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MT VIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST

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The Evangelism Report for the month of October 2017

Joseph Lee Sullivan, Evangelist, Mountain View church of Christ

Dear church family,

Since starting I've past out 1,500 Bibles with glued in materials on salvation to the elderly, sick, homeless, poor, gang affiliated, struggling, addicted, the youth on college campuses. I've been insulted, hugged, blessed, hated and thanked. And in these times of passing out Bibles, I've had discussions at the booth outreach site and off the site in Bible studies. I have had much heartbreak and tears but also joy when people see the truth and learn His will.



Story-line:



Insights

Evangelism is more than going out and telling Jesus. It's about making church a supportive place for visitors, contacts, new converts to go to. It's about a church being a family and support unit. For a church to teach Jesus they must first live as He has commanded. To retain contacts/new converts and keep saints faithful, it is fundamental that Christians hold two things up in and out of service: Truth and Love. See more info on this at www.evangelismreport.com

- I came up here to go on the street's and college campuses to share Christ and get signatures for Bible studies. But in my work I saw things needing to be done. The church had over a dozen gang graffiti written on the walls, the floor, the door, etc. Many of them had been on the church for years. The church sign had the wrong time on it, had been that way for 2 years. I got colored spray cans and filled in the graffiti and still do when gangs repeatedly mark up the church. I got a large sticker (which is removable) and wrote the correct time on the building's sign. We lock the front door, in the evenings. So I made a sign to put next to the front door telling people we are still open and to go to the back door. I do this because access and appearance matters when people come to worship. I picked up a brick load of (repeated) bodily waste with a big work shovel. And the moldy food and trash the homeless people had in a nest in the corner of the outside building,(upper right picture). They have not squatted there since I did this and removed the gang graffiti.



To Grow...

Here is a picture of my wonderful church family



Evangelism is not just about Bible studies. If one is to increase the likelihood of retaining a contact or new convert, (as well as church members) the church members must have certain fundamental elements in place and implement some Bible based truths. A church must be close nit and supportive. What I have been doing to help make the congregation stronger and also more supportive for contacts. *1. I invite the church members and contacts to do spiritual activities. Activities, like Bible studies and passing out Bibles. Inclusion is important. 2. I practice hospitality. The contacts and church members need to know one another in His spiritual family. Love and encouragement is necessary. I have been doing potlucks at my home, this is a picture of the 3rd one I've done. I also have people out to eat after worship services. 3. Communication is key. Christians should not just talk to one another on Sunday's or Wednesday. A strong church is about fostering relationships. I write cards, text, call, email, FB, visit contacts or members to encourage, inform, support people and interact with them outside of services. 4. I educate contacts and ground members on concepts necessary for growth. 5. I visit the sick, elderly, discouraged. I check up on them when they need support. 5. I write a card or text, those who are not faithful and let them know they are missed. I try to foster a sense of accountability in coming to church. 6. I pick up members and contacts to take them to church.* This church overall is struggling and the members need to more cohesively focus on these core concepts. Evangelism must be viewed in the work of making the church stronger, only in this can retaining contacts be more stable and the church members be more structured and faithful. Besides teaching Bible class, preaching sermons, doing the articles on Sunday, helping the eldership with chores when they ask, I have made these actions a priority. If you want to learn more about this see my blog at my report website.

Support:

How can a person sum up the tears, smiles, laughter, the amount of hope, that has come in Bible studies, spiritual talks, encouragement, and love. I could not have been able to do these things without you. I have detailed my journey here at www.evangelismreport.com. So much has happened. So many memories made, so many people helped. Thank you for all you have done for me.

If I can't get the support soon, I will look to move back to FL, where my parents reside. They are in poor health. If I can't get a job there I will go into secular work. Which will be a shame. I'd rather be doing evangelism.

(For more evangelism info please see my other site at, www.churchofchristevangelism.com).

Thank you for all the help you are giving in this work.

In Brotherly Love,
Joseph Sullivan

