



February 2012

Friends,

Welcome to a new season!

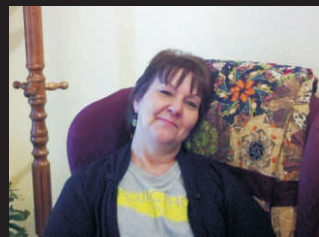
Yes, I truly believe something has shifted and we are in a whole new realm. ****Think Narnia and the coat closet.** Many of us underwent a "depths of despair" season (some without the despair, but definitely some depths) and we are emerging alive and well. So, this is going to be an exciting time, breathing some new air and joining forces. The words *reset* and *refresh* will be helpful as we look to what's ahead. Reset your hope meter to HIGH, and refresh your page of dreams and vision because a wave of new possibilities is coming with joy this year. Partnering will take on a whole new meaning, and finding those to journey with will be common. Philippians 2:4 is coming alive in 3D, "Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." The Body is being placed in order as people recognize their role and affirm other's roles.



Monthly 1net Dinner



Connecting across denominations, generations & more



Caretaker settles into Manter House



Volunteers planning for Manter activities

Connecting Dinners

We are back at our favor, connecting people who are rocking the region. Over 40 like-hearted, Kingdom-minded believers shared a meal on January 26. Many hold leadership positions in area ministries and churches; many had incredibly useful tools or ideas that could be leveraged by others in the room. Each person briefly introduced themselves and shared what area they are called to transform. We unveiled TED - our stick figure guy - because these gatherings are all about EMPOWERING people with a mindset of transformational thinking, CONNECTING people with one another and the city out there, and MOBILIZING toward practical and relevant action. Everyone stayed to mingle and network. Actually, we upgraded "networking" to "working net" because so many times *networking* is self-centered mingling, while a working-net paradigm is others-centered and vision oriented. The whole evening felt like Heaven. Plan to come to one of these monthly LINK dinners to feel the excitement of the Body being the Body. Experience the benefits of creating a working-net for regional transformation! Feb 23 is next dinner, then March 22.

BIG O = BIG OPPORTUNITY

"Your timing is impeccable."

That's what Dustin, a young Simpson / Shasta student, and I heard when we visited the neighborhood behind Big O Tires this week. The man exclaimed, "It was crazy out here last night! I was on the steps with 911 speed-dialed into my phone. Sure enough, a group of 4 guys came sneaking up and then I heard yellin' and screamin'. No shots were fired but there was a weapon in the hand of one man. A group of teens were yelling and nobody felt safe!" He believes a hit was ordered as a skirmish was unfolding between two families. "I was just thinking of you, that you should come back and pray, and here you are!" Wow! After praying with him, I spent another hour praying with 6 other neighbors. They want a wall of intercession unleashed and a worship gathering in their streets to help lift

(over please)

the darkness. We thought some BBQ would go well with that, so be on the look out for an upcoming adventure.

Manter House is HOPE ZONE 1

Activity at the Manter House in Anderson is ramping up! In the middle of January we welcomed Teresa, the resident caretaker with a passion to pray and a huge heart for the people there. The month was also full of planning meetings, getting the word out to the people in the Bruce Street neighborhood, and mobilizing volunteers who are passionate for the different pieces. The afterschool program, moms/preschoolers group, and monthly worship nights for believers who live nearby all start in February. At least two churches continue regular prayer walks in the neighborhood and an intercessor team is forming specifically for the Manter House effort.

Mentoring on the rise!

We have matched a young person from the BIG O neighborhood with an awesome mentor. Another 2 matches in that street are pending. Courtney, without whom we could not function at Project 18, has completely overhauled and streamlined the work. She is a master at admin and organization with a peaceful, confident and sweet disposition toward everyone. Not only did she carry the Bowling event this month with close to 25 in attendance, she also spoke to Simpson's Unite, matched and prepared more mentors and got a newsletter going for training and info purposes. If anyone has a reliable laptop that she could have, hers is only turning on once every blue moon making her work a bit more complicated. And pray for us as we appear before the grant committee to ask for another round of funding so Courtney can continue and we can grow the program. We have exceeded expectations, but there is less money to go around with wide-spread funding cuts.

Safely Transitioning a 10th princess

Some of you may remember the Safe Transition program we launched in 2009 as a part of Safetynet. Well, the Nazarene Church just received their 10th placement! That means in the past 3 years 10 ladies from the Women's Refuge have found a safe place to finish recovering and get on their feet again. Some of those ladies have small children. There is talk now of expanding this to a property with multiple dwellings. It's working!!

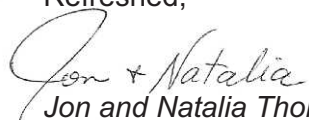
Speaking Well

This month, the Well at Neighborhood invited me to share transformation testimonies and vision with them. I told many a story of how God has met us and surprised us in the streets with breakthroughs we didn't see coming. "As we take care of expanding the Kingdom into our city, God will take care of building the Church." Afterwards, many wanted to share how they are situated and poised for ministry into the city via their job. Some, like Dustin, just wanted to get more involved (which he did just days later as we went to prayer walk that street). Just like "the well" in Biblical times, God is going to use people to "water and refresh" the city and to unleash God encounters into the marketplace on purpose (just as Jesus did with the woman at the well -- ministering to her felt needs in a marketplace setting indeed!). Pray for open doors and more hungry hearts as I speak this spring to Aglow and look into starting a forum on transformation at Simpson University.

Provision

We are talking to people about our need to raise donations by about \$2000 each month to cover our basic costs. One pastor friend offered to reduce our office rent expense by inviting us to share their new space just blocks from my home and close to downtown Redding - at no cost! I asked him if he expected anything in return, he said, "Just that you would come each month and ignite passion by sharing testimony of breakthroughs in the city!" Hmmm! The very thing I was hoping to do...! Praise God. Would you consider giving monthly to help sustain us at this crucial time of synergy and growth?

Refreshed,


Jon and Natalia Thompson