



January 2012

Friends,

Welcome to 2012, a NEW YEAR! Can you feel the shift yet? Boy, I sure can. After observing so much transition, shaking and sifting through 2011, I now perceive a light dawning and sense a first-fruits breeze of early-morning hope blowing in.

The number 11 represents disorder, transition, and chaos. This week, Lance Wallnau described "transition" to me this way. *When a caterpillar is in process of becoming a butterfly within the cocoon, it basically disintegrates into an un-glorious goo of sorts. All resemblance to what it was dissipates, all past structure melts away, and for a moment, it's just... well, goo. THEN... the gel gels, the new comes and in due time, wallah! a BUTTERFLY.* So, if 2011 was unsettling and somewhat "goo-ey", look up! We are in process and all was necessary for what's to come. My sense is that we will be a glorious family of believers who not only gather well, but who scatter well.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

These past few months, I have been asked to speak more and more. One time I even preached in Spanish - here in Redding! One church has invited me to lead a multi-week class on transformation. I have been telling you about the UNITE development from Simpson University. They've scheduled a powerful united worship gathering for Jan 25th at the Stirring. A major California campus transformation prayer event is coming to our Cascade Theatre on the 28th (OneVoicePrayer.com) and a new ministry training school for men 18-35 is about to launch (braveheartwestcoast.org). It's basically a John Eldredge style *Wild At Heart* and a theological seminary mixed together. Their info event is set for Jan 27th at the Holiday Inn.

PROJECT 18

I am so thankful the Lord sent us Courtney to oversee Project 18 mentoring this year. CDBG grant funding was God's provision to fund a mentor coordinator. This month as we met with the grant overseers, it was a joy to report the great progress Courtney's made in developing Project 18. They were very encouraging and helped us understand how to maintain the favor we already have. We will be applying this month for continued funding, so please pray for wisdom as we fill out the forms. Here is Courtney's update from December:

I've busy recruiting new mentors and following up with those who expressed interest in mentoring. Two new mentor/mentee matches were added to our team this month with more on the way in January. December's highlight was the Christmas party for mentors and mentees. This was an awesome time to get youth involved in some good and healthy fun! All the mentors and youth were invited to participate in the Blacklight Mini Golf at

(over please)



**Project 18 mentor
Christmas party**



**Neighborhood safety
discussion at the
Manter House**



**Deanna leads orientation
for Manter volunteers**



**Volunteers sign up -
YOU are still needed!**

Need2Speed, followed by a "White Elephant" gift exchange, hot cocoa and snacks. The youth were excited to play mini golf and even talked afterwards about how much fun they had. One boy had waited all day outside his house, watching for his ride to the event! Later, at SHINING CARE'S new tea house called "Grace Place," everyone had a blast exchanging gifts and getting to know one another better. Thanks to Gus and Kate from Bethel for hosting this as one of the monthly opportunities planned for the mentor pairs to enjoy fun activities and outdoor adventures while building relationship.

MANTER HOUSE UPDATE (from Karen)

The Manter House has been bustling with activity during December. The neighborhood coalition held its monthly meeting there with a police officer talking about safety. There were over 14 residents in attendance, which was more than they'd ever seen at a meeting like this. We were able to meet more of the people in the neighborhood and hear their concerns. One of them publicly thanked us for getting the street lights working!

We've also been connecting with people interested in helping. After the Orientation held mid month, we had people volunteer to help with the afterschool program, with young mothers and young children, developing the community resource connection, worship leaders and even a garden coordinator! It's marvelous how God is moving on people's hearts in specific ways, as well as the many others who don't know exactly how, but feel led to help. Whether a large group meeting, 1:1 discussions, or an informal Christmas dinner with the neighbors, the new relationships we're making are refreshing our spirits and filling hearts with hope. This is what a HOPE ZONE is all about.

ADOPTING STREETS

Maybe some of you recall our 2007 video "*Tracking with Transformation*." We proposed that a transformed city would be a place where EVERYONE IS PRAYED FOR, EVERY ENVIRONMENT IS ADOPTED and targeted for blessing, where CHRIST IS CENTRAL in every arena of daily life, where NEEDS ARE SEEN AS OPPORTUNITIES and where FAITH GOES PUBLIC in relevant ways.... and the Body would work as a team to sustain it. Well, it's happening, in a beautiful variety of ways. Aglow has joined in with others partnering with us to raise a canopy of prayer over this region through ADOPT-A-STREET (transformourworld.org). As many parts work together, soon every street in Shasta County will be bathed daily in prayer, priming the pump for a myriad of transformation expressions region-wide. Whitmore is practically covered already. Anderson is on the way. There are fewer than 2500 streets. Doable, together!

LOOKING FORWARD

The 2012 I see coming is a glorious "fitting together" that will blow all our minds. Romans **12** speaks of the Body being many parts fitting together, and 1 Cor. **12** is all about this too, with verse 18 stating God has **arranged** the parts in the Body, every one of them, just as He wanted them to be. A quick Biblical query of the number "12" reveals that it represents a **placing things within perfect order, an arranging or organizing, an achieving governmental structural or perfection**. Pretty cool, eh? Let's believe God for this in 2012 and venture out in faith!

The Bible says that faith is being sure of what we hope for. I challenge you to define what it is you HOPE for. "Transformation" "growth" "new horizons" are all hopeful terms, but semi-vague. Let's drill into this and define what we are hoping for, ie, every street in Shasta County covered for daily prayer, 50 more mentors for the fatherless, jobs opening as skills courses and bootcamps prepare the workforce, a powerful linkage of local ministries and leaders of government, hope zones in 5 needy neighborhoods, a Kingdom TV station messaging the region, etc....

In with the NEW,


Jon and Natalia Thompson

WE R 1NET CONNECTING DINNER

Thursday, January 26th, 6:00 pm

Bring a dish to share with others

Hear the vision & latest updates

Meet others focused on making a difference!

RSVP jon@shasta.com