

# OPEN GATE MINISTRIES'

## OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS

WE NEED PEOPLE WILLING TO EAT FOR OPEN GATE!



Come to IHOP at 780 West El Monte in Dinuba on Thursday evening, July 21, from 4 p.m. until 10 p.m. IHOP will donate 20% of your purchase back to Open Gate. All you need to bring is a flyer, which is included in this mailing.

OPEN GATE ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Mark your calendars for Thursday, September 8, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. At the Dinuba First Methodist Church. The speaker this year will be United Methodist Pastor Frances Leibert. Background music will be provided by Andrew Clifton. The menu will be Mediterranean.

This year we will be celebrating 37 years of partnering with the Lord to feed the needy and shelter the homeless.



Do you like to go to swap meets and flea markets? Another fundraiser this year will include taking surplus items from the Thrift Shop to various swap meets around the area. Dates and times are negotiable, because of all of the swap meets available on different days, so please call and volunteer some time to help out the Ministry.



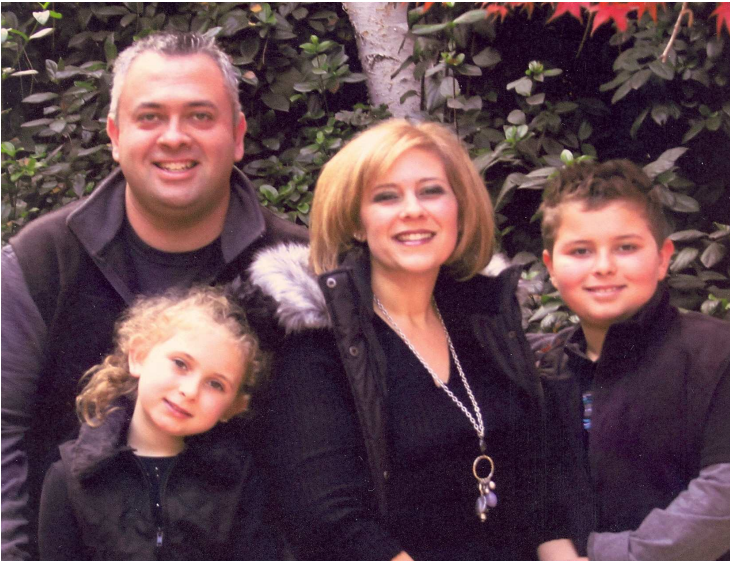
Flea Markets can be very interesting!!!



On August 6, 7, and 8, a Yard Sale will be held on the front lawn of the Shelter at 511 North "K" Street. We will be selling surplus donated items from the Thrift Shop and storage as well as other items donated just for this event. New items will be added each day. Call to volunteer for a couple of hours or more.

## A Message from our Interim Executive Director

Jason Nichols



On July 21, we will be partnering with IHOP in Dinuba which has set aside the evening from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. and has agreed to donate 20% of each person's bill who presents them with a flyer from Open Gate Ministries. The flyers are available at various churches throughout the community as well as at the Open Gate Shelter.

Another project that we are considering is participating in local swap meets where we can get our product from the Thrift store out to a wider audience with the intent of bringing in more revenue for the organization. We are so blessed by all of the wonderful contributions of people from our community to the store, however, we need to increase the volume of people who see our items to take full advantage of selling our items.

If you are a listener of our local radio station, KRDU, please tune in for our regular messages which will be given by various employees as well as board members from Open Gate Ministries. These are intended to showcase various aspects of the terrific ministry which is occurring throughout our organization, not to mention to raise awareness of areas where you or someone you know could participate in the ministry.

Finally, we want you to mark your calendar for August 6, 7, & 8. There will be a gigantic yard sale on the front lawn of the Open Gate shelter. We will feature clothes and shoes as well as various other items that could prove to be very useful as families get ready for their children's return to school.

This letter may seem to be a giant ad of all the ways where people can donate to Open Gate Ministries, and in a way it was intended to be received in that manner. However may it also be received as a message of our gratitude for each person who has, who is, and who will support Open Gate Ministries in the future. Blessings to each of you.

In His Service,

Jason Nichols

Good Morning Everyone,

My name is Jason Nichols and I am an associate pastor at Dinuba Mennonite Brethren Church and the new Interim Executive Director of Open Gate Ministries. My wife Julie and I have two wonderful children, Elijah - 9 and Zoie -7. We have lived in this community for five years and each of us have been involved in the ministry of Open Gate in some capacity since the very first week that we arrived in Dinuba. From filling food bags to teaching Bible study classes to serving on the board of directors, we have fully enjoyed serving the people of this community who are in need.

I understand that you may not be reading this during a morning hour, however, it is a new day in the life of Open Gate Ministries. There is excitement and energy in the air. We are looking forward to seeing how God will bless this ministry in the upcoming months, and we look forward to seeing how the Lord will draw us closer together as we minister to the people of the Alta District as well as the entire central valley. Open Gate is a unique ministry in that it is the only "family shelter" in the central valley.

As you will see throughout this newsletter there are several opportunities that we will be participating in that will generate funds for the ministry. This will only be accomplished with your help.

## From the Desk and Heart of our Operations Manager

Gloria Gaona



*Therefore thy gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day nor night.*

*Isaiah 60: 11 (a)*

With this scripture (which I learned from our founder Vivian Martzen,) I greet each of you in the name of our Lord .

We are excited at what the Lord is doing at Open Gate Ministries! The hand of God is so prevalent in all that is being done for His Glory! Whether it's opening our doors (gates) to a homeless family, handing out food to those who come our way, or helping those in need of clothes or shoes, it is all done to Glorify God. All of us who work at Open Gate are committed to being a servant to those less fortunate. Our goal is that those we serve may see and know that Open Gate Ministries is a lighthouse in the midst of a troubled world, a world that so desperately needs Jesus. Day after day we see and hear from persons needing help, and we are glad to be here.

We recently had a wonderful elderly lady that came

our way. This resident came from the LA area, wanting to get away from the fast life and family problems. All shelters in LA were full, but she really wanted to get away and find some peace and serenity. She found our name in the shelter directory and called us.

I will admit that, at first when I screened her, I was hesitant. She would be driving a long way just to relocate, she was elderly and disabled. But she had nowhere to go and felt the Lord leading her to Dinuba. When she arrived our hearts and spirit bonded right away. What a blessing and encouragement she was. She was thankful in all that she received from Open Gate, she gave rides to residents, she did extra chores, and she had a wonderful way with all the children at Open Gate -- and all with a smile. Yes, my friends, the GATE must remain open, Open Gate must remain open!

God opened doors for this precious woman to find an apartment, a local church blessed her with some furniture and household items, and she received other blessings along the way. I am so happy that we were here to help her find a new beginning in her later and difficult years of her life.

To you, our friends who read this article and help with your contributions and prayers, THANK YOU. Continue to do what you can to help us keep the GATE open.

In His Love,

Gloria

## Annual Mother's Day Salad Bar Luncheon held on May 11

Under the leadership of Chairman Marian Clifton, the Second Annual Mother's Day Salad Bar Luncheon was held at the Dinuba First Methodist Church. Many people donated their time, talents, and special salad recipes for the event. This is only the sec-

ond year for this luncheon, but already it is an anticipated event for many. The Third Annual Luncheon is already in the planning stages for next year. Thank you to Marian and all of those involved in putting on this fundraiser for Open Gate.



Again this year, Pro-Youth of Dinuba partnered with Open Gate Ministries and allowed us to work in their fireworks booth in front of Wal-Mart for a share of the profits. Many hours were spent by volunteers in the 100+ temperatures. Our sincere thanks to Pro-Youth, the many volunteers, and to Pastor Jason for heading up this fundraiser.

## TESTIMONIES FROM A RESIDENT AND AN EMPLOYEE

### My testimony

1 Timothy 4:8	My time here has been extremely profitable for me.
1 Timothy 4:8	Physically, because of my daily chores, I am stronger in my body.
1 Timothy 4:8	Spiritually, my faith in my Lord Jesus the Son of God, my heavenly Father, and the Holy Spirit has deepened because of the prayers prayed in this place, and the prayers answered, and the Bible studies, and mandatory classes, as well as my own prayer life, Amen.
Titus 3:8	Financially, because of agreeing to (and being obedient to) save seventy-five percent of my income toward future housing needs, I have enough for my own apartment. Thanks be to God who always causes us to triumph in Christ Jesus!
2 Chronicles 31:21	Thank you, Open Gate, with all of my heart. <i>Sincerely,</i> <i>Lorraine</i>
Psalms 1:3	Thank you, Lord, for leading me here. Amen. Jesus is Lord!!!!

### My Testimony

#### From OGM employee Imelda Baldazo

I grew up in Mexico between the ages of 5 and 17, and I attended church since the age of 6. Then we moved. I was taking a nursing career, but lost it. The first 3 years in California I spent in learning the English language and working.

I could not attend High School in California because I was too old, but in 1993, after a brief review of the history of the United States of America, I took and passed the test and received my G.E.D. Soon after, I took a Business Administration course at San Joaquin Valley College, graduating in 1996 with a certificate and a grade of 3.89. However, I could only find employment as a customer associate at a Circle K store where I worked for close to 10 years.

In 1994, I broke a bone in my right leg and had to wear a cast for 5 months; I attempted to go back to work immediately after removing it, but my leg hurt too much when standing for long periods of time. As a consequence, my hours at work were drastically reduced, and that was when I was introduced to Open Gate Ministries. Working here opened my eyes to a whole new understanding

of how our experiences can be used in a ministry.

My family and I had stayed at a shelter before. When we first arrived in California, we slept on a front porch for months, and we'd spend the day in a public park. A social worker made us go to a shelter in Sanger, CA. I remember thinking I'd much rather be at the park; I thought of a shelter as an orphanage, but, as it turned out, the nice people that welcomed us there were to become my pastors after over 3 years of not being able to attend church.

Now here at Open Gate Ministries, I can relate to some of the resident's feelings, especially the young ones, because I've already felt what they are feeling now. By sharing my testimony with them, they can see that they are not alone, that the God I serve cares for them as He cares for me. Everything is in His control, He knows it all, sees it all, knows our pain and fears, and, most wonderfully of all, He knows us by name, and He just waits for us to turn to Him, to make Him the master of our lives, accept Him as our faithful companion. I pray that they can see and know that Jesus, our Lord, God and Savior, our creator, completes us and, when we walk with Him, everything will be all right.

## Have you been blessed?

On Christmas Eve, a long-time faithful family, very supportive of Open Gate over the years, gave our Executive Director a check for OVER TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS. They asked to remain anonymous, but we privately praise God for them, and thank Him that he has blessed them enough so that they are able to share their bounty with Open Gate. This wonderful gift will certainly help to reduce our deficit spending for this fiscal year.

All of us in this great nation Under God have been blessed. Some have received more financial blessings and are able to thank the Lord by forwarding some of their financial blessings back to His work through Open Gate Ministries.

The current national economy has impacted all of us, and we at Open Gate Ministries have kept our doors open by borrowing into our small savings account. Obviously, this cannot continue indefinitely. If the Lord has blessed you financially and you are able to share more of your bounty with us, we will be able to remain open longer and continue to serve His homeless and His hungry.

Have you been blessed?

By now, you're probably wondering how you can help to support the work of Open Gate Ministries?

Well, there are several options for you:

- ▶ Drop off a donation in person, and check out our facilities.
- ▶ Mail a donation to 511 North "K" Street in Dinuba, California 93618.
- ▶ Click on the "Donate" button on our website: <http://www.opengate-ministries.org>
- ▶ Use your Paypal account and donate to [donations@opengate-ministries.org](mailto:donations@opengate-ministries.org).
- ▶ Donate through <http://www.missionfish.org>
- ▶ Donate through <http://www.ebay.com>
- ▶ Give to your church, and designate it for Open Gate.
- ▶ Give to United Way, but, again, designate it for Open Gate.
- ▶ Talk to your payroll department at work about setting up a payroll deduction.

*Nothing given to Christ is wasted.*



# Open Gate Ministries Newsletter

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July, 2011

**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)**

The mission of Open Gate Ministries is to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of persons according to the life and teachings of Jesus Christ through the provision of shelter, sustenance and companionship.

Open Gate is a Christian organization, but it is interdenominational. Among our regular donors are twenty local Christian congregations of various denominations. The ten members of our Board of Directors are affiliated with seven different congregations. We serve everyone, without regard to their race, creed, age, sex, or religious affiliation.

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

## What's On The Inside?

1. Opportunities to Celebrate, Participate, and Donate
2. Meet our Interim Executive Director
3. Praise God with us as you read the Testimonies

**Welcome,  
Jason,  
To Our Team**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Ministries



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Dinuba, California 93618-1933

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