



January 2011

Friends of transformation,

If the rest of this year is anything like this first month, we will be accomplishing a TON in 2011. We will also be broke (smiling here) and we will also have experienced one heck a lot of warfare. On the docket for this year:: a regional transformation conference featuring some of the mighty men and women of God in the nations who are seeing tangible results play out as they walk in faith, a fully renovated event center (night club turned useful for building up lives instead of tearing them down), a high octane mentoring program which will touch upwards of 100 of the more broken teens in our region each week, an expansion of the WeR1 family umbrella, a prayer force which will be praying into community breakthroughs on a regular and consistent basis, a variety of focus teams who initiate change in business realm - education realm - social service realm, and much much more! Can you say YEEAAAAHHH?



Monthly meeting connecting community youth leaders



Project 18 mentee party at The Crossing hosted by Bethel students



Mentor pairs enjoy conversations, music, art and PIZZA!



Various groups renting The Crossing for their events.

### **FAITH-BASE WANTED IN COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS**

I just left a meeting of 12 key leaders including law enforcement, education, and youth violence prevention. These people and their agencies will form the backbone for a 3/4 million dollar 36 month collaborative grant proposal to establish intervention and prevention for gang activity in our area. The grant states "Awards will support the coordination of community-based anti-gang initiatives that involve law enforcement ...schools, social services, faith- and community-based organizations, and businesses. " For us to be invited in as the faith-based "go-to" linchpin is a total honor.

Earlier in the month, we hosted a gathering of our youth task force which has been following up on our October survey luncheon. At this meeting of representatives from a variety of community organizations, a few key youth pastors shared their desire and resolve to see Shasta County become a "suicide free zone." One of the ladies who has coordinated various local efforts piped up about leading a small team which is doing something about that issue, with a hotline and helps. She mentioned how her "old voice" needs some young blood with it. Promptly, she was affirmed as a mother whose voice needs to be heard. Her response? A statement that her very own son had committed suicide. This formed a strong connection between the youth pastor and this woman, and God will bring about amazing things through this relationship.

Our Bethel mentors organized another mentor/mentee party at The Crossing for matches and new faces to Project 18. We have had lots of interest, and another eight matches were made this month. These included kids referred by Shasta County Probation and the CalSafe Teenage Pregnant and Parenting program, who understand the value of a faith-based mentoring program. We are honored to have so many youths

(over please)

looking with hope in our direction. At the same time, many of our mentees are truly struggling with family disintegration, drugs and failures of various kinds. Some don't want to be found despite best efforts by mentors to look for them. It's a battlefield out there and HOPE will prevail. Want to join in? Come get trained, screened and fingerprinted; become a player in the Crossing or Project 18 teams!

### **THE CROSSING: MOVING FORWARD**

This is the month we renovate the space. I call it the Fabulous February Facelift. We have only a few hundred dollars in our account, but in our hearts we have faith for \$70K to get lighting installed in the main room and stage, sound upgrades, wall repairs, paint, new carpets, and frontage signs. So, come on down on **Saturdays this month from 3 to 5pm** and help us...

deck the halls, and clean the stalls  
and patch the walls, big or small...

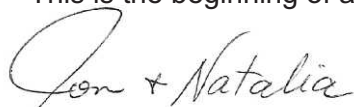
A number of bookings for the Crossing are coming in now as I am answering the phone and touring people through the space. Three youth groups are meeting in the evenings, a few dances are scheduled, a battle of the bands is on the horizon, plus a fashion show, a Christian online dating company entertainment night, an ART event in mid-February and various local concerts. A major **fundraiser SHOW is scheduled for March 19**, initiated and spearheaded by a 15 year old gal. We have already seen almost \$2000 in sponsorships for this event come in and plan to see over \$15,000 raised to help offset costs of renovating and paying for utilities and supplies. Aglow will do a **worship and prayer night on Feb 7**, so come if you can! Pray for God's supply and quality acts to book the place. Pray for favor on grants, donations, ticket sales and all that goes along with walking this vision out practically. After-school programming is getting ready to roll out and soon there will be "something to do for youth and young adults in Redding" constantly! Awesome.

### **WORKING AND DREAMING**

Many staff hours have been spent this month planting with the hope of reaping in due season. Karen prepared and submitted an application for a local grant to help fund our mentoring program. This could bring in about \$20K to cover some costs and hire a badly needed Mentor Coordinator so we can effectively serve more kids. Please pray for favor on this application as it is being reviewed in the next two weeks. I am working with a gentleman on marketing Project 18 to agencies who have a need for this, and to people who want to support it. Please pray for these efforts also.

In order for us to be effective in this age, we must be seen as GIVERS and not TAKERS. This is something I gleaned from the Transformation Family Summit in Mt. Hermon two weeks ago with the 100 top associates of Ed Silvoso's organization, Harvest Evangelism (in which my folks serve). Imagine if the Church were able to say each weekend during offering time, "God has supplied all our needs here, our budget has been completely underwritten and we need nothing, so the offering we are about to receive will be given away this week to make an immediate, tangible difference in \_\_\_\_\_ area of town." Imagine the community seeing us as ones who are "into it" not for ourselves but for the sake of others. Imagine if we GAVE an offering away instead of TAKE all of them to deal with our own internals? Wooah, this would be a new way of operating as the Church! Imagine if, having met our budget already (up front), we decided to use our time to work hard with our own hands and produce more so we can give it away, rather than kicking back to relax and enjoy our excess? This is a paradigm that will shift. I know one church in Minnesota whose budget was underwritten this year, as a prototype, so that they can "take offerings" to give them (with people and loving help) to those situations God highlights on their local scene. May God do the same here!

This is the beginning of a great year,



Jon and Natalia Thompson