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MT VIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST

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The Evangelism Report for the month of May 2017

Joseph Lee Sullivan, Evangelist, Mountain View church of Christ



Dear church family,

I look forward to sharing with you the news of this month. I'm also grateful for you making my work possible. Below I'll highlight the time-line of the work during the month of May.

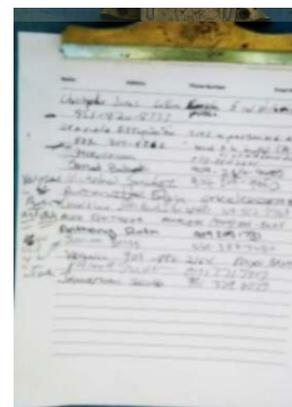
Time-line:

The work of May was busy...

- As you know I will officially begin work later on next month. I'll be moving down from Tampa FL to San Bernardino, CA in the 3rd week of June. However in May, I was invited to come up for a period of 1/2 a week to meet the church and to stay for the following weekly event, that Mountain View does 3-4 times a year. During such events, in the second week of the months of May, July, October, January, (the seasons of Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall), they involve church members and invite Preachers to help them in community evangelism outreach.
- The work began with us going to the Arrowhead and Highland streets, in San Bernardino. Once there we put up a tent and set up a folded table with materials, signs, Bibles, etc. After set up, we began talking to a wide variety of people, from those who are homeless, in gangs, on drugs, to blue color workers, college students, etc. Below is the Bible study sign up sheet we invited people to sign up for, on that day, (Tuesday the 5th). We spent 6 hrs there. We also had many Bible studies on the spot. Two people wanted to be baptized. I talked/studied with a young 20 something, man named Donald, who at the time, wanted to be baptized, but he never followed through on the day he asked for a meet-up.
- The people who helped in doing street evangelism during that time, were Royce Bell, (Preacher/Elder at the Mountain View church of Christ, Carlos Zapata, (Elder and Spanish speaker) Bill Elmore, (Member) and a visiting Preacher from Indio CA, Mike McKnight.
- The following day, Royce, Mike and I, also did Campus evangelism, at Valley College. We put up a tent on the free speech spot that Royce had reserved on the campus. During that time, about 3-4 hours, Mike talked to a large group at the tent. He and Royce had 5 people sign up for studies. I talked to a 17 year old young man from Nigeria, named Eniola. We studied the whole time on what the Bible says God teaches on salvation and on church worship. We also studied moral questions from the Bible, that Eniola was interested in addressing. Both Donald and Eniola, seemed interested in having future Bible studies. When I return to CA, and am once able to get transportation, I'll call them again and see if they are still interested in studying more.



Street evangelism



Contacts of one day of street evangelism

Bible Study Method

You may ask, how do we talk to complete strangers at campus or on the street? What do we say? Some folks just ask "would you like a Bible study with me?" Or "do you have time to talk about spiritual things?" If people see a tent, banner and Bible items, that in itself is its own introduction. It lets people know what the group represents.

Royce has a method I like, that simply put, shares the seriousness of sin, the need for a Savior in response to that sin, and what we must do in response to Christ's sacrifice. The card here is what he shares with others. I use his approach and recommend it. If you would like to learn more, click on the "2 Minute Bible" approach, at my site www.churchofchristevangelism.com. The results from the above methods will come. Yet the poorer and more broken a community is, the more likely they are open to talk about spiritual things. The more wealthy and blessed a community is, the more time it takes to get a result.

A Simple Story of Divine Love and Forgiveness

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes on him shall not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16, NASB)

The need of mankind—every one of us—is great, indeed...

The reason is simple: We are all sinners. If sin is not the universal problem, then where on Earth did all the bad stuff come from? "...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). This is serious, because we all know "...the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

God's love was planned in eternity and demonstrated at Calvary...

Since law condemned, it could not save us, "But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifest, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe, for there is no distinction..." (Romans 3:21-22). In that simple way, He demonstrated "His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus" (verse 26). Compare Ephesians 3:11-12 and 1 Peter 1:20.

Sinners, understanding the power of God's love, respond in faith...

"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ" (Galatians 3:26-27); a simple act "...in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead" (Colossians 2:12). It is not faith in oneself, the preacher, the water—not even faith in the faith—but rather faith in what God will do when we believe in Jesus, repent of our sins, and obey Him!

Public Bible Studies



Picture if us grabbing a bit before visiting Starbucks

Besides doing street and campus evangelism, we had on-site studies in restaurants like Starbucks. Royce advertises with Facebook, to draw awareness to public on-site studies at Starbucks. The ad is for people to come by, at a certain day and time. During this time-frame, Royce has a small "study with me" sign to put on the table. While waiting for people to come, Mike, Carlos, Royce and I have our Bible's open and talk about the Word. We did this twice during that evangelism event week. Besides FB promotion, when people study in a public social environment, it can generate interest and questions. It did on two occasions: Mike engaged someone for an hour on salvation, who sat at an adjacent table. Royce and Carlos had a college girl ask them a Bible question the following time at Starbucks. They had a good discussion with her. Brother Royce took pictures and recorded video's of the events during that week! I'd encourage you to visit the following link to learn more www.facebook.com/SanBerdoCoC.

Support

What I intend to do when I get to CA, is to focus primarily on street evangelism, campus evangelism, as well as some other outreach forms that I'll mention in the subsequent reports. The framework of the one week evangelism event that the Mountain View church does, will be pattern I'll emulate each week. *(I'll be doing other activities as well, preaching, teaching Bible class in church, making contact calls, studying with people, media outreach, etc.)*

I appreciate your support. Your help this month will give me the means (in June) for making the needed transition/moving costs, (purchasing a car, paying for a place to rent, etc.) I truly thank God for you.

In Brotherly Love,
Joseph Sullivan

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