



## Preparing the Way

As I have decided what photos to highlight in this newsletter, it has been hard to choose- because there were so many good ones in the past 45 days! It could have been the picture from just 2 nights ago in Bishop, CA with their first ever YL banquet. Or it might have been the "kidnap club" in Delhi. Why not have a picture of the Merced & Atwater board meeting we just had? Too many options!

Maybe those photo choices are a good analogy for what my ministry life is like these days. There are so many good things happening- it has truthfully been hard to "keep up" with them all. Which is why your prayers are so important- for strength, encouragement, and discernment.

John 1: 19-27 has been meaningful to me this past month. I have repeated many times with John the Baptist- "I am not the Christ". This little phrase has reminded me that though I am called, trained & sent out to help YL grow in new communities, that the results are up to Him. I do have a role though. Like John, "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'make straight the way for the Lord'" (1:23). Now this I relate to. I have the privilege of making a path for God's work and word. By praying, meeting, initiating and training the body of Christ in towns in Central California & Eastern Sierra, we are making the way for YL to come to new towns that would never have it otherwise.

But I must not get my roles mixed up. The preparer is not the Christ. And as I am tempted to want to do everything, be everywhere & solve every potential issue in these fledgling ministries- it is good to know who I am & who I am not.

**Praises:** There are so many things to praise God for!

- 140 attendees at the first-ever YL Banquet in Bishop, CA. They raised \$13,000 toward their budget of \$25,000.
- Almost 200 attendees at the first-ever banquet in Sanger, CA. (see top center photo of the leader team)
- 5 New leaders in Bishop & Mammoth.
- An incredible Jumpstart in Merced, CA. Had 32 meetings with over 130 individuals. 21 showed up to the first start-up board meeting. (see photo on top right- the Merced Jumpstart team)
- Hiring a staff person in Orosi, CA
- Kids meeting Christ in Delhi YL club.
- Making it through last year with full paychecks.
- Great marriage conference in Buena Vista, CO with Ericka (see photo of jeep ride on top)

**Prayer Requests:** And please pray for

- Mammoth YL leaders as they prepare for their first club in mid-November.
- Eddie & Jen Davis as they interview for an internship in Eastern Sierra.
- Olivia Acuna- 1 month on YL staff in Orosi- for encouragement & energy for the steep learning curve.
- Cutler-Orosi jumpstart Oct. 28 & 29- for favor & local leadership to be raised up.
- Fundraising- for all areas: Merced County, Orosi, Sanger, Bishop, Mammoth & Delhi. Everyone is stretching themselves.
- Ericka- as she powers through mid-terms of her final year of undergraduate work.
- Wisdom- for me to know when to step in & help in new ministry- and when to let local leaders take care of it.

**Financial Report:** With our funding changes last year, we had to get creative in how to support my position. Amazingly, we ended not too far in the red. This year, though, will be more challenging. Currently we can only account for 75% of what we will need for my budget. As of now, I am taking a 15% pay cut for as many months as necessary. If new funds are not found, there will likely be some drastic cuts in pay to make it through the year. Please pray for funding opportunities for my budget & the overall regional account. Pray for \$30,000.

**Travel Schedule:** Please pray for the following travel dates

- Oct. 28 & 29- Cutler-Orosi Jumpstart
- Nov. 3-5: San Diego "Small Towns" meeting
- Nov. 17 & 18: Regional Staff Retreat
- Nov. 30-Dec. 4: Eastern Sierra Visit
- Jan. 11-15: Eastern Sierra Visit

Thank you for your prayers & support!

In Him,

Mark Statema  
5057 E. Washington Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93727  
559-259-4216  
[markstatema@gmail.com](mailto:markstatema@gmail.com)

