



Good News Will Travel

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Snail Mail Copy

Dear Friends in Christ

I wanted to write you a short newsletter and let you know what is going on with me lately. I just recently finished a job retraining program (June 06) at Everett Community College in business administration. My retraining was due to a construction accident a few years ago that led to my third back surgery. I have always worked in physically demanding jobs in the past. At nearly 50, between my past employment and the consequences from my personal sin, my body is somewhat wearing out. However, I can now work in the office pool.

Since this past September I have been down in Northern California preaching the Gospel. Besides Sacramento and Stockton, I have primarily been in the Bay Area. Many times I would go out alone and would limit the ministry to handing out tracts and talking to a few divine appointments. Whenever possible I wanted to hook up with other believers that wanted to do the same ministry. This is one advantage of being affiliated with Calvary Chapels, as there are so many on the West Coast (maybe more than Starbucks). I was referred by San Francisco Calvary Chapel to a ministry called SOS, which simply stands for the rescue call (help). The leader, Larry Rosenbaum was raised in a Jewish home, graduated Yale, became a hippie and was saved in 1970 during the "Jesus Movement". He and others have been witnessing in the San Francisco area for over 25 years. I gave them a call and was welcome to join them. My first night I met them downtown at the corner of 4th and Mission. Before I introduced myself I was checking out the gear they were unloading and saw a megaphone in a box. I thought, hmm, they don't use that to play music, they must preach through that thing. I knew I was in the right place. Although on occasion I have done what is called, "open air preaching" these guys took it to another level. After a little music SOS ministry team members take turns preaching the Gospel, sharing testimonies, and reading God's Word. My first night I was able to preach the simple Gospel message and read from Scripture. God has really opened a door for the Gospel there. Granted the people are not getting saved in groves, however; in such a pagan city it amazes me the openness of many. I should mention that several denominations are involved in this ministry. Larry Rosenbaum has paved the way over the years by checking out the laws for amplification, etc. On Saturdays, either in San Francisco or Berkeley, the outreach is on a larger scale, so permits are required for the most part. One day I got to preach at Fisherman's Wharf where thousands go by on any given Saturday. In Berkeley, there are a lot of young people I call neo-hippies. Born out of time, they picked up where the seventies left off. Many of them wear T-shirts with the rock bands we grew up with. They are putty in my hands, or I should say in the Lord's hand. One fellow was wearing a Black Sabbath T-shirt and when I told him I saw the band in concert back-in-the-day, I had his full attention. I used the bands lyrics to transition into my testimony and then into the Gospel of Jesus Christ. That my friend is what I call "earning the right" to share my faith and it was done in ten minutes. Many of the people are open, but most are not. One guy tore up my tract, ate it, and then said some harsh things about the blood of Christ I dare not repeat. In Stockton, I found a slum area that looked like a third world country. Open prostitution and drugs were more prevalent than in the bigger cities. This seemed uncharacteristic of this farming community. Sacramento is not quite as big as Seattle and has big city problems too. Rancho Cordova, a suburb of Sacramento seems like a nice little town (my niece lives there). I have seen a swat team in action twice and on another occasion a car that was shot up at a gas station. They have a police helicopter that flies around all night in the neighborhood. Now I just can't seem to sleep unless I hear sirens all night.

The Lord willing, in January, I want to go back to San Francisco and get as much preaching experience as I can, then take it to the other cities on the West Coast like Seattle, Portland, Salem, Eugene, and Los Angeles. Please pray for me in this endeavor. Some other opportunities include: Helping my niece's church, New Life Foursquare, do some evangelism in Rancho Cordova, also ministry to the Afro-American people in Oakland's Westside, and I was invited for a ride-a-long with Portland's medical detox unit. I thank God for the grace that he has given me and spared my life to do this. I love it!

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Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow... Mark 4:3