



THE TRACK RECORD

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www.weR1net.net

SPRING 2009



Garrett and Rich speak to community leaders of the impact of mentoring at SafetyNet launch.

The Community Room at the Redding Library has probably never seen a more diverse group than the 80+ who came for the Community Leaders' Lunch on March 31st. The Chief of Police and Chief of Probation, a former superintendent of schools and a university president, hip hop band members and the staff from the Women's Refuge, councilmen and women from Redding and Anderson, pastors and ministry leaders from all over the region and from all flavors of Christianity, plus those who own businesses and those unemployed. What brought them together? The aroma of hope...

This was the launch of SafetyNet, a coalition of action-focused people establishing a community clearinghouse where ideas, needs, resources and collaboration can **converge** in order

HOPE AND A FUTURE

by Karen Shuster

to **emerge**. The lunch was hosted by the SafetyNet team, who have been meeting for the last couple of months to nourish the seed of a good idea into growth. They shared at the lunch how the initial fruit is starting to blossom with the development of the first three projects:

1) Angela and Tom, the Shelter Manager and Case Manager from the Shasta Women's Refuge, shared from their hearts the reality that the women face who must leave the shelter after 30 days. Along with Maegan, Children's Program Coordinator at the shelter, they have been developing the **Safe Transitions** component of SafetyNet, which is designed to catch those survivors of abuse who need a temporary home before they can move into their long-term arrangements.

2) **Project 18** will connect young people leaving Juvenile Hall in a relationship with street-savvy mentors. Rich is one such mentor and has been instrumental in developing the project. He introduced the group to Garrett, a young man who Rich met through music. Garrett shared the powerful impact mentoring had on him, literally turning his life around because of a man who was

willing to love him unconditionally.

3) Robert saw the need for neighbors to connect before crime happens when his own daughter's bedroom was entered by a stranger. When he went house to house to find out anything he could about the man, he found neighbors who didn't know each other, but who were all willing to do what they could to help a neighbor in need. He is on the SafetyNet team developing **My Watch**, which will amp up the neighborhood watch system with ongoing relationship and training.

See details of SafetyNet on pages 6-7 or go to www.safetynetcommunity.net

Each of these initiatives will place readied Christians in a role of influencing society, healing broken hearts and engaging in practical transformation immediately. This lunch was the first step in linking The

Church with the needs under SafetyNet. The anticipation of hope for these previously hopeless areas was thick in the room. The conversations afterwards were as meaningful as the presentations, as leaders discussed how their realms of influence might become a part of the solution for a brighter future. The door is wide open and Christians are being invited in. What part of the net are you holding? ■

ANDERSON RELOADED

by John Rodrigues

When a sequel to a good movie comes out, there is always excitement coupled with apprehension. You know how much you enjoyed the first movie and are hoping that the follow up will be as good, but experience tells you that is often not the case. In the Winter issue of The Track Record, I wrote an exciting article about what was taking place in South County. I was eager to hear what's been happening since then, so I contacted DeAnna Gallagher who has been spearheading South County Transformation. I felt that same excitement/apprehension when anticipating a sequel...can anything as exciting be taking place compared to a couple of months ago?! Then she wrote me back! WOW!

For starters, 40 key leaders in the Anderson/Cottonwood area convened for a

prayer breakfast at the end of January. The Chief of Police, City Manager, City Council members, chamber of commerce director, county supervisor, business owners and over a dozen local pastors responded to the invitation. All were exceptionally open to the message and vision of transformation. Their police chief voiced his concern that reportable crimes could increase this year into the double digits. DeAnna thanked him for sharing and immediately applied prayer to this fear (felt need). The Church can play a major role in curbing crime and working for the safety of the community once envisioned and commissioned. One city council member said afterward, "You've given me a push in the right direction today. One particular 'dark spot' in town, an apartment complex, really needs a



Anderson Chief of Police addresses 40+ leaders at South County Prayer Breakfast.

turn around this year. I already spoke with that pastor over there and the youth pastor over here to join me to make a difference. "

Many from the south county attended the LYNK training sessions that recently concluded, where many were trained by local

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REGIONAL

RED BLUFF CONNECTING: Reaching out to co-workers, children and those in need

by Dan and Kim Berry

What: February's workplace prayer lunch**Where:** Lariat Bowl conference room**When:** Thursday, 2-19-2009 from noon -1:00**Why:** To get the Body of Christ together and have a good time, Eat, Worship, Testimony, Pray (give thanks and lift up our agency/co-workers in prayer).

About 23 of us met for this first one at the local bowling alley, across from Social Services where we work. There were people that I don't think I'd ever met until this lunch. Others came who don't even work at Social Services but were invited by friends and family members.

My wife and grand kids came and decorated the room with flowers and chocolates before the lunch. People were blessed just by that special touch. After eating, we sang two worship songs, listened to a co-worker give her testimony and had a moment for prayer afterward before hurrying back to work. The time together was very powerful in many different ways. Many comments came back later asking that we do this more often. People have not forgotten and have not let me forget. My plan is to try to put something together in May.

COMMUNITY VBS

Every year there are churches that put lots of resources and effort into Vacation Bible School and the attendance at each is often low. Some churches don't have the resources at all to put one on. Last year I volunteered at it with some women I knew who were involved

in the Back to School Project at a VBS. Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF), who is responsible for Good News Clubs in the public schools, worked with North Valley Baptist Church at this VBS. The CEF director was sharing with us that when she lived in the Bay Area churches would work together and put on a phenomenal 2 week VBS. People would take their vacations at that time just to be involved. We began to talk and say that we could do that here in Red Bluff, and so

Community VBS was born! This way, we pool our resources, our talents and our energy to reach out to the families of this community. So far five fellowships are planning to be involved:

Community Baptist, North Valley Baptist, Zion Christian Ministries, 1st Church of God and Sonrise Bible Fellowship.

BTSP PLUS

Since 2004, the Back to School Project (BTSP) has reached out to local underprivileged school-age children by providing new shoes, clothing, backpacks and haircuts to qualifying children. Through various fundraisers and private tax-deductible donations, the project provides a shopping day for the children to purchase their own clothes with the help of our team of dedicated volunteers.

This spring, an exciting new partnership has been formed with *Fiscal E Fit*, a Money Management Mentorship Program that will offer one-on-one money-management training. It will empower the families served by the BTSP in the area of finances, give basic budgeting skills and help stretch limited dollars.

The Money Mentorship Program consists of seven training sessions that empower families to overcome financial struggles. The program works for families with low and high incomes, as well as those with advanced financial knowledge or no financial knowledge. The key to the program is "mentorship". Mentors will offer a commitment of their time over three months to show participants how to maximize the power of every dollar. Mentors are individuals who have also been mentored by the program and have a desire to share what they have learned.

Through generous support from local businesses, non-profits, community organizations, churches and caring individuals, we are able to provide scholarships to the families of The Back To School Project.

David Charlson, founder of Fiscal E Fit, has been working with us to make this training available to the BTSP families. He has been helping families and individuals with their personal finances for over 15 years. David and his team of mentors are ready to help any family or individual that is willing and committed to achieving true financial freedom. (more info at www.fiscalefit.com)

Families that participate in the program will get priority in selection for the upcoming shopping day. The dates have not yet been

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The Back To School Project allows Red Bluff Christians to connect with each other while outfitting needy children for school.

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SHARE YOUR STORIES!

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LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR KINGDOMSTYLE: LYNK - The training event of the year!

by Troy Foster

I have had the privilege to be present at the LYNK (Loving Your Neighbor Kingdomstyle) events for the past 7 weeks. Redding Transformation has hosted these events at River City Church. Each night was a stretching experience as the region's great Spiritual Fathers imparted God's heart for the region and our lives. The promise on the WeR1.net website was: "LYNK will launch Kingdom minded people all over the community with vision and understanding on how to change the city - for good!" and it did not disappoint. I was personally impacted each night as I listened to the speakers and practitioners, each had an awesome testimony to God's power and love for us and our region.

Night One, Danny Silk showed us in his unique way how Father God relates to his children and how we can relate to our children and our communities. His challenge was for us to honor our relationships, which includes honoring those who are different than us, are in authority over us, or make decisions for our city, state, and nation. He focused on how the great commission is to Disciple Nations, which includes the nations' gatekeepers. We must be influencers of



LYNK joins regional Christians across denominations and generations in a practical training event focused on impacting our communities.

"kings" not in the church, but in *their* realms. He challenged us all to dream big and help make people's dreams come true, just like Joseph did.

Wendell McGowan, pastor of River City, proclaimed that we have all been fishing in different holes with our different churches and denominations for many years, but have not brought in the full catch of fish in unison. The first time the disciples fished with Jesus, the nets broke and they lost fish. When the disciples fished the second time with Jesus they did not lose a single fish, because all the disciples knew how to pull in the net together.

On Night Two, Bill Johnson from Bethel spoke about Jesus and his power and uniqueness. One of the key realities he spoke about was that the Bible is not our relationship with God, rather it points us into an encounter with God. Our public ministry must start with those things we do in private; our daily time alone with God.

Rick Caldwell of Youth For Christ imparted to us on Night Three how to hear the Holy Spirit and how to follow

Him into action. Just like a seed must die first before it can begin to grow, we also must die to self first before God can use us to accomplish His purposes. We must overcome our fears and obey Him, and follow Him wherever He shows us to go. Rick shared how he, as a new believer, learned to pray. First, Jesus has to be LORD of your life, you have to have a clean heart before God by confessing sins and receiving forgiveness, you must be moving in faith, filled with worship, and resisting Satan, and lastly listen for God to speak.

Night Four we heard from Nathan Edwardson, pastor of The Stirring. He spoke to the desperate need our teens and children have to be fathered. He called all of us to father this generation as the Father

fathers us. "Where are the fathers?" was Nathan's cry. We must engage in the warfare on behalf of the youth. We also heard testimony from people who have applied the LYNK in their lives.

Night Five Jon Thompson, director of Redding Transformation, delineated Ed Silvoso's four ascending levels of Christians in the marketplace. There are 1. Christians who are simply trying to survive, 2. some actually attempting to apply biblical principles, 3. Some going a step beyond that to listening to the Holy Spirit's guidance at the workplace and 4. Christians with vision and expectancy that God's Kingdom can and should replace the depleted and defeated kingdom of darkness.

Then Bill Randall, pastor of Risen King, spoke from Nehemiah about how Christians need to have a vision for their broken city. As we look at our city we must see it from Heaven's perspective, not our human eyes. He said, "If I don't have a vision for a preferred future, than what future do those in need around me have?" We have a city, region, state and nation in need of rebuilding. We must follow God's vision to rebuild

IMPACT STORY FROM NIGHT 2

The next morning God woke me up earlier than usual and I decided to follow his prompt to meet with Him. In my "private time" God focused on His PEACE in my life and I asked Him to give me opportunities to serve Him. Then I got ready for work, stepped out my doorstep and there was my neighbor coming over to me with a young, sobbing girl. This frightened 20 year old was out of her mind on drugs and alcohol, didn't know where she was, how she got here, where her car was or what she was going to do. She was in stocking feet on a wet, cold morning. My neighbor ministered to her through Scriptures, prayer, words of encouragement, blankets, socks, and connecting her with a local fellowship. Because I met with My God of Peace in the morning, the same God of Peace met with this scared, scarred, and lost girl in the midst of her time of need.

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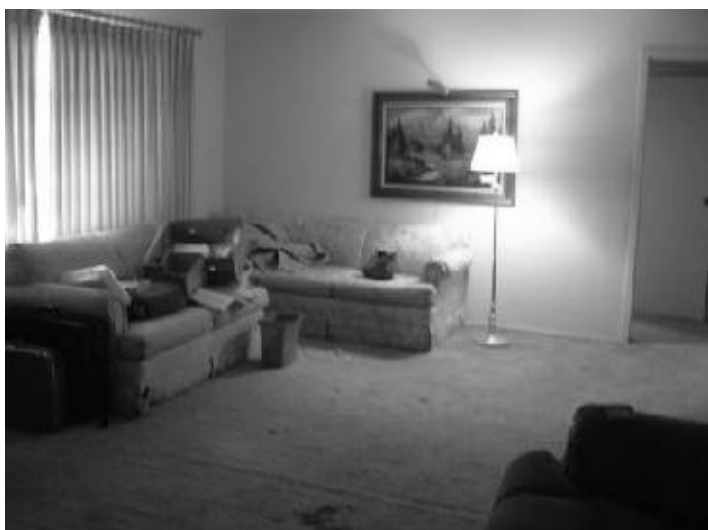
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Grace in Motion's Extreme Make Over

by Jane Barnes

Tobey and I have enjoyed working on Grace in Motion projects and have been told to keep our ear to the ground for people in need for future projects. These are people that we know personally, that have an overwhelming need in their life, and need a touch of God's grace. It didn't take long to find one.

On Monday, March 16, I came out of retirement to return part-time to Shasta County Children and Family Services to help out two social work friends whose life has been turned upside-down by Linda's recent diagnosis of aggressive breast cancer. When visiting with Gary, her overwhelmed husband, I learned that their family of three was staying with different friends in town in order to keep up with medical appointments, school and work. They



BEFORE & AFTER pictures of the living room of the Redding home of a cancer patient. Volunteers removed carpeting, painted and scrubbed before new furnishings were brought in.



live in Whitmore, but the daily commute had become too exhausting and their grade school daughter was really suffering. When I asked why they weren't staying in the house in town that they inherited from his mother-in-law two years ago, he said it was not fit for living in, and he had no way of tackling that job now. For some reason, without hesitating, I told him I had friends who could help if he wanted it.

At the final session of the LYNK training, Thursday, March 19, Bill and Joanie Griffin inspired us with Mark 4:30 about how God gives a seed (a need) and we need to plant it (take a risk), then God gives the growth...if we listen, respond and connect with believers. We had Grace in Motion on our hearts, but that night we heard that there was no project for

March.

The *next* morning, my friend, Gary, called me from work saying that, if we really knew how to help him get the house safe for his ill wife, he'd be *very* grateful. We said we'd like to take a look at it.

On Saturday, my husband and I met them at the house for a tour and pictures. It was a much bigger project than GiM usually tackles. But, we sent the photos and email description to Jon Thompson that day. He immediately forwarded the request to the Grace in Motion crew for work the very next Saturday, March 28. All day Sunday we got showered with emails from willing workers saying, "Yes! Count me in! Let's get 'er done!" A painter volunteered to spray the entire house if we

prepped it, so Tobey and I spent several days getting it ready for that big step. Friday, after spray painting, we emailed to all volunteers a list of the jobs to be tackled Saturday morning so that everyone would have the right tools and know what to expect.

With only one week's notice, about 20 excited helpers of all ages met for parking lot prayer at

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page 5

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BEFORE & AFTER pictures of the daughter's bedroom. It was painted pink. Matching furnishings were donated by a local business.



EXTREME MAKE OVER *continued from page 4*

9 a.m. then went to the house for a *big* morning of work. A few friends of the family and co-workers also came to work elbow to elbow with us...hauling out old carpeting, pulling up tack strips, painting trim, filling the dumpster with junk, pruning the yard, scrubbing and vacuuming. Many of the volunteers are also part of the Christian Singles group that was collecting items for a yard sale. Gary gladly donated everything from the shed they cleaned out. Friends who couldn't work dropped off snacks, sandwiches and drinks. It was very fun for all involved, believers and non-believers side by side, sharing in the joy of serving others. For the rest of the week, the buzz continued as we emailed photos and comments about blessing this family.



The family is able to move from Whitmore to be closer to medical services, just two weeks after the first discussion.

Gary and Linda have been overwhelmed with the kindness of the Grace in Motion group. As they have said many times through their hugs and tears of joy, "We cannot find the words to express what all your kindness and hard work has meant to us. You certainly have brightened our lives. Thank you for the light!" And now, the rest of the story... 'friends of friends' who own a house staging company heard about this family's plight and offered to completely decorate and furnish the house for them. The eye-popping unveiling and move-in party, straight out of TV's Extreme Makeover, was April 4th. *And*, the family was informed that all of the furnishings are theirs to keep forever.

As Bill Griffin said, "Our *call* is where *God's love* and the *world's needs* intersect." Grace in Motion is the perfect answer to that call. But, be ready. When you feel a nudge from the King of the Universe, expect a miracle! ■

ANDERSON *continued from page 1*

ministry heads to become more effective in reaching the NorthState. Testimonies were shared as participants put into practice what they were hearing. Numerous people had been convicted of their need to "adopt an environment." One such environment that was adopted is referred to as the Bruce Street apartments. Chris Overstreet recently led a ministry team to the apartments where they had tremendous spiritual success--people expressed a desire to be prayed for, hunger for God and decisions to get straight (off substances).

The pastors in the South County are meeting regularly with a common goal to transform South County. Barriers that previously existed between denominations, worship cultures and other causes for division are coming down. Those interested in transformation are in unity on the essentials of the gospel and allowing liberty in the non-essentials that would often cause division. In

this spiritual potpourri, what is being discovered is that instead of one aroma (spiritually speaking) overpowering the other, there is strength in the blend; strengths complimenting strengths creating a new transformational paradigm of greater power. Here are a few of the items for which they are praying:

Unity amongst believers / grace toward one another,

Ways to offer hope and to love the unlovely, Crime rate reduces, rather than increases due to the economy,

Faith to believe God for a mighty move of His Spirit.

The South County Transformation core team is planning "fun days" at a neighborhood park this summer. This is an exciting first step to reaching out in love, and it will accomplish many objectives at once:

Connect the community of believers

Get businesses involved through sponsorships, prizes, etc.

Reach out in love to the Bruce Street neighborhood

Help develop a greater clarity for the next steps for transformation in our region.

Also being planned is Ready, Get Set, Go! - a one-day workshop for South County believers to come together and prepare their hearts through prayer, Get Set to reach out through team-based planning, and then Go out into the streets through prayer walking, and back for testimonies and an early dinner.

There is a tremendous optimism that what is being seen right now, is only the beginning! There were stirrings in months past, but now that spiritual vitality is starting to take shape and others are being added that contribute towards making a more powerful transformational unit, known as South County Transformation. ■

SAFETYNET: Innovation for activation

by Jon Thompson

"Hey bro, can you do breakfast next week?" It was Pastor Steve of the 1st Nazarene Church, a voice I knew. What I didn't know is that God was initiating a plan that would blow my mind! Over breakfast, Steve shared the inside scoop on a significant problem in our city. The Women's Refuge, which helps transition clients out of

domestic violence and dangerous situations, needed help. Since a picture is worth 1000 words, and an experience is worth 100 pictures, Steve set a time and date when I could experience the center firsthand. As I got to know the directors and the program, the wheels began to turn in my mind. I saw us, the Church of the Shasta region,

becoming the solution for their need and touching the lives of battered women and hurting children. I saw homes opening with warmth and love to dozens of families in transition. As I asked the directors if it would be OK to develop a strategy utilizing area homes to host those in need, they beamed, "Could that be done?" A vision has evolved into **SAFE TRANSITIONS**. (See side bar for explanation.)

Fast forward a few months to August 2008. Brian Richart, Chief of Probation in Shasta County, spoke at a Redding Transformation sponsored meeting of community leaders and local pastors. He shared openly about needing an effective strategy for youth newly released juvenile hall. The probation team spends lots of dough on detaining, sentencing, rehabbing, re-educating, and overseeing the at-risk youth. But, the day always comes when the youth are released back into the real world, where struggles, temptations and opportunities await. Many times, there's no one to walk with them through this tenuous time. The money spent to help undergird them and give them a fresh start can all be for naught as one bad decision can land them right back at the beginning of the cycle. What we need are some street-savvy people to be a fathering/mothering presence in the life of these youth, to introduce them to positive choices and environments that are life-giving. The strategy formulated to address this

situation in the Shasta Region has been dubbed **PROJECT 18**. (See side bar for explanation.) In January 2009, Anderson Chief of Police, Dale Webb, spoke at a community leaders' prayer breakfast hosted by South County Transformation. He shared how unemployment, lack of funding for policing efforts and a few zones of distress could create the "perfect storm" leading to double digit crime rates. Of course, we prayed about this information at the meeting, but one of the leaders in attendance was intrigued by the message of hope I shared. I had proposed that we ask our questions in faith rather than doubt and tackle things together, to link arms in tasks too big for any one of us for the good of the region. This councilman shared his concern for the Bruce Street neighborhood and suggested that putting a spotlight on that area could turn the tide in Anderson. This interaction helped me realize the dire need of our neighborhoods to be reclaimed and restored to a true community feel. We cannot expect the police to do more with less, and we can't relegate our responsibility to programs like Neighborhood Watch. Wanting to see a resurgence in the Christian community for our streets, a few of us began to work on the foundations of a proactive neighborhood connection force called **MyWatch**. (See side bar for explanation.)

These three strategies are all under the - CONTINUED page 8

SAFETYNET: Great Commission Living

Needs are opportunities; both for good and for evil. An unmet need, like pent up water, begins to stagnate in a person's life if left untapped. Many contemplate suicide or sink into depression because hopelessness took up residence in their heart. Hopelessness sets in when people feel, "Nothing can be done." When Jesus encountered hopelessness, He crushed it every time. The man paralyzed by the pool for 38 years, the ten lepers, the man born blind, the Gadarene demoniac, Mary Magdalene, Peter after denying Christ, the two on the road to Emmaus, etc. I believe we too are called to displace hopelessness with the HOPE within us.

As the heads of our city and county look to us afresh, favor and influence will increase. Another positive side effect will be a fresh unity and an unselfishly sweet brotherhood among the Lord's people as victories and solutions are accessed through teamwork. The giftings and dreams God has placed in the heart of His people can now have a forum to be heard, affirmed and developed for the good of our community under a Kingdom umbrella of agape love.

We believe that when Christ comes into a bleak situation, it improves. Paul put it this way in Titus, "God's grace, which brings salvation, has appeared..." This word "salvation" means "healing, deliverance and wholeness." Light comes upon darkness and darkness retreats. When we, the people of Light, come upon

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www.safetynetcommunity.net
details on getting involved in Project 18, Safe Transitions, My Watch • PDF files of brochures • interactive forum for connecting ideas, needs and resources

SAFETYNET: Getting Practical with Transformation

Under the direction of Redding Transformation, SafetyNet is a clearinghouse where needs, ideas, possibilities and resources can converge. It's a relationally based, community-focused, action-oriented think tank with hands and feet to create God sized solutions via heartfelt networking. It's designed to expedite creative, grace-filled partnerships that address current issues, by defining and clarifying what needs done and organizing strike teams to get it done. SafetyNet will maximize leadership's valuable time and insights, empower goodwill in grassroots citizenry, and increase the dream to deed ratio throughout the region.

Here's how it works:

1. Leader, Organization or grassroots citizen connects with SafetyNet to share an idea, need or service gap.
2. Through dialogue, an understanding and relationship

develops. Prayer is applied at this initial stage inviting the creativity and favor of God, for only He can assemble the puzzle effectively.

3. Quantifying, assessing, clarifying and defining details lay the foundations for the solution. Establish concrete goals, basic ground rules, and clear steps to take the idea into action.
4. Enlist and prepare the laborers to actually tackle the situation. Individuals and organizations will be informed and mobilized via constant opportunity updates.

Case in point: as this paper goes to print, the director of the women's refuge emailed me asking for a team of men to unload, assemble and place dozens of beds that weigh over 200 lbs each in their dormitory. This task would completely

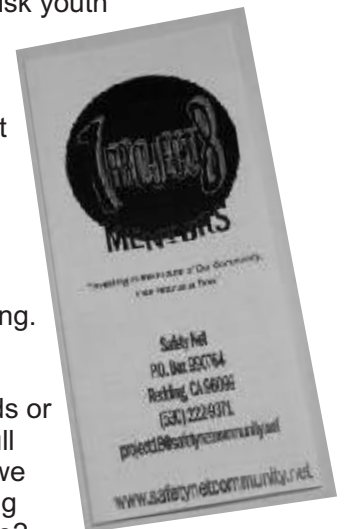
overwhelm an already fragile staff who is giving their all to help the people. We, the Church, can rally to make that load light and provide for those struggling to transition at this time.

Since we're all seeking the good of this community and share a common Lord, and since we all want to see sickness/hopelessness/darkness/death replaced by grace/mercy/hope/life, we can quickly rally around our commonalities. Meeting these highlighted dilemmas head-on is our privilege and call as a Church in the region. As we pull together to answer the call, whether it be a daylong task or a year long process, the city will benefit and experience

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Project 18

Life on life mentoring is the way of the Master, and if we follow Him, it will be our way as well. Nowhere is this more needed than with the high risk youth exiting Juvenile Hall, the at-risk youth just entering the system, and the foster youth in our area. These teens have a good 60 years ahead of them to either be productive in the community or detrimental to it. SafetyNet has been invited into this "service gap" by top leaders in these fields to bring hope and health via life-giving relationships and positive role modeling. Mentors will commit to spend an average of 2 hours per week for one year with an at risk student. Weekly cell phone, texting, emailing, and hanging out together will keep the bond strong. Mentors will be trained and given a valuable list of "destination points." These are participating business and local fun spots partnering with SafetyNet to comp the goods or service to the teens. Mentors may be eligible to receive full reimbursement for their portion of activities. Not only will we make a difference, we will have fun and be a part of healing brokenness in the community. Can you step up at this time? We need 43 more mentors over this next year as well as businesses willing to partner as destination points.



Safe Transitions

What does 'love your neighbor' look like? Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan. His sacrificial, timely response showed love and compassion, and it's needed nowadays more than ever. The battered women and children in our community receive timely assistance from the Shasta Women's Refuge. For 30 days, they can be housed and helped in recovery by this service agency. At the end of 30 days, though, they must leave and find other housing. At this crucial juncture, the options are limited as to where these hurting/recovering families can go. Some, being out of options, decide to return to the batterer because, "at least the kids will have a roof over their head and some food, even if I must suffer occasionally." If the Church were able to step in here and provide homes, rooms, shelter for a season and be Family to the broken, we could see this awful scenario turn into a bright new day. Can you step up, or do you know of a solution at this time? We need 9 homes in the coming 9 months. We also need people who can serve in a support role to those homes, providing meals, transportation, childcare, etc.



My Watch

With neighborhood policing units being cut from the budget and economic trouble visiting many at this time, the potential exists for an increase in crime. Prayer is needed and action is required. My Watch is about **proactively** building up communities and neighborhoods. It promotes safe plans for various scenarios, it equips people on how to be agents of Hope, Mercy, Grace and Love, and it connects + engages otherwise disconnected neighbors in a community. Some neighborhoods have some degree of a reactive (wait for crime, call the cops) network, but many desire to establish a proactive connection. My Watch starts with a "phone tree" system to notify neighbors of emergencies and regular gatherings for training and sharing information. A Block Manager coordinates these steps and oversees the development of Lighthouses (providing safety and access to a phone for emergencies) and future developments. Whatever your level of involvement, everyone is needed to "adopt" a neighborhood to proactively build stronger, safer places to live. With the grassroots people of God networking to infuse hope and life back into our communities, we can spread a large, effective safetynet!



BRUCE STREET APARTMENTS TARGETED FOR GRACE

by Karen Shuster

Chris had a dream about Bruce Street the day after the Anderson leaders' gathering at the end of January. Every Friday, Chris Overstreet, Outreach Pastor at Bethel Church, goes out with his team in boldness and love to bring Christ to wherever the Lord leads. They ask God for direction and for specific clues on whom to speak to.

So the next Friday morning, Chris and his team went to the Bruce St. Apartments in Anderson. They pulled up in front of a field and walked past seven apartment complexes. Chris asked the two men with him, "Do you guys have a sense of direction?" Jason answered, "I have a feeling it's apartment 32." The other man sensed a young girl was going to have an incredible God encounter.

They walked up to one of the buildings and saw a unit with the door open, with the screen door. They couldn't see the number, but knocked on the door. It was dark inside, but they could see a man behind a coffee table. When he responded to the knocking, Chris called out, "Hey, we're here cause we felt God called us out here. I had a dream a week ago to come to Bruce

Street. Just want to know if there's anyone here who needs prayer, if you need anything..."

The man answered, "No I'm good, but thanks for coming."

So they walked on, and Jason's right knee starts to hurt. Sometimes that's how God speaks to him, indicating what He wants to heal. So he went back and knocked on the door. The guy inside said, "What are you doing?"

So Jason explained, "Uh my right knee was hurting, does anyone in there have a knee problem?"

"Don't you recognize me?" the man asked. It was dark and hard to see.

Back up now to June. Jason and two others had started doing "treasure hunts," praying, listening to the Lord for clues, then going out to find the people the Lord wanted them to pray for. One June day, they felt they should go to the Casino. They went and saw God do healings, and left satisfied. But as they were waiting at the stoplight, there was a Honda with peace symbol in front of them. A peace symbol was one of clues they'd received. So they followed the car for several miles. Getting a little impatient, they jumped out at a red light and knocked on the car

window, "Excuse me, we're trying to find people who might need prayer. Do you need prayer for anything?"

The older woman started crying, "I need to talk to you? Can you pull over?"

They found a place to park and the lady told them that her granddaughter was in a coma and not expected to live. She was at UC Davis, where the family was gathered awaiting her death. Jason and his team decided to go to Davis the next day and see what God would do. They met the family in Davis. God's love so saturated the whole family that the girl's mother, who was divorced from the father, accepted the Lord in the parking lot. The team prayed for the girl, Carisa, and returned to Redding. Two days later, she came out of the coma!

So back to the man behind the screen door in the apartment - that was Carisa's father! He recognized Jason. He called his daughter and asked her to come over and she came downstairs in wheel chair. He got to meet her face to face, for first time. There were tears as phone numbers were exchanged. As they walked out of the apartment, he asked her father, "What is your apartment number? It's not on the door."

He replied, "32." ■

**"Do you
need
prayer for
anything?"**

**"We're here
'cause we
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out here."**

SAFETYNET *continued from page 6*

umbrella of SafetyNet. Other ideas are also being incubated in this new wineskin.

WHAT IF a community leader needed to pick up the phone and make ONE CALL soliciting help from a dynamic volunteer base to tackle a current situation in the community?

WHAT IF a person of faith had been nudged by God with a fresh idea, or had a niche resource to share? Where could they link with others to see that idea through?

WHAT IF a community full of unique problems and potential solutions could find one another? Where would that encounter zone be?

Enter SAFETYNET (see www.safetynetcommunity.net) - a clearinghouse where seeds (of ideas) and needs (of people) can meet. It's an elastic environment in which new ideas can incubate and quandaries can be engaged...

Where opportunities and difficulties can collide. Where the church can interface in an active forum with the community at large.

Where the optimistic and realistic can converge. Where the community leaders can safely communicate needs. Where each of us can be a part of catching what's falling through the cracks of our community. ■

PRACTICAL *continued from page 7*

more Heaven-like outcomes, God will be glorified and people will experience the grace of God through our timely response. It's part of building up the Kingdom and meeting people where they're at with the "love that Christ has shed abroad in our hearts."

Good ideas often remain just that - *good ideas*. Sometimes they live long enough to develop into embryonic theoretical stages, but too often another wave of the urgent hits us and we focus elsewhere. And it's hard to find the others who carry the pieces to complete the picture. Rarely do all the pieces reside in one person, so how do the puzzle pieces come together to create something beautiful and effective? The answer: RELATIONALLY!

We trust that SafetyNet will prove to be this relationally-built, win-win community collaborative. As we touch people and spread a net of grace and hope, opportunities for the Kingdom of God to increase will abound. I have heard it said, "You can't *reach* what you don't *touch*." If we want to reach our cities, we must touch them! Touch-points are as bounteous as the creative ideas and current needs are diverse.

The need of the hour is to restore hope, to come underneath people who seem to be in a free-fall. The time for tossing more funding and more programs at problems is past. It's time to jump in sacrificially as proactive, transformational people. It's time to rise to meet the challenges. ■

LYNK continued from page 3

it shoulder to shoulder, just as the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt in Nehemiah's time. Unity of believers and churches and prayer bathes the way for this rebuilding.

He reminded us that when we enter into God's work, the Enemy will arise against us in battle; therefore we need to pray and have a friend on our left and right to stand against the enemy.

Night Six was a double whammy as we heard from both Mike Kerns and Chris

Overstreet. Mike is the pastor of the Vineyard and owner of YAKS Koffee Shops. He imparted how to be Christians in the marketplace. No matter where we live; no matter

what we do; we are on missions. Early Christians knew they were on missions, but our western traditions say those who sell everything and get sponsored are on missions. We are sent by God to disciple in all we do. Marketplace ministry asks: "How would Jesus serve the employer and customer if He were in

our shoes?" Our attitude, character and integrity in the workplace affect what people think Christianity and Christ is all about. To sum it up Mike said, "At YAKS, we want to believe, love, live, serve and lead like Jesus did. If we give ourselves to that, coffee is a piece of cake."

Chris O. from Bethel

powerfully reminded us that we must do all things in both the power *and* love of Christ.

Without the fruit of the Holy Spirit, we are a clanging gong. The ministry is out there, in the marketplace, in the streets, and our neighborhoods. He has called us to face the risks we see in faith. This builds up our spiritual muscle.

Now we want God to turn up the heat and fire inside of us to radiate an encounter with God. He reminded us that God uses our personalities for his purposes. Be who He made you to be.

On the final night, Bill Griffin, who

teaches at Simpson University, used a word picture of planting a seed, watching it grow and tending it. He and his wife, Joan, shared how God spoke to them, they responded and He changed their lives greatly. They imparted that God has given each one of us a seed that will grow into a God sized plant. We might not even know at first what it is that he has planted, but what we know is that He planted it

and is bringing it to fruition. Joni shared about how God changed her from being quiet and shy to being able to work with impoverished kids who live in hotel rooms. She was a living testimony to how when God speaks to us, and we respond, He does magnificent things.

On the first night, Jon said that the LYNK was not about a chain link, but as I look back, I could see that each night definitely linked

together and showed all of us attending that we are an important link in God's plan to transform this region. ■

IMPACT STORY FROM NIGHT 3

This teaching came alive to me in an amazing way that night. God woke me up from a dream with the name *Lincoln* at 12:42 AM. Normally, I would have shaken it off and rolled back over, but after being encouraged by Rick to hear the Holy Spirit's voice, I pressed into God to understand what He was trying to tell me. I do not know anyone named Lincoln, so I thought, "Abe Lincoln? NO! Abraham? 12:42? Abraham is in Genesis. I'll look at Genesis 12:42. Come one Troy, Get up. You can do it." It turns out that Genesis chapter 12 is God's call to Abram to walk into a new land and life with Him. I left it there for the night, but was still thinking about it. Then, a week later, I am preparing to lead an *Experiencing God* Bible study which is built on Experiencing God as Abraham and Moses did. God was that night calling me into a new land that would require a crisis of belief that would move me to faith and action. He was inviting me to see where He was at work around me and calling me to join Him in His work.

IMPACT STORY FROM NIGHT 6

God had impressed on me earlier in the LYNK that I need to impact my area and one of the ways this is to happen is through offering Danny Silk's parenting classes to those in my neighborhood which is very near YAKS. I had the sense that I needed to talk to the owner of YAKS to see what he thought about hosting the events at his place and catering them from the YAKS menu, but I didn't know his name. Two weeks later to my surprise, Mike was speaking at the LYNK. So I spoke to him, and am in the planning stages of how to impact my neighborhood. I also talked to Rich from Gen14 about how I wanted to impact my neighborhood for Christ. He asked me if I had heard about Safety Net and the My Watch program that Redding Transformation is launching. A couple days later I got an invite to go to a luncheon to hear about Safety Net. God is confirming his word to me over and over again, and as I have learned here at the LYNK, I need to respond and go forward in faith.

RED BLUFF continued from page 2

finalized, but we do need Christian volunteers to give one Saturday morning to take a child shopping. We partner each child with a volunteer shopper and give them \$150.00 to spend on the child. The truth is, many of these children have never been shopping for new clothing before. It is wonderful to see the joy in the children's faces when they come out of the store and some of the parents are moved to tears. We also create an outdoor hair salon the next day and invite licensed beauticians to donate their time to give ANY school-age child a haircut. There will be children's games, food and music provided by children for children.

The mission of the BTSP is "To share the love and blessing of Jesus Christ with children and families in a practical way at the beginning of each school year." We believe that every child should be able to start the school year with "Pride, Dignity and a Feeling of Self Worth." Let me know if you want to be involved this year! Kim Berry, Back To School Project Director, 530-529-4800, backtoschoolproject.com. ■

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Loving Head to Foot

More than just shoes

by Kendall Bachman

We love.

The question for the Jesus-following Christian is not on our mandate, it's the delivery. Today we hear more and more about new and creative ways to show Christ's love to the people and communities around us. That is just the focus that is coming to action in our city. Creative love.

A need was identified, and a means was found. The kids at Cypress Elementary needed simple things: backpacks, shoes, pencils and paper. Most of them have not been used to these being in constant supply. Last year "Erase the Dark" (a community art festival and auction put on by The Stirring) raised enough money to buy *every single* student at Cypress a brand new backpack. The backpacks were filled with school supplies and taken to the kids in the classroom personally. The smiles were wide spread, and the kid's laughed and played with their new gear.

This year the bar had been raised and the intention going into the art festival was to buy every kid a new pair of shoes, and the school supplies delivered individually to teachers for them to do as they see fit. As the event approached (a Friday night of



music, art, and hors d'oeuvres) sponsors throughout the businesses of Redding decided to pitch in. The funds they donated completely covered the cost of putting on the event so that every penny of the \$7,000 dollars raised on Friday, March 6th was able to be poured into the School. Over 250 brand new pairs of shoes are to arrive soon and taken to the kids, and some extras will find their way into the classrooms as well.

The event was simple: artists donated paintings and photography, artists played original live music, artists put together fancy finger food, and artists created short films. Many churches were represented in the purchasing and donating of the art, and the pieces were sold "silent auction" style as they were put up for display. The creative approach was apparent as soon as people entered the gymnasium-style building. Dozens of paintings and photos lined each wall, both small and large, all in various styles. On a small stage, live music was the constant entertainment. Servers walked around with hors d'oeuvres while viewers browsed and bid on their favorite pieces, and as the night came to a close, buyers walked home with their winnings.



ERASE THE DARK fills the 1st Nazarene multi-purpose room with art, music and food to raise funds for shoes for Cypress Elementary students.

Erase the Dark was a community-wide gathering earlier, drawing in an array of people. The church and the unchurched, the artists and the connoisseurs, the young and old, many different groups all with one goal in mind: to show a practical love to those around us. Cypress Elementary school was the target of this specific love driven fundraiser. An effort was put forth to find a way to bless this school in the midst of California budget cuts. The teachers may not be the ones doing most of the receiving but they can't help but smile at the students that they pour their lives into are getting presents.

The partnering of this Annual event and Cypress Elementary is just one of the ways that we are seeing the kingdom of God transform the "four walls" of the church into "four directions" of love.

This is about the people of God showing a separated world His nature. Love.

We love. ■

GREAT COMMISSION *continued from page 7*

situations we recognize as contrary to the Kingdom of God (out of sync with the way it is in heaven), we could respond in several ways.

1. We could shrug and say, "It's someone else's problem."
2. We could judge and say, "They deserve this since they chose to disobey God."
3. Or, as in the case of the man who was blind from birth, we could respond, "This circumstance is so that the glory of God can be displayed." Is anything too hard for God?

If we allow the first two responses to play out, we'd basically be no better than the

religious leaders Jesus constantly railed against. In the latter scenario, putting faith in action, we would shine a beam of hope and reach out a hand - much like the Good Samaritan did.

We may not be able to fix every problem right away, and I don't believe Jesus is demanding that of us. But as we, the people of God, begin to communicate, co-labor, relate, identify with and tackle the problems in our local scene, we will not only build better bridges to our population, but we will re-present Christ to our people-group. That is Great Commission living! ■



FEATURED MINISTRY

YOUTH FOR CHRIST: Breathing life into local teens

by Tyler Shuster

“The best part about working with Youth for Christ,” Rick Caldwell says, “is watching God do stuff. Watching God put something together and breathe life into it and it becoming something. Events, ministry, something unique.”

And Youth for Christ certainly is something unique. They exist to “see every young person have the opportunity to see the gospel and to become a Christian,” as Caldwell, Youth for Christ Shasta Regional Director says. He started his youth ministry at Lassen Pines, where he worked as director for two and a half years. Along with various other jobs, he was the youth pastor at Little Country Church for three years. He first became involved with Youth for Christ in 1999. That’s when Bill Roberts, the former director, offered him the job as director after hearing about his previous work in youth ministry. “I didn’t want to do it,” Caldwell says, “but it became interesting for me.” He quotes Psalm 123:2, “*As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master... So our eyes look to the LORD our God, until He is gracious to us.*” I told Bill that I felt we needed to talk to the youth pastors and get into places they didn’t usually get into like juvie and places like that. We wanted to see kids get saved.”

Youth for Christ wants to create opportunities in the community for kids to see and experience the gospel in different ways. “We might get a youth pastor to get involved with kids in a site so that his youth group can grow through that particular venue. It’s trying to connect we’re ministry brokers. We get youth group leaders involved with the kids they want to connect with. It might be a skate park, after school program or March Madness.”

March Madness is a three-on-three youth basketball tournament for junior and senior high school students from all over the region. This year, 78 total teams came from places ranging from Willows to Yreka and Susanville to Eureka. After the games, Youth for Christ presented a speaker who shared a message the kids could relate to: winning or losing, but this time at life. He tells stories of NBA players who came to know the Lord and became successful. “It’s kind of harsh,” Caldwell says, “But people get saved afterwards. We had 40 out of 75 girls come to know the Lord and 120 total people that day.”

Youth for Christ has approximately a ten



March Madness is one way YFC provides fun for youth and an opportunity to share the gospel and the love of Christ with them.

percent conversion rate; that is, ten percent of the youth at their events end up giving their lives to Jesus. But it isn’t entirely about winning converts right there and then. They also teach the kids to be better citizens.

God has also provided other open doors not just in the form of special events but also openings where there would be none normally. The chaplaincy program is one of these doors an amazing ministry on campuses. During the recent suicides at a local campus, Youth for Christ sent ten youth chaplains that were able to help kids handle their feelings and better cope with them. “We had two salvations through the suicides. (The door) may not stay open forever, but we seize the moment when it’s available.”

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Another open door Youth for Christ works through is their abstinence training program. “It relationally connects kids with Youth for Christ. It’s a free service that helps kids learn how to be in relationships and puts value on people as people instead of as objects. All biblical principles, but presented in a way we are allowed to. And the kids get to know us and they come to our programs.”

But all these opportunities make for a necessary need of workers. Except for a few administrators like Rick Caldwell, everything is done through volunteers. “Call us, we’ll get you on the mailing list,” he says. “If you like kids, have any talents, we can find a place for you. Right now about 200 volunteers minister to about three to four thousand kids. Three to three hundred fifty kids come to the Lord each year. All through volunteers.”

Youth for Christ is a wonderful example of God working in the community. They are not a church or a closed environment, they are actively entering the community and ministering to those with needs. Whether or not the youth are saved, they are affected and their lives are changed for the better. God’s work is done in the community through Youth for Christ. ■

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Going-on vs. On-going

by Jon Thompson

"So, Jon, what's next?" It's a question I hear often. I suppose that when you're in the 'united happenings camp' people want to be in the loop for future things "GOING-ON" in the city. But, what if the next event is months away? What will happen in the meantime? Wait? Watch for an email or a poster?

Maybe a better question is, "What's ON-GOING?"

As a ministry that 'connects and mobilizes' the Body in regionwide initiatives, we find ourselves many times in the crosshairs of ideas and actions. Some look to us for leadership in this area, others simply need partnership on things they're doing. We are a culture that loves events. We go from one conference to another, one event to the next. When there's not an event happening, there is one brewing.

But Transformation is not mainly about united events, and it can't be tabulated as the sum of all man's "good-deeds" in a city, even though networking to bring solutions to the fore is a huge part of walking it out. If we seek to transform a community through events and activities, outreaches and programs, we will emphasize preparation and execution of those endeavors. While busy preparing, we can justify overlooking people 'cause we're putting something BIG together. Then, when the day of the "GOING- ON" arrives, we focus on turnout and proper execution of the happening. But you never get 100% attendance from the whole community at a single event. Most organizers are happy with a turnout of a couple hundred to a thousand, which is less than 1% of our city population.

If the "ON-GOING" suffers or halts to accommodate the "GOING-ON" cycles, we will not see what we are hoping to see. The key is to do both with effectiveness, and work at it as a team. If we were to major on the ON-GOING, daily ministering to the heart of the people and the community, we would make a bigger impact over time due to the exponential effect.

GOING's-ON have served to fuel people for the ON-GOING. My encouragement to you is this: make 'reaching the community' and 'touching hearts with Christ's love' an on-going lifestyle focus. Lay the tracks for God to move in each sphere of influence you touch through your constant, daily, on-going ministry of presence. 'Going's on' will come and go, but today is here; GO-FOR-IT! You are God's plan today, you are the NEXT THING! ■

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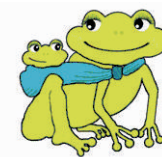
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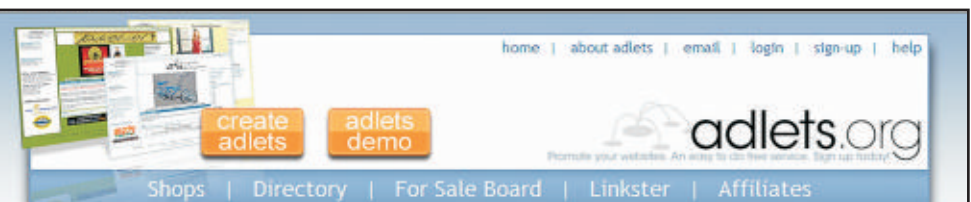
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Proverbs 3 (NIV)

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.