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A Man Now Rejoicing

A team in our Mission Adventures program was ministering in song, giving testimonies, serving food to people from the streets, and then joining them at tables to talk. One street person was sharing his experiences in prison. After he finished, he was told about the love of God, and he accepted Jesus Christ. Now he fellowships with the local church that meets in our YWAM SF building and is rejoicing in the Lord.

Being Blessed!

It was during one of our normal Tuesday night Love Feasts that these nicely dressed individuals walked into our storefront. Impressed by what they saw in the energy and love being expressed by the young people as they served a meal to our homeless guests, these visitors introduced themselves. They were from the Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Coalition, and they explained that some grant money was available for facade improvements. *“Would YWAM be interested in receiving some of the funds, plus free architectural help with the design?”* We did not need to be brain surgeons to see the hand of God at work and readily agreed to the project that had already been on our hearts for some time. With this \$10,000 matching grant we will change all of our front windows, enlarge a door for better handicap access and fire safety, and add new paint and tiles to the front. Hopefully we will have some pictures to show off in the next newsletter.



Fall 1999

The Hidden Jewels

There are hidden jewels all over San Francisco. You can only discover them when looking at the city from God’s eyes, but they are there. This past season we have been experiencing many breakthroughs on the streets and in our discipleship house, and we feel like God is really up to something much bigger than we can imagine. Please join us as we pray for these jewels that they will know that they are priceless in their Father’s eyes.

Sean

Recently, I watched Sean walk off into the arms of the night with a boyish, confident stride, swinging his arms, seemingly oblivious to the weight of decisions made in his life. As he walked away, I felt like I was watching the last scene of a movie where the star of the show fades away with the music and the lights, and you’re not quite sure whether to be happy or sad. You are left with the question, “I wonder what will happen?” The streets of San Francisco are filled with people just like Sean, hidden jewels whom the Lord wants to bring into His family. I saw how God sees Sean: someone in whom He delights—a strong, confident, happy boy ready to receive life; someone to be trained as a powerful weapon for God’s kingdom. “Sean,” I asked myself, “do you know who you are?”

A man buried in anger

One evening as our team of three students went out to share the gospel, they talked to a few people and were heading back to our base when they met a man who was drunk and leaning against a tree because he couldn’t stand on his own. He was struggling to stand but had no one to help him. The team went to him and offered to help. At first he didn’t even want to talk to them. So, the team then began to pray for awhile, and after that, they tried to talk to him again. He started crying and told them of his anger. He said, “The anger I have has twisted my life like a spring.” He didn’t know what to do. He kept crying, and that made it hard for the team to minister to him, but they prayed against the anger that he said had twisted his life.

After that he started talking again, and he wanted to know why he was being given so much attention. That gave them an opportunity to share the gospel with him. He asked for prayer because he wanted to receive forgiveness from the Lord for all the wrong things he had done. He was led in a prayer of confession and salvation, and after that he was even able to move around on his own. What a blessing it was to discover this jewel, so long buried in anger and misery, come to a place of receiving forgiveness and mercy from God.

YWAM SF — Fall 1999 NEWSLETTER

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Letter from a Prodigal

We hope that you are as blessed as we were as you read this letter which was sent to YWAM SF this summer. It shows that ministering to those on the streets *does* make a difference.

Dear Youth With A Mission,

Greetings to you in the name of the Most High God, the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and the Father of our Lord and Jesus Christ.

I do not know if you remember me. I am a 65 year old black man that you prayed for awhile back, there at the Civic Center. I was going through hell; my flesh had the best of me; I was depressed, backsliding in a terrible immoral condition. I felt that God had turned his back on me. I felt homeless and hopeless until I came and asked you to pray for me.

God has finally restored me with a new fire and purpose. I thank God for young people that love Jesus. I have now moved back to Los Angeles, as it was God's will. You all take care.

— Adopt a Staff —

It has always been a fact of life that cross-cultural missions brings with it a special anointing and authority. This means that, as Westerners going into a developing nation, there is often a certain amount of influence that comes just from being who we are. However, we find that this is as equally true when people from other nations come into America as missionaries. Here at YWAM SF our prayers for an international staff have been answered, and already we see the special anointing these new staff bring to our ministry.

There is just one problem. A staff member coming from another nation has the same expenses as any other person who lives in this very expensive city. Yet the support system back home is not usually adequate to cover even the

most basic lifestyle here in America. We have one young man from Uganda who is actually a property owner and receives rental income. However, the \$50 he receives doesn't go as far here in America as it would for him in his homeland. Without miracles, some of our international staff may not be able to keep serving in the inner city of San Francisco. Financial concerns will also limit our ability to bring more Internationals into our very needy land. We'd like to offer you, our friends and supporters, the opportunity to adopt a staff member. If you can give \$5 to \$500 per month to one of these individuals, we'd be happy to set things up for you. Also welcome would be friendship through letters, phone calls, and even visits to these worthy workers for the Kingdom.

FINDING DESTINY

Once again YWAM San Francisco is blessed to host another Discipleship Training School (DTS). Sixteen students from across the United States, Canada, and Europe have come to our Tenderloin Training and Outreach Center to spend five months with us and to learn to "Know God and Make Him Known."

We desire that each of these students understand their destiny in Christ. Yet, we want them to understand that you don't discover your destiny first; you discover God's will for your life. As the students become content to listen for God's voice and obey what He tells them to do, they will surprise themselves one day when they realize that, in the process of obedience, they have also found their destiny.

After three months of lecture, students will return to our adopted city of Hanoi, Vietnam to continue our work in that land.

DECISIONS MADE TO SERVE CHRIST

Recently our YWAM team was invited to give a missions challenge to a large gathering of American-born Chinese young people.

Our staff shared their personal testimonies and experiences on the mission field.

To their surprise, not only did a number of the youth make a commitment to serve in a career of missions, but four youth also came forward to ask Jesus into their life.



Prayer Answers and New Requests

See back page for news of grant money given to remodel the front of our building on Ellis St.; see below for prayer needs we are carrying now.

Would you join with us in prayer that a local San Francisco foundation will give us the \$50,000 we have requested to help with our needed facility remodeling? Although it isn't nearly enough for all of our remodeling, it would make a big dent in meeting our needs. We hope this year will bring to an end the distraction of not having our facilities where we need them for full operation.

Would you pray that the doors would be open to us to obtain another facility in the Tenderloin that has both parking and classroom space available to us?

Would you pray about supporting one of our staff? (See story on opposite page.)