



# THE TRACK RECORD

FREE

Glorifying our Father in heaven • Declaring the testimony of Jesus • Promoting the unity of the Spirit

Volume 1, Issue 4

www.weR1net.net

WINTER 2009

## ECONOMY-PROOF: You can thrive

by Jon Thompson

What if you could tap into a new lifestyle that was economy-proof? One that actually made others richer while increasing your own sense of purpose? What if you could go out on a Friday night and have a great time without blowing a whole wad of cash? What if you could ensure that this will be an "upswing" year regardless of forecasted economic downturns? Check out how some locals are doing just that.

It was a Friday like any other in late October. Jason and some of his friends prepared to go out on the town. First stop: Bethel prayer chapel where they pray, write down what God shows them, load up into vehicles and proceed to find the peoples or situations God pre-highlighted to them. Cost: \$0. Listen to what happened.

*We decided to go to the football game where my son and his friends were. We found them and I asked if we could pray for my son's friend; he agreed. He felt the presence of God and wanted to give his life to Jesus on the spot. As we looked up, we saw 3 girls. We told them God was present and asked them if they wanted to feel His presence. They said, "Yes," so we prayed for them. They bolted saying, "We didn't feel anything."*



Before going out to minister, the group gathers to listen to God's direction

*Just then, a cheerleader nearby high-fived a guy then winced in pain, grabbing her right wrist. RIGHT WRIST PAIN was one of the clues I received at the prayer chapel, so I signaled to my buddies, "Hey, let's go over there." 8 to 10 girls were all standing in a group. We invited them to watch God do a miracle on*

*the girl's wrist. Another gal admitted to having wrist pain as well - just as the cheerleader's coach yelled, "Get back to work." The two girls, however, wanted prayer and asked permission to stay back for a moment. Their request was granted and so was their healing! Both started to freak-out and point to each other's arm saying, "Is yours fixed?" "Yes!?! Mine too!!" We led one of the girls to the Lord before they could run off to report on what had happened.*

*About that time, the 3 girls who had been prayed for moments earlier came back onto the scene with some friends. They confessed, "Uh...., we did feel something when you prayed." So we told them how God had moved on the cheerleader's wrists and asked them if they had any pain or anything that needed*

- CONTINUED on page 2

## ETNA: A healing place

by Drew Travis



The Trinity Alps are displayed on the southern horizon. The primitive Marble Mountain Wilderness Area anchors the setting sun to the west. A craggy portrait of

Duzel Rock outlines the eastern sunrise. There is an ample supply of rugged natural beauty in Scott Valley, a small northern California community near Yreka.

Though the industries are changing, the logging

and cattle industries have long provided the economic backbone of the community. In a previous generation gold mining brought many prospectors to Scott Valley who sought their fortune. Could the same passion for material wealth be translated into a passion for God, transformation and a spiritual harvest?

This is the prayer of a small but growing band of intercessors in Scott Valley. Relationships in a small rural community are crucial. Recognizing that the Body of Christ is bigger than any one congregation fosters healthy relationships across generational and denominational boundaries. Pastors pray together every Thursday morning at the Scott Valley Berean Church. Their prayer has been that by the power of the Holy Spirit Scott Valley would be a "Healing Place". The prayers are being answered.

- CONTINUED on page 10

## EQUIPPING THE SAINTS **Lynk** TO CHANGE THE CITY

THE  
TRAINING  
EVENT  
OF THE YEAR!



Rick Caldwell  
Youth For Christ

THURSDAY  
NIGHTS  
Feb. 5th - Mar. 19th  
7pm to 9pm



Nathan Edwardson  
The Stirring

A unique, team-taught training series which will equip you to be transformational in your daily sphere of influence.

Practical wisdom from seasoned leaders, personal coaching and impartation will prepare you to impact your community.



Bill Griffin  
Simpson Univ.



Bill Johnson  
Bethel Church



Mike Kerns  
Vineyard Church

SEATING IS  
LIMITED -  
REGISTER  
EARLY!

(530) 222-9371  
www.weR1net.net

pre-registration:  
**\$15 each/\$22 couple**  
at the door:  
**\$20 each/\$30 couple**  
or **\$5 each night**  
Location: River City Church,  
5211 Churn Creek Road,  
Redding



Chris Overstreet  
Outreach, Bethel



Bill Randal  
Risen King



Jon Thompson, Your Host  
Redding Transformation



Danny Silk  
Family, Bethel

EXPANDED REGIONAL COVERAGE!

See stories inside from Chico, Anderson, Weaverville, Red Bluff & more...

## REGIONAL

## South County keeps moving together

By John Rodrigues

What would you expect God to do first, before He decides to begin transforming a region? If you answered, *start moving in the hearts of His people to give them the same vision*, then you answered correctly. In fact, that is exactly what He is doing right now in South County! This is consistent with the way that God works; He raises up people with Spirit-inspired vision.

As a growing vision of "transformation" is spreading throughout South County, the word "hope" seems to best describe the underlying mood. People are starting to truly believe that God is moving in this region, wanting to transform the region, by transforming the hearts of the people in the region. As one person shared, *"We are beginning to use a new vocabulary - one that is common between churches: 'South County transformation' ... 'marketplace ministry' ... 'each of us walking out our destiny' ... 'honoring our leaders.'"* Did you catch that this person said,



**United believers pray for specific Anderson needs at ARISE in September.**

(referring to this new vocabulary) that it is "common between churches"! This is a multi-church, multi-organization, multi-person movement! This was recently evidenced at a community evening of worship in Anderson.

**- CONTINUED on page 8**

### ECONOMY-PROOF *continued from page 1*

*healing. We prayed over them, releasing God's presence.*

*Soon, some friends of ours saw us praying over groups that were gathering around and asked if they could help out. We said, "Yeah, jump in!" They began speaking encouragement and words of knowledge over the lives of students who were now lining up for prayer. Other students scoured the bleachers for sick and injured people to bring down for healing. God was breaking out!*

*The cheerleader coach came over and apologized for breaking up the earlier prayer moment and mentioned that this had been a year of multiple sports injuries. We asked if we might pray for their healing and proceeded to do so. 14 cheerleaders gathered around. All, except one, felt better almost immediately. They all gave their hearts and lives to the Lord at that time. The one who did not get healed had a knee condition from birth, and when asked if she had one leg shorter than the other, she responded, "No, but my friend here does." So we called all the cheerleaders over and they prayed with us as we watched this leg grow out an inch right in front of us!*

*As we exited after the game, we noticed a group of 6 to 8 teens sitting on a wall. We engaged them in discussion, "Hey, did you guys hear about the amazing things Jesus was doing tonight in the stadium?" One gal answered curtly, "I don't believe in Jesus or God, I'm a pagan!" "That's OK," I said, "He believes in you. Would you like to feel His presence?" She declined, but then accepted after thinking it*

*through. One of our teammates asked if she had any pain in her back. The girl admitted that she was afflicted by a painful knot in her spine as well as arthritis in her hands. We asked God to touch her body and then invited her to test it out. She squatted down. On the way up she spurted out a few expletives, totally surprised and caught off guard that the pain was completely gone! She apologized for the foul language, but was so overcome by what happened that she gave her life to the Lord and basically told her other friends around her to do the same, which they did.*

*That night, we counted over 20 first-time salvations, multiple rededications, 30 some creative miracles and an overwhelming presence of the Holy Spirit pervading the entire place. Everyone was talking about the Holy Spirit and God, even out in the parking lot after the game!*

Living in a region that is under transformation means that these encounters will increasingly take place as people of faith take the power and presence of God with them to workplaces, campuses, neighborhoods and yes, football games. God wants to be invited into the broken and hopeless situations around us. He wants to meet people in their felt need. He wants our entire region to be an encounter-zone, like that stadium! Economic ups and downs can't stop this, and fortunately, Heaven is not in need of a bailout! Our God is economy-proof. He is an awesome, unstoppable God who flows through people like you and me as we step out in faith and obedience! ■

## LOVING RED BLUFF

### Reaching families of those in prison

by Kim Berry

This December, three different jail ministries teamed up and took Christmas gifts to local families who had either mom or dad in the Tehama County jail over the holidays. One of these ministries, The Powerhouse Jail Team, headed up by Gloria Baker from Community Baptist, has been ministering to the women of the Tehama County jail for 14 years. Her team includes people from Calvary Chapel, Community Baptist and the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Red Bluff, Gerber Community Fellowship, a church in Paradise and one in Shingletown. The team has an incredible heart for these women and some have even housed them upon release in their own homes. They send Bibles to them when they go to prison and follow up with them upon release by helping in any way they can. They also try to connect them with the local church and get them on their feet.

This year almost 30 inmates signed up for the holiday outreach: Male and female, white and Hispanic. Believers from several churches "adopted" the children and purchased gifts on behalf of the inmates. The Christmas gifts, along with Bibles and turkeys, were personally hand-delivered to all of the families on December 22nd. It was great to see the excitement on the kids' faces and to share the hope of Jesus Christ with them and their families. Some of the people had been laid off from work, some were grandparents taking care of the grandkids while mom or dad is in jail; all of them are in difficult situations.

**- CONTINUED on page 8**

## THE TRACK RECORD

published by

WeR1net/ReddingTransformation  
P.O. Box 990764 • Redding, CA 96099  
(530) 222-9371  
www.weR1net.net

Jon Thompson & Karen Shuster, Editors

### SHARE YOUR STORIES!

Let us know what God is doing in your area!  
karen@reddingtransformation.com

#### Contributors:

Kim Berry, Molly Borchers,  
Laurie Damoth, Chris DiGiovanna,  
Tim Hemeon, Paul Maertens,  
Mike Mercer,  
John Rodriguez, Karen Shuster,  
Jon Thompson,  
Josh Thompson, Drew Travis

Names may be changed to protect the individual's ability to continue to minister.

No portion of this publication may be reproduced in any manner without permission of the publisher.

## EDUCATION

# High school students break out into the community

By Steven Paul Andrew Maertens

Since Redding Christian School's inception in 1991, outreach has been a main focus. There is a required commitment from each student to service projects both in their churches and in the surrounding community. But beyond individual efforts, students are encouraged to serve in groups. This suggestion promotes fellowship in a way that goes beyond simply "hanging out." Along these lines, Redding Christian has had an annual Outreach Day in which all the high school students go into the community in groups to serve, but our high school hadn't had one since 2005.

Despite the daunting task of organizing and distributing a hundred-something high schoolers, there remained a great desire among the student body to bring back the event. Many students felt that this event had been integral to their high school experience. Nobody had claimed the project because the amount of work involved was mythically tremendous and had always fallen on the shoulders of one person, such as myself, the student chaplain at RCS.

This year God orchestrated the reinstatement of this tradition quite perfectly. Because of His faithfulness, the organizational piece became a group effort. I asked the National Honors Society to be the outreach committee. Our school's newly implemented small groups played a big part in circumventing any confusion and difficulties in the planning process. The small groups are composed of around ten students and a teacher. Although the small groups were originally



Students help widow with yard work on their Outreach Day, October 16th.

implemented as a way for students of different ages to have deep interaction in a safe setting (essentially a Bible study), the advantages of the groups have gone far beyond their original purpose. Because each small group got their own transportation, the outing required little additional planning.

And before we knew it, the 16<sup>th</sup> of October had come. After making sure that everyone was off to the right locations, I left for our service destination with my own small group. We worked with Jon Thompson's Grace-In-Motion team cleaning up Ruth's (not her real name) backyard. This opportunity to serve came via a local State Farm insurance agent who is on the look out for people in need while on the job. When Ruth called to ask the insurance agent a question, she began to weep. Her life was in crisis due to health, finances and family issues. The fact that her yard was out of control augmented her hopelessness. Jon had visited Ruth and prayed with her before our work day.

We were all able to share a moment of prayer with Ruth as we reached out to her on that day. We then proceeded to clean up everything in sight. We dug up stumps and small trees, trimmed unruly limbs and cut back hedges. By the time we finished raking up the area, I was really amazed by what we were able to accomplish in just those few hours. The yard had been transformed from overgrowth to manageability. Our united battle against the green also brought unusual bonds to our small group. It isn't everyday that you see a senior, a sophomore, a freshman, and a history teacher all working together in a backyard. The fellowship between grades and even between teacher and student was furthered and eased by the common purpose. And it's certainly fun to say that your team pulled up trees!

The destinations of the other service groups included the Salvation Army, churches, the rescue mission, and an Alzheimer's facility. They gave

## Serving at Living Hope

by Molly Borchers

Part of Redding Christian High School's mission is to create people who are active members in their community. To fulfill this goal, the National Honor Society helped organize a school-wide outreach day where groups went out into the community to serve at churches, homes, and various organizations.

My group decided to go to Living Hope, a center that serves meals to homeless or low income people. However, Living Hope is not an ordinary mission, but has a unique way of ministering to the homeless. First of all, the center does not house people or require them to attend services before receiving a meal. Instead, the volunteers at Living Hope try to build a relationship with the people as well as treat them like real people who have a story and have worth. The organization also gives out clothes. They will not just take any old garment, though. Each piece is inspected for holes or stains. Living Hope's purpose is to be kind to these people and help them feel human again. It is only after building this respect and trust that Living Hope tries to spread the gospel.

Our job at Living Hope was to sort clothes. We took all the good clothing and separated it by the type - shirts, jeans, children's, etc. Having to sort through the clothing has changed my perspective from "They should be grateful for what they have," to thinking about what I give and how it will make whoever receives it feel. Will they be proud of what they have to wear or will they be ashamed and feel more degraded?

This experience has changed the way my group feels about the homeless and it led us to want to do more with Living Hope. In fact, the experience was so moving, my group later made bags of soaps, shampoos and other toiletries for Living Hope to give to whomever they felt needed it. We made sure that the bags were given before Thanksgiving.

Our purpose in serving at Living Hope was to give and bless others, but the service has blessed me and helped me to realize what is important in life. ■

## Car insurance with PERSONAL SERVICE. No extra charge.

At State Farm<sup>®</sup> you get a competitive rate and an agent dedicated to helping you get the coverage that's right for you and the discounts you deserve. Nobody takes care of you like State Farm. Contact me. I'll prove it.



**Scott Schumacher, Agent**  
Insurance Lic. #: 0D51122  
2580 Victor Avenue  
Redding, CA 96002-1449  
Bus: 530-222-8200



LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR, STATE FARM IS THERE.<sup>®</sup>  
Providing Insurance and Financial Services

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company • State Farm Indemnity Company  
P040201 05/05 Bloomington, IL • statefarm.com<sup>®</sup>

- CONTINUED on page 9

## BUSINESS



## GOD'S PLANS, GOD'S BUSINESS: Hands of Faith Massage Therapy

by Laurie Damoth

The woman in the wheelchair was in constant pain and broken in spirit. When Monette Pierce, owner of Hands of Faith massage therapy, looked with her natural eyes she saw brokenness, pain and sorrow. When she looked with her spiritual eyes, she saw a woman that God designed to laugh, bring joy to others and walk in fulfillment. Her client began massage treatments 1-2 times a week. Each time Monette would ask the Holy Spirit how to pray and speak into her life and direct the massage. In time, the woman's emotional burdens began to lift and her spirit strengthened. She was able to let go of the pain of the past and anger against God. A new level of trust in God began to grow in her. The debilitating inflammation in her

joints decreased and soon she did not need the wheelchair. Joy and strength of spirit began to return. God had begun His healing for this woman through a willing vessel Monette.

Monette Pierce has a unique and beautiful story of transformation. She marks the beginning of the path to her business with a dream from the Lord. She was a frustrated music major, pregnant and bedridden with pneumonia. One night in a dream, she was trying to find a towel of a particular color from a huge wall of towels from just 6 inches away. God told her to step back and look. She did, spied the color up high and shouted, "There they are - way up there!" God gently explained, "Exactly! You can't always see My plan. Trust Me with your life's plan." She surrendered to His plan and a

huge burden was lifted.

Thoughts of massage school started growing, like the expectation of seeing a special friend. One day, a girl from church spoke to her, saying that God had put healing in her hands. This was exciting confirmation, but Monette had been diagnosed with gestational carpal tunnel. She prayed, "God, you are putting this desire for massage in me so I need You to heal me." God did heal her, and she began massage school.

Thus began her God-directed business which has increased in healing, favor and influence as God guides. Monette now has her own office. She is building relationship with people in San Francisco, Seattle, India and more places around the world, sharing her story and all that she has learned. A website, [www.beautyforashes.com](http://www.beautyforashes.com), is set up to share testimonies of healing.

God's plan has taken her through several distinct steps as she walks with Him in her business each day:

Ed Silvano's book, *Anointed For Business*, lit a fire in her spirit; and gave her core values that defined her business as ministry directed by God.

In obedience to God asking her trust Him with the finances, she gave 80% of the massages away free. This was a fearful thing to do but as she did, God brought in the rent money



Monette Pierce in her new office.

and broke that fear that He might not be there for her. It released her into new levels of faith and favor.

God showed her that she needed to bring all these components home. Her husband stepped up to the plate to connect the family spiritually and now he and the kids pray for Monette's clients too.

God developed the gift of intercession in her. She could never pray for more than 15 minutes a day. Soon, however, prayer became the core of everything she did. She made herself available to her clients for prayer and conversations turned from church attendance to what your walk with Christ looks like. The gentleness of her relationship with God opened doors into people's lives as they felt the compassion of a loving God through her care.

The following is one story of healing that caught my attention as I

- CONTINUED page 5



## WHERE INVESTORS FIND SATISFACTION

THANK YOU FOR BESTOWING THIS HONOR.

RAYMOND JAMES RANKED  
"HIGHEST IN INVESTOR  
SATISFACTION WITH FULL  
SERVICE BROKERAGE FIRMS"  
IN THE J.D. POWER AND  
ASSOCIATES 2008 STUDY.

**Glenn S. Rank, AAMS**

Accredited Asset Management Specialist - Branch Manager

999 Mission De Oro Drive, Suite 104 - Redding, CA 96003  
530-226-1600 - Toll-Free: 877-572-7265 - Fax: 530-226-1662  
[glenn.rank@raymondjames.com](mailto:glenn.rank@raymondjames.com)

## RAYMOND JAMES®

Raymond James received the highest numerical score among full service brokerage firms in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2008 Full Service Investor Satisfaction Study™. Study based on responses from 4,528 investors measuring 19 investment firms and measures opinions of investors who used full-service investment institutions. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of consumers surveyed in April-May 2008. Your experiences may vary. Visit [jdpower.com](http://jdpower.com).

Past performance is not indicative of future results.

©2008 Raymond James Financial Services, Inc. member FINRA/SIPC 08-BDMKT-0070 07/08 DW/EG



(Formerly Valley Christian Unmarried Adult Fellowship)

**Join us every Tuesday 7:00 - 9:00 pm**

**ALL AGES WELCOME - Come check it out!**

Fellowship and Fun Social Events in an interdenominational Christian environment

meeting at Cornerstone Community Church- 2615 Victor Avenue, Redding

**For more info call: 221-2448 or 949-8815**

**Accepting you where you are - Loving you to where you want to be!**



## FAITH IN ACTION: Speaking, hearing, doing

by Tim Hemeon

The quad at Oasis Community

School may seem like an odd place to find a worship gathering, but that's where the WeR1 Band held a Night of Worship in September as the school year started. Although the turnout was a bit low (as numbers go), the Holy Spirit was present and the worship was anointed. The high point of the evening was the opportunity to pray for people in attendance, including two teachers from the school.

As we prayed for the teachers, our bass player, Tim Fox, whispered in my ear: You're a teacher God wants you to pray for them. Yes, besides singing and playing trumpet in the WeR1 Band, I teach 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Alta Mesa School. (See Summer and Fall 08 editions of the Track Record for how God has been working there.) I was able to circulate the Fall edition with co-workers and that opened up opportunities to talk about the Lord with them. One teacher's aide said the story had "woken her up" to the fact that God is involved in our lives. She said she'd been on autopilot and just going through life's motions, and now her perspective is changed.

So I stepped forward to intercede for the Oasis teachers, asking God to heal them physically, to protect them spiritually, to bless their teaching, and to give them breakthroughs as they

reach out to their students with God's love. Now, there are times when you pray, it feels like you are going through the motions, and there are times when it feels like electricity is flowing through you the Lord's presence is that strong. This was one of the latter experiences.

After I prayed for them, Tim began praying for me, declaring truth and purpose over me and unlocking some things that were needing to come out. He placed his hand on my chest and told me that God was increasing my authority at work, that He was giving me more power to walk in the kingdom of God on my campus. With my hands raised to the Lord, I accepted His will for me, though I didn't know exactly what that would mean.

I have to confess that after a few days I kind of put this out of my mind. Life happens, and I was distracted with its details: driving the kids to school, running to the grocery store, taking care of work, etc. (I'm sure you can all relate). But my focus or lack of it did not affect what God had set in

motion. One day after school, at the end of a meeting, my boss asked me to stay behind; he needed to talk to me. He had to be gone the next day and wondered if I would consider being in charge of the school! This happened several more times; still I didn't connect it to the prayer.

Then a coworker ran up to me (yes, she literally ran) and told me that she had spoken to the Principal and they thought it would be a good idea if we started a weekly prayer meeting before school and they wanted me to host it. At that exact moment I remembered what Tim had prayed and realized it was developing. Isn't God wonderful? We have been meeting for prayer now for a little over a month and interest is growing. Not only that, but I have had more opportunity to speak to people about the Lord and to



WeR1 Band invites God's presence onto Oasis School campus.



Teachers receive prayer.

pray with several people.

I've learned a few things from this experience, like, there's no need to force anything, just be obedient, and have a willing heart. God will bring the increase and show us what to do.

**So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. (I Cor 3:7 NKJ)**

Second, what Tim did was *listen* to the Holy Spirit and *speak* this into my life. How did God create the heavens and the earth? He *spoke* them into being.

**And God said, "Let there be... (see Genesis 1)**

So I encourage you, as God leads, to speak encouragement and boldness into the lives around you: to your children, coworkers, neighbors, and friends.

**"It is good." ■**

### HANDS OF FAITH *continued from page 4*

interviewed Monette. A woman came for a massage because she had ongoing pain in the front part of her shoulder. As Monette began to work that area the woman felt intense emotional pain radiate through her body. She began to cry, "This is spiritual." Monette then prayed, say, "Father, show my friend what it is." A memory flooded back to her of her dying sister, who passed out and fell back so hard that it tore cartilage in this woman's knee and racked her shoulder. She was still grieving and angry at God. Monette simply said, "Can you let it go?" With that revelation of how that pain got stuck in her muscle, the woman was able to say "Yes, God, I let it go." The pain drained from her body and has never returned!

So what is next for this unfolding and

ever expanding ministry? Monette is now in college to become a nurse practitioner since the Lord showed her that you change the structure of a system from the inside out. She and the other therapists in town are also creating an association of Christian massage therapists that would form a directory, host meetings to update skills, provide community education events and announce massage ministry events. A ministry through CareNet, called My Beloved, is also being planned to care for those pregnant and alone.

That beautiful colored towel Monette saw in her dream years ago is getting closer and more beautiful every day. God puts the joy of discovery around every corner when our days are planned by Him and our businesses are run by Him. ■

## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES TO DIVE IN!

### WORKPLACE INFLUENCERS NET MONTHLY LUNCH GATHERING

Third Tuesdays 1/20, 2/17, 3/17 · 12-1:15 pm

Round Table Pizza, Mt. Shasta Mall

Testimonies · Encouragement · Prayer

Connect with others who are called to minister in the marketplace.

**Lynk**

equipping the saints  
to change the city

THURSDAY NIGHTS, Feb. 5th - Mar. 19th, 7pm to 9pm

- ♦ Be equipped by proven spiritual fathers and leaders.
- ♦ Receive boldness and be lifted to new heights.
- ♦ Gain perspective on what is happening and how you fit in.
- ♦ Become transformational in your sphere of influence.

SEATING IS LIMITED - REGISTER EARLY!

MORE INFO AT 222-9371 or [www.weR1net.net](http://www.weR1net.net)

# MENTORING CHICO: Community Alliance making a difference

by Karen Shuster

## BUILDING COMMUNITY

Most of the offices at Culp and Tanner in Chico are filled with plans for parking structures and photos of completed projects, but one office is filled with pictures of people and ideas for changing lives. Chris DiGiovanna is not your typical engineer. He is designing a different kind of structure, one built on relationships, faith, hope and love. It's called the Community Alliance, but you won't find it by searching the internet. It's not your typical organization; it's more organic than organized.



Chris DiGiovanna, Ambassador of Hope

Believing that the best way to fix a broken person is a relationship with someone who is whole, who can walk them into restoration, the Community Alliance focuses on mentoring. Among those they have connected with are Butte County Social Services, Big Brothers and Sisters, Young Life, and the Chico Police (see other stories).

Chris was hired in 2006 to strategically implement hope by "building functioning partnerships with a re-engaged community and our social service institutions..." Why would a business take on the leadership of such a monumental task? Culp and Tanner was founded by men of faith who believe that with prosperity comes responsibility to give back to the community. For Chris, it's more personal. Three years ago, while in Africa he was praying for a young boy at an orphanage to receive the spirit of adoption. He heard

God respond to him, "If you want the authority to see miracles out here, it has to be because you live it out day to day at home." Chris returned to Chico and soon heard about an at-risk youth who needed a mentor, and he has been meeting weekly with Kile ever since. It was about that time that Culp and Tanner offered him the position.

"We, 'the Church,' are the ones who have the hope for the hopeless," Chris believes. "The mandate in Isaiah 58 through 61 tells us to go. Who are the brokenhearted, those mourning, prisoners, etc.? We need to go and find them." Not wanting to "reinvent the wheel," Chris first sought out organizations who are already reaching the at-risk population. Doug Hignell, CEO Hignell Inc., explains it this way: "There are a lot of organizations doing wonderful things. If businesses come along side and partner with them, they can take advantage of the resources we have to give, and yet they can continue to provide the services they have to provide."

### An open door

Community Alliance rallies people around a cause, regardless of beliefs. Christians then can not only work with those in need, but also work alongside those who need hope in Christ. Chris explains the rationale for doing this with his "circle of context" which links prayer - helping the poor - holiness. An individual can start at any of those 3 spots, and it will eventually lead to

continued page 8

## YOUNG LIVES: Discipleship and skills for teen mothers

Community Alliance partnered with Young Life to provide an alternative to abortion by providing practical support. The program called Young Lives is tailored specifically for teen moms. Through weekly club meetings, camps, and mentoring relationships with older Christian women, they equip the teen moms with everything from spiritual guidance to practical parenting skills while addressing their practical needs such as housing, meals and childcare.



A wider range of community supporting the program had made it more comprehensive. Additional support from the faith community brought more focused prayer support from intercession groups, increase the number of mentors available, and improve coordination of efforts with clubs, schools and the Women's Resource Clinic. The education community provided health services, mentor training and teen mom identification. The business community added a

startup funding base, is establishing scholarships for education, and helped provide a positive living situation. From this stable base, these young women can acquire life skills from the house "mom," addiction busting skills from professional counselors, as well as acquiring a new set of friends who are pursuing positive life goals.

Melissa was one of these teen moms. She went to the weekly meetings, was in a mentoring relationship, then attended camp. At camp, teen moms gather from

half the country in a Christian atmosphere designed just for them. This year, Melissa and five others committed their lives to Christ, and four made a pact with each other to remain chaste. Melissa completed the program and started a day care so others like her could complete school and hold down a job. She is now a junior mentor. When the rescued become the rescuers, that's sustainability!

## ESPLANADE HOUSE: The connection keeps going...

Esplanade House is a federally funded, assisted living program for low income families. It consists of 60 apartments filled with 115 adults and 120 children. Intervarsity is a fellowship of about 50 Christian Chico State students with a rich tradition of campus witness, thoughtful discipleship, and a concern for world missions. Upwards Sports is an after school, non-competitive sports program operated by a local church fellowship. Enter Community Alliance as a catalyst. Esplanade House had the at risk kids who would benefit from the sports program at the church, but no way to get there or funds to cover the cost of the program. The Community

Alliance involved businesses and churches to provide scholarships and the Intervarsity students connected with the kids to take them to the practices, and mentoring relationships sprang out of that. Once the connections were made, CA moved out the way and the very capable leaders of the three groups ran with the program and took it farther.

Ashlee is a child development major at Chico who got involved in the sports program and mentoring. As a result, peer counseling started developing with other young people at the Esplanade House which became regular Teen Chat sessions. A concern for the younger kids at

the House was expressed, and these teens started Movie Night events for the little kids. Now there are plans being made for after school tutoring, sports programs and music education! Once the ball got rolling, it just kept going and going and going...

Ezekiel 16:49 explains, "Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and the needy." This is one way to help the poor and the needy. This is the Church being practical. We don't need to teach about it, we just need to do it.



## COMMUNITY PARTNERS WANTED: Need becomes opportunity

The family is the core unit that establishes the strength of a culture, but families are facing increasing stresses that threaten to weaken them. Social Services started in 1940 as the government developed agencies to address the myriad of issues involved. But as we entered the new century, the government became increasingly aware that Social Services was ineffective at restoring their clients, recognizing that without community-wide support the battle was being lost. As a response, recent state legislation has "rolled out the red carpet" to individuals and groups interested in partnering with governmental agencies. Known as Differential Response, this umbrella for the community at large to partner with Social Services was established in Butte County in 2005. Many Christians feel "The Church should be taking care of the needy..." Now the government has opened the door for the Church, as an integral part of the community, to take back its responsibility. Butte County Social Services reaches 15,000 at risk

families, and the Children's Services division has historically operated outside of the public awareness because of the need for confidentiality. This has created almost complete isolation, resulting in a few "professionals" taking on the responsibility. The Community Alliance asked, "How can we help?" It took them nearly six months to respond, but finally a practical way to help was agreed upon - renovating the "Trauma Room" which provided a safe and quiet environment for abused children and their families.

Karen Zinniel, an interior designer, was asked if she could come up with a design for the project. She said, "That's something that not only can I do, but I'd love to do it, especially to help out those children...not only do I want this room to help out the children and their families, but also the employees."

The initial reaction from the staff at Children's Service was disbelief. They didn't think it would happen. But seeing the project completed had a deep impact, not just on those who

helped or on the families, but also on the staff. Here's what some of them had to say afterwards:

Mike McIver, Program Manager: "It's raised their level of hope, that they're not in this alone, that they have people who really do care. They don't feel so isolated. It just means the world to the social workers who have such a difficult job, to know there are people out there who understand and care."

Patti Morelli, Analyst: "It also makes sense. I think it's how a community should be."

Neva Young, Social Worker "This is what people who care do - they come together like this."

From the relational partnership that began with bi-monthly meetings with a 10 person squad, a general sense of adoption grew to encompass the entire agency. Their members now co-chair the county's Differential Response committee, which aims at developing a community wide response to the needs of hurting families.

## BIGS IN SCHOOLS: Rescuing a generation

In the fall of 2006, several members of the community approached the Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Big Brothers/Big Sisters (BBBS), and the Chico Chamber of Commerce to pursue the idea of coming together to help "rescue" Chico's at-risk elementary school aged children. This was seen both as a community responsibility as well as a way to combat many of the social ills facing the Chico community.

BBBS has a national program called "Bigs in Schools," but it was not yet activated in Chico. So in the fall of 2006, it with 4 men spending one hour per week with 4 second graders on their school campus. Over the next two years, the various elementary schools identified the at-risk kids in kindergarten and first grade; BBBS and the Community Alliance recruited the mentors who were then screened by BBBS. Together, they worked at matching the children with the mentors with the hope that a bond would form that would allow the match to be extended throughout the child's school years. At the end of 2007, there were 50 mentors in 10 different elementary schools and 25 more mentors in the screening process.

The hour the mentor spends with the students varies widely as the children's needs, from quietly reading to playing a raucous game of four square. However the time is spent, the students look forward to that hour. Mentors are "cool," whatever they do. One engineer who became a mentor wasn't sure what to do when his "little" bear hugged his leg at their first meeting. He was reassured: "You're doing it. You showed up."

Each mentor is involved in the task of rescuing one child. As an army, they are rescuing a generation and perhaps even a city.

**Frogmama Baby Carriers**

www.frogmama.com  
 lorene@frogmama.com  
 1-(530)-921-8855  
 "I sell GREAT baby carriers!"

## Would You Like To Own Your Home Free And Clear?

Pay Off Your Mortgage and Your Other Debt In As Little As 1/2 to 1/3 The Time With the Money Merge Account® system from United First Financial®

- NOT a Bi-Weekly Program
- NOT a Debt Roll Down Program
- NOT a Refinance Program
- NOT a Concept or a Theory

FREE! Online Analysis

www.uffmarketing.com/903767

Call Today or Go Online For a No-Risk, FREE ANALYSIS To See How Soon You Can Be Debt Free With The Money Merge Account® System!

**U FIRST**  
 UNITED FIRST FINANCIAL

**Bob Newell**  
 Independent Agent  
 530-222-2711

Results will vary and are determined by individual financial situations. The information contained herein does not constitute offer or a solicitation to lend or extend credit. Contact your United First Financial independent agent (# 903767) for further details.

Make It Yours, Free And Clear™

**CHICO** *continued from page 6*

the other 2. Loving the least not only gives context to your prayer life, it also becomes an open door so God can show the need for a redeemer. Chris has seen this work in YWAM while building houses. As people realize their own selfishness, they are working alongside people who are doing it for Christ, and a conversation starts.

“Why are you doing this?”

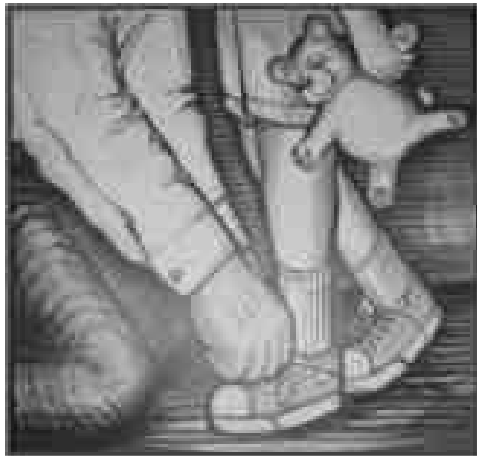
“Because Jesus said to serve the lesser. Here's some other things he said...”

Then Jesus becomes practical.

**A time to speak**

“Everything we do is about sustained relationship,” Chris explains. “And it's about engaging the community the people resources into the needs.” Often this opens doors in surprising places. One of the first projects was for the Social Services (SS), giving a much needed facelift to an outdoor area where parents have supervised visits with their children. The Social Workers often referred to this area as, “San Quentin without the razor wire.” Community Alliance members painted a huge ocean-scape mural, brought in large plants and an array of toys. Now the social workers are saying, “You can hear the difference in the visits... you can hear laughter...”

At the dedication of this visiting area, a chaplain from SS was there and spoke about the Hebrew word “blessing,” which means to kneel and serve. So the Alliance had a mural painted of an adult kneeling down to tie a child's shoelaces. This was presented at the first annual social worker appreciation brunch. One of the directors



**Butte Co. Social Services new visiting area**

knew Jesus and this gave him the opportunity to speak of the way of the King. In his acceptance speech, he spoke of how the social workers embody the true meaning of the word blessing as they kneel to tie the laces of a person's life. He went on to say that Jesus deepened the meaning of this by adding that the greater should serve the lesser, and that social workers live this out.

**Community needed**

“The people who have the real ability and responsibility to heal families is the faith community. When we have results, then people will listen about Jesus. To get there, we need the community. We are on that path.”

The Community Alliance in Chico has laid a good foundation in less than 3 years. Knowing that every business makes a significant difference in building the community, they would like to see an increase in the people involved. Then they could more effectively rally the community to go disciple the nation, starting with the city of Chico. ■

**Chico Police Department Support Team makes appreciation tangible**

Because of the sense of peace and safety that the citizens of Chico feel even while the overall crime rate seems to be on the rise, the Police Department Business Support Team (CPDBST) was formed in 2007 to provide an outlet to honor and support the often undervalued and overlooked police officers. This support takes tangible forms in regularly recurring events as well as creative initiatives from the businesses that are members.

Chico businesses that are proud to be identified as supportive of the CPD each contribute \$20 each year and attend the meetings with CPD officers twice a year, talking face to face as well as listening to their “state of Chico” address. There are currently 48 businesses on this list, including everything from coffee shops to car dealers, chiropractors to financial institutions.

During the year they have several scheduled events to show their appreciation:

Participate with CPD in remembering their

fallen comrades during Officer Memorial Month.

Present a gift certificate to various civilian employee units in the CPD to show appreciation.

Serve dinner to the CPD and out of town police units before they go out on Halloween night.

Coordinate the presentation of school children's individualized thank you notes. To this day, some of the officers keep those notes with them, tucking them under their bulletproof vests.

Each of the members is also encouraged to come up with their own original ideas. One property management company made signs simply telling the policemen “We appreciate you” and put them in the yards of each of their properties. Charter Media ran public service announcements on all their stations expressing their appreciation.

The CPDBST hopes that this partnership between community and CPD will grow in its cohesiveness and find new ways of encouraging CPD personnel and benefitting Chico as a whole. ■

**RED BLUFF** *continued from page 2*

We were able to pray with many of these hurting families and many of them just cried.

Gloria delivered Christmas goodies to a house with four very small children. They were extra precious and very excited. When you talk to Gloria you feel like these are her kids. She loves all of them!

Three years ago a man and his wife connected with an Hispanic family and that family got saved. Then the family went back to Mexico and their whole family got saved and they have since started a church in their pueblo. We may never know the impact that small acts of kindness and prayer can bring! ■

**SOUTH COUNTY** *continued from page 2*

“Arise” was a gathering of multiple churches from various denominations that came together to exalt our Lord Jesus Christ. There was a tremendous sense of unity throughout the night that the group believes brought great pleasure to our Father in Heaven. One woman said, “*We could almost see Him smiling on our unity.*” The night was more than just worship in song & testimony. There were breakout prayer groups that were seasoned with great boldness, as prayers on behalf of law enforcement, local government, schools, businesses, the believers of the community and issues specific to the community were lifted up and placed at the feet of our Father in Heaven. One group of worshipers took to the streets in Anderson to prayerfully seek vision for their community! The boldness that the worshipers experienced in prayer has been attributed to the perceived favor of God being poured out, due to the “unity and agreement” that took place among all this special night.

A groundswell of hope has arisen in the South County that is spilling over from one person to another, from one business to another, one agency to another. How encouraging this is for other regions that may be sensing that the Spirit is beginning to move in their area! (The next step for South County is a Leaders' Prayer Breakfast on January 30th. Call 222-9371 if you are interested in attending.)

Allow Pastor Mark Driscoll of Mars Hill Church in Seattle to encourage not only South County but all those who are hungry for transformation in their “mission field:” “*...as Christians enter into their local cultures and its subcultures, we must also remember that it is Jesus (not us) who is sovereign, and it is Jesus (not the church) who rules over all. We are to come in the authority of the exalted Jesus, but also in the example of the humble incarnated Jesus. This means that we must come into a culture as Jesus did--filled with the Holy Spirit, in constant prayer to the Father, saturated with the truth of Scripture, humble in our approach, loving in our truth and serving in our deeds.*”

Sounds like a winning approach and a lot like what is already taking place in South County! ■

# School connection continues to bear fruit

by Jon Thompson

Recently, a 3 million dollar grant was awarded to the Shasta Union High School District. Part of that grant was set aside to help struggling teens and parents set proactive goals and reconcile one with another. Gifted communicator and family pastor at Bethel Church, Danny Silk, was contracted to provide his services. "We worked for years at Enterprise High School with principal Chris Adams, Rick Caldwell of Youth for Christ, local youth groups and chef Cal DeMercurio to provide an excellent parent training, complete with child care and dinner for parents of freshman who were in danger of expulsion," recalled Danny. "Christine Lewin, part of Chris' dynamic administration team at the time, decided to do her USC Doctorate dissertation on the cultures of poverty, our program and its success. When she presented her case for argument at her review board, she received only one question, *"Why isn't every school in California doing this program?!"* We had great testimonies from parents who went from utter desperation and chaos to peace and loving connection with their teens."

This team-based, relational approach started in 2001. Youth For Christ Shasta Region began to train a large task force of chaplains for campus assistance. In 2003, one of those chaplains began dialoguing with Chris Adams who had just become the principal of Enterprise High. The campus chaplain asked, "What do you want to see happen here this year, Mr. Principal? What's on your heart as the leader of this campus?" Immediately he responded that one of his main concerns was the need to restore hope to families and kids. He had seen too many families break apart and kids failing in life and school as a result. This seemed like a solvable problem. His response begged for an action plan but, at the time, it was nowhere to be found.

The chaplain prayed with Chris, took the information to Youth For Christ director, Rick Caldwell. Before long, a very interesting partnership-based solution developed. Cal DeMercurio, a local, world renowned chef (and brother in Christ,) would prepare food donated by the Shasta County senior food bank. Four youth groups would rotate to provide free, on-site child care. Pastor Danny Silk facilitated each evening by



**Danny Silk, Love and Logic instructor.**

sharing the principles of Love and Logic laced with practical advice and scriptural wisdom he had and his wife, Sheri, had gleaned through raising their own children in Kingdom principles. And to top it off, it was all offered free to the school!

The results proved to be amazing. Each semester saw an increased enrollment. Each time, kids reconciled with parents, and adults learned how to better manage their homes. Even the teachers at EHS were taken through the program so they could manage their classrooms more effectively. Hopelessness was replaced with vision and positive action steps. The number of referrals dropped, the improvement in the lives of participants was tangible and the campus prospered also. In 3 years, the school went from "program improvement" status to recognition as a national model school which usually takes 5-6 years. The Church had met a felt-need in the local school and brought light to the community!

Danny tells one of the many poignant stories. "One parent told us how applying the material we taught created a complete turn-around in their family environment. Her son, who was attending Pioneer High School, came home one day and did something totally unexpected. He came into the room where this mother and father were sitting, and sat down. This was a freak experience for the parents because he hadn't approached them in three years. Normally, he would come home and go straight to his room. The only time he came out

was to fight with them over something he didn't like. Now he was sitting in the room with them. They waited. No fight?!? He told them, *"I noticed today how disrespectful my friends are to each other at school. I noticed how they try to control each other and are punishing when they don't get their way. I noticed this because I've also noticed how you guys are being so much more respectful toward me recently. I'm not sure why you are doing this, but I noticed."* The parents sat there, just stunned - on so many different levels at once. The boy goes on to say, *"You guys want to play a board game or something?"* Both parents looked at each other in disbelief. Then both scrambled to see if they even owned a board game. The mom later told our group, *"I found a game, one board game. It was Aggravation!"* The group of empathetic parents roared in laughter. She went on to say, *"We used to live the game of 'Aggravation', but now we are playing it at the table as a family."* Cheers and tears filled the room.

This goes to show us that grace and truth can be applied to the systems of our community through relationally-minded people in creative ways with incredible results. There are many doors, like this one, open to us as people of faith. Schools, now facing many challenges and difficult funding cuts, are just one door into which we can insert the healing keys of the Kingdom.

Danny sums it up well, "We, as the Body of Christ, are at our best when we are loving and serving others. John Maxwell said, *"People don't care what you know until they know that you care."* Our communities will first believe our gospel of love when they feel it coming out of our core values and lives. It is ridiculous to believe that we can get everyone in our community into our church, but much more realistic to bring God's love into our community through the lives of His loving body." ■

## HIGH SCHOOL *continued from page 3*

quality time to people that may not often receive such a gift.

It is really great to see the students asking for and leading in an Outreach Day. We're in a time where the kids in our student body see a need and are becoming aware that they have the ability to fill that need. Although there were teachers involved in supervision, this was primarily a student led activity. They are living James 2:18b:

*"...I will show you my faith by what I do."*

We realize that the call to serve is much more than a requirement. Service is a choice not to stand on the sidelines, but to participate directly in the community. It is our school's desire that in the near future everyone will be touched and positively affected by our presence in the community. ■

**ENHANCE WORSHIP**  
with powerful imagery designed to encourage the body of Christ

New Full-color  
**SATIN FABRIC BANNERS**  
and Banner Patterns by Banners of Faith  
Visit [churchbanner.net](http://churchbanner.net) today!

## FEATURED MINISTRY

# FISHERS OF MEN: Getting out on their turf

by Mike Mercer

Imagine for a moment the life of a young, simple fisherman in the days when Jesus walked this earth. Little time for relaxation or recreation; the very real specter of survival a constant companion. Working in the early morning chill, with his brother beside him, they cast their net, imagining the harvest waiting below. Both brothers heave, their young muscles responding to the task... when, suddenly, a voice, crisp and startlingly clear above the wind and the slap of the waves, calls out to them. They swivel about, still grasping the dripping net, searching the shoreline for whom had called... searching for that voice... that amazing voice...

In 2001, David Mantei and a group of 7 other men from Neighborhood Church heard the call from that same amazing Voice, to leave what they were doing and follow His plan to develop a ministry that would allow men to grow in their faith and grow as friends through fishing and hunting. In essence, Christ asked them to become fishermen of men, through fishing for fish! Fishers Of Men has since grown into an interdenominational Christian sportsmen's club of over 50 men, growing in their faith and evangelizing their community through outdoor related sports, seminars, events and "competitive teams." Their hope is that everyone who attends a Fishers of Men event feels what is described in Galatians as "*faith expressing itself through love.*"

Members of *Fishers of Men* believe that by sending out their "competitive teams" and spending time with men in our community at seminars and events, God will reveal himself through them and



**Dave Mantei, Fishers of Men president, and Wayne Lowe, race car owner-driver**

place a call on the lives of the men they are in contact with. As an example, they had a booth at the Salmon Festival at Coleman Fish Hatchery this year, and during the day a couple approached them to see what they were about. It turns out the pair was struggling with a problem, and the guys at the booth were able to minister to them by just talking and praying with them, right there in the midst of the event.

In April, they set up a booth with a front engine dragster at the first "Hot-Orama" car show in Anderson. Quite a few guys stopped by to check out the car as it was a nostalgic racer. It quickly became obvious the attendees didn't realize the club was a Christian organization! When they asked what Fishers of Men was and listened to the explanation, the club got a lot of "Wow, I never thought a Christian club would be at a place like

this." The club members were well received by other vendors, who invariably commented about the number of people who stopped to talk with them. They were meeting men out in their environment, amongst the toys they all enjoy.

Even the Fishers of Men decals on their trucks get a lot of questions wherever they go. Often these stickers allow them to meet complete strangers at places like the hardware store or gun shop, and have permitted them to relate how being in the club has made a change in their life.

Fishers of Men has supplied what has been lacking for many men in the church...real camaraderie. They have walked together as God does His transforming work right before their eyes. Some have overcome addictions, repaired their marriages, and met Christ for the first time. They have caught fish, hunted game, raced cars, ridden bikes, grilled meat, laughed, cried and lived together as they've grown in their faith and in God's Word.

George Reilly recounts his initial introduction to the group: "If you would have told me ten years ago that God could move me from a junk yard to being a man of God, I would have thrown a beer bottle at you and cussed you out. I saw Christian men as sissies, needy guys who didn't have a grasp on reality. Then God got my attention and revealed His plan for my salvation to me. Once I accepted the truth, I went on a search to find out what being a Christian meant. I didn't really feel like I fit in at Sunday school or in Bible studies; I was really rough

- CONTINUED on page 11

## ETNA continued from page 1

Men's Bible studies and breakfasts happen at regular intervals in various locations throughout the year. A valley-wide men's retreat each January features inspirational messages focusing on issues of faith, family, purity and leadership. All of these relational connections are developing a strong fabric of ligaments which is fortifying the Body of Jesus Christ in the valley.

The "Healing Place" vision is more than a prayer request. It's now becoming a tangible reality. There are two Christian camps in Scott Valley. Both have a wide variety of Biblically based camping programs to encourage all ages. Each year, toward the end of May, a valley-wide barbeque and worship service is held to encourage unity and to pray for the counselors and campers who will be attending camps that summer.

On Palm Sunday, in 2007, about 150 believers gathered for a special prayer event called, "Pray At

now  
becoming a  
tangible  
reality

The Gates". The goal was to pray at the "entry points" of Scott Valley and anoint each location with water, oil and wine. This was a solemn declaration over Scott Valley by the assembled believers. The prayer event began to turn the tide in the Heavenly places! *Scott Valley is a "Healing Place"!*

Steve Hudson experienced this healing transformation firsthand while living near Tracy, California. He began abusing alcohol at the age of fourteen and had struggled with for years. What began

as teenage fun grew into a life-altering cycle of abuse. In 2000 Steve was hospitalized. A doctor examined Steve and ran tests. "We have placed you on a liver list for a transplant, but if you don't stop drinking, you're going to die." Those fateful words prompted Steve to call their church and ask for prayer. The pastor came and prayed for Steve's

healing and deliverance from alcohol. That was nine years ago. God answered both prayers!

Steve never had the liver transplant and hasn't had a drink since that day. God did a miracle that Steve knows God wants to do in many others like him. After moving to Etna, Steve and Chris Hudson started Celebrate Recovery at the Scott Valley Berean Church. The focus is to "help people with life's hurts, hang-ups and addictions." The program meets every Friday night and has gradually grown over the last four years. This is one way the "Healing Place" vision is becoming a tangible reality.

a way of life  
and a common  
confession

As transformation is becoming more of a way of life and a common confession on the lips of the saints, we believe the Healing Place vision will only crescendo! The words of Habakkuk seem appropriate, "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." Lord, send more! ■

# STRINGS ATTACHED: Touching lives in Weaverville

by Josh Thompson

Lifting the flap, I saw the contents of the black canvas case ~ it was a guitar. Feigning disinterest, I let the flap fall back into place and moved on in search of other garage sale treasures, but already I knew I wanted that guitar. I didn't play the guitar, and I certainly didn't have a shortage of other hobbies to help justify this new one. But like Romeo, I 'was in love with the idea of being in love,' loved the picture in my head of "Josh the guitar player," and so, \$30 later, the Ibanez acoustic was mine.

Fast-forward 5 years, 3 moves, 1 state, 2 pets, 3 jobs and 2 kids later, and just about the only thing remaining the same from the first paragraph to this one was that guitar. And that I still didn't play it. Every move, we'd set up our garage sale, and every move, for some reason, I just couldn't part with that purposeless guitar. It was art with strings attached, which may as well have been bars -- a beautiful instrument, sitting on a stand in my office corner, imprisoning song.

On at least one occasion, I thought I felt or heard or sensed God hinting at some greater plan for the silent guitar. I later attributed this to my hopelessly romantic streak and almost sold the thing. In fact, I came close many times to selling it or giving it away but could never quite close the deal. Recently I had two Christian gentlemen from another church stop by my office to chat. They noticed the guitar, one of them picking it up and playing it. Later that week they stopped by again and the one who had played it handed me a small

I sensed  
God hinting  
at some  
greater plan

box of brand new guitar strings. "I noticed the other day your guitar needed some new strings. Enjoy!" I was too embarrassed to let him know I never played it, thanked him for such a random kindness, and said goodbye. Not too long after that I got a phone call.

I was sitting at my office desk in Weaverville, the wind was tearing amber leaves off the maple tree outside my Main St. window, and the woman on the phone was telling me that her youngest son had narrowly escaped a horrible death the week before. She (his mother) had woken up with an unbearable urge to pray for her son's safety, which she did for several hours after waking one of her daughters to pray with her. Only later did they learn why -- that very night a murder took place in the house her son was living in, and it seems clear he also was a target. Earlier that night, however, he changed his plans suddenly and left the house to stay with friends.

His mother went on to tell me her son was now living at home with her, emotionally broken, traumatized and confused, despite his clear understanding of God's miraculous work to spare his life. She didn't know how to help him. He wouldn't smile, he didn't want to sleep because of the nightmares, and the carefree joy that usually made him stand out in a crowd and at the church where he frequently volunteered -- was gone. Then she said a sentence that made the hair on the back of my neck stand on end; "All I could think to do," she said, "was call around and see if anyone had a guitar they didn't use and

An instrument  
of healing...

would consider giving him." She wanted to know if I could please pray for God to bring her son a guitar, because he loved to play, it always helped him pray, it always helped him calm down. His had been stolen or damaged and she thought it might help jumpstart the healing process. I told her to bring him to my office.

He came and I prayed for him. There's a Christian brother from another church that God tends to bring by my office when I need help praying for someone or something, and sure enough, he walked in the door at just that moment. So we both prayed for him. We anointed him with oil and prayed release from the nightmares and for the return of his joy; it was a powerful thing. When we were done, he raised his head, saw that old guitar in my office corner, and started grinning sheepishly. "Can I play that?" he asked quietly. He looked exhausted, like he might still be keeping vigil every night in case the attacker came for him again. "You can have that," I said. "God's been saving it for you a long time. He even brought you some new strings, just last week!" I'll never forget the look on his face. New strings for a new owner, for a new start. New strings for a new purpose. An instrument of healing... with new strings attached.

I think about that silly guitar and am humbly reminded that God cares, not just about the vast and complex 'big' aspects of His plan, but also about the little details and the little prayers that work to make a big difference in the everyday lives of individuals... and I'm so grateful. ■

## FISHERS OF MEN *continued from page 10*

and, well, let's just say I wasn't a typical Christian.

"At a men's breakfast I met a guy who challenged me to stay the course and talked about a men's group he was starting. He mentioned that a part of the group would involve fishing as a way to develop friendships, so I thought, 'Well, at least I might get a fishing trip out of it,' so I stayed in contact with him. Through Fishers of Men, he introduced me to discipleship, reading the Bible and learning how to stand in God's will. I have grown in my faith and walk with my God, and can see that Christian men aren't all sissies.

"The discipleship, the events, the friendships and camaraderie that are all a part of Fishers of Men have been essential to my transformation. I am now a minister to my family and friends, and even a leader in the club. The friendships that have developed through the club are treasures to me. I have witnessed the power of prayer in real ways and have been able to show God's love to others; but most importantly, I have the knowledge of who my God is, and am able to show other men who He is, how real He is. I have no doubt that we have



Booth at the Return of the Salmon festival

been called to be a light to a dark world, and without Fishers of Men I still would be searching for what that means.

"By the way, I did get to go fishing, but found out that becoming a fisher of men was way more rewarding."

Fishers of Men offers these various ways to get involved:

**Weekly Bible study:** Midweek gathering to

encourage, pray and study, pre-empted once a month by a "Sportsmen's Dinner and Seminar." **Discipleship Groups:** Designed to systematically walk a small group of men through the principles and promises of our faith through Christ Jesus. **The Watchmen:** Act as mentors, leading by example, and guide men into a relationship with Christ. **Boanerges:** Target issues that are common struggles for young men living in this confused world. **Seminars, community events and competitive teams:** For Fishers of Men, these events are a way of taking their lamp stand outside, where men are... You'll find them at the Nor Cal Sport show, CAST for Kids, Hot-Orama, Return of the Salmon Festival, and the Redding Air Show.

"... let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." *Matt 5:15-16*

There is always room for one more brother in *Fishers of Men*. To find out more, visit their website at [www.thefishersofmen.net](http://www.thefishersofmen.net) or give David Mantei, the president of the club, a call at 339-8867. ■



# A fresh set of keys for city transformation

by Jon Thompson

How will cities and nations change? Here are 3 keys toward unlocking the mystery.

Jesus came from the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14). He represented the Father in

perfect proportion and exact measure. When Phillip asked Jesus, "Show us the Father," the reply came back, "If you have seen me, you have seen the Father." What was Jesus saying there? Seeing me IS seeing the Father! Why? Because "the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does." (John 5:19) What an example to follow! Can we boldly say, "Watch me and you will see the Father"?

In his book, *God's Trademarks*, George Otis Jr. warns of those who would "open the door" for others to see God, but position themselves in the doorway so as to cast their shadow over Him. They want people to meet Him, but are equally eager to make sure their brand and likeness remain in the picture. This insight checks us and probes our motives. Do we stumble into these less-than-transparent moments, wanting people to notice us on their way to seeing the Father?

Jesus allowed us to see the Father, shadow-free. Self-sacrifice, grace-filled truth and loving compassion gave people a clear view of the Father's heart for humanity. This is why Jesus could, in essence, say, "Phillip, I am see-through."

➤ **KEY ONE:** *Become see-through so others can see the Father.*

In John 6, we get a glimpse into Evangelism 101 straight from Jesus' lips. He says, "No one can come to me unless the Father draws them." Huge clue here. WHO draws them? The Father. Can our magnetic personalities, fine debates or calculated arguments draw them? No. The Father does it. He did it then, and STILL does it now.

➤ **KEY TWO:** *Leave the heavy lifting to the Father. Love people and watch Him work.*

I have two brothers and a sister. We get along well, but I was the competitive one. If my older brother could jump 5 feet on his bike, I could jump 6. If he could make \$10 an hour picking berries, I

could make \$12. This brotherly competition and "one-upmanship" is alive and well all across the planet! Unfortunately, when this trend creeps into the Church, we find ourselves trying to outdo one another or "one-up" those with whom we're to partner for the greater good. This recipe packs a small dose of God while heaping on large doses of us. It's one of the factors that limits other's ability to see through us to the Father.

God calls us to a higher, selfless agape. When the Church in a city acts maturely toward one another, it increases the potency of its witness and points more clearly to Christ. 1 Corinthians 1:10 puts it this way, "I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought." A few chapters later, Paul warns the Church of that city against trumpeting one camp over the other (Apollos' people, Cephas' group, Paul's team, or the Christ way...). Divisions from pride, one-upmanship, self-promotion or trying to be better than a brother actually hinders the Co-mission. Jesus' prayer and desire is that the One Body in a region operate in such a way that the world might believe. A mature oneness amongst us, void of self-promotion or impure motives, points to our Father. As a matter of fact, we are to consider others better than ourselves: a mature, Father-trait indeed. When we work in harmony, people see God more clearly. When we compete, all they see is us.

➤ **KEY THREE:** *Harmonious Christian cooperation is essential. It matters to Jesus and it matters to the watching world. Jesus prayed, "Father, may they be one, as you and I are One, that the world might believe You sent me."*

So, to summarize: Walk in transparency, show them the Father, become see-through. Relax, simply obey God and watch Him draw people to Himself. Cooperate harmoniously with other believers; don't fret, compare, compete or judge.

When a city full of believers accesses these keys and consistently unleashes the Father's heart in every area across town, you will see an amazing, sustainable transformation. It will be like a sweet sounding symphony that only God could orchestrate.

The result will be an abundance of love, mercy, truth and grace everywhere, the by-product of which will be evangelism and transformation. The enemy's tactics to blind the minds of the unbelieving will fail as the Church of the city reaches the city, together. People will come face to face with our Father. The magnet of the His love will lock onto hearts of steel and draw them in.

So, what will it take? An encounter with the Father! HOW will that come about? A better question might be, "Through WHOM will that come about?" The answer is, "US!"

*"Father, let Your Kingdom come!"* ■

## TEACHING KIDS HONOR

A proven approach to New Testament parenting!

## LOVING OUR KIDS ON PURPOSE



BY: DANNY SILK

*"Loving Our Kids On Purpose has been life giving to our family. We have our peace back while we're parenting. It's the handbook that children should come with!"*

Anthony and Jenney  
Parents of three

available now at:  
[lovingonpurpose.com](http://lovingonpurpose.com)

home | about adlets | email | login | sign-up | help

create adlets | adlets demo

Shops | Directory | For Sale Board | Linkster | Affiliates

**Got ads? (new or old) Put them to use on adlets.org**  
(Good for improving search engine results)

Promote Your Website by placing small ads with links back to your website. With a free adlets shop account you can see how many times your adlets were clicked and the number of clicks your ads have sent people to your website.

Proverbs 3 (NIV)  
5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;  
6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

## Need to find help for your loved one?

- ◆ Assessment
- ◆ Care Management
- ◆ Care Giving
- ◆ Care Home Selection



People you can turn to . . .

242-8580

[www.compasscares.com](http://www.compasscares.com)

ELDERCARE SOLUTIONS