

Evangelism Newsletter – Spring 2009

Dear Friends in Christ

The highlight of this spring was in April. I took an unexpected trip to the Seattle area in which I was able to see my boys. I apologize for not being able to see most of you while I was there. I share about my trip below and hope to see you all in the future.

The rainy season this past winter has been mild but it was extended through the first part of May. It was only last week that we finally have surpassed the rain and it should be clear now until late October. This is a huge factor in doing evangelism because when the weather is good the people are out-and-about.

The current economy has trickled down to my world. I have had several months without work. The Lord sustained me through many ways. The key to my financial success is to have little to no expenses.

I continue to go out into the city of San Francisco several times a week sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is always new and exciting and the Lord is increasing my land bit by bit. Please continue to pray for me as the Lord reminds you.

Many of you who get this newsletter may, or may not, know exactly what I do out there on the street corners. How is the Gospel shared? What kind of evangelism exactly are we doing here? Something new I added was a blog (discussion board). I try to answer these and other common questions and ministry philosophies. (Available online only)

My Recent Trip to Seattle

Visit With My Sons

No doubt the single most highlighted event of my recent trip to the Seattle was to see my two sons. I haven't seen them in 5 years. My good friends, the Urbicks, paid my roundtrip air fare and hosted me while I was there. After the plans were finalized, my sons announced that they were coming down from Alaska (their home) at the same time. Wow, the Lord is so good. I spent the afternoon with them and we had lunch and went to coffee afterwards and got a chance to visit. I shared the scripture with them in

Malachi 4:4-6

"Remember the Law of Moses, My servant,
Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel,
With the statutes and judgments.
Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet
Before the coming of the great and
Dreadful day of the LORD.
And he will turn
The hearts of the fathers to the children,
And the hearts of the children to their fathers,
Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

We reconciled our relationships due to my past sins. We talked about the old times and it couldn't have gone better. I snapped a few pictures right at the end that are shown here. We concluded with our three-way hug, something we did when they were kids. Matt is 27 and is a police officer in Juneau. Chad is 24 and is going back to school to be a math teacher. Please remember them in your prayers. Thank you!

Preaching in Seattle

I was able to preach on the streets of Seattle several times while I was there. I brought my little amp with me. At the airport when going through security they pulled me aside and said they had to test the amp. I said, "That would be fine, where do you want me to preach". After conversing with the officer they decided the chemical paper test was sufficient. The first day we went out I took along Jared Urbick, my friend Bob's oldest son. Also two Ukrainian brothers came with us. They mostly observed. Bob led another night out on a Saturday. We started in Belltown and ended up downtown. There were many divine appointments. Bob does well with one-on-ones. It was a tremendous night. The Friday before I left it was a very nice day and I went downtown Seattle by myself. I went to Westlake center which is equivalent to Union Square area in SF. I also went to a few other streets as well. I preached on one corner that many years before I had been on those streets in my addiction buying heroin. I had many conversations with the people who stayed and listened to the Gospel. One young man said he had just picked up the Bible two days earlier for the first time. On another corner I witness the Lord putting someone into their right mind. It was awesome. I thought the police in San Francisco were terrific, but the police in Seattle are top notch. They are very supportive of the Gospel going forth. So, what are we waiting for? If not now, when?

As most of you know I have been down here in California for almost three years, 2 years in the SOS house. Unless the Lord changes things, I consider San Francisco to be my home base. I absolutely love my Church and preaching in San Francisco. Preaching in Seattle by myself was a milestone. It was at least a partial fulfillment of what the Lord wanted me to do back in 1978 when He first revealed Himself to me. Pray about something won't you? I want to expand my preaching not only to San Francisco but to Seattle, Portland, and Los Angeles. Perhaps this year He will bring this to pass.

Friends Old and New

I didn't get to see everyone I know up there but I was able to spend a lot of quality time with the Urbicks. The Urbicks go to Russia often and with me down here we don't see each other as much. I met Bob out on the streets witnessing in a little town called Granite Falls. Don't despise small beginnings. Those days were filled with a lot of good times and some sorrowful memories as well. Pray for the Urbicks as they are looking for direction from the Lord as to where to go from here. They just returned from their 6th trip to Russia. They are very involved in the Slovak Churches in Washington. While in Stanwood where the Urbicks live, I went to some friend's house from high school. The last time I saw Evan and Molly was at our 10th year high school reunion in 1985. We recently were reacquainted through "Facebook" the internet networking phenomenon. It was a great visit and they are believers and have been since high school. They have a great family and work there in Stanwood. The rest of my time up there was spent in rest and seeking the Lord. I went on many prayer walks. I saw my sister and her family for an afternoon barbeque at my nieces. Overall it was a great trip!

Back Here at Home

Fisherman's Wharf

Recently I was at the wharf and the Lord really blessed my day there. Most people walk by swiftly, however there are some who stand and listen. This particular day I was able to have about 10 conversations with as many people. A lady from Texas stopped and sat down where I was preaching. After a few moments I stopped and talked with her. She was already a Christian and after visiting awhile we prayed. Her grandson (2 months old) had open-heart surgery. I prayed with one man who had a past similar to mine. He let me pray for him. The one situation that stands out the most is a young man named Joe. He was passing back and forth in front of me saying something (heckling). He did this several times before he sat down to eat his food. I continued to preach and tuned him out as most often I am able to do. If you had ever been at my sister's house growing up you would understand how I have had lots of experience with noise. Anyway, after awhile Joe hollered over at me; that he wanted to ask a serious question and that could I put the mic down for a minute. I did and he came over and asked me how I was able to keep focused and ignore him despite his remarks. First of all, I told him, that although what he saw was the norm, I wasn't beyond getting upset or saying something I shouldn't. I told him that it was God's Spirit in me that was able to do what he thought was so amazing. I explained to him that when I was his age (20) I mocked a Christian man where I worked. I shared the verse in Titus 3:2. to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men. 3. For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. We ended our conversation when Joe said, "well, I better let you get back to your preaching". Obviously the Spirit of the Lord was working on Joe.

The picture to the left is a bird's eye view of Fisherman's Wharf. You can click the picture to enlarge for a better look. Between the black arrows runs Jefferson Street, which is the main drag that runs down the wharf. The four red circles you see are places where myself and SOS Ministries have spots to preach and hand out tracts. These are key strategic locations in reaching the most people who pass by in the groves on a daily basis. San Francisco is the tenth most frequented city in the world for tourism. Fisherman's Wharf is one of the most popular places for tourists in San Francisco. These spots are paid permitted through the Port's program, although you can come on a first come - first serve basis.

Downtown - Business & Financial District

Downtown San Francisco is one of my favorite places to preach. It can be a tad intimidating, that is why I spend a lot of hours before I go to pray and read God's Word. I usually don't know for sure where I will be until I get into town. I count on the Lord to guide me throughout the streets. I usually preach for a total of about three hours. This time frame includes the time it takes to walk to another spot. I may go to anywhere from 2-4 spots per day. I believe the Lord wants me to mix it up for several reasons. One is to keep the devil off guard as to exactly where I will go and when I will be there; secondly, so that I don't wear out any one spot by camping out there. I go to some areas that for all intents and purposes I should not be allowed to go without conflict. For example: one area I go is in the heart of the financial district at around the lunch hour. The street corners are tight and I am right by an expensive restaurant. It is not uncommon for someone to hassle you because they don't want you right in front of their business. I use common sense (tactical rules of engagement) not to get too near doorways etc. This style and tactical strategy is best suited for me to go alone. I know this may sound foreign to your ears since the Lord sent them out two-by-two. There was one called Phillip the Evangelist who went through the cities by himself. Read More on my commentary: Phillip the Evangelist - Acts 8 Around six months ago going out alone was the exception to the rule. Now it is the rule.

Going out by myself does have its limitations. I am not able to hand out tracts while I'm preaching. I do bring along some Gospels of John. One day I was on a very busy corner and preached for about 45 minutes. It was absolutely phenomenal how the Lord gave me favor. Depending on the circumstances I may stop when someone comes near to talk. This particular day after stopping to visit with someone I knew coming by, a young man came and started asking questions about Jesus. The young man was Jewish and I was able to witness to him for about half an hour. I gave him a Gospel of John and he took it gladly. After I get back home I have what I call, "a debriefing" during this time I pray for the people I witnessed to that day. I usually pray for the ones who stand out up to three days later. This is one of the ways I follow up on my "seed sowing" I also carry cards with my Churches info and a map for those who are interested in coming to Church. I actually have seen a few come, and believe more will in the future.

Fruit of the Month

This past winter into spring has brought no visible fruit. Many people ask me if I get discourage when the people are not getting saved by the groves or when nobody seems to listen. Right before I started this venture down here (now going on 3 years) I listened to a radio Bible program that caused me to change my thinking. You see before, I thought I went out to evangelize in order to save the lost and this is what should motivate me. I have come into a new understanding; I go out and preach God's Word to glorify Him. I found that if my motive is to Glorify God and to please Him who enlisted me as a soldier, then I cannot go wrong no matter what results I see, or in the present case, results that I don't see. If my goal is to only save the lost then my means and ways may alter so I can see the desired results. In other words, compromise the message and tactics. No, I will preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified and leave the results in the hands of the Holy Spirit. Please pray that going into this summer there would be a great harvest. I will sow the seed, will you partner with me in prayer?

"The harvest is past, The summer is ended, And we are not saved!" Jer. 8:20

Yours in Christ,

Larry