

# UNIVERSITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. Daniel 12:3*

Address: 651 W 48th St, San Bernardino, CA 92407

## ***The Evangelism Report for January, 2018***

***Joseph Lee Sullivan, Evangelist, University church of Christ***

*Dear church family,*

*I thank God for your support. Writing these reports has been such a joy. I could not be working in San Bernardino, CA, without your help. January has been a busy month and an exciting month. The report will be a little longer than usual. But the content is important to include.*



Here are pictures of the saints moving items at the old Mt View building

## **Story-line:**

- **The move last month was busy. It took many weeks to pack, move and store the items in the old Mt View church building. The membership here is small and the church is 3 levels with decades of storage to box up and haul. The church members did an outstanding job. Yet due to people's jobs and the congregational numbers, different people at times worked at the building alone. I was working alone at the old church building, carrying boxes down the 3 levels. There were about 50 boxes and the work needed to get done. But it was taking a toll...**



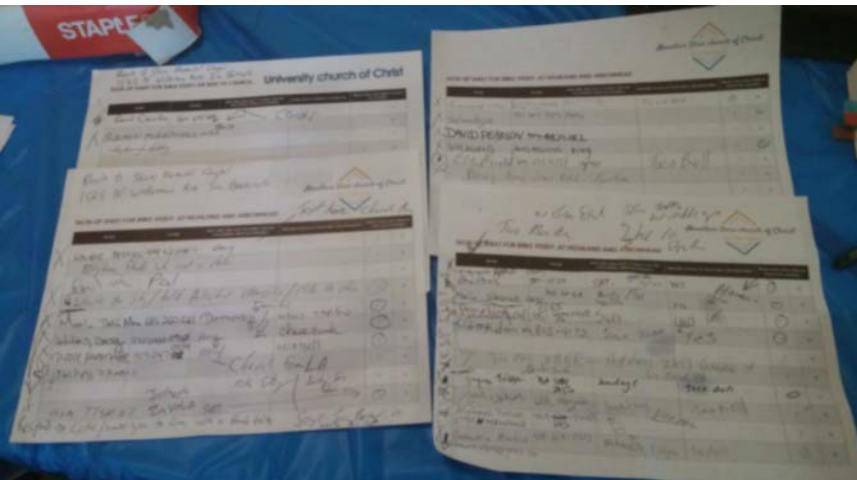
Some company cleaners were there to clean the floors and bathrooms, they saw me and started helping. I did not ask. They did not accept payment. But they made the work possible. So, I wanted to mention them and share their picture. Cecilia, is the young girl in front and Eloise, is the older lady in the back. Note: for the picture, understand, people got the beer boxes just for moving. These are the boxes they helped carry.

Recently our Christian family moved out of the building, we were going to stay at a funeral home for a few weeks, at most. But we ran into some snags. The elders were told the move in date would be longer than expected. Probably till late March. Evangelism wise, this makes my work harder. With no baptistry and no localized stable congregation. Also, the venue for inviting people to church is less easy to perform. No one likes the thought of visiting a funeral home for worship. Including the saints here. Our preacher came into the place to open up the building for worship and there was a dead body in a casket, in the front of the "worship area" we have here. But life happens.



**Evangelism Report for the month of January 2018 Joseph Lee Sullivan**

**News of the month...**



In connection to staying long term at the funeral home. I made large branding cards of the new location address to pass out. Got Uber set up for the new location, (which while doing street evangelism, has gotten interest). This month I did door knocking and primarily street evangelism in matters of outreach. These sheets on the left, are the signatures I got for this month. Most of the places I worked in January were on Highland Ave. This is my main place for street evangelism. It is a location, where a lot of drug addicts and homeless people are. So many heart-breaking stories I hear from the people here, when they ask for me to pray for them there. But it's the hurting who tend to seek. Had a Bible study last Sunday from working these street areas.



Ruben and Gabriella (who are contacts from this area) want me to help them get married. They don't want to be living in sin. Much later they want to have a wedding. They wanted me to do it, but also wanted the preacher, (Royce Bell) to do the wedding. Royce has been giving them marriage council and courses for them to follow. I asked Royce, if he could take charge of doing the wedding. I am proud of them, they have changed so much since they started coming to church. They have climbed preverbal mountains. The sins they repented of are serious yet personal, so I will keep such info private. But the change is amazing.

It's now has been 7 months since I first met them. They still are coming to church. Ruben and Gabriella are willing to help me with Bible studies and evangelism events. The picture above is of Gabriella and her kids at an evangelism event, we did on Highland. Though Ruben was not in the picture, he was there too. I'm grateful for the selfless help they give and the love/hospitality they have shown me.

I'm making a Bible lesson grounding series for them, that will be free on my website at, [www.evangelismreport.com/](http://www.evangelismreport.com/). It will be listed on the material section of the site and on the blog section. They have problems reading and looking up scripture. The store booklet I got for them, was too much for them in these matters and in the depth, it had. I taught them the salvation material I have made, (which is on the material page). But I need to make a short and easy to teach grounding Bible lesson. Down the road I will also be making a "moral" teaching lesson plan. People here in San Bernardino, don't seem to know or understand common moral truths and I want to deal with that issue.

***The colleges and the streets are the "go to" places for evangelism events. But I want to extend to venues like Walmart and grocery stores. I see in San Bernardino a lot of foot traffic to these locations. I also see a lot of boy scouts, veterans, social groups and nonprofits putting up a table for donations and sales in these locations. This seems like something worth checking out. I've been looking into this venue and if this leads somewhere, I will detail the info on the blog page on my website.***

It's been a tough month. I got the super bug flu from my friends/evangelism contacts 4 weeks ago. Then with a weakened immune system, I now at present have bronchitis. But I am almost better.

# Support:

It's hard to see the pain here. I drive around San Bernardino and see car wash signs with people's faces on them. I asked someone what these signs were, he said, that the people holding the car wash signs, are the families of shooting victims. They are trying to raise money for a funeral. These car washes happen all the time in these poor street areas. Including where I do street evangelism.

I have heard homeless women being raped outside of my apartment. Police shouting with a mike on, to "get out of the car" after recent gun shots were fired outside of my apartment complex, while lying in bed by my window. This place is rough. Especially since the police presence is small here and the drug/gang presence is all around this community. The unspoken rule in San Bernardino, is to not be outside when it gets dark. But this rule is hard to follow for the mass groups of homeless people here. And with San Bernardino having no shelters or food banks that can adequately meet the needs of the large numbers of destitute people, the night life is vicious for these people.

Kelly, (one of my contacts), and Ruben (another one of my contacts), were both homeless at one point in life. Many people I meet fear they will be on the streets. Life is expensive in CA, as well as hard.

The hurting people in CA, need hope, they need to know that this life is not all there is. That there is something to look forward too. But with the churches in CA fading out...most won't get that chance. 50 years ago, there were churches all up and down the CA state. But as is the case, in most places in America, the decline is showing from one side of the country to the other. Evangelism must become a serious force within the kingdom again. I see the Mormons everywhere here and the JW's. If I am working at a college, they are there, if I am door knocking they are there, if I am driving down the street, they are on their bikes or walking along in groups. We diminish as a kingdom, while these groups increase. Yet folks are fighting. With the help you have given, good has been done here. For this I thank you. You have been His blessing to me in this labor.



In this rough place, God has been helping me and protecting me. Just want to share this below story to detail the seriousness of what I am saying.

Example: I went to the old building, (during the transition to move). The church sign had been taken down. Due to this, the community in the area, had thought we had already moved and the church was vacant. As I said, I went to the building, early to open the place up for evening worship. The back of the building is where we park. It is dark at night, since we have no street lighting. When I pulled up, there were 6 cars parked in the dark with their headlights on. Each car had a person standing next to his own car door. From what I saw, it looked like a gang meeting. I got out of my car and said hello, then told them to please leave, that the parking lot needs to be open for the church members, who would be arriving soon. They agreed and drove off. But thinking on that...they could have easily shot me instead.

This is one of many stories of God taking care of me in this area.

I know this is a long report. I try to keep the reports about two pages. But I wanted to share what has been happening. And a lot has been happening. I have much more. But you will need to go to my evangelism page, ([www.evangelismreport.com/](http://www.evangelismreport.com/)) to learn more. See the blog section.

Thank you again for being apart of this work. It means the world to me.

***Pray God blesses you for all you've done for me!***

In Brotherly Love,

*Joseph Sullivan*

<https://www.churchofchristevangelism.com/>