

MT VIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST

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The Evangelism Report for the month of November 2017

Joseph Lee Sullivan, Evangelist, Mountain View church of Christ

Dear church family,

I want to thank you for your support! This work is possible because of you. I am so excited to be here and count myself blessed to have you sharing in this work with me, through your help.

There is much to say, so I won't have any pictures in this report. But the many details are important to include in this month.



Story-line:

- Church building news. We are moving soon. In 3 weeks. I spent a lot of time this month helping the saints with packing up and hauling boxes. I was asked to not mention the location till the move is finished and official. We still have many things in the air at present. Please pray for us in this transitional time.
- I've been struggling with Lyme disease for 6 weeks. Got it last month, while visiting a place called Lake Arrowhead near San Bernardino. Wanted a place to go for prayer with God. I like to go to such places, to seek His strength, personally on my side, to talk things out and plan work stuff. While there, I walked around this beautifully lush lake for 2 hours and got a deer tick. People keep telling me that they've lived at San Bernardino for 30 years, etc and have never even heard of ticks up here, etc. Yet I came once to a scenic mountain to relax and got one. But that is how the work is here, I see a battle going on. But for every road block, God opens a way. The Dr. antibiotics did not work. But happened to find a guy I once knew at a health store, while visiting my parents, who steered me to a herbal remedy that has fixed the problem. That is as long as I take the remedy...
- While visiting my parents and siblings in Tampa, FL, I worshiped at my old congregation, the North Blvd church of Christ. I gave a report on the Sunday evening there, on the work being done. It was such a treat to be back with them. About half the members are individually funding my work here in San Bernardino. While there for 10 days, (this is only vacation I will take this year,) I ran into someone who looks familiar. Though I had not seen him at church, I thought to myself, "I've seen this guy before." Turns out, that 2 months, before I left for CA, we had met while I was door knocking with my evangelism group. We talked for over an hour and I invited him to church, he said he would come. I packed up and moved a few months after our visit. While gone and working in CA, Francis latter did visit. He is attending regularly now, going to Bible studies, that my parents are doing and the preacher, Kenny Fields is doing. People say door knocking is not effective. The times I did door knocking while in Tampa, 2 people started going to NB, because of it. Most people who say door knocking does not work, are folks who do door knocking once a year for a Gospel Meeting and scratch their head on why folks are not being converted. It's like someone going to a gym once a year and expecting to have their dream body. As with anything, success requires time and work. For more info on door knocking, please see my site on door knocking stats and methods.

www.churchofchristevangelism.com/methods.html.

Also see my evangelism report blog for more details.

Insights

In talking with preachers and saints, I keep hearing from them the same concern of churches shrinking and dying out. Many people I hear this from want to make changes and correct the problem. But mainstream kingdom mentality is to let the overseas evangelists do the work or the local preacher handle the tasks...after all people say, "that is why we are paying them." Though important. For churches to truly grow, Christians need to understand and embrace the concept, that evangelism is a Christian command, it is for us all. Only when people get behind a local church work, can the work really flourish.

www.evangelismreport.com

Preparation in the Evangelism work...

Evangelism is not about me just going out and signing people up for Bible studies, talking to them about spiritual things, passing out Bibles, taking people to church, or in converting or grounding others. It's about all the small details that need to be worked out to get these things done. I've been spending the last few months, working out solutions to my evangelism road blocks. God has been good to me. For each issue, I found answers. My blog details these solutions at www.evangelismreport.com.

Got many things to implement in outreach work. How to promote signatures, get people/college students who want to worship to church and encourage church attendance, etc.
See the above evangelism link to learn more.

Ruben and Gabby have been coming for 5 months now. They have had me over for food multiple times. They have little, but share what they have. They had me over for Thanksgiving. Their neighbors have invited me too. These neighbors are wanting to start coming to church. We will see where this goes. Ruben and Gabriella, have been my most active outreach helpers and support system. They are coming to church faithfully and are doing Bible studies. And are slowly but surely changing their lives around. They are very invested in the church and in humbleness have truly inspired me. The lives they have lived are heartbreaking to hear. The details I don't want to disclose. But they have come a long way. I'm the main support they have here spiritually. Here is what I've been doing...to help retain them and support them.

1. *Checking up on them via text or card, when sick or when they are not at church. Letting them know they are missed. If they don't respond, I visit them to see "how they are." If they have any spiritual needs, I try to meet them.*
2. *From time to time, I invite them over to my place or out to eat, after church to build bonds.*
3. *I include them in spiritual activities. Like passing out Bibles.*
4. *I pick them up if they need a ride to church, which they do. They are poor and the bus fair is not easy for them to afford on a regular bases.*

These actions go a long way to let them know they are cared about and build a connection. Grounding is important, but love is also fundamental in retaining contacts.

Support:

I want to give a special thank you to the Westside church of Christ. They are helping me in donations in such a way as to make me able to continue the work here. Their generosity is profound and deeply appreciated. They are making my work less of a burden and concern. Because of them, I know I have enough to get by in the coming months. From my heart, I truly mean it, when I say, "thank you."

I also want to thank the North Blvd church of Christ for the donations they have given me. And the fervent love that has been shown to me there, in the cards, calls, texts, FB messages, I get from this group. The gracious help in donations, from the individual members there, (as well) has touched me.

Lastly to my Christian friends in Tampa FL, I want to thank you for the help you have given me. I count myself blessed to know each of you.

You have made this possible. And are the result of the good being done here.

To learn in detail what I am doing, please visit my blog report site at www.evangelismreport.com.

Pray you all have a happy holiday season.

In Brotherly Love,
Joseph Sullivan

P.S. For those who donate to the Mt View church. I will share the church address/mail box address via text to you as soon as it's sure we will be there. I will also include the details of the new building and address in my next report.

