he asked for some tracts to give out to the men himself, so we gave him quite a few. I offered a tract to a young man named Nick, who was selling things, and at first he said he didn't want it, but when he looked closer, he recognized the tracts from Chick Publications and said he liked those. He said he thought I was handing out Hare Krishna stuff at first, but he would take the Christian tracts. Praise the Lord! Later, Johnny remarked that I didn't exactly look like a Hare Krishna person, and we had a good laugh.

**Saturday, November 7, 2020** - We woke up this morning to rain, but we prayed and decided that if the rain stopped, we would still go down to the Boardwalk. The homeless would try to find shelter in the rain, but when it stopped, they would go back to their regular places, and we could still hand out the lunches and clothing. Praise the Lord! The rain did stop by the time we were going out, and we had a great outreach with plenty of homeless people still being down at the Boardwalk. Our ministry team consisted of Tom, me, Kaela, Johnny, Felipe, and Victor. Both Felipe and Victor were doing our 12-Step program and Bible studies while they were in prison, and they have been very faithful in coming out to help us on the outreach since they've been paroled. We had 175 lunches, lots of socks, toiletry/hygiene packets, used clothing (including some really nice, warm jackets), shoes, and some blankets to give to the homeless. Everything was given out, and all the recipients were very grateful. In one of the first groups of homeless people we found, one man was barefooted, and it was very cold. We gave him socks and a pair of shoes in size eleven. It didn't look like he was a size eleven, but maybe he was desperate for something to cover his feet and keep them from the cold. A man named Wayne asked for prayer, and Johnny and I prayed for him. Another man named Andre asked for prayer for him and his friend Jack, and Johnny and I held hands with them and prayed with them, also. We saw Jean, who must be 85 years old by now, and she was living in a van. We couldn't find her for the last few months, because we were looking for the car she used to have, but she said someone gave her this van, and it was much roomier to live in, and she was very thankful. One elderly man sitting on a bench asked for a lunch, and when I

detected an accent in his speech, I asked if he spoke another language other than English. He said he spoke Russian, and I gave him two gospel tracts in Russian. Because of the cold weather, there were not many sight-seers at the beach, but we did give out a few tracts to those we encountered. All in all, we had a great time and enjoyed giving out food, clothing and the gospel in the name of Jesus.

**Saturday, December 5, 2020** - The weather was sunny but chilly for our beach outreach today. There had been a recent “stay-at-home” order saying that people should only go out for “essential” things, but we considered that hungry and cold homeless people would think some food, warm jackets, blankets and shoes and socks would be essential! We actually found just as many people down at the Venice Boardwalk as usual, and nobody questioned us or hassled us about being out and ministering to the homeless. As I said, we had lots of blankets and warm clothing, along with 175 lunches, and the usual socks and toiletry/hygiene packets. We gave out almost every single item of food and clothing, and everyone was very grateful. Our outreach team consisted of Tom, me, Stephani, Shami, Felipe and Johnny. Because we were a little short-handed, Tom actually came out with us instead of staying at home and praying. His back was hurting a lot, but he did his best and helped us distribute everything. We also gave out gospel tracts to those who were just sauntering along the boardwalk. At the Phoenix House, a residential/rehab facility for men, we gave quite a few tracts to the supervisor, and he said he would give them to the men. The men who live there are not allowed to take materials from strangers, but the supervisor was agreeable to giving them out himself. Shami and Johnny gave out all their stuff except for a pair of shoes in a women’s size 7½. They said, “Well, I guess we just have to find a woman who is a size 7½”, and in just a few minutes, a woman came up and asked them for a pair of shoes, and they fit her perfectly! Praise the Lord! Tom, Stephani and I saw a man with bare feet, and we offered him a pair of men’s slippers. He put them on right away, and later, when we were coming back, we saw him walking around in them. We found 85-year-old Jean who lives in her van, and we gave her a towel, a pair of pants, and some other things. I introduced her to Tom, because she hadn’t met him yet. I told her Tom didn’t usually come on the outreach because of his back pain, and she offered to pray for him. She came out of her van, laid hands on Tom, and said a very sweet prayer for him, for God to heal his back. She’s a very dear lady, but she chooses to live this way rather than go to a seniors’ home.

## **Prison Ministry**

Because of the Covid-19 restrictions in the prisons, most inmates are not being allowed to go to any classes, church services or self-help groups, so we have received hundreds and hundreds of requests to do our 12-Step program. We cannot possibly take on so many new people, but we are telling them that the Bible studies are available if they have their own Bible. Many of the men and women are choosing to do the Bible studies now until we have openings in the 12-Step program, and we are taking new ones for the 12-Steps, but in order as they have written to us.

**Donald E. Diggs, CTF Central/Soledad State Prison, Soledad, CA** - “I must say “Thank you,” for in your busy days you still reach out to us who really need someone like you to help show us the way, and the Way is the Lord Jesus. You both are a living example of sharing, caring and giving back to others! Enclosed are my lessons, and I’m finding that the Bible has all the answers to all of life’s questions. It’s taken me years and years of trial and error and tribulation to finally understand this! I am a sinner, I have asked for forgiveness, and only through Jesus Christ can I be a part of God’s kingdom. So, this course is just what I needed, and I thank you for bringing it to me. With the world going crazy (-ier? -iest?), I find the Bible to be the only answer. Respectfully, Donald E. Diggs”

**Mark Semlinger, California City Correctional Facility, California City, CA** - “Thank you for the opportunity to participate in your 12-Step recovery program. In October of this year, I was up for consideration for parole, but I was denied because they said I had not addressed my drug addiction issues.

I told them I had not been able to take any self-help programs because of Covid 19 restrictions. Now, when I come up for my next parole hearing, I will be able to show them I was able to find a 12-Step program that I could do in spite of Covid 19. So once again, thank you. Mark Semlinger”

**Randall Wilks, Ellis Unit, Huntsville, Texas** - “Greetings in the name of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. I am an inmate in the state of Texas, and I was given your information by an individual named Larry Hodges from Twenty-Nine Palms, Calif. I have never heard of this individual or your organization, but I do listen to the voice of God, and the prompting of the Holy Spirit. So, in obedience to His will, I am writing to you and asking for help. Sincerely, Randall Wilks” (FYI - Larry Hodges was faithfully doing our program and Bible studies when he was in prison, and he has now paroled out).

**Carlos Hurtado, Ironwood State Prison, Blythe, CA** - “I have yet to thank you for the letters you include with the lessons you send me. I appreciate it a lot, and it is very touching to me, because I don’t receive letters from anyone else. The only mail I get are lessons and Bible studies, so thank you for taking the time to not only do this ministry, but also sending a letter about your personal life along with it. God bless you both. Love, Carlos”

**Michael Silva, High Desert State Prison, Susanville, CA** - “I’ve enclosed my Bible study lessons, and I greatly enjoyed them. I am new in my walk with Jesus, and your help and guidance is greatly appreciated. I originally received your address from the Parole Board, for your 12-Step course, but am happy to be doing the Bible studies until there is an opening. I’m 55 years old and have spent most of my life in and out of prison, and I’m tired of that kind of life. I’m hungry to learn and grow as a Christian and enjoy my new life promised by Him. The ministry you are doing is truly life-saving work. Your Brother in Christ, Michael”

**John Coleman, CSATF State Prison, Corcoran, CA** - “I just want to say thank you for believing in me. You guys have made a better person of me, because of all the things that I’m learning from you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Lord love you, your brother, John”

**Michael Rose, Calif. Health Care Facility, Stockton, CA** - “I’m enclosing my Bible study lessons, but I also wanted to comment on something in your letter. I certainly appreciate the ministry you have to those of us who are incarcerated, but it is your outreach to the homeless that is truly exceptional. The time and financial commitment must be considerable, and for those of us who can’t perform such noble and charitable work, thank you. Sincerely, Michael Rose”

**John Gary Arredondo, R. J. Donovan State Prison, San Diego, CA** - “I am a 68-year-old inmate here at R. J. Donovan Correctional Facility. I have been “on the streets” since I was a 15-year-old runaway from an extremely abusive alcoholic father and hateful, evil stepmother. I have been a drug abuser since 1967. The only addicts I have ever seen in all those years who actually “recovered” are those who turned to Christ. I mean hardcore gangster heroin addicts, and the Bible was all that worked! I would like to do your 12-Step recovery program, and I have my trusty old MacArthur Study Bible. Sincerely yours, John”

## **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.