

The Lowedown

A Monthly newsletter from Dave and Jennifer Lowe

February, 1997

Chronicle Of A Changed Life

Often in our ministry with people, we encounter opposition, frustration and discouragement. In fact, in our December newsletter I communicated some of the barriers that we face everyday in ministry. Specifically, we asked you to pray for the lack of commitment and the spiritual apathy that we encounter with today's students.

I hope you'll be encouraged to know that in the midst of our frustrations, there are some success stories, and your prayers are making a difference.

Meet Jerry

One such example is Jerry. I met Jerry one day in the fall on campus at Fresno State. I saw Jerry sitting on a bench by himself, eating a burrito from Taco Bell. I approached him, introduced myself, told him the group I was with, and asked him if I could ask a few questions related to spiritual matters.

Jerry invited me to sit down with him and we began to talk. During the course of our conversation, I found out that Jerry's sister had begun attending church a few months earlier. As a result, Jerry had attended church with her a few times and had developed an interest in God.

As we talked further, it became clear that Jerry did not have an accurate understanding of the gospel.

I explained to Jerry what it meant to be a Christian and how he could have a personal relationship with Christ. I told Jerry that he could experience



a relationship with God by simply putting his trust in Jesus. Jerry decided that it made sense to him and so right

there, on a bench in front of the bookstore, he invited Christ to come into his life.

Follow Up

Jerry and I began to meet regularly to study the Bible. In contrast to many students who are apathetic and show no commitment, Jerry showed up faithfully every week. This was definitely an encouragement. But I was still looking for something that would draw Jerry into the group and connect him with other students. So I invited him to our annual Christmas Conference in San Diego.

It seemed like a long shot to me since Jerry didn't know anyone else in the group, and it would require a commitment of 5 days and \$165. Yet when I showed Jerry the brochure, he seemed excited about going. The only problem was the money. I told Jerry that we had funds available to help him out but he was reluctant to accept any help. When the deadline to pre-register came, it looked like Jerry would not be going.

Imagine my excitement when Jerry called me up at the last minute and said that he got the money and that he would be going!

The San Diego Christmas Conference

As the conference approached, I decided that I would get Jerry a small Bible as a gift. He had remarked several times when we met how "cool"

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my Bible was because it had red lettering in it.

When Jerry first arrived at the conference, I pulled him aside and I presented the Bible to him. With heartfelt sincerity, he expressed how thankful he was for the time I had spent to help him get to know God. I was very encouraged. But that's not the end of the story.

The Day of Outreach

The Christmas Conference consists of a "day of outreach". This is an afternoon where we go into the community to share our faith. It's usually always a highlight of the conference because many students get excited after sharing their faith for the first time.

I was a little nervous about Jerry because he was a new Christian and had never shared his faith. Fortunately, we were able to pair Jerry up with Mindy, a girl in our ministry who had experience in evangelism. Our group was assigned to take boxes of food to needy families. In the course of providing a physical need, we were encouraged to share the gospel with people as the opportunity arose. After getting our boxes and our assigned families, each group went their separate way.

That night, at the evening session, we had a time of sharing, a time where we could all rejoice as different groups related their story about how God had used them. Surprisingly, the first person to step up to the microphone was Mindy, Jerry's partner.

Jerry and Mindy had been given the names of two families to visit. The first family they visited consisted of 2 adults and 3 children. After giving them the box of food, they asked them if they could share the message of Christ to them. The family agreed. After explaining the gospel to them, all 5 family members indicated that they wanted to invite Christ into their lives!

After praying with the family, Jerry and Mindy went to the next family on their list. This family had 2 adults and 2 children. Again, after giving them

the food, they asked them if they could share the gospel with them. Again, they agreed. Upon hearing the message, all 4 family members said that they wanted to begin a relationship with Christ!

Amazing! Nine people came to Christ that day through Mindy and Jerry. When I asked Jerry afterwards to describe the experience, he could only say, "it was awesome!"

I'm happy to say that Jerry's Christmas Conference experience was a positive one. Not only did he grow in the Lord, not only did he get "connected" to some other students, but he also went to a seminar with some other hispanic students to talk about how to effectively reach out to the hispanic community on campus.

God is at work. He's changing the lives of students like Jerry. Your prayers are making a difference!

Our New Year's Resolution

Both Jennifer and I have made a resolution to read through the entire Bible this year. To make it easier, we're reading through a One Year Bible. Each day has a reading from the Old Testament, the New Testament, the Psalms and Proverbs. Please pray for us as we try to stick to our commitment to read a portion of Scripture each day. If you would like to read through the Bible in a year, you can do it by reading about 3 chapters a day!

Victory: Pursuing the Imperishable

The theme of this year's Christmas Conference was "Victory: Pursuing the Imperishable". One of our main speakers, J.P. Jones, challenged us to live our lives with an eternal perspective.

"Imagine that right in front of you is a line. As you look to your left and to your right, that line stretches as far as you can see. That line represents eternity.

Now as you look right in front of you on that line you see a tiny little dot, almost too small to see with the naked eye.

That dot represents your life.

Eternity is an immeasurably long time. Your life is short. Are you living for the dot or are you living for the line?"

What are you living for? Some great passages to look at that relate to this theme are 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Philippians 3:1-16; and Hebrews 12:1,2.

