



357 Ellis Street
San Francisco, CA
94102

Email: 104315,1747@compuserve.com

Phone: 415-885-6543

Fax: 415-885-6585

WANT-AD

Volunteers needed to help host our Summer 1999 Mission Adventures Program. Applicants must be 18 or older, have a heart to equip and train youth, and a desire to see cities reached for Christ. Volunteers will serve in logistical as well as hands-on ministry activities. *No experience necessary.* Training provided. June 1—August 20th. Cost \$150/month. Call or write now for your application.

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

We've been feeling a bit like Abraham around here. Remember in Gen. 12:12 when God says to Abraham, "I will bless you so that you can bless the nations." Well, that's what has been happening to us. God has used all sorts of people to bless our ministry, and because of such kindness, we've been able to pass along the blessings. It's easy to collect and give away used clothes, but donations of brand new clothes, socks, Bibles, and blankets have allowed us to demonstrate **God's extravagant goodness** to the people in our neighborhood and on the streets. *Financial donations have also allowed us to end the year in the black. With expenses now over \$200,000 a year, your giving has made a miracle.* For all you have given through finances, prayers, and words of encouragement, we pray you will be blessed double in return.



January 1999

The Extravagance of God!

When an entire ministry of staff and students comes to a halt because a three year old child walks through the door—it's because of the **extravagant love** that God has for a little boy whose mom is in jail, and whose legal guardian is a man who's not even his father. Often left to roam the streets of the Tenderloin, he'd find love, comfort, and even discipline in our midst. Seeing him curled up on the couch asleep for a nap, we realize that it would be okay if our only reason for existence as a ministry was to provide one good memory in this child's life. When we get caught up with programs and numbers, Jesus gets excited about little boys.

100 GALLONS OF LOVE

When we moan for months over the expense and effort of putting in a new multi-shower bathroom, God sends a homeless man named Willy who gratefully uses up all 100 gallons of water in the new hot water heater. Watching him stand tall and straight, crying with the joy of being clean and wearing a new set of clothes, suddenly the \$10,000 plumbing job, \$3,000 electrical job, and \$2,000 handicap shower seems worth it. We worry about money and the expense of

ministry, and God worries about a lonely, forgotten man who lives on the street.

When thousands of meals are being served around this city on Thanksgiving Day, and our Street Team decides to spend all day in the kitchen providing a feast for only four runaway street kids, it may seem like a wasted effort. Yet, when one of these youth shares that our street kids' house is not big enough to contain the love of our ministry team, we remember the effort Jesus extended on our behalf. When the world and its corporate sponsors count the number of mouths fed through a program, God counts the number of hairs on the head of a burned-out runaway.

We grow up in Sunday School class learning that Jesus would have come to earth and died on the cross even if only one person were reconciled to God. Yet somehow, in the midst of ministry, either through the pressure to perform or a genuine desire to see many people come to the saving grace of Jesus, it is easy to get caught up in numbers or programs. Here at *Youth With A Mission*, San Francisco, we hope that we can keep perspective, and that our success can always be based on how well we demonstrate **the extravagant love of God** towards the individual!

YWAM SF — JANUARY 1999 NEWSLETTER

357 ELLIS STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-profit Organization

U.S. Postage

P A I D

Permit # 3238

San Francisco, California

Angels Watching over Us

Our entire staff had taken the afternoon off to go and watch a play. On the way home, a couple of runaway youth suggested we get back to our base and lock things up. Apparently, our students had left after us and had forgotten to lock the front door. These street kids had been through our entire building looking for a staff member. When they found the place empty, they retrieved their bike, which we were storing for them in our basement. Upon our arrival back at the facility, we found everything intact—hundreds of outreach dollars sitting in plain view,

computers, Christmas gifts—all untouched. We had a good laugh because we realized how many tools, backpacks, and jackets have been stolen over the years when we were there to “guard” them. Without us around, the angels got to work and effectively guarded the place on our behalf. We also realized that our street team has built incredible rapport with the runaways. Those youth will steal anything to pay for drugs, yet they care for their friends. It was plain to see through their respect for our property that our YWAM team is their friend.

1998 YWAM SF Ministry Statistics

At YWAM SF individualized attention to people is more important than numbers or programs. But sometimes it is fun to look back with gratitude to God to see what ten full-time staff and countless volunteers plus financial and prayer supporters can accomplish when we all give what we can. This year:

- 900 youth served San Francisco through the Mission Adventures program
- 15 Discipleship Training School students learned to “know God and to make Him known”
- Thousands of cups of hot chocolate and warm friendship were provided to the runaway youth
- Approximately 1000 people were served sit down, candlelight dinners during our love feasts
- Two block parties with another 1000 meals served, children’s events, clothes giveaway
- 40 Asian youth per week hearing about Jesus during Young Life meetings in our facility
- 250-300 people weekly attending a church relevant for the community and receiving lunch afterwards (that’s 12,000 hot dogs per year)
- Approximately ten people per day walk through the doors just to visit, use the bathroom, or receive prayer and referrals
- 20 other churches and organizations served on a regular basis by our staff, students, and teams
- Hospitality provided to more than 150 guests who were visiting the city. That means we were housing guests in our facility more than 300 nights of the year.
- Countless prayers were prayed over people as we walked the streets and hosted prayer stations.

If you add up the numbers, at least 18,000 people walked through the doors of our YWAM facility for ministry in 1998. Multiply that number many times since most of our ministry takes place outside the doors of this facility, and you will recognize why we are so grateful to God for all He has done this past year.



The following poem was left on a placemat by a grateful recipient of one of our special “Love Feast” dinners, hosted by a Mission Adventures Team.

God is good, God is great!
He sends wonderful soldiers,
Armed with brightness,
thru their wonderful smiles.
Amazing, the joy and comfort the soldiers bring.
Thank you little soldiers,
for another battle you have won!
Shine on, you little darlings,
for there is no darkness that can fall upon you.
God bless you all!

Thomas, 1998

We were touched by this poem and its expression of blessing to us, but many of you are the ones who have made it possible for us to serve as soldiers of Christ here in San Francisco. May our **extravagant God** bless each one of you who has stood with us in prayer, labor, counsel, and financial support over the years.

Urban Discipleship
Training School

“So attentive,” “so hungry,” “so dedicated and passionate.” Those are just a few of the comments made by the teachers of this year’s YWAM SF Discipleship Training School (DTS). We as a staff couldn’t agree more. The quality of these 15 students blessed us beyond measure.

What fun it was to watch God do an in-depth work in each heart, and then to see them take what they learned and apply it on the streets. They not only served the existing ministry to runaways, but they also started the foundational steps of pioneering a new ministry in the Hunters Point Neighborhood of SF.

For their cross-cultural mission experience, our students are serving in cities in Thailand and Vietnam. It was a miracle to watch our **extravagant God** provide the more than \$35,000 needed for the students to travel. As our ambassadors, they are helping us keep our YWAM SF commitment to reach the nations as well as our city.