

Monday Sacramento Missions Thoughts April 18<sup>th</sup> 2011

Whew! Today was a pretty Remarkable day! ☺ This Morning the team met, packed the church van and left after some parting words and a prayer from Pastor Rick Conrad.



We hit some rain coming down from Susanville, but Michael is a phenomenal (And very safe) driver. After a couple of pit stops for gas and for safety stretching, we arrived in Downtown Sacramento. Mary is a most excellent Navigator. Our team had a great time connecting and



teasing on the way down.

Once in downtown Sacramento, we traveled to Loaves and Fishes, a Ministry ministering to homeless.



There we were greeted by Earl, who called ahead and almost immediately after parking, a young woman by the name of Madonna greeted us.



She took us through several parts of their ministry giving us a tour of their facilities and walking us through all their programs and needs. They had just fed over 720 people as we had arrived there. It was quite remarkable to see how they ministered to countless needs of those in trouble, from providing lockers on a monthly basis, to safe places, to places to help people move forward, to helping provide places for showers, help with haircuts, options for personal improvement, and options for not only transitional education, but also for the animals for those who are homeless as well. After not being there for over six years ago, it was neat to see how they had improved and grown and expanded their ministries. We are grateful for Jim, who as one of the directors there as well as staff members like Richard and Marty. It was really quite a blessing to see how this simple exposure trip touched and affected those on our team. I do believe that an opportunity like this would do major changes to anyone who would have joined us. Though our team changed in dynamics every week for the last four months, I am truly blessed by all who joined us.

From Loaves and Fishes, we traveled to have lunch. At lunch, We were joined by Chris' sister Jen to touched base with us for a little.

From lunch, we traveled to Powerhouse Ministries in Folsom. There, we met Scott, the executive Pastor and Josh, the Youth pastor there. After taking a little time for the group to catch their bearings, the group was Joined by Nancy, the founder of Powerhouse ministries.



She had a great story to share about not only how God used her to create Powerhouse Ministries, but we also connected with many of their ministries and options that were coming up. It was a great blessing to also see how excited they were to have outside people join them in ministry. I personally was also blown away by running into a student who had worked with me with powerhouse over seven years ago. I remember Robert was one of the kids who had been ministered to and now, seven years later, he is volunteering and serving. That was quite reassuring. It was also mindblowing to see how God had expanded their facilities and had increased their staff.

After that briefing by Nancy, We were blessed to have had Josh and a Powerhouse worship team, lead us in a time of worship.



After worship we took time for a brief devotional as well as to take some time to do some team training and preparation for the week. After having so many changes in the make up of the team, it was greatly helpful to have everyone there. It was great to get plenty of input. To have a team that is so willing and eager to serve in whatever the capacity needed was a tremendous blessing and things moved quite rapidly into preparations for the week's children's programs.

After Dinner and taking some time to pick up some additional supplies, the team wrapped up the day in smaller groups to talk a little and pray.

Here are some of the closing thoughts from today.

Here are some other thoughts from the team:

- Had a great burrito the size of my head for dinner.
- Had a fantastic and exciting intro for **Powerhouse**
- **Loaves and Fishes** is out of my comfort zone and I enjoyed finding that.
- Had some of my favorite food today.
- God worked out me being able to see my sister.

Mary M – I'm very thankful for seeing outside the box. Not all of us have a warm house to go home to. I'm thankful for the Blessing and the life I was given. But also thankful for the heart to want to help out those with less

Courtne Whipple – What really affected me today was looking at Friendship Garden and seeing several people sleeping on the benches and the grass. I saw this one guy rocking back and forth talking to himself. It broke my heart. It made me grateful for what I have.

Priscilla Mauck - I am Happy and Appreciative of having showers.

Michael Rivas – Today the CEFC Mission Team was introduced to Loaves and Fishes of Sacramento. Our Tour guide (Madonna), opened my eyes to the amount of good that can be done when intentions are guided by God! It was a very good, long day ...

Chuck Hodgers – At Loaves and Fishes today God reopened my eyes to what it really means to have Nothing. We have been so blessed to have all that we do. They (Loaves and Fishes) do soooo... much for people, it was a joy to see.

Tim Purvis – God DID open my eyes when we took the tour at Loaves and Fishes about the pure Love that He has for the needy and homeless. God is so good all the time. Amen. Thank you Lord!

I am very grateful for how God has provided us with safety and has been regularly been opening up doors for us.

Please pray that God would continue to open doors and change lives of both those on the team as well as all those we come in contact with.

Please pray that additional funding will come in for some of our team members.

Please pray for continued safety as we will be working with Habitat for Humanity and Powerhouse Children's Ministry tomorrow.

Please also pray for God to help us in travel as well will be traveling through some high traffic timeframes.

So Blessed,

Jackson Fong Student Ministries Pastor

Community Church of Susanville