

Lawrence DuBois Evangelism Newsletter – Fall 2008

Dear Friends in Christ

As you can tell by my flash maple leaf it is fall once again. We have been having great weather down here lately. Just got our real first rain the first part of November, although for the last couple of weeks we have been having warmer than usual weather. One day it was as hot as 80 degrees.

There is a lot going on down here these days that I want to update you on. My long-time friend Richard Latimer, left around the end of September back to Washington State. He had some health concerns and was fatigued. You may remember in last month's newsletter that we had a violent encounter in San Francisco. A week later or so Richard and I were in Oakland preaching and it was quite hot outside. While we were waiting on the train (BART) Richard fainted and fell to the ground briefly. Pray for Richard as he faithfully served the Lord and me while he was here. We went on an evangelistic rampage from last May until right before he left. Richard is 64 years old bye-the-way.

I have a new inductee from my church, Brian who goes out with me on Wednesdays. He just recently got married to Emily. Brian is the drummer in the worship band at church. I still go out other days during the week by myself. I remain mostly down at Fisherman's Wharf where it is benign. We are under a program there and have an ongoing permit for space and sound amplification. I have cut back one less day since Richard left to study the Bible more and attend a weekly prayer meeting on Tuesday evenings at Pastor Ron Sharp's house. I will be spending the Thanksgiving holiday at my niece's in the Sacramento area. So Happy Thanksgiving!

Stranger Than Fiction

Recently I went to do some witnessing in Chinatown with Garrett Waters. Garrett is from the Midwest and has a heart for China. He has run into me during our SOS outreaches in the past. He invited me to come join him in Chinatown one day and tag along with him. Brian from my Church and I went with him on a Wednesday. I didn't know that Garrett spoke Chinese. He claims that he is just learning but he is able to preach and the Chinese people understand him quite well. All that day he tried to teach Brian and myself how to say "the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand" in Chinese. I would try to pass it on but I already forgot. I can say, "knee how" (spelled like it sounds) which means "hello".

As we started down the street, or I should say up the hill. For those of you who don't know; Chinatown borders Nob Hill on the west side and most of Chinatown is on a slope, although easy enough to walk around depending on which direction you are going. As we were approaching some people there were what looked like some tourists. I noticed that they couldn't understand English. Finally the woman uttered the word "France" it was more like "Francia" anyway I figured it out and pointed at myself and said "ah, DuBois" (my French last name). To my surprise Garrett starts speaking to them in French. They talked for a minute and we left. I apologized to Garrett for not thinking of bringing my French Gospel tracts to Chinatown that day. Hum!

We continued on and witnessed to mostly Chinese. It was early in the day and the locals took up most of the avenue. Garrett takes a list and writes down names and prayer requests as we went. He also checks back on the people he has made contact with. I have been in Chinatown before with May who is from China, but when Garrett preached in Chinese, people would stop, look

and listen. I guess they were surprised that a white man could speak their language. It was most effective. Brian and I handed out well over 400 tracts that day. We also were able to supply a Christian Church in the area with a few tracts and some Chinese booklets made more for the Christian. If the French encounter wasn't strange enough, we also ran across some gals from England. They had what we in America would describe as thick accents. I asked if I came to England and preached if I would sound funny. They replied, "You already sound funny to us. You Americans speak in a high voice."

Treated Like a King

One morning sitting on the porch I was reading in Genesis about Joseph and the Pharaoh. Shortly after my reading I made myself some breakfast (pronounced brefast, leaving out the k sound). I fixed a homemade waffle in my non-stick Belgium waffle iron that I have to coat with oil or else the waffle sticks. When it was done I used real butter and then took some bananas and heated them slightly in the microwave. I then spread this over the waffle and top it with some fat-free, sugar-free generic cool whip. Along with this, I tried for the first time, pre-cooked turkey sausage you just heat up. As I was eating my breakfast, I quoted my great niece Briana, "um um, m, m. I said to myself, "I am eating like a king" I bet Pharaoh wished he had a waffle iron and microwave. No kidding, compared to the rest of the world we do eat and live like kings. Thank you Lord for your abundant provision to us all!

The Fruit of the Month

While on a recent Friday night outreach in San Francisco we encountered three gentlemen that were hanging around when we were clearing out. They had attached a poster where we had just taken down our signs. The poster was about a rally the next day in town to protest the vote here in California about proposition 8. For those of you who have not heard, California voters just passed a measure to ban "Gay Marriage". There has been quite a stir among the homosexual community and other liberals concerning this. These guys were tough looking and kept staring us down as we packed up and left. As usual Eric Martinez from my Church was still in a conversation with someone as we were leaving. Eric had just finished and helped us pack up the van. As we drove across the bridge we thought that maybe we should have made sure that Eric left safely for the train before we took off. We prayed for him and the three guys. The following Sunday at Church Eric had informed me of a great testimony. After we left, the guys approached Eric and asked him what right he had to be there. Eric didn't know what was going on but asked them to be more specific. They informed him that they were militant homosexuals that were angry at the results of the election. They blamed the Christians. (Exit stage left about now). Eric stayed and talked to them for about an hour. He explained to them that God's Word says that homosexuality is sin and we all must repent of sin. Mostly he just kept giving them the Gospel. When Eric mentioned that he had to go because it was getting late, the leader told Eric that he had one minute to say anything he wanted and they would keep quiet and not interrupt. They kept their word and Eric shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them one more time before he left.

Please continue to pray for the city of San Francisco and all its inhabitants. As hostility increases so do encounters like this one.

(Print Map Separately if Desired) These Represent areas of the city that are being covered thoroughly by other Christian ministries that I know of first hand.

Chinatown:

Chinatown could be divided into 2 main categories, the tourist area and the Chinese domestic or residential area. These seem to overlap somewhat but that is the just of it. I have gone into this

area myself, as well as, with SOS Ministries. I have preached there and handed out tracts, mostly in traditional Chinese or Mandarin. Garrett Waters is my main contact for Chinatown. I wrote a story on the other side of this page about a recent experience in Chinatown with Garrett. Knowing that this area is covered I only occasionally go there, and when I do, it is to assist Garrett.

Tenderloin:

The Tenderloin is infamous for being San Francisco's "skid row", however; the tenderloin borders many tourist spots and the theatre district is also located there. Besides Chinatown, San Francisco has other ethnic neighborhoods. Little Saigon, the Vietnamese district is located in the Tenderloin. Many groups, rescue missions, and other ministries are either located in the Tenderloin or target that area. YWAM (Youth With A Mission) heavily involves themselves here. Hannah and Emmanuel staff members of YWAM come out frequently with SOS on Friday nights and play music on the streets. Recently I found out YWAM goes into other neighborhoods like; Height Ashbury, Polk Street, and Nob Hill.

Mission District:

The Mission District is primarily residents and not a traffic area for tourists. It has a lot of Hispanic people there who are very open to the Gospel. The area is also known for drugs and the lifestyle surrounding that. Having gone into this area many times in the past, I now believe the Lord is moving me on. In the Bible persecution was the main thing God used as a directive to move the believers onto other fields. Although I wouldn't consider what I have experienced in the Mission District to be anything like Paul or the modern missionary in a foreign land, it was enough to get my attention. This leaves no vacuum by any means. There is a group of faithful believers who preach and minister there in Spanish and English.

The Castro:

I have only been in the Castro area a few times. It is the stronghold for the homosexual community. There is a man named Adam Hood who goes there with a crew on a regular basis. Adam came out of the homosexual lifestyle and has a lot of compassion for them but also preaches the truth. He is faithful in building relationships there and has some disciples as well.

The Colored Circles:

The brown or darker colored circles in the above map represent areas of San Francisco that SOS Ministries cover. The blue circles are the areas that I find myself concentrating on during the week. The biggest oblong circle at the top of the map is Fisherman's Wharf. This is also an area that we go to as a larger group (SOS). The other blue circles are scattered around the downtown area and in the financial district.