



April 2010

Dear Friends,



Night of Worship April 10th



Mentoring party in the park



Senior Pastor's Wives Dinner



Natalia T. & Mary Anderson



Prayer and tour of the former bar/ future youth center

FULL STEAM AHEAD

As we wrap up the last month of our 6th year in ministry to the city, we are excited to report to you some major NEW developments. **THE BUILDING** we reported to you last month (youth and family resource center, "The Crossing") **IS MOVING AHEAD!** **AND, the application for a mentoring grant from the federal Office of Juvenile Justice we learned of last month has been completed in record time and sent off for review.** Anchor's Well ministry is taking the lead on the building and RT is taking the lead on reintegrating juvenile offenders into community life via a mentoring and restorative process. Hundreds of people will step up to shape and mentor the youths of our town PLUS an exciting new youth center will round out the effort. PRAY! and let faith arise!

HABITATION OF LOVE

Yep, this is major stuff with HUGE community implications. Struggling families all over the region will be touched and helped as the Family of God comes together to create a fresh, vibrant "living room" in the crosshairs of the city (Cypress and Bechelli). Young people will stream here for nurturing, leisure time fun, direction and life-giving input. Retired people, among others, will bring their skills and assets into this space to shape kid's futures. Many people will flock here to experience enrichment and entertainment, concerts and counseling, friendships and French roast. Love is finding yet another tangible expression and God's fingerprints are all over this.

April started out with a Night of Worship and prayer followed by a tour of the **bar turning youth center**. The vision and united prayer was refreshing and powerful. As we circled up to pray together near the stage, we heard excited, shrieking teenage voices checking the place out. They didn't know we were praying because they were out by the front door. You could hear, "*Wooooah, coolness! This place is sic....*" and other such exuberance. As they came in and saw us praying, they joined the circle. One teen spoke from the overflow of his heart:

"God.... I just want to say that this place is freakin' awesome.... perfect for us teens.... yeah...!" I'll take that as a vote of confidence.

THE FATHERLESS AT OUR DOORSTEP

Speaking of teens, mentoring continues strong. We enjoyed some hilarious games at a Project 18 party in the park featuring Mr. Brown, our speaker and newest mentor. Five new mentors fingerprinted this month, so we only need another 190 to jump in. Seriously! My new mentee's brother wants a mentor, (it's contagious!) but I can't do three boys at a time. We now have about a dozen kids waiting for someone. Now is the time to step

up, not later. Come to the mentor training on the last Thursday of each month to get started. Both the building venture and the grant application grew out of simple steps of obedience and look how God has blessed with open doors of favor. Your few hours a week invested in a local youth will change the city and set off an eternal ripple effect!

MORE GRACE SPACE

After eight weeks of sharing transformation principles and paradigms with my home group, we are about to launch out into action this May. We will be rekindling a relationship with the families living in the Market Street Manor apartment complex downtown and initiating a MyWatch chapter in the Camino Court section of Enterprise. Both expressions will be ongoing, relationally-based thrusts geared toward transforming community spaces and causing dry places to be thriving places of life and hope. If you want to engage a certain part of town this summer, let's compare notes and ideas.

WOMEN OF INFLUENCE

Natalia and a team of wonderful ladies pulled off an amazing Senior Pastor's Wives night in the Downtown Yaks this past week. Over 20 leading ladies came together, shared stories, laughed and connected hearts on a whole new level. Another dozen or so wanted to come but had previous commitments. We are seeing God unite more and more of the women around the Redding region. Natalia, Mary Anderson and others tapped into what the Spirit is doing and ran with it. They will continue to call this group together as the Lord fashions it according to His purposes.

LEAPING TALL BUILDINGS IN A SINGLE BOUND

Somewhere amid all this, Karen edited yet another fine edition of the *Track Record* which is now out in area churches, wrote 30 pages of grant narrative, hosted the Church Secretary's lunch, and spearheaded an excellent *Grace in Motion* venture with supernatural strength, direction and peace plus a precisely gifted group of volunteers for each project. She is a mighty warrior and one who, like Epaphras in the book of Colossians, is working tirelessly, with every fiber of her being, for the cause of Christ.

Scott and Barbara led a second Grace in Motion team to help a single mother on the 7 acres she has to keep up. They mowed, whacked weeds, sprayed Round-up, trimmed bushes, burned brush, bucked up and stacked wood in her barn readying her for next winter. Thanks to all the volunteers who rallied to make April 24 a success!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Bring the family out to the **May 29 Global Arts and Food festival** in Library Park downtown Redding. FREE!

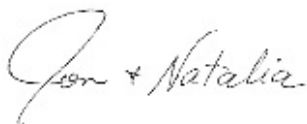
Mentor Training and signups: **May 27th**, 6:30-8pm at the Redding Library Community Room.

Watch for a special night of worship and vision in the NEW building sometime in May.

NEVER A DULL MOMENT; NOT THEN, NOT NOW

You can see how much ground is being gained each month and how we are pressing onward in courage and grace. Please continue to sow into this effort. God is merging many streams now and deepening the waters we are swimming in. Jump in, the water's fine!

Swimming in Grace,



Jon & Natalia Thompson