

Evangelism Newsletter – Winter 2009

Dear Friends in Christ

Once again it's time for my quarterly newsletter to give you an update on how I'm doing and how the work of the Lord is doing here in the Bay Area. On a personal note, my youngest son Chad and I are talking once again after a five year absence due to my fault as a father, or for that matter, a Christian. I would ask that you keep both of my boys on your prayer list. Chad just got laid off from his job and my older son Matt is a police officer in Juneau. Both boys live in Juneau, Alaska. Also pray for their spiritual lives as well.

Many thanks for all your prayers for me and the gang down here. We continue to evangelize and to equip others. We need some more workers to help us get out the Gospel, not just here but other parts of the US & world. Don't forget as you pray you partner with me in the work of the Lord!

Overall my health is good and morale is high. We took our annual cruise around the bay on a special rate we get only offered in January. The boat ride includes a buffet and some other nice perks. You can check out some pictures by going to the photogallery. After the cruise we drove across the Golden Gate Bridge and into Marin County. We spent the rest of the day relaxing and visiting with our guests Paul and Noreen Coca, who play music out on the streets with us and Paul is on the advisory board of SOS Ministries. Chuck Girard, a close friend of the ministry's was also here for the weekend.

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)

CHINATOWN:

As you would expect in San Francisco's Chinatown there's a city within a city. I frequent there once a week with Garrett, a friend of mine who I mentioned in my last newsletter. We usually stay for about 4 hours. Our day starts off when we meet at the main entrance to Chinatown on the corners of Grant and Bush streets. Being prayed up ahead of time we start our journey up Grant Street stopping at several shops starting to open up for business. Garrett will greet them in Chinese and hand them a tract if they haven't taken one in the past. The length of Grant is primarily shops and restaurants that cater to the tourist. They seem to open at different times during the week days with all opened by 11:00 am. We stop at various corners and I hand out Chinese tracts while Garrett preaches in Chinese. Garrett just uses his voice without amplification. This seems to work and be the most appropriate tactical strategy for the area. The streets are narrow and the distance to cross the streets in Chinatown are about half that of the main streets downtown San Francisco. Also, the Chinese are very quiet and they hear Garrett just fine. I also take English tracts with me for the English speaking tourists who we encounter. This time of year on a weekday there are not very many tourists. The ones we see are usually from Europe. We continue our way into the main shopping area for the Chinese Americans that live in the city. Open markets with fruits and vegetables are the norm for the people who prefer to shop on a daily basis. Garrett also teaches English classes in Chinatown during weeknights. I am learning a little Chinese myself. I know how to say "Jesus is Lord" in Mandarin. Mandarin is the national language for China. This is what our tracts are printed in. Cantonese is the other language which Garrett knows some of this as well.

DOWNTOWN SF:

"You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man". This is the tactical strategy that I have been developing in the downtown area of San Francisco. The phrase from an old cartoon character is fitting because it takes about an hour or so to wear out an area so that someone calls the police. However it is legal to use amplification without a permit in San Francisco if it is under 10 watts. The portable speaker that we use is 9 watts. The problem is that technically the code states that it has to be a bullhorn. The policy of the police is; they do not enforce this technicality unless there is a complaint. Recently I have focused on the downtown area of San Francisco. This runs primarily down Market Street from the Embarcadero through Montgomery which is the business district. On any given day there are many people downtown.

FRUIT OF THE MONTH:

As I was preparing to write an article for this section I could not think of one story that stood out to report on. I delayed in the publication of this quarter's newsletter in hope that I could come up with something. One day, as the BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) train was setting still on the tracks waiting its turn to go through the tunnel I saw a tree, I think it was a maple tree. Even though we have a late fall/winter here, the tree was totally bare of any leaves. As I fixed my eyes on it I realized that there are seasons in ministry too. My ministry here does not seem to be dormant, but perhaps it is spiritually. At the end of the age when the harvest is gathered then we will know how much sown took root. In the most sense this is a barren wasteland spiritually speaking down here and in many areas of America. This winter is perhaps the time to ask ourselves what are we doing, and why are we doing it. No matter what the results, what the opposition or criticism, or how I feel, I can look to scripture and get the same mandate; "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature".

Yours in Christ
Larry DuBois