

## Evangelism Newsletter - Winter - February 2008

### Dear Friends in Christ

It's that time of the season to give you an update on my affairs. Most of you who read this are in places much colder than we have here although we got ice on the windshields a couple of times. (I know, big deal) Now is the rainy season down here and much like Seattle you have to postpone outreaches or get creative. We still go out rain or shine. Most of our permitted outreaches are in Berkeley on Saturdays because it is where to find the most people in the rain.

It has been a little over a year ago that I have taken up permanent residence here in the Bay Area. I just recently acquired a California driver's license and registered to vote here. Is it me or does time go by really fast, especially when you get older? This year I stayed down here for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. I hope all of you survived. Here is a happy thought — this is about the time that all the toys the kids received are either broken, lost, or discarded.

I had to get a tooth pulled recently and without my regular dentist, Dr. Mike, who at last report was starting a dental clinic in Kenya, Africa I was somewhat at a loss. He said that his dentistry was a "tent-making" job and that he was called to preaching. Dr. Mike would always pray for me before he did any work. I met him a few years ago at a street ministry in Everett. He did a lot of dental work for addicts and people who couldn't afford treatment. I felt bad because some of the people he worked on promised to pay him and then never did. For a few months I needed some work but was hesitant because of that. I had some dental pain so I was motivated to finally call his office. I wanted to pay my way and without insurance Dr. Mike and his staff let me make payments. They made me a partial that works way better than Chicklet's™ gum to replace my missing teeth. (My alternative to dental floss; knock out every other tooth.) Well anyway I had to get a tooth pulled and with my background abusing opiates, I had to take some over-the-counter pills for pain. Everything went well and Jesus was gracious to me. It may not sound like a big deal to most; however this was a real milestone. One of my problems in the past was that after a few years of being "clean" I would develop a compromising attitude about using pain pills and when something came up like a bad tooth or back surgery I thought I would have no problem if I used them for a legitimate purpose. So I am glad to report that I was just as zealous to let the doctor know and to use other alternatives. Praise the Lord!

### Prayer Request

I want to take a trip up to Juneau, Alaska to visit my sons. Hopefully I can do this sometime in the spring. As most of you know my oldest son Matthew is 25 years old now and is a police officer. My other son, Chad is 23, so both are grown men. I was a part time dad because of my drug addiction and failed them miserably. I have not spoken to Chad in about 5 years. I haven't seen either one of them in about as long. Matt is open to a visit and I hope to see Chad. You may remember that seventies song by Harry Chapin entitled, "CATS IN THE CRADLE". I guess I sort of feel like that. Please pray that I could make the trip according to the will of the Lord and start the restoration process. It's never too late, right? "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." Mal 4:5, 6. Thank you for all your prayers.

## **Ministry Highlights**

### **Oakland**

Oakland, the bedroom community of San Francisco is much overshadowed by the glimmer and glamour of its counterpart. The city of Oakland's population is around 415,000. Oakland's reputation of being a primarily African-American community in the sixties and seventies has given way to a much more diverse population in 2008. There are over 150 languages spoken here with a high Latino and Asian population. My theory is; "if we don't go into all the world, God will bring all the world to us". According to the FBI, Oakland is the fourth most dangerous city in the United States. Oakland has more murders than any other city in California with the exception of Compton. One of the ministry-team members, Loi was robbed at gunpoint right out in front of our house. I am trying to get my son Matthew who is now a police officer in Juneau, Alaska to come here and answer the many ads the City of Oakland has to recruit new officers. You may be wondering about now why I don't have a job with the Bureau of Tourism for the City of Oakland. For the most part I like it here and one of my favorite places to witness is in the Fruitvale District which is about 2 miles away from the house. In one part of Fruitvale there are tons of Spanish-speaking people who are very open to taking tracts and Bibles. Most of them are very humble people. I would venture to say that out of 100 tracts I only get turned down maybe 5 times. One of the most memorable experiences that I had was right before Christmas. I was passing a Church that had a line of people that went down the block. It was some sort of food/clothing bank line. Eric and I stopped and handed everything we had. Nearly all the people were so eager to take a Gospel of John or a tract and to listen to us. It was so refreshing in comparison to San Francisco. We spent about an hour there ministering to the people, many were Chinese who could not understand us; however I lifted my voice and shared out of the Gospel of Matthew about the birth of Christ and thanking them for the great reception. I then got to pray for them all and it was so awesome.

Before I left the Seattle area I briefly attended a Bible study at some friends of mine in Beacon Hill. The study started with guys at the Veteran's Hospital. Although I am not a veteran I was invited because all the guys were on, or had been on, the methadone program. Because of my history with that drug Pastor Don thought I could bring something to the table. One of the brothers, Oscar asked if anyone used to be a panther (Black Panthers). I was the only white guy there and he looked at me and said, "Well, I know you weren't." All of us started laughing. Afterward he told me that he was glad I was there and I had a sweet spirit about me. Please pray for me that God would reveal His timing for something I felt called to do for several years and that is to go into the West Oakland area and bring the "Good News". I already live in East Oakland, how much dangerous could it be? Perhaps God would use this "Opie" to reach some of the brothers here in Oakland.

### **San Francisco**

We faithfully go out into San Francisco every week. To be honest the desired results are not visible. I recent memorable time was a few weeks back when my niece's husband Pat came down from Sacramento and we went to Fisherman's Wharf. I preached the Gospel over a small max-mouse amp system and Pat handed out tracts. It is worthy to note that more people take the tracts and Bibles when the preaching is going out. You would think otherwise. It seems God blesses is method of reaching people - the foolishness of the Cross.

The Chinese New Year season is upon us. On February 23, there is the Chinese New Year Parade here in San Francisco. We are all prepared to go and pass out Gospel tracts. I have 2,000 Chinese tracts and we have thousands of English tracts to hand out. May, a member of our

ministry team is from China and grew up under the reign of Chairman Mao. Recently we went to Chinatown in Oakland and were handing out tracts and she was ministering to the people. On new years day the Chinese buy the children new clothes and have many other celebrations. May told me that the Chinese New Year celebration was ancient and started from a story similar to the Passover recorded in the book of Exodus. Fireworks are a big part of the celebration. May said that it was to scare off the angel of death. Apparently there were some Jews who went into China and told them of the Passover. Over the years they have mixed it with folklore and other mystical rites. This is a great opportunity to spread the Gospel seeds.

Thank you for your prayers. San Francisco, like other American cities is very hard to reach with the Good News. I hope that our message doesn't become like this: Then the men said to Lot, "Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city--take them out of this place! Genesis 19:12.

### **Fruit of the Month**

Normally in this section of the newsletter I share a detailed story of a person I met through my witnessing efforts, however; for the next couple of letters I would like to share about the many people in my life's past that are responsible for the good fruit that is bearing out in my life today. I will start with my pastor from years ago who had sown into my life many things. I feel I'm a better disciple of Christ because of him and of course ultimately because of Jesus Christ. As I'm finally obeying the call of God in my life by giving myself over to the evangelism ministry, I realize that being like Jesus Christ is more important than what I can do for Jesus. Over the years I have become more like a Mary rather than a Martha. I am growing in areas of my life that were stagnant for years. At times I felt my pastor was too hard on me. I am finally "getting" what he was trying to instill in me 10-12 years ago. Many of these areas are family relationships and just general responsibility. So the fruit of the month was sown years ago by a faithful man of God. His name is Pastor Kelley Taylor. May God continue to bless you Kelley. For more info on Kelley's ministry go to: Calvary Chapel of Lake Stevens