



May 2010

Dear Friends,

Keys in hand!

We've been telling you about the potential of a new youth and family resource center in Redding. Chock full of services and activities, it will attract teens and adults alike who need a bit of life. I believe it will become a community "living room" where people can learn and feel safe at home with Jesus and His people. This month, we held an informal "open house" so people could tour the space and see the future gym-space next door. Meanwhile, I measured for renovations and tested the existing sound system. This is still a huge faith walk, but the community is responding to the vision! The owners handed us keys, even though not all monies are in hand yet. This is both exciting and scary! Welcome to "Walking on Water" 101.



Open house & planning at "The Crossing"

Keys to youth

We continue to get referrals for at-risk youth who need some nurturing mentors in their lives. This month, probation sent in some applicants and so did the local peer-court agency. May's mentor training featured Sandy Wilson speaking on the brain development and resiliency issues. Before she spoke, a young man who had just gotten out of Juvenile Hall shared candidly about his life. His comments were poignant and eye opening! We have 8 guys who want a mentor in their lives, but **we need men willing to mentor** them. Please prayerfully consider stepping up to the plate and tell others!



Mentor training with Sandy Wilson

Keys, but no trailer

Some of you know that I operate a small sound company called NetSound. Now, just as my busy season (summer concert series) is coming up, I discovered that someone ran off with my sound trailer and everything in it. Yikes! I was shocked. I mean, sometimes you find vandalism and locks tampered with or a new ding or dent, but to drive up and find NO TRAILER at all was quite alarming. Fortunately, it was insured. Pray for the apprehension and salvation of the perpetrators and the victims to be Christ honoring through it all. Please pray, too, for increased protection for all of us as we take more ground for the Kingdom.



South Co. Jobs for Life graduation

Keys to the arts

One of the most organized and orderly arts festivals yet unleashed on a city was held in our downtown on Memorial Day weekend. Local Christians from Bethel Church spearheaded this "HeArt for Nations" event which raised money for orphanages in Africa and recovery efforts in Haiti. There was a diverse mix of artists, musicians, food vendors, performers, plus lots of prayer and ministry going on. With drama and dance, music and portraits, food and massage, there was definitely something for everyone. This is yet another indication of the awakening of arts in Redding and the partnerships that are increasing across the city.



Compass Mother's Day Tea fundraiser

(over)

Keys to congregations

Two different churches had me share this month and a third one invited me to lead worship for them. I enjoy being in the various fellowships and sharing what God has laid on our heart and put in our path. New mentors were recruited through this and relationships rekindled. My brother, Tim, has asked me to come share and minister at his church in Arizona later this month. Pray for continued open doors and power packed words to speak.

House keys

Natalia and I hosted a MyWatch neighbor's meeting in our home mid month and saw a small core team form. Since these people know Jesus, we were able to pray together for the neighborhood and begin to envision some possibilities. We are looking forward to pulling our little subdivision together and making it the best place in Redding for kids to grow up.

Earlier this month, our home group launched out into the unknown to feed a whole people group living at the Market Street Manor hotel. We quickly ran out of 80 hamburgers, and van-loads of clothing disappeared rapidly as relational bridges were built. One young man, new to Redding, said he was part of a church in Oregon, but hadn't found a place here to attend as of yet. He was given a ride to church the following day, and his family came with him! The door is wide open, the harvest is plentiful....

Research

Our research effort has gone into its second phase as we prepare interview and survey questions. We have decided to focus this phase on youth: what's currently being offered, what's effective, and where the gaps are. Sometimes we say we "love our city" when really we just love the *idea* of our city - the *theoretical city* instead of the *real city* that's out there. This will help us take the current temperature of where we're at with our youth in this community, versus where we *think* we're at. We need lots of people to administer the surveys so please **contact us if you're interested in helping.**

Other Transformers

- ♦ **South County Transformation** graduated its first **Jobs for Life** class last month. Their next brainstorming session will be Thursday, June 10th, 7 - 9 pm, in Anderson (2991 East Center St.).
- ♦ Prayer tents were up this month in Shingletown and Shasta College among other places. A **Prayer Tent** will likely appear at the Shasta County Fair June 16th-19th as well. If you are interested in serving for a two hour shift, contact Darby at **The Way** in Anderson (440-0105).
- ♦ Those facilitating the transformation effort in **Hayfork** are hosting Bob Griffin June 17-19. Several churches are working together to bring this nationally known speaker to their area.
- ♦ **Compass Care Services** held their first fundraiser this month - a Mother's Day Tea on the patio of Riverview Golf and Country Club. It went great! They hope to expand from this small beginning to a major annual event.
- ♦ **Ca. Canopy Of Prayer** continues to grow and expand. Contact us for more info on this!

Fair Flagging

We will again be flagging the parking lot at the fair on June 16th as our annual fundraiser. This unique opportunity nets us \$1500. Come help us, hang out and make some new friends! Shifts are available from 9 am to 9 pm. COME HELP!

Gracefully unlocking heavy gates,



Jon and Natalia Thompson