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Hollywood Free Paper

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## Hollywood Free Paper, January 1988

Duane Pederson

Jesus People International

Dave Eaton

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HOLLYWOOD FREE PAPER Volume 19-Issue 1

Published in Hollywood, CA 90078-1949

# the Hollywood FREE PAPER

"And so we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts."

RUCKY AND ROZLYN MCKINLEY

## God Told Us To Go, Go, Go

### WE KEPT ON DANCING...

I was 18, Roz was 17, and we were on our own. We were scared, but we were together and we were dancing. Eighteen months later, in 1984, we married.

Ever since I was 8 years old my dream was to be on TV. I was heavily into break dancing - I ate, drank and slept break dancing. It was all I knew. I was going to be the best break dancer in the world.

We called ourselves the R&R EXPRESS, going from hotel to hotel, dancing in the streets -- anywhere. On weekends we'd ride the bus 2-1/2 hours each way to our dancing jobs, or to look for new ones. Our clothes began wearing out and we had no money, so we wore the old ones. Some of our relatives, and a lot of so called friends,

disowned us because we were street dancers. We kept on dancing. Newspaper articles said we were the best show on Venice Beach.

Once I ignored a traffic ticket, and was sent to county jail. Those were the worst three days of my life.

In jail I started reading the Bible, and asked the chaplain to help me pray to confess my sins and accept Jesus Christ into my life. I was a new man - for about a week. Then back to pot and the old Rucky. It was like, "Thank You, Jesus, I'm out of jail. Bye, bye."

One day two guys said they'd like to manage us. They talked about going big time. Their offer sounded great and we needed money. We'd gotten into free-basing cocaine and smoked marijuana daily. We'd get high to keep from the reality of how scared and alone we really were feeling.

After signing a contract, they put us in our own apartment, provided \$1,400 worth of wardrobe, pictures, resumes - the whole kit and caboodle. We went from Venice Beach, catching the bus everywhere and grossing about \$250 a weekend, to limousines cruising down Hollywood Boulevard.

### WE FINALLY MADE IT -STARDOM!

We did a few commercials - Pioneer Chicken, Peter Pan Peanut Butter, Federated Group - a music video with the Pointer Sisters, a movie, "No Surrender, No Retreat" and were the Rick Dees KIIS/FM dancers for a time. We finally made it - stardom!

Our managers were our friends and bodyguards. They were with us most of the time 24 hours a day. After a while they told us we better not discuss business with anyone or try to change things because they had very high connections in the underworld. We believed them.

Worrying that

(Cont. on page 2)



# JUST FOR THE RECORD

DUANE PEDERSON



this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see." Acts 3:16.

We are not celebrities. Nor are we people who cannot be touched. We are just plain ordinary people. What has happened in our lives can happen in your life too. We want to share with you the Power which has changed our lives. You can meet us on Hollywood Boulevard handing out the HOLLYWOOD FREE PAPER and talking to people. We want to talk with you and tell you more about what God had done in our lives.

God is real. "Anyone who comes to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." Hebrews 11:6. That is the first step. We came to believe that God is real, that He exists, and that it is worth our while to try to find God.

It's not that God is lost, we were the ones who were lost. We discovered that, as soon as we began in earnest to seek for God, He found us. It was like He was always there, we just didn't recognize Him, until we started to seriously look for Him.

Jesus Christ says to us today, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28. He invites us to come to Him and His promise is rest and peace for our inner person.

God is real. Heaven is real. Hell is real. Eternity is a mighty long time.

Imagine five minutes of

peace and joyful bliss, no pain, no fear, no failure — for all eternity. Heaven is real.

Imagine five minutes of non-stop extreme pain, horror, failure — for all eternity. Hell is real.

It's hell without Jesus. There is only one way to heaven and that way is through Jesus Christ. "Jesus said, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me.'" John 14:6.

"It is by the name of Jesus Christ... Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:10-12.

God does not want you to go to hell. Some people may say to you, "Go to hell!" But God wants to save you from going to hell. "The Lord is...not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9.

Imagine if this were the last day of your life. What you do now will determine where you spend all of eternity. And there are only two eternal destinations for all people...heaven or hell. Heaven... peace, rest, security. Hell... pain, torment, alone. The choice is your now. **JESUS CHRIST IS THE ONE WAY TO HEAVEN!**

When you see us, stop and talk with us or call one of our "hotlines" listed in the back of this paper. Or for more information write:

I WANT TO KNOW MORE  
c/o Hollywood Free Paper  
Box 1949  
Hollywood, CA 90078-1949

Hello, I'm glad you picked up this paper. On the pages of this HOLLYWOOD FREE PAPER you will read true life stories of people who still walk on Hollywood Boulevard, the Street of Dreams. In our stories we tell the truth of how it was for us, what happened, and how it is now. Our stories are not

dreams or fantasies...but real. We know what it is to feel pain, hopelessness, and loneliness.

We found the answer for us in Jesus Christ. He has changed our lives. We identify ourselves with the man written about in the Bible who was healed through faith in Jesus Christ. "By faith in the name of Jesus,

## God Told Us To Go, Go, Go (Cont.)

somebody from the underworld was watching our every move soon gave me an ulcer. We thought we'd be killed - or some of our relatives - if we didn't do what they said.

Life was exciting - going grocery shopping in a limousine, dinner at fancy restaurants, being recognized in Hollywood, signing autographs. But a lot of promises never happened. Once in a while someone would ask, "Do you know that Jesus loves you?"

We shared our apartment with a friend who was always telling us about Jesus. He'd be listening to Christian music while we were getting high and we'd say, "Yeah, yeah, yeah, we know, we know." **WE'LL DO IT GOD'S WAY**

When we finished our act one day a man and his wife said they'd like to talk to us. They told us how much Jesus loves us and invited us to dinner to talk about becoming our new managers. We were programmed so strongly not to talk about anything that, at first, we said nothing.

Finally, on my 20th birthday, we told them the whole story. We were in tears because of fear and torment, and they started laughing -

a hardcore belly laugh, so irritating to someone in pain, and so embarrassing.

They said, "Can't you see, if these guys were with the underworld you wouldn't be living where you're living and a lot of things would be different."

It was like the veil was torn away and we said, "You're absolutely right."

We'd been thinking a lot about people telling us Jesus loves us and we finally decided to try it God's way. We told each other and then we told God. We asked Him to forgive our sins and help us straighten out our lives.

When we told our old managers we were going to change managers and do things God's way, they said, "You'll never make it in the business, and you better watch your back from now on."

After we left, reality hit us, "Hey, we were about to get evicted out of our apartment; we grossed \$50,000 this year and gave every penny to those guys to handle. We've been eating out all over Beverly Hills, smoking dope and we haven't got anything to show for all our money - not even a car.

Soon we were both working at a

local restaurant making \$3.35 an hour. What a comedown from \$250 for about 3 minutes work - totally humiliating, sort of like, "I hope nobody sees us."

**YOU CAN ALWAYS HAVE ANOTHER KID** Our big break finally came when we got an offer to perform in Las Vegas for \$1,000 a week in one of the largest dance reviews. Then we found out Roz was pregnant. The devil said, "Hey, no problem, abort the baby and go to Vegas; you can always have another kid."

After talking things over, Roz and I said, "Either God will supply all our needs like He promised in the Bible or He's a liar. We'll do it His way."

Six weeks before the baby was due, we were to get evicted from our apartment. Looking through baby magazines one day Roz said, "Honey, look at this furniture, wouldn't it be nice if we could have something like this for our baby." I could see tears in her eyes, because there was no way we could afford such beautiful furniture.

This guy came into the restaurant often, and he asked us to try out for the Newlywed Game. We won! The grand prize was a beautiful top-

of-the-line baby crib, two stacked dressers filled with \$450 worth of baby clothes and a stacked Frigidaire washer and dryer - everything we needed for our baby.

When we were evicted, we moved in with friends, and soon after little Rucky was born, we were able to get our own apartment again.

We do Christian rap along with our break dancing. We did the Emmanuel Lewis show and also a private party for him, and we were on 330 with Steve Edwards and Pia Zadora. I'm still working at a restaurant, but entertainment doors are opening for us - the difference now is, instead of plugging doors for ourselves, we plug doors for Jesus Christ, doing our Christian rap lyrics.

"Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Light; yes, He did, He did, He changed my life."

George Schlatter, director of the Comedy Club, asked us to do a Christian rap for the audience warmup before taping of his TV show. We also danced in the opening and closing numbers of the show. This is just one of the ways God supplies our every need. **GOD TOLD US TO GO, GO, GO...**

We started studying God's

(Cont. on page 6)

# ALL I WANTED WAS DRUGS... SEX...ALCOHOL...FIGHTING

GILBERT MIRANDA

**"CHOOSE ME OR CHOOSE GOD!"**

"Choose me or choose God," I told my wife Lilia. She chose God. At that time we'd been married a little over a year and had a beautiful little girl. I had too much to lose, so I stayed.

On the surface, I thought I had my life pretty much together. I told myself, "Hey, this is good enough for me and that's all that matters." But inside me was a void I couldn't seem to fill.

For most of my life, I'd been searching for something, not really understanding what, and not comprehending.

Soon after high school graduation I'd joined the Marines. I was wounded in Vietnam, received an early discharge and I was hurting a lot inside. Partly from the trauma of my injury - more, because I couldn't understand why people didn't want us in Vietnam.

Seeking answers, I started college and fell into the drug scene. I joined a group of antiwar activists.

Acid, mescaline and marijuana became my companions all through school. I dropped out of college...and into stronger involvement with drugs and alcohol.

**MY WHOLE CONCERN WAS DRUGS...SEX...ALCOHOL... THE PARTY LIFE...NIGHT CLUBS...AND FIGHTING...**

All my jobs were of short duration because I was pushing and using, both on and off the job. In 1975 Lilia and I got married. A few years later I got work in construction as an electrician. More hard liquor, cocaine, angel dust and methaqualudes. Periodically I'd run into people who talked to me about Jesus Christ, but I wasn't compelled to pray or anything.

During courtship and into marriage my wife and I did drugs together. About a year or so after our wedding, a friend told her about Jesus Christ. She began to cry, and he led her in a prayer confessing her sins and asking Christ to come into her life.

After our friend left, she realized she had a strong desire to live for Jesus Christ.

**I COMPLETELY NUMBED OUT...**

I kept on doing drugs and, once, when I snorted too much, completely numbed out. Awful sweats...shakes...friends walked me around until I was out of danger. I was scared.

I was arrested several times -- unpaid tickets, an accident, drunk driving - my life was in shambles...almost rock bottom.

By this time I was married five years and had three daughters.

My little girls would plead with me to go to church with them and sometimes I'd go, but I'd feel uncomfortable and queasy. I couldn't

understand why. The music was beautiful and I felt drawn, but I held off. Before going, I'd smoke a joint and get high so I wouldn't get that feeling, but nothing helped.

Sometimes when the pastor talked, I'd think, "They've told him about me", but they hadn't. In September of 1983, I went to the front of the church and asked Jesus Christ to change my life. I didn't feel

the world shake, or any kind of electricity go through me, but I knew something had changed inside.

The next day I went out to smoke some grass. I couldn't put the stuff to my lips. I pulled out the plants in my back yard, trashed my paraphernalia, and got off everything. That was a real surprise to me.

A friend said, "Well, if you're a Christian now, I guess I can slap you on your cheek and you'll turn your other cheek, right?" "I guess I will."

He said, "What if I slap you again?" "Well," I said, "I don't know what the Bible says about that, you'll just have to try." He didn't though, he thought I was crazy. **"THE LORD REALLY LOVES YOU"...**

I began talking to people about Jesus Christ and His love, and attended training classes so I could learn more of what this was all about.

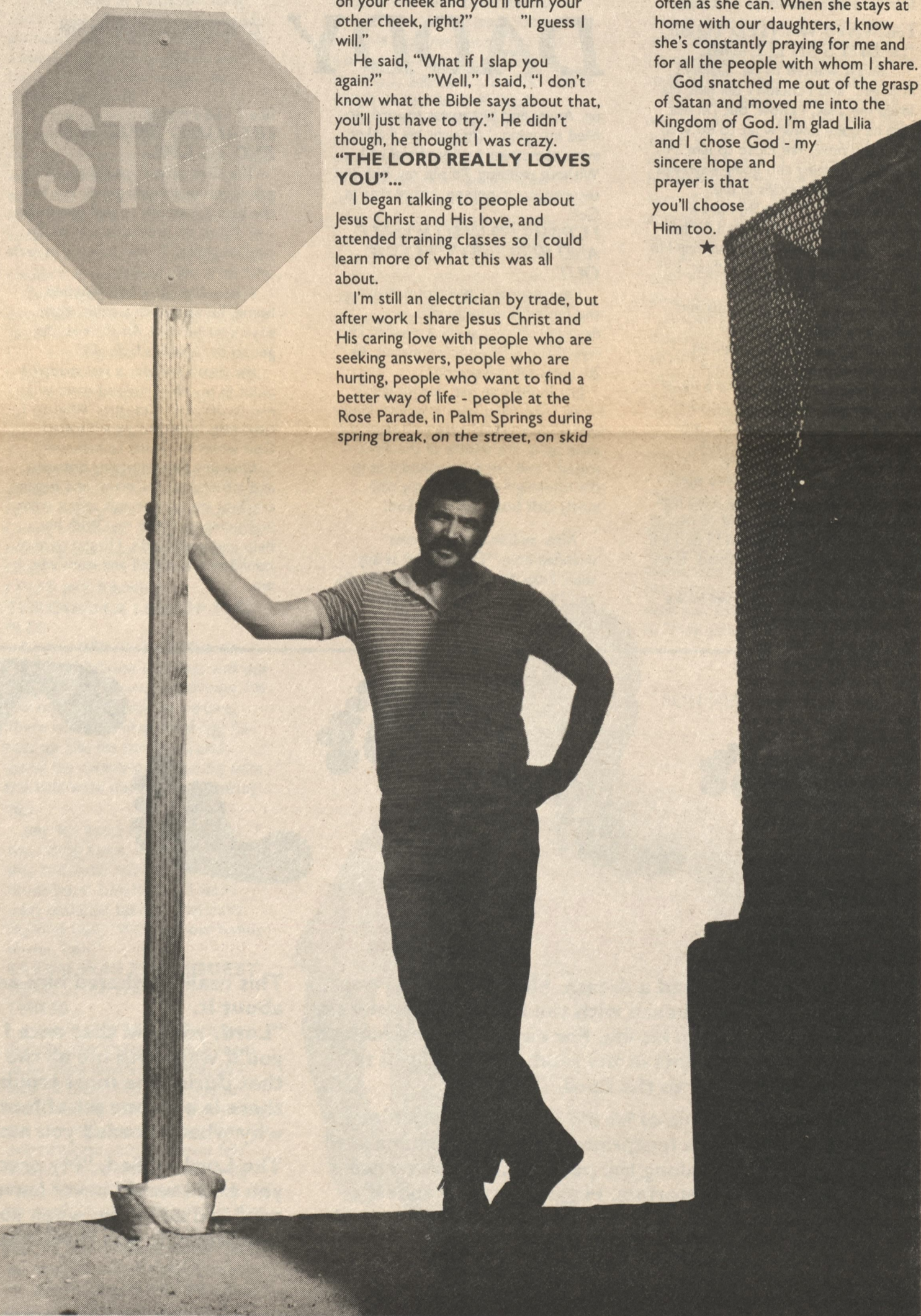
I'm still an electrician by trade, but after work I share Jesus Christ and His caring love with people who are seeking answers, people who are hurting, people who want to find a better way of life - people at the Rose Parade, in Palm Springs during spring break, on the street, on skid

row...everywhere I can. I tell them, "You've nothing to fear, the Lord really loves you and He wants to be your Friend".

**GOD IS SO GOOD...SO GOOD!** I thank God He restored my marriage. Lilia and I are as close as we can get today; tomorrow we'll be even closer. She ministers in music at church and goes with me when I'm ministering as often as she can. When she stays at home with our daughters, I know she's constantly praying for me and for all the people with whom I share.

God snatched me out of the grasp of Satan and moved me into the Kingdom of God. I'm glad Lilia and I chose God - my sincere hope and prayer is that you'll choose Him too.

★



"I don't want to talk about it" - for as long as I can remember, I didn't want to talk about anything. Everything was locked inside me...my insecurities...my loneliness...my hurts...my fears...

Times were hard growing up in Alaska and, when I was in the sixth grade, my dad made a suicide attempt. Actually, he was just threatening as no bullets were in the gun, but I didn't know that until later. The experience left a deep impression on me, and I was filled with undefined feelings of guilt.

Soon after, his new job took him away from home, and from then on he was coming and going all the time, and the family fights began. I didn't like problems. I didn't like hassles. I didn't like fights. I didn't like being yelled at. So I didn't say anything for fear I would cause more problems.

### I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE "DADDY'S LITTLE GIRL"

I always wanted to be "Daddy's little girl," and I couldn't tell him. He loved me a lot, I know, but I'm not sure he quite knew what to do with me, and I never felt close to him. His continual coming and going engraved even more insecurities in me.

Growing up in church, I knew about God but, until I was 17, I felt more like His grandchild, knowing He was there, yet I never being close. I couldn't talk to Him either.

My life was filled with highs and lows - I was either happy or depressed, never in between. At times I'd rebel and think about running away, or getting into a lot of heavy stuff, but my mom's prayers and her love held us together - my two sisters, my brother and me. **THEN I FELL IN LOVE...**

Living in California with my aunt and cousin after graduating from high school, I grew up fast. I had to decide what kind of life I'd live, and I decided I wanted God to be my Friend. Then I fell in love.

After a year and a half, we broke



# GOD IS MY HEAVENLY DADDY

CYNTHIA MC CLEHANAN

up. Anger and bitterness toward God filled my mind. I thought He'd taken away something I wanted real bad. Without realizing, I'd put my faith and security into a person, rather than in God.

### I CRAWLED INTO MYSELF AND REFUSED TO COME OUT

I moved into a place of my own and felt even more lonely... deserted...bitter...angry. I crawled into myself and refused to come out. At 20, I was self destructing.

Just looking at me, people didn't know I was filled with rebellion. Inner stuff is what really tears you apart. I'd wake up in the middle of the night - scared - and cry out to God, but in the morning I was still angry. Still lonely. Still bitter toward God.

After awhile, my bitterness included men. "I'm as good as any man; I can do anything a man can do, and I'll never be close to another

### one," I told myself. I REALIZED THERE IS AN END TO LIFE...

The Christmas I was 22 my family got together, including dad. We had the best Christmas I could remember - no fights, no problems, lots of fun and laughter. To me, it was a miracle and very, very healing.

A few days after dad returned home, he went into a coma; eight days later he died. And I never did get to be "daddy's little girl."

His death brought a real snapping point in my life. I realized there is an end to life and I thought, "Why do I have bitterness and anger toward God when He wants to help me?"

One day I was dragging bottom, and a friend sat me down and began teaching me how to talk about what was going on inside me. With her help and with God's, I began to have confidence in myself and learn who I am.

I'd always had the feeling I was supposed to be a missionary or something so, at this point I said, "Yeah, I'll go to Bible training classes, why haven't I done it before?"

### DADDY'S LITTLE GIRL

It was there I learned the Father heart of God - that He isn't a judge waiting to hit me upside the head if I blow it, but He's a loving Heavenly Father waiting to take care of me and heal the hurts. I knew I'd been accepted by Him and, at last, I was "Daddy's little girl."

I'm 26 now, and directing a home that serves as a haven for hurting young people. We offer food, shelter, loving concern and help in finding longer term programs of rehabilitation.

It's exciting to work here. God is still teaching me about communication. Now I'm able to share my freedom from anger, guilt, bitterness and fear, and His total acceptance of me as a worthwhile person. I want everyone to experience the warmth of His love and the security of being God's child. He loves you and He cares. ★

### I STARTED RUNNING GUNS

Running and selling guns, heavy gang warfare, shootings, stabbings, drinking and, of course, drugs - I was 15 and I wanted to do my own thing.

I met Lisa who was a year younger, and we ran away together. To pay our rent at a cheap motel, we burglarized homes, robbed liquor stores, stole checks...anything we could think of to get money. I started taking a lot of uppers.

We married three years later, thinking maybe I'd stop with the drugs and gangs. Life was going to be great! **LIFE CONTINUED A TOTAL MESS, TOTAL DARKNESS, NO HOPE, NO FUTURE...**

Instead, I got heavier into alcohol and began beating Lisa - sometimes because I missed my running partners from the street...I kept losing jobs...I'd get jealous...any reason...no reason.

We had two little boys, one after the other, and we wanted a baby girl.

About two years after we married, my brother-in-law talked to us about Jesus Christ. "If you want Jesus, keep Him in church," I told him. "I don't want Him!" Deep inside, I knew there was some kind of light shining in my darkness, and I didn't like it.

Later, after I'd gone out, Lisa said to her brother, "If Jesus is real, I need Him. Ron is constantly pointing guns at me, threatening me and beating me up." She prayed, "Lord, if You're real, come into my life and, I ask You, Lord, show me a sign; I'd really like another child." **I DON'T NEED NO JESUS FREAK**

Two days later, she told me, "I gave my heart and life to Jesus Christ, and I found out yesterday I'm pregnant. God is giving us our baby."

"I don't need no Jesus freak, and I don't want any of that preaching in my home. If you want Jesus, you get away from me." I was happy she was pregnant, though.

A few months later she talked about Jesus again. I was like a wild man. "Don't tell me that stuff because I don't want to hear it," I yelled. Beating her, I kicked her down a flight of stairs. I had so much hate in my heart, and I didn't understand why.

### OUT OF THE BLUE, I HAD AN URGE TO STAB THIS GUY

At my friend's home one day, right out of the blue, I had an urge to stab his dad. So I did. He didn't die or press charges, so the cops let me go. Such hate and rebellion! I said, "If God's really real, how come I can still do this stuff?"

One night Lisa said, "Ron, you really need to know Jesus Christ."

"Honey, if you don't shut up, I'm gonna kill you, I'm tired of this Jesus stuff."

"Well, Ron, if I died tonight, I'd be with Jesus, and if you died, I know where you'd be." More beatings.

Afterward I said, "I'm sorry, Honey, I'll go to church with you Sunday."

**"PLEASE DON'T SHOOT! PLEASE! PLEASE!**

That Sunday night we sat right on

the front row. Suddenly I pointed a gun at the pastor. Lisa grabbed my arm. "Please don't shoot, please, please!" The pastor saw the gun. He kept right on talking, and I left.

Finally I put the bottom line to Lisa, "You're not going to church any more, you're not to read your Bible or have anything to do with Jesus Christ - nothing. If you do, I'll wipe you out."

More threats, more beatings. I just couldn't stop. I had this tremendous hate, she had total peace and joy, and I couldn't stand it. I got to where I couldn't distinguish between reality and unreality - I was losing my mind from drugs...hate...Satan.

### I'VE NEVER FELT A PUNCH LIKE THAT!

Finally she said, "I'm about ready to leave you."

"I'm so sick of this Jesus thing and of you going to church - tonight, get ready to meet your Lord. I held a loaded 32 caliber pistol to her head and pulled the trigger. No bullets came out!

"In the name of Jesus Christ, I rebuke you!" she said, and punched me out. I flew ten feet. I've been hit with crowbars and bats and I've never felt a punch like that. I realize, now, her strength came from the Lord.

"I'll kill you with my hands!" But I couldn't. It was awesome.

Two days later my mom came over and flushed my drugs down the toilet. "This time I'll kill you, Lisa." I loaded the gun, pulled the trigger and the bullet fell at her feet. I couldn't believe it, so I turned to my mother, pulled the trigger and watched the bullets fall out of the barrel.

Afterward I sobbed and lied, "I'm gonna be good from now on, I'll go for counseling and I'll receive Jesus Christ, I promise, I promise!" I was mocking Lisa, and I was mocking God.

### I PUT MY FAMILY THROUGH A LIFE OF THE PITS

By July 1981, I was 22. Ronnie was two, Nicholas was one, and our daughter Renee' was brand new. I'd quit my job and was on welfare. There was no reality. Nothing. I'd beat up Lisa for her check and spend the money on drugs. My wife and kids were starving and wearing rags.

July 4th was a big family picnic. I was sitting there, wasted, when my wife and sister tried to tell me again about Jesus' love for me. I went crazy and beat up Lisa. The next day they said, "We wash our hands of you, Ron."

### SATAN WAS THE BIGGEST FEAR...THE UGLIEST THING...

I usually took about 60 whites a day, but that day they didn't seem to be doing anything for me, so I took 90 more. I did some crank too. Suddenly I fell back. Everything got very dark and a gripping fear overcame me such as I never felt before. I could feel my body lying there, but I felt like my spirit left. In my mind, I entered the spirit realm, and I saw Satan for who he really was. At that moment, I knew Satan was my god and I belonged to him. He was the biggest fear, the ugliest thing you could ever imagine. I

knew he owned me.

A light came into the darkness and a Voice spoke, "Receive Me and have eternal life."

### HONEY, I'M BORN AGAIN...

I said, "Yes, Lord, I receive You now." At that moment, I felt like my spirit came back into my body and I jumped up.

"Praise the Lord, I'm saved, I'm forgiven and I have the power of God." I ran into the living room, "Honey, I'm born again, I'm a believer now, Praise God!"

She thought I flipped out. So did my mom. It happened so quick, they couldn't believe their ears. My wife had to check me out for thirty days before she believed my experience was real.

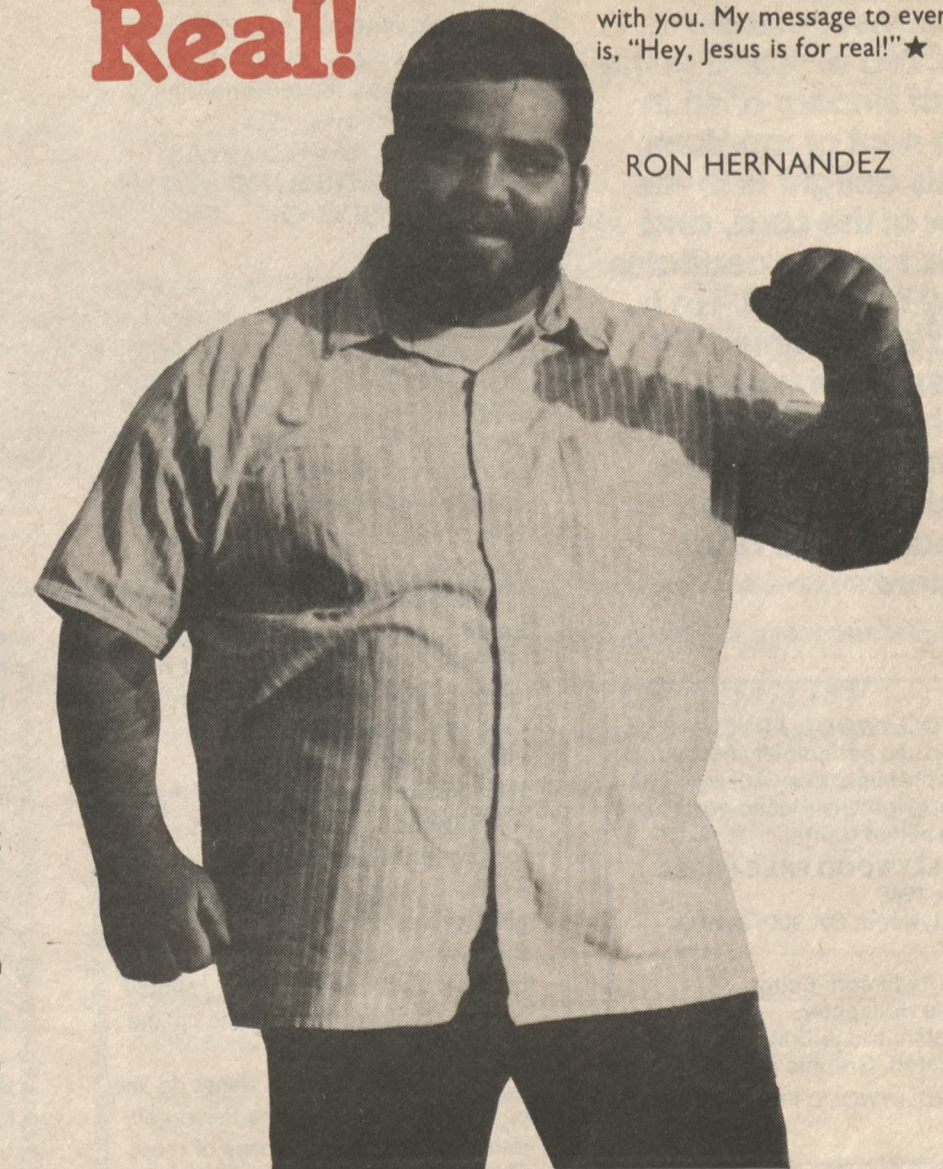
Every spare minute I read the Bible. I cleaned up my life and went back to work. And I discovered nothing mattered that went on around me, I knew Jesus Christ was real. He gave me peace, joy and comfort to endure anything.

### "I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU"

When Renee' was four we discovered a lump on her neck which was diagnosed as neuroblastoma, a usually fatal cancer. We were shocked, and we prayed, "Lord, even in this, we know You're with us." The Lord gave us peace.

The tumor grew like wildfire, and two weeks later Renee' went into surgery. After only 75% of the cancer had been removed, the main

# Hey, Jesus is for Real!



RON HERNANDEZ

artery was severed and surgery had to be stopped. Lisa and I prayed, "Lord, if You take Renee' home to be with You, You will give her total healing, and if You spare her life on earth, You've given her healing too. We trust you, Lord."

### I'M GOING HOME TO BE WITH JESUS...

Renee' was in and out of the hospital from then on. She loved Jesus with all her heart, and she trusted him. In January 1986, when she was five years old, Renee' looked at us and said, "I'm going home now to be with Jesus," and that day she died. Our little girl was gone.

Because of her great faith in Jesus Christ, many people who loved Renee' found love and comfort in Jesus Christ and accepted him into their lives.

Lisa and I went through a tremendous time of pressure and pain. Through this experience, we learned that God's grace is sufficient to bring us through any situation.

The Lord gave us great strength, and He gave us a promise from the Bible. When King David's little son died, David said, "I will go to him, but he will not return to me." (II Samuel 12:23b). We know our little daughter is alive with Jesus Christ and some day we will go to her in heaven. God is with us and He's able to bring us through any situation.

I'm now directing a prison ministry and am in training to become a chaplain in the county probation department. When I talk with prisoners or to people on the street, I try to help them break down the "invisible bars" holding them captive, as they once held me - drugs, alcohol, gangs, stealing, violence.

If I had been punished for all the things I've done, I'd probably be doing heavy-duty time right now. I thank God for allowing me to share His love and His life-changing power with you. My message to everyone is, "Hey, Jesus is for real!" ★



# FOOTPRINTS

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonged to him and the other to the Lord.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it.

"Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me."

The Lord replied, "My precious, precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you".

## God Told Us...

(Cont. from page 2)

Word, the Bible, and He taught us how to help people through our break dancing, rapping and preaching. God told us to go! go! go!

God showed us we should change our name to ON FIRE MINISTRIES, which is a ministry of expression, evangelizing through rap, dance and drama, with the fire of the Holy Spirit to deliver, to heal the sick and mend the brokenhearted through the power of God.

Along with Kevin Burroughs Neeley who arranges all our music, Kenneth Robinson, Sergio Velazquez and Zapharra, we load up our cars and go to parks, beaches, streets and churches - wherever God leads us.

God took our life's ashes and put beauty in place of them.

"ON FIRE MINISTRIES would like to present to you the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and this day you can be set free from drug, alcohol or other addiction because We're on fire for the Lord, and that's no joke, and by His anointing He can break the yoke, the fire that consumes, consumes our sin and because of Christ, you can be...born again. ON FIRE! ★

## Psalm 1:1-3

**Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.**

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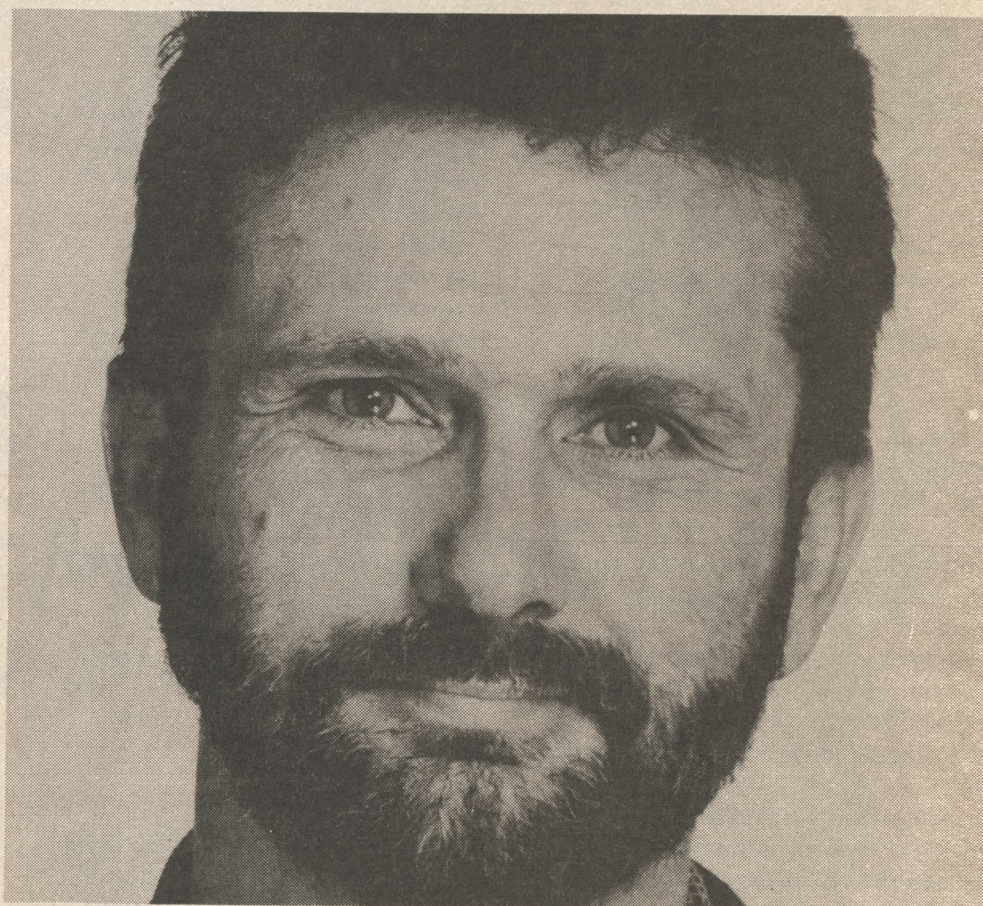
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# God, You Can't Send Me To Hell

CHUCK GIRARD



## THE SOUND OF ROCK 'N' ROLL WOKE UP SOMETHING INSIDE ME...

The sound of rock 'n' roll woke up something inside me. I was 16 years old and very into music already.

In junior high school I'd formed a group, and we put a demonstration record together with a few songs I'd written and some others. A local DJ in Santa Rosa gave us a couple of doors to knock on in Hollywood, and we got a contract with a record label. We called ourselves the "Castells."

By the time our records hit the charts, I was a senior in high school. Two of our songs were in the national top 20, "Sacred," and "So This is Love." That whetted my appetite for success and made me want to continue in the music business.

After about three years, I became part of a studio group making records which were spinoffs of Beach Boys, Jan and Dean, hot rod and surf kind of music. We put albums out one after the other. Somebody pulled a song called "Little Honda" from an album we made that came out under the name "The Hondells", which also became a hit.

Later, "A Younger Girl" (Keeps Rolling Across My Mind), hit the top 20. It was exciting to hear my own records on the radio. When the Beatles hit in the mid sixties they changed the whole music scene and, before long, I was out of a job. I got into the bar scene, putting together different groups, and for several years traveled with these groups - a couple of months here and there - Hawaii...Seattle...Portland...San Francisco...Los Angeles...

About this time I became curious about the drug scene and hippie movement and started smoking marijuana and using LSD. I DIDN'T REALIZE I WAS FOOLING AROUND WITH THE POWERS OF DARKNESS...

I'd been involved in heavy drinking since I was 15 years old and, at 23, after years of traveling the bar circuit, I was really into alcohol. Hallucinogenic drugs fascinated me, and I went overboard on LSD trips, ignorantly getting involved with the occult and spiritual experiences on the dark side. I didn't realize I was fooling around with the powers of darkness.

The Bible says sometimes Satan will come to us as an angel of light and a minister of righteousness, and I was trying to find out more about who God was. Though I was brought up in church, I didn't know what a relationship with God was. I'd rejected my religious background, and I wasn't looking in the direction of Christianity - I was looking at all the different philosophies of the world because my theory was that, if they all claimed to be truth then, at some level, I should be able to make them all line up and harmonize.

A lot of philosophical things do line up but, when I got to the Person of Jesus Christ, I realized many of these

religions had totally opposing opinions of who Jesus is and I deduced that, even though everyone claimed to have the ultimate truth, somebody was blowing it, and the answer wasn't that simple; otherwise they'd all agree on Jesus. I decided Jesus had to be a part of whatever I embraced.

I didn't know who Jesus was, how He related to my life - if He truly was God, or if there was a hell but, if there was, I didn't want to go there. I did know that the deepest questions of my life had not been satisfied by the philosophies I'd embraced.

## GOD, YOU CAN'T SEND ME TO HELL...

Under the influence of drugs, a group of us began searching through the drug scene and hippie philosophy trying to find God. One of God's promises in the Bible says, "Seek and you shall find..." I didn't even know what a Bible promise was, but I said, "God, whoever You are, if You can hear me, I need to find out who You are. If You're what I've been told, You're honest and loving and truthful and fair and, if I'm doing everything I can to reach You, then You have to meet me on some level, and You can't send me to hell."

My pattern was to get involved in a certain religion and give my wholehearted best for a number of weeks, and when I didn't find the answer, move on to another religion.

A group of us had put a band together and we played in nightclubs, encouraging people to seek God through drugs. While living in Laguna Beach, we began to hear about a small, but growing, church in a nearby city where people seemed to be finding God - an exciting prospect.

One night we were all stoned and arguing over a doctrine in the Bible, so we went to visit a group of Christian hippies to see if they had the answer. I don't remember too much that transpired, except that they really showed us love and were very caring.

That night we attended church with them - A totally different experience for me. And there were lots of hippies there.

## I KNEW I'D FOUND THE ANSWER...

At the end of the sermon when the pastor asked if anyone wanted to make a commitment to Jesus Christ, I repented of my sins and received the Lord in my heart. The pastor led us in a prayer and I began to weep, releasing years of frustration and searching.

I told God that if this was truth, I was here to stay and, if not, I'd move on in a couple of weeks and continue the search. That was 17 years ago, and I haven't looked back.

Some of my friends also accepted Jesus Christ. We brought some of our songs to church and, after changing a few of the words and concepts which were not in line with the Bible, we began to play at a Bible study there. The music was contemporary, very rock 'n' roll for the times.

People continued to stream to the church and, within a couple months, attendance exploded from about 200 to 2,000.

After playing at that church for six months we began receiving invitations to play in other churches. We went on tour at one point, playing to 100,000 people in Dallas. An album was released and, subsequently, we became internationally known.

God has given me a beautiful wife, Karen, and four lovely daughters, Kristin, Alisa, Cherie and Nicole.

I perform and minister solo now, speaking and singing in churches and theaters around the world. God has opened up a new understanding of evangelism and street ministry, and in the last few years I've been blessed to sing and share right on the streets of New York, New Orleans or San Francisco with as much, if not more, of a sense of accomplishment and fulfillment than I have felt from other facets of my ministry.

I have a teaching and preaching ministry as well these days, and am doing what I can to cause people to see the relationship between music and worship, and leading people into the Kingdom of God. ★

## GROUP BIBLE DISCUSSION

with Duane Pederson,  
Editor of the HOLLYWOOD FREE PAPER

**Fridays at 7 PM** For location and directions contact  
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Contact Fishermen for Christ, 100 Mercer Street, Seattle, WA 98109 (206) 285-1530

## May 26-28 INDIANAPOLIS 500 OUTREACH,

Contact Christ in Action, Box 41848, Chicago, IL 60641 (312) 772-4222

## June 3-13 LA PAZ MEXICO OUTREACH,

Contact Final Frontiers, Box 4959, Berkeley, CA 94794 (415) 845-7678

## June 29-July 22 YOUTH TEAM - MT. WHITNEY/MEXICO,

Camping and work team, Contact Forward Edge, Box 4976, Eureka, CA 95501 (707) 443-6315

## June 30-July 9 SOS HOLLYWOOD,

Contact SOS Hollywood, Box 2809, Hollywood, CA 90078 (213) 469-3027

## July 1-16 GERMANY/POLAND OUTREACH,

Contact Forward Edge, (Info above)

## July 7-16 HONOLULU AND FAR EAST OUTREACH

(Honolulu, Singapore and India) street and door-to-door witnessing, Contact Christ in Action, (Info above)

## July 7-9 INTERNATIONAL STREET AND EVANGELISM CONFERENCE, NEW YORK CITY,

Contact Abounding Grace Ministries, 1912 Richmond Terrace, Staten Island, NY 10302 (201) 755-0610

## July 10-16 JESUS LOVES YOU NEW YORK OUTREACH,

Contact Abounding Grace Ministries, (Info above)

## July 14-22 NATIONAL OUTREACH TO THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION,

ATLANTA '88, Contact SHOM, Box 380306, Duncanville, TX 75138 (214) 298-2601

## July 15-Aug 7 YOUTH TEAM - GUATEMALA ORPHANAGE AND MINISTRY PROJECT,

Contact Forward Edge, (Info above)

## July 16-30 ENGLAND OUTREACH,

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## July 16-30 GUYANA OUTREACH,

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## July 16-Aug 6 MEXICO OUTREACH,

Contact Forward Edge, (Info above)

## July 27-31 D.C.'88 STUDENT CONGRESS ON EVANGELISM, WASHINGTON, D.C.,

Contact Youth for Christ, Box 419, Wheaton, IL 60189 (312) 668-6600

## Aug 12-20 SOS SAN FRANCISCO OUTREACH,

Contact SOS Ministries, Box 27054, San Francisco, CA 94127 (415) 552-2300

## Aug 12-22 NICARAGUA DENTAL TEAM,

Contact Forward Edge, (Info above)

## Aug 20-28 ROSEBUD SIOUX RESERVATION/SOUTH DAKOTA,

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## Sept 12-30 SO. KOREA OLYMPIC OUTREACH,

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## Sept 12-Oct 4 NEPAL INDIA OUTREACH,

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## Sept 29-Oct 1 NATIONAL STREET MINISTRIES CONFERENCE -

DALLAS, TX, Contact NSMC, Box 380306, Duncanville, TX 75138 (215) 298-2601

## Nov 4-13 GUATEMALA ORPHANAGE CONSTRUCTION TEAM,

Contact Forward Edge, (Info above)

## Dec 2-11 NICARAGUA ORPHANAGE CONSTRUCTION TEAM,

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Send information to RADICAL EVENTS, c/o HOLLYWOOD FREE PAPER, Box 1949, Hollywood, CA 90078

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