



"Life restored to hurting men."  
FAITH • FAMILY • COMMUNITY

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## BIRTH

Continued from page 2.

late one night at Skip Joannes' house, not remembering how he got there and Skip persuaded him to enter Victory Outreach.

Michele drove Mike a few days later to Salinas to drop him off at the Victory Outreach Men's Home. She remembers dropping him off and driving away as quickly as possible.

As it turned out, Mike was only there for three days and had to enter the hospital due to a skin infection that had resulted due to drug use. Even while in the hospital, Mike was escaping from his room and taking the taxi to town to score drugs. God had to get Mike's attention, and due to complications in surgery, Mike suffered a stroke.

The stroke changed the plans of Michele, who had to agree to take him back home before he was allowed to transfer for special surgery at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center. Before Mike returned home, there was a change in heart. He was, however, basically an invalid requiring a lot of attention from Michele who at this point was helping him only because she wanted to be right with God.

Gradually over time, the LORD healed Mike, restoring his mental and physical health and his relationship with Michele. Around this time, Bob Stewart entered Mike's life and began to befriend and disciple him. Mike remembers Bob taking him to In-N-Out Burger where they talked for hours. Through this relationship, Bob eventually encouraged Mike to begin the Most Excellent Way meetings that meet at 7PM every Monday night at Calvary Chapel Monterey Bay, a meeting for people struggling with any type of addiction as well as providing support for their families and friends. Mike would minister to the men and Michele to the women. It became quickly evident that 1½ hours once a week was not enough time to help meet

the needs of many that were attending the meetings.

Mike began to get a vision from the LORD for a Men's Home, but didn't say anything about it. When Michele came to him some time later and shared that God had shown her the need for a Men's Home, it was time to move forward. The pieces fell into place fairly quickly after that; a Board of Directors was formed, and Bridge Restoration Ministry opened its doors to its first resident.

After seeing God overcome an apparently impossible situation in their new lives, Mike and Michele know what is possible and are now co-laboring with Christ to make it possible for other men to be healed and restored. *"With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible."* Mark 10:27

## FIRST FRUITS

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twin daughters Amanda and Stacia.

Mike Casey shared with everyone how instrumental Bob and Carolyn Stewart were in the birth of the men's home, and how Justin and Mike came into the Bridge,

## THE MOST EXCELLENT WAY (Recovery Group)

Support group for drug, alcohol and other life dominating sins with specific groups for men, women, families and friends. Childcare available.

Monday 7:00-8:30 p.m.  
Calvary Chapel Monterey Bay  
3001 Monterey-Salinas Highway.

For more information  
call 372-2033 leave message.

## Bridge Reaches Out To Parolees

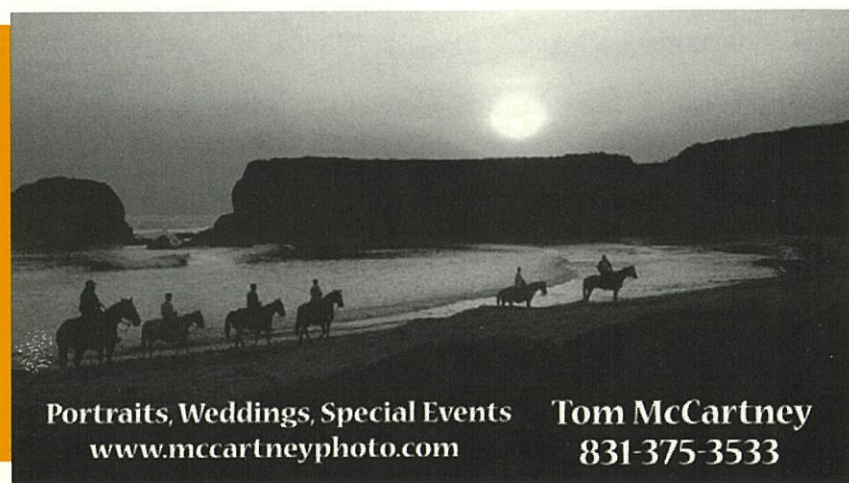
The Bridge Restoration Ministry is now attending monthly meetings organized by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for new parolees. Mike Casey gives a presentation limited to two minutes explaining the men's home and what it has to offer those who are looking to make a spiritual change in their life in an effort to not return to prison.

### Things To Pray For

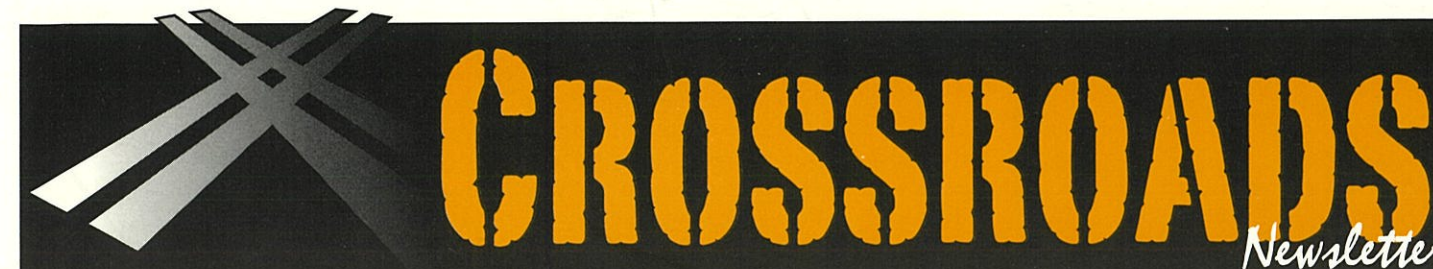
- New board members coming on staff.
- A newer passenger van.
- G and PG DVD movies.

as well as the miracle of healing that has taken place in their lives and the restoration in their relationships to God and their families.

*"It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found."* (Matthew 15:32)



Portraits, Weddings, Special Events Tom McCartney  
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THE BRIDGE RESTORATION MINISTRY



## Message from the Director

We are very pleased and give thanks to God for the fruit that the Bridge Restoration Ministry is bearing in the lives of the men that have been helped and are currently being helped by the LORD.

The restoration ministry is also touching the lives of other men besides the residents of the bridge who attend our morning Bible studies and our evening Bible study.

Our heart's desire is to continue to serve the LORD by providing a safe haven for those men who need to be restored in their relationship to God, to their families, and to the community.

Mike

### Weekly Events At THE BRIDGE

Men's Bible Study  
7-7:45 a.m. Mon. -Fri.

Tuesday Night Bible Study  
& Fellowship

5:30 p.m. Dinner  
6:30 p.m. Worship in Song  
6:45-7:45 p.m. Bible Study  
7:45- 10:00 p.m. Open Fellowship

For more information call  
238-7161 or 402-5878



Mike Casey shares with the audience during The Bridge Restoration Ministry fund-raising banquet while some of the men from the home look on. (Photo Tom McCartney)

## Bridge Dinner/Auction Huge Success

The Bridge Restoration Ministry would like to extend its deep felt gratitude to those who supported the men's home by attending and participating in the fund-raising dinner and auction May 4<sup>th</sup> at the Embassy Suites.

Special thanks go out to the Bridge's Board of Directors, to Rick Barnett who served as the auctioneer, to Al and Pam Larson for their help in so many areas, to all that donated items for the auction, and to all the many others who helped organize, prepare and serve at the dinner.

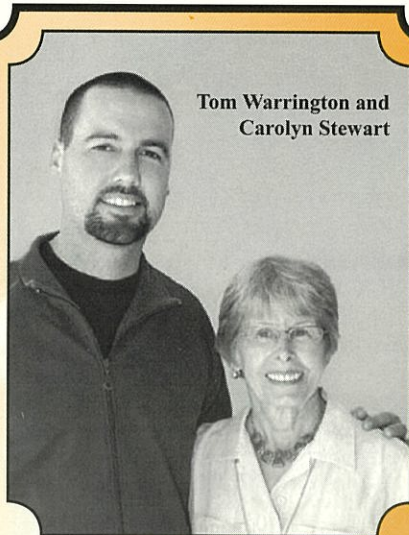
The evening was opened in prayer by Roger Scalice, Pastor of Calvary Chapel Monterey Bay. Mike Casey, Pastor of the men's home, shared about the vision of the Bridge, and introduced the four brothers who were at that time residents of the Bridge. Justin Gersonde, Mike Yap, Charles Pierce and Jack Campbell all shared what the men's home has meant to them and how it has impacted their lives.

Scott Bartolini, Executive Director of The Well Ministry of Rescue in Chico, delivered an inspirational message. Bill Dorey, CEO of Granite Construction Co., shared a personal story of success in the life of his daughter.

Santos, visiting from Calvary Ranch, a drug and alcohol ministry of Calvary Chapel in Southern California, blessed everyone with his wonderful voice in several songs. Pastor Herb Valero of Victory Outreach in Salinas closed the evening out in prayer.

*"Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift."*





Tom Warrington and Carolyn Stewart

### Bob Stewart Memorial Scholarship

On Sunday August 19, 2007 the Bridge had the privilege of awarding the first Bob Stewart Memorial Scholarship to Tom Warrington. A check was presented to Tom to assist him with expenses related to his attending the Calvary Chapel Bible College at Murietta in Southern California. Bob Stewart's wife Carolyn attended the ceremony at the Bridge. Bob Stewart was a personal friend and mentor to Mike Casey, pastor at the Bridge. He was instrumental in discipling Mike, and Mike and Michele went on to become good friends of Bob and Carolyn Stewart. Bob was influential in the opening of the men's home, as well as the starting of the Most Excellent Way meetings that take place every Monday night at 7 p.m. to assist those seeking to overcome drug and alcohol addiction and other life dominating sin through the power of Jesus Christ.

### Sister Ministry

The Bridge residents and their pastor Mike Casey attended the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary Victory Outreach Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation World Conference the first of August at the Los Angeles Convention Center. Mike attributes his recovery from addiction in large part to the efforts of pastor Herb from the Victory Outreach ministry in Salinas.

## Birth of The Bridge

As a result of experiencing the power of God to perform a life changing miracle in their own lives, Mike and Michele Casey were led by His providence to open up their lives and their home to other hurting men who need the healing power of the Holy Spirit to find a new relationship to the Lord, their families, their friends and their community.

Shortly after moving to the Monterey Peninsula from Red Bluff, Mike admitted to being strung out on prescription medication he had originally been prescribed due to a back injury at work. He entered a local recovery center in an effort to kick the pain medication.

It was during this time that God began to move mightily in Michele's life. She started listening to 880 AM Christian Radio, and attending Calvary Chapel Monterey Bay Sunday services. Her first service there Bill Holdridge was sharing about his Catholic upbringing and the reasons he had left the Catholic Church. Michele, who had been raised Catholic, connected with Bill's message. She had also left the Catholic Church, disillusioned but hadn't yet really found Christ.

Michele continued to attend services at Calvary, receiving the LORD during a sinner's prayer. She recounts how she would pray the sinner's prayer every time it was offered in the early days of her faith until she understood that her standing with the LORD was secure.

After Mike completed the recovery program, it quickly became evident that he had returned to using and Michele proceeded to leave him, separating for one year. It was a difficult time for Michele, who wanted to do God's will, but as is often the case, His will was not what she would have chosen to do if it was up to her.

It was about this time that Michele happened to see Bill Holdridge at a block party where he talked with her about forgiveness, forgiving your brother not 7 times but 70x7 times and that the adornment of a Godly woman was a meek and quiet spirit. At the time these words were not what she wanted to hear, because in her heart she

had already left Mike and had made up her mind to move back to Red Bluff.

Out of nothing more than the desire to be obedient to the Spirit of God, Michele allowed Mike to move back home. Mike had made an outward show of efforts towards sobriety, but it quickly became clear that he was actually deeper into his addiction after their separation, having now added street drugs to his prescription medication habit.

Mike went back into the recovery center, this time starting at the camp in Santa Cruz in order to de-tox from all the drugs he was taking. Michele was meanwhile educating herself on addiction and attending meetings at the Recovery Center for Friends and Families of addicted persons. She

was also being supported by women from Calvary Chapel, meeting and praying with other women who were in troubled marriages. Praying for the problems she was facing was new for Michele, but she was painfully aware that none of the other things she and Mike had tried had worked.

During this period, Mike was attending church and making token efforts to appear that he was seeking God, but it was basically to appease Michele and their kids.

After Mike returned home from his second tour at the Recovery Center, it was still very difficult for Michele to understand her place as a Christian wife, attempting to juggle being forgiving and also exercising tough love.

Eventually Michele had to ask Mike to leave again. He was living in his van. Skip Joannes, who had just moved from Australia to open Calvary Chapel High School, connected with Mike and was persistent in reaching out to him.

Michele attended a Concert of Prayer meeting at Cypress Community Church, where she heard Pastor Herb from Victory Outreach in Salinas speak, where he gave his testimony of having been delivered from heroin addiction and was now a pastor.

To appease Michele, Mike agreed to meet with Pastor Herb, who had been where Mike was and had no excuse not to listen. Weeks later, Mike showed up



## Recycling For Jesus

What began as an inspiration of one person is now beginning to take wings and fly. Angela Falke was blessed with a desire to help support missionaries after reading Revolution in World Missions. The book describes the plight of many who are preaching the gospel in poverty stricken areas of the world that are thankful and praising God for even one meal a day.

With not much in the way of personal resources, but with a willing heart and a creative mind, Angela began to collect recyclables, cashing them in and giving the money to missions.

Recycling for Jesus expanded with the efforts of other faithful individuals. Andy Cotrell began last summer to collect cans and bottles at Spirit West Coast and throughout the year has consistently contributed to the cause, also bringing in scrap copper, brass and aluminum from job site construction remodels. Ernie Killeit has been faithful to bring recyclables to the Monday night Most Excellent Way meetings, and Randy Byrd has on occasion matched monetarily what has been raised from cashing in at the recycling centers.

Special thanks go out to Mike and Sylvia Yap's son Brandon, who donated several large bags of cans that he had been saving for himself, but upon learning of the cause donated to Recycling for Jesus.

The Bridge has now been handed the ball and is running with it. With more room on Bridge property and more manpower, the brothers at the Bridge have inherited

Recycling for Jesus.

Garbage cans have been placed in the parking lot at Calvary Chapel Monterey Bay and everyone is encouraged to save their aluminum cans, plastic soda and water bottles (#1 plastic - see label on bottom of plastic - windex, cooking oil, peanut butter jars, etc.), all glass (clear or colored) and to bring them to the church. If you have a large amount, the Bridge will come and pick it up at your house.

There is conservatively speaking on average twenty-five to thirty dollars a month per household of recyclables that pass through our hands. If only one hundred households would faithfully bring their recyclables, that would amount to \$2,500 a month. There are of course many more people that regularly attend CCMB, so there is great potential. All proceeds will be split between the missions programs at CCMB and the Bridge Restoration Ministry.

We heard a missionary from China speak recently and he reported that \$1,700 a month supported a household of eight people. This included a couple of missionaries and several new believers.

Without dipping into anyone's bank account, we could potentially support several missionaries with what we are now throwing in the trash.

*"Go to the ant you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, which having no captain, overseer or ruler, provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest."* (Proverbs 6:6-8)

For more information call 382-2033.



Justin Gersonde and Mike Yap show their certificates of completion from The Bridge Restoration Ministry. (Photo Tom McCartney)

### Bridge Bearing First Fruit

On the same day that the first zucchini was plucked from the new vegetable garden, the first two graduates from The Bridge Restoration Ministry were honored at a barbecue attended by their families and friends.

Justin Gersonde was the first to complete his commitment. Celebrating with Justin were his parents visiting from Southern California, his brother Matt, Matt's wife Kristen and their daughter Anna, who was also celebrating her one year birthday.

It was a festive Friday evening gathering on the patio in front of the men's home, where the vegetable garden is thriving (generally attributed to the fact that the plants are hearing the regular songs of praise to the LORD).

After dinner, the gathering moved into the recently remodeled garage for a time of worship. The converted garage houses the morning devotionals from 7:00-7:45AM, Monday through Friday mornings. Spearheading the renovation project was Mike Yap, who was also being honored as the second graduate of the Bridge.

Celebrating with Mike were his wife Sylvia, their daughter Chelsea, their son Brandon and their young

See **FIRST FRUITS** back page.

## E-Manual Labor

As part of the restoration ministry of THE BRIDGE, residents are taught practical work skills that can be taken into the "real" world so that these men can be productive citizens in our society, restoring dignity, pride and a sense of self-worth in the work of a trade or service.

Some of the services that THE BRIDGE provides are janitorial, exterior and interior painting of homes and businesses, general handyman repairs and minor remodels, construction work, window cleaning, yard clean-up, trash/rubbish pick-up and hauling, power washing, flooring, and many other services. If you or anyone you may know have a need for any of the aforementioned services, give the Bridge a call. Not only will you be helping to support THE BRIDGE Ministry, you are helping to restore the lives of men through supervised professional vocational services. For more information, call Mike Casey at 372-2033.

*"Give a man a fish and feed him for a day. Teach him to fish and feed him for a lifetime."*

See **BIRTH** back page.