

Evangelism Newsletter - Summer 2008

Dear Friends in Christ

What is going on with everyone? I am still plugging away here in the Bay Area. There is lots to report on, so where do I begin? This summer has been packed full of evangelism and outreach. You may have noticed I changed the webpage's look a little bit. Check out some of the other pages. In my last newsletter I mentioned that I was going out six days a week witnessing with my partner Richard. Well, we are still going strong and have been blessed out there in many ways.

Lethal Weapon XVI

Recently we were attacked out on the streets of San Francisco by a huge woman who was on drugs, mentally deranged, demon possessed, or all of the above. She threw Richard around like a rag doll as I preached. She wouldn't relent so we had to stop and deal with her. She was throwing all of our Bibles and tracts around. She emptied my bag which has stuff for the homeless, which includes first aid supplies. At one point she tried choking me with some gauze that she grabbed and made into a lethal weapon. I thought of scenes from the movie, "The Godfather" where a guy was strangled with a piano wire. She came up from behind me and put it over my head and around my neck. I had two fingers between the gauze and my neck that kept it from choking me. I tried to keep preaching and smiling until I felt like I had better take this more seriously and get loose. I ducked under the gauze as I pushed her back at the same time. Pam, (her name) then became really hostile and started slugging me. This sort of thing has happened in the past, although it is not a regular occurrence. At this point in time another guy came and started accusing us saying why do we come out and preach and not bring food for the homeless. I couldn't believe this as I was looking at all the stuff we did bring strung up and down the block. Uhm... I got this fabulous idea, let's call this a day and grab everything and leave. As it was evident that we were going to get out of there, many people came up and said, "No, please stay, don't let the devil run you off". One of the men said, "Look they got her in cuffs". I looked up and saw three police cars around where we were at and they did have her in handcuffs. In the heat of the moment I didn't see them arrive. I don't know who called them, but glad it was over. Of course she said that I hit her. Well, at the end of the day we were the ones who walked away. I lost my favorite hat that day, but decided it was better than losing my head.

In situations like this our policy is not to hit back or get aggressive in any way. When that is accomplished it really gives a good witness to the onlookers. Every so often I have to grab someone by the coat or shirt and gently move them away from whomever they are attacking. Usually verbal defense is enough. I wish you could all come with us and see this in action. You really are living the scriptures about turning the other cheek. There is wisdom in what and what not to do. Very practical experience, otherwise it is just theory. Oh yea, you may be asking what set her off. As I examine this before the Lord I must say it was really just the Gospel. Charles Spurgeon once said, "The Gospel is offensive enough, don't add to it". This is a quote we try to live by every time we go out.

SOS Outreach Week

In July we did our annual week-long outreach in San Francisco and Berkeley. Chuck Girard among others joined us as we hosted some visiting youth groups and other individuals that came here to be a part of evangelism. For a more detailed account of SOS week take a look at the ministries newsletter online:

SOS Newsletter

The Fruit of the Month

Over the years I have invited many people to Church. Some of these were total strangers I had witnessed to. Others were friends and acquaintances. Very rarely does someone take me up on the invitation. I always think and pray that they will go to some good Church even if not the one I am attending. Maybe you have had this experience as well.

Being out on the streets of San Francisco I always carry business cards for the Church and other material in efforts to follow up on people that are witnessed to. I give out many and again what seems like to no avail. Recently several people have been coming to Church that I have met out in the streets. All of them were already believers and all of them came because they said they liked either the preaching or the concept of preaching and evangelizing. Specifically there is a group of 5 young people (they are friends) that have been coming now for several weeks. It has been great to see them and others.

My philosophy has always been to preach the Gospel, give out His Word and message. Although I believe strongly in the Church which is Christ's bride, I do not preach, "Come to our Church" or any other for that matter. God is faithful to His method for evangelism and will add to the Church those who are being saved.

You Can Do It Too!

Today we met a Spanish woman who is 80 years old out in the Mission district of San Francisco. She is a believer and she preaches the Gospel in Spanish while we take a break from speaking and we hand out tracts in Spanish and English. I had thought that if she is out there at 80 years old serving the Lord how can I complain of all my tired bones at 51?

*To your left is a picture of Jessi (left), Loretta and Kate (above). They come out with us as often as they can. Loretta is the one who took most of the pictures that I am using here. These gals are housewives and mothers as well as servants of the Lord in evangelism.

* Pictures not included in the printer-friendly version