



March 31, 2010

Dear Friends,



Potential day center for teens



Go Karting with mentees



Dave Thompson in Anderson



Jon speaks to Simpson classes



Grace in Motion Team, 3/27

"So, how many youths from our caseloads can I refer to you?" asked the probation officer.

"HmMMMM, how many you got?" I inquired.

With a hopeful, boyish grin, he ventured, "200," immediately adding, "They're not bad kids, they just lack father figures in their lives. They need some positive people who aren't doing drugs to get around them."

Wow! We've been talking about the need to 'father the community' and 'adopt' the broken spaces and people groups. They need someone to walk with, to watch in action, to laugh with and just hang out with.

"By faith, I will have 200 mentors!" I told him. "SOON!"

One week later, a contact from Health and Human Services mentioned a grant initiative for helping foster youths in our county (around 400 of them) focus toward completing college. Statistically, only 1% complete college. They will need mentors as well, so now it's upwards of 500 fatherless approaching our doorstep.

Three days prior to these conversations, God had me swing by a 12,000 sq. ft. ex-bar. Long story short is that this bar that has been in the news too many times for various levels of iniquity and crooked behavior. The owners are motivated to see the space used to build up the community instead the tear it down. We proposed to them a day use center where kids can get life skills, job skills and developmental assets in a life-giving, tasteful atmosphere of excellence. They liked what they heard. Another current suitor wants to establish a "gentleman's club." *Does something rise within you?* This space can become 12,000 square feet of LIFE or a den for darkness. The facility can either *facilitate* transformation or its flip-side. PRAY.

REAL LIFE, REAL NEEDS

The boy I mentor invited a friend to ride along with us this last time out. His stories broke my heart. Kids at school make fun of him for wearing the same tattered clothes each day. His mom has been in and out of jail. One night, he missed his mom so much that he marched down to the jail, and cried out to the ominous walls, "Let my mother go.....! I miss my mother!" Someone came out to console him. He rambled on: "My mom's boyfriend sometimes calls me a *****", and I don't like that. I am not going to do drugs 'cause I can see what it does to people." When I asked what he does for dinner, he said, "Mostly, I make Top Ramen cause that's what I'm told to do." Do you put yourself to bed? "Yes, and at times there is a note in the morning thanking us boys for getting to bed and not calling in the middle of the night." He's 11.

Folks, it's time. We will lose about 15 of our initial mentor labor force here in 2 months when school sessions are out. We need 200 mentors. The process is not too long, and you are better equipped than you might think. Join us in this tangible effort! We have a waiting list of ten at risk students right now, both males and females. Email us that you are interested (jon@reddingtransformation.com) or see the webpage on it at (www.safetynetcommunity.net). Or come to the mentor meeting and training session on **April 29th** where you can fill out the application, ask questions, and receive your first dose of training.

SPIRITUALLY ACTIVATED SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURISM

The "Champions" group defined its core values at this month's meeting, and came to some monumental decisions about how to move forward toward city engagement. Months ago, we basically envisioned identifying and assisting the champions in leveraging and resourcing one another's dreams and next steps. This simplex beginning point has morphed into deeper questions like, "Who is fathering this city," and "How can we be an asset that causes the city to thrive and come alive in every arena?" We want to function as top notch liaisons to the Romans 13 (established by God) authorities and leadership in our region for the purpose of delivering hope and life to every sector of society. Our conversations and subsequent solutions will pull the virtual and theoretical ideals into realtime activity that shifts people's destiny and improves social statistics in all hubs of community life. Call it "spiritually activated social entrepreneurship" that embraces and aligns Kingdom values with city systems via honor and relational inspirations.

EVERYONE PRAYED FOR

My mom and dad visited for a weekend and God used it to ignite passion again in our area. Dad has spearheaded a website, www.transformourworld.org, which has amazing testimony, instruction and action points. One of those action points is the California Canopy of Prayer. Those who sign up can connect with others and align to area movements, like ours, to stay informed. The goal is to have all 25,000 voting precincts bathed in prayer and uniting for a better California. Dad presented this to a few prayer leaders on Saturday, then within 24 hours, over 100 people showed up to a last minute Sunday evening meeting. Go to that website, sign up to "adopt your street" (or your business' street or area school if you feel so inclined). Lord willing, we will soon have a 100 mile circumference around the region where every *prayable* address has someone covering it. This is the beginning of the end of the habitation of darkness. As light and prayer fill up the region, like water rising in a tub causes even the air that was in it to leave, so prayer surging in a community will disperse the spiritual debris.

Other highlights of March:

presented the vision to four groups of ministry practicum students at Simpson
South County Transformation has started its first 8 week "Jobs for Life" session.
numerous writers working on *Track Record* articles - watch for it mid-April!
Grace in Motion team helped a widow clean up her 5 acre horse property
launched a research group to find out who's doing what, and where unmet felt needs are
mentor training on listening skills and an overview of the 40 Developmental Assets
met with men's group going through our DVD study at local fellowship
started a training group in my home to instill transformation principles and paradigms in the people of my local fellowship.

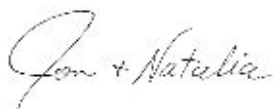
Mark your calendars and join in:

April 10 Night of Worship & Prayer, 6:33 pm at Hub City on Larkspur
April 22 MyWatch informational meeting, 6:30 pm Redding Library Community Room
April 29 Mentoring meeting and training, 6:30 pm Redding Library Community Room
May 29 HeART fest, Library Park, downtown Redding

Pray for:

our grant application for a \$625,000 3 year federal grant for juvenile mentoring
the building idea and everything that would need to come together for that
needed operational expenses and people who want to see the day center idea off the ground.

Holding on for dear life,



Jon and Natalia Thompson