

*Open Gate  
Ministries, Inc.  
511 North 'K'  
Street  
Dinuba,  
California 93618*



**Ministries**

# OPEN GATE MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER

*Established 1974  
Celebrating 35 Years of Service*

*Volume 10, Issue 2  
April, 2010*

**If you would prefer to receive future newsletters as an email attachment, please send your preferred email address to: [ken@supergroovers.com](mailto:ken@supergroovers.com)**

**This will save Open Gate about 60¢ per issue.**

## Inside this issue:

Case Manager's Report	2
Mother's Day Salad Luncheon	2
Director's Message (cont)	2
May Furniture Auction	3
Current Needs	5
Testimony	5
Upcoming Events	5
Shelter Operations Report (cont)	5

## A word from our Executive Director

"Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift." (2 Corinthians 9:15)

Many homeless families who come through our Shelter also experience this "unspeakable gift," the power of God to create in them a new life. Not only do we help families with food, shelter, and encouragement, but we show them what the Lord can do for them.

**Pray for our staff** that they will not lose the vision to minister to the residents. And for you who exercise your faith by giving, be encouraged to "Cast your bread upon the waters, for you shall find it after many days." (Ecclesiastes 11:1) We never know what miracle we might experience. Ministry must be done in faith.



The Fundraising Committee is currently planning a Mother's Day Salad Luncheon. Please see page two for details.

We trust God and believe He will touch lives, therefore we pray **for** families and **with** families. We share God's love and the work of Jesus to save them and change them and free them from the sins that tie them down in failure. We must think positively and move forward in faith. "God is able to

— Continued on Page 2

## Shelter Operations Report

*And Joshua said to the people, "Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do 'wonders' among you." Joshua 3:5*

Yes, Indeed! When the people of God didn't know what to do or which way to turn, God always had leaders ready with a way out. Joshua, in leading the people, knew that he had to turn to God to show him the way to victory. All the people feared the Israelites because of the "wonders" that God did among them.

How wonderful to serve a mighty God that shows His favor towards those that serve

Him. Our service to God is demonstrated in many different ways and here at Open Gate the Lord has shown many ways in which He has meet our needs. Just when we think **there is not enough flour in the barrel**, He shows us that when we put ourselves in His hands and remain firm in helping those less fortunate He will show

— Continued on Page 3

*Our website was recently hacked, but it has since been completely redone, thanks to volunteer Sandy Hansen. Thanks, Sandy!*

[www.opengate-ministries.org](http://www.opengate-ministries.org)



Pastor Frances and husband Frank Leibert pose for the camera before the Fundraising Committee meeting to plan the Mother's Day Salad Luncheon.

## Case Manager's Report *"Praise Him"*

So far in 2010, Open Gate has sheltered 13 families and 5 singles. They all have had various needs, and often these needs bring other new learning opportunities our way. For instance, one challenge came when we sheltered a family that was vegan. Meals for them were not only vegetarian, but prepared in a natural way. This required us to learn some new dishes and educated us on some of the ways that even vegetable dishes are traditionally prepared. We were blessed by them and learned a lot ourselves while trying to help them during their tenure here.

Other challenges were presented by two families we sheltered recently as referrals from CPS. These cases required careful monitoring of daily routines and assigning of chores around their other schedules. Most

importantly and above all, helping families in need takes a surrendering to God to let His will be done here on earth. It is a blessing to us to see what an awesome thing that we all have – a merciful Lord who never keeps in mind our sins, but instead hears our prayers and forgives. "Praise Him, Praise Him!!!" The definition of "praise" is "to commend the worth of, to glorify, to exalt." And we commend His worth, glorify Him, and exalt Him everyday for the work that He does here, in the lives of the residents, through the workers, and through the donors like yourselves. Thanks to all of you for being a part of this ministry where we can see the power of God's transformation in the lives of so many, including our own.

Irene Pasillas, Case Manager

### Board of Directors

- President - Les Felland
- J. R. Arnold
- Frances Baerg
- James Brown
- Kathleen Kelley
- Les Lungren
- Robert Martin
- Janice Moore
- Jason Nichols
- Debbie Rojas
- Norma Ruiz

### Honorary Board Members

- Richard Harrison
- Ellie Ruppender

### Staff

- Executive Director:  
Roger Neufeld
- Shelter Manager:  
Gloria Gaona
- Case Manager:  
Irene Pasillas

### Shelter and Store Staff:

- Imelda Baldazo
- Margarita Cazares
- Humberto Flores
- Amanda Friesen
- Victor Gaona
- Kenneth Grover
- Ninfa Islas
- Veronica Lopez
- Anna Padama
- Bertha Serrano
- Marilyn Wingate

## Mother's Day Salad Luncheon

A few months ago, in the winter, we had a soup luncheon. Now it is spring, flowers and vegetables are sprouting, and our thoughts turn from soup to salad! What better way to celebrate Mother's Day this year than by coming to a **Salad Bar Luncheon on May 5, from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.**



**at the First Assembly of God Church in Dinuba?** The Assembly of God Church is

located at the corner of "L" Street and Mono. The cost is only \$5.00 per person. Takeout will not be available.

The luncheon is for everyone, so be sure to come, whether or not you can bring your own mother, someone else's mother, or have never had a mother.... Just come and **enjoy the salad bar and support Open Gate at the same time!!!**

## A Word from our Executive Director (Continued from Page 1)

do abundantly above all that we ask or think." (Ephesians 3:20).

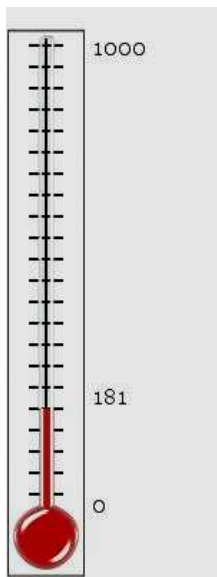
Please **participate in our three fundraisers** announced in this newsletter. 1) Become a part of the 1,000 Club by giving at least \$10 per month. 2) Join us for a

Mother's Day Lunch on Wednesday, May 5, at the First Assembly of God Church, and 3) bid on the new furniture at our 2<sup>nd</sup> Furniture Auction. Thank you for your support.

— Roger C. Neufeld

### Current Membership

In Our  
"1000 Club"



#### January—March 2010 Report

##### Shelter

Families at shelter: 11  
Total meals served: 1,213  
Total Shelter overnights: 875

##### Food Distribution Dinuba & Cutler/Orosi

Families served: 1,830  
Food Bags given out: 2,291

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

4/22/2010 Board Meeting

5/5/2010 Salad Bar

Luncheon Fundraiser

5/22/2010 Last day to bid on  
furniture items at the silent  
auction

5/27/2010 Board Meeting

6/24/2010 Board Meeting

9/9/2010 Anniversary Dinner  
at the Seventh Day Adventist  
Church

## Current Needs at the Ministry

Canned Meats	Coffee Creamer	Pajamas (all sizes)
Spaghetti Sauce	Canned Soups	Bibles (Spanish and English)
Pastas	Shampoo	Bath Towels
Fresh or Canned Fruits	Hair Brushes	DVD Family Movies
Children's Snacks	Blankets	DVD Children's Movies
Juices	Pillows	

## Testimony

I would like to start off by saying **"Thank You" and "God Bless You"** for all you do here at Open Gate and the ministry you provide to so many. I recommitted my life to God last year and am working to rebuild my life and career. God leading me to Open Gate was truly a blessing. When I first came to Open Gate, I was returning to Dinuba to be closer to my two sons who were staying with their father, but I myself was homeless. I had previously been in a battle with both alcoholism and personal issues; my life had seemed hopeless, but **I found hope in Jesus Christ.** So, I put my life in His hands. Since coming to Open Gate, I have continued in my spiritual healing and re-growth. I have returned to church and have been re-

united with my children, helping with their school work, transportation, and daily needs. I have become very aggressive in my job search, both on-line and in person, and have obtained a temporary job with the Census Bureau. I am also seeking permanent housing as soon as possible so I can again be working and self-sufficient and providing for my family while living one day at a time for Him. I thank you for all the opportunities, ministry, and healing provided here. **Without Open Gate, I would have had nowhere to stay** at this time in my life, and I hope that I can one day be a blessing to those in need the way that you have all been here for me.

May God bless you, Delia

## Shelter Operations Report - continued from Page 1

us "wonders" to help us keep going.

And keep going we must! **We must keep going to help those who knock on our doors day in and day out,** who call with hopeless and desperate situations.

- A man with two little ones was trying to get out of a family situation where his children's mother was hooked on drugs and involved in a criminal gang lifestyle. We worried whether we should help him, possibly bringing in harm to our shelter families and staff. But God impressed us to open our doors to him. During his short stay here we helped him and his two little ones transition to a safer place, he gave his life to the Lord and found the peace that he needed in his life. Praise the Lord!

- A family of 5 is not sleeping in their ve-

hicle tonight because Open Gate has a warm bed for them to sleep in and meals everyday while they seek housing and jobs.

- With our help, a young woman and her child have found an apartment of their own and a local church to attend where they have become members.

Thank you so much for helping us keep Open Gate going forward. You, our partners, are very important and a BIG part of this ministry. Through your financial contributions we are here to help those who cannot help themselves.

**If you have not given recently, would you please help us to keep our doors open by sending in a generous donation. Thank you,** and may the Lord do "wonders" in your life.

From my heart to yours, Gloria



**Open Gate Ministries**  
 511 North K Street  
 Dinuba, California 93618-1933

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
 US POSTAGE PAID  
 DINUBA, CALIFORNIA 93618  
 Permit No. 29

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## 1,000 Club

*Open Gate Ministries is dedicated to providing care for the needy of our surrounding area. For Open Gate Ministries to continue to feed, clothe, and provide shelter for those in need, we depend on your contributions. It only takes a small donation of ten dollars or more a month from 1,000 different families to maintain the cause. Due to the economic downturn, **government support has been severely reduced** during a time when the **number of people in need is increasing exponentially**. We sincerely pray that we can count on your support. Please consider joining our "1,000 Club." Thank you.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

1000 Club  Change of Address  Drop  Add to mailing list

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Send acknowledgment to above name

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your  
 tax-deductible gift to:

**Open Gate Ministries**  
 511 North 'K' Street  
 Dinuba, California 93618

**559-591-1241**

**Thank you!**