

MOVIES THAT TRANSFORM: Early this summer we planned a movie day as an evangelistic outreach at Grace Christian Fellowship. "Shout for Joy" was the featured movie – a true to life evangelistic drama featuring Rick Irons in his quest for a surfing championship in Hawaii, and how he came to know Christ personally.

On Movie Sunday, there was an influx of people who came – new faces, old friends in the Lord, people in crisis, lives in pain and struggles. Among those attending two people were profoundly touched by the saving grace of Christ. As Marianne and Stanley watched the movie, "Shout for Joy" deep and disturbing emotions stirred in them. During the movie both of them were clenching the arm rest of their chairs, sobbing and shaking. They couldn't deny the challenge of the gospel touching their hearts. They saw for the first time the power of Christ changing hearts and leading others to a life of joy. Although they were not praying people, Marianne and Stanley prayed to receive Christ as their personal Lord and Savior and testified to feeling an overwhelming sense of peace. After the service they both wanted to know everything about Jesus, to learn more of His saving grace and enjoying that brand new life in Christ. They wanted bibles of their own, a study group, and lots of prayer time and fellowship.

For too long, both Marianne and Stanley thought that Christianity was a means of control, with lots of rules of what to do and what you can't do. Yet, it turns out that they are finally free – no longer slaves to sin, and now have the power to make right choices for the right reasons to honor God. Testimony movies can be an effective evangelistic tool for reaching deep into people's hearts and leading them to the life of joy in Christ. These movies can open up opportunities for redemptive dialogues and help people see troubling issues in their lives in a new light.

MISSION TOOL BOX: Do you want to host movie outreach? Check out. www.outreach.com/films or www.christiancinema.com. INFO about the Timothy Leadership Training www.tlti.org or http://www2.crcna.org/pages/crwm_TLT.cfm

CLASSIS GLA PRAYER MEETING is on the first Saturday of the month in God's Grace's building at First CRC of Bellflower from 8 - 10 AM. Everyone is welcome to come and pray and/or to be prayed for. Prayer requests can be sent to Annette Mendez at (worldtrippn@yahoo.com).

The next prayer meetings are August 4 & Sept 1

TIMOTHY LEADERSHIP TRAINING: In June I had the opportunity to attend the Timothy Leadership Training Institute (TLT) in Grand Rapids MI. I went to investigate this program on behalf of the LDT. The TLT is one of the CRCNA Candidacy Committee's recommended and approved training programs for "Commissioned Pastors." What made it a program of interest for Classis GLA is that TLT is available in many languages. Since I am in the process of mentoring our Chinese pastor to become a commissioned pastor I was doubly interested to see what TLT was all about.

TLT, I discovered, is a leadership multiplication system designed to enable pastors and ministry leaders grow in their faith and ministry skills for the purpose of becoming agents of significant church and community development. TLT gives their trained leaders powerful and field tested tools to train parents, teachers, youth leaders, small group leaders, other pastors, elders and deacons on many levels. After 15 years of experience with the TLT system and working in 50 different countries TLT is presently training 10,000 leaders and is bearing much kingdom fruit.

TLT takes place in study groups and emphasizes action planning for results. The goal of TLT is to develop trainers. A TLT "master trainer" empowered and certified to facilitate a TLT on their own goes through seven modules taken in three tracts. The 1st tract equips people to "Care for God's People" and to "Care for God's Creation". Leaders are trained in how to effectively listen, visit and pastorally care for those entrusted to them and to practically implement a biblical stewardship plan. After completing tract one the leader is qualified and certified as a Basic Trainer. The goal of Track 2 is to develop teaching and preaching skills that lead to biblical life change and kingdom results. The Tract 3 manuals are "Serving God in Work & Worship", "God's Plan for Sustainable Development" and "Overcoming Harm and Violence in the Family".

Besides the three training institutes in North America, many are held in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Master trainers can participate in trainings worldwide. Although I came to the TLT training as a somewhat objective observer I left an enthusiastic participant catching a global kingdom vision with a desire to get involved as a master trainer. I believe TLT could be a powerful tool for raising skillful action oriented leaders in Classis GLA. I highly recommended it as a key component for training "commissioned pastors". It would be great if Classis GLA had a dozen master trainers. But not only did I get a vision for classis leadership development I saw TLT as a potential "pastors without borders" movement and as a "retirement with a mission" ministry for both clergy and

CENT MEETING: Aug 20, 6 PM
LDT Meeting: Aug 27, 11 AM
CLT MEETING: Sept 12, 11:30 AM ministry Center

lay leaders.