



February 28, 2010

Dear Friends,

Another month of "connecting and mobilizing" has come to a close (wow - short month!). After 3 *connecting* events: a night of worship, a non-profit luncheon and a Community Champions meeting, we have some positive results to report to you. *And we still managed to fit in a family vacation - all 20 in the Thompson clan cruised to Catalina Island and Ensenada, Mexico for a family reunion / vacation. Definitely a highlight of our month!*



Thompsons on Catalina Is.



Christian NPs connecting



Champions thinking city



WeR1net office

Mobilized to influence young lives

I just got off the phone with a probation counselor who is hopeful for a young lady exiting the Juvenile Hall this week. He said, "My client said she really wants to connect with one of your mentors, the one with the dread locks." *Fun!* Three months ago, when we set foot in the Hall, our hope was that some of the kids in custody would warm up to us and come into the Project 18 family upon exit. It seemed like a long shot then, but this month alone, we've had four of these phone calls! I spent three consecutive days with a youth who got out late last month. We picked up a job application the first day, set up for a night of worship the second day (he stayed for the event and even went forward for some prayer) and set up sound the third day as well.

Needless to say, Project 18 is going well. Most of our mentors and mentees showed up to our mid-month party as did a group of ministry students who were praying for people downtown. Many of the mentees received prayer and felt a touch from God! Last week, one of our mentors was asked to intervene in the life of a young man in the special security "A unit." The visit was just what that high-risk teen needed! Another mentor reported that his mentee began to go to youth group. At first, the teen didn't even join in the games, but now he engages in all - even going to pray over other teens. One final praise: The County of Shasta signed a service agreement with us which will help us offset some of the costs we incur overseeing Project 18. God is blessing this effort so far! Want in? We need more mentors! One mentor told me this is the highlight of her week!

On the horizon: snapshots of what's coming

Get ready for an awesome year of breakthrough! Karen has plans under way to connect a powerful force in the region: **church secretaries**. Natalia and a team of ladies are working to foster relationships among another powerful group of women: **senior pastors' wives**. Those two sets of women have their hand on the

(over)

FINANCIAL STANDING

	Income	Expense
DEC	\$6,731	\$7,114
JAN	\$4,267	\$7,600
FEB	\$7,609	\$6,512

pulse of the local Body as none other do. I've been asked by Teresa Dedmon, in concert with the Kingdom Creativity conference, to collaborate in the first ever **Global Arts and Food Festival** scheduled for May 29 here in Redding. Locals will come together around the arts, design, music, and foods, led by the Body to celebrate and raise funds for global initiatives like helping Haiti and orphanages in Africa. You will absolutely love this, and so will our city! Email me for more details. And all this week, I'll be presenting transformation vision to **Simpson University's Ministry Practicum** class. Pray for stamina and effectiveness.

New office space up and running

From Karen: We moved in to our homey, little space this month as the Lord dazzled us with His provision in every detail. Tables, chairs, desks, a computer (thanks Restoration Enterprises), a copier (thanks Compass Care Services), plus four delightful volunteers have descended upon us:

Dona has been helping out with the bookkeeping for several months, working out of her home as we've ferried things between us. We're both thrilled to have it all in one place now!

Emily is part of the Project 18 team who has taken on the bulk of the paperwork involved. She's done an awesome job organizing the papers, keeping track of who's done what, and putting order into this newly formed program.

Hannah wants to learn by doing, and has helped immensely with the Destination Points part of Project 18. She's willing to do whatever is needed, and there is a lot needed!

Tristen also has that whatever-is-needed attitude. She's been a great help over the last few months with pieces of Project 18, the Track Record, and organizing the files in the new office.

Finances: you have not because you ask not

Over the last 6 years, we have not made a huge pitch for money. God has supplied. But recently, we have experienced an abrupt 20% drop off in pledges. People moved away, church giving dropped off, and some are experiencing financial hardships. We are looking at cutting our already "ridiculously low" budget, which amounts to approximately \$7000 each month. Now would be a good time to begin regular support so we can continue to develop teams and facilitate transformation in this region. If everyone reading this would regularly give even \$20 or \$25, we'd be adequately supplied for current assignments and even some expansion. Please pray about supporting financially at this time. If you'd like to take aim at a specific need, here are some rough, monthly estimates in basic categories:

SmartPhones, Internet, website (important tools for networking): \$350

Rent, office supplies & expenses: \$250

Insurance (gotta have it to exist and risk doing anything): \$250

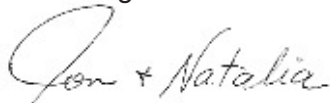
SafetyNet (Project 18 - MyWatch - Safe Transitions): \$200

Miscellaneous, professional lunches, etc: \$100

Bright future

Luke 10 says to speak peace, see if it is received, and, if it is - stay there eating and drinking whatever they set before you for the worker deserves his wage, heal the sick who are there and tell them the Kingdom of God is near. This is how we started this connecting and mobilizing work more than six years ago. This is how we've moved forward with leaders, schools, county agencies, neighbors and towns all over the region, and this is how we plan to move in the future. We are so thankful for all of you who do the same and have lived this dream with us!

Leaning in to breakthrough,



Jon and Natalia Thompson