

Small Group Bible Study Questions

- A) This past weekend, we had the pleasure of hosting our Local Missionary Partners, Long Beach Rescue Mission (Rev. Bill Thomas, Pastor/CEO), and Child Evangelism Fellowship (Claudia Arellanes, Missionary Director). Take a few minutes to re-cap, in your groups, the top impressions you have after hearing about these groups and their missions to reach people in the name of Jesus Christ.
- B) Both Bill and Claudia shared specific prayer requests with us to lift up to the Lord on the behalf of each of their respective organizations. Take some time with your group to pray for the Long Beach Rescue Mission (and Rev. Thomas) and Child Evangelism Fellowship (and Claudia Arellanes).
- C) One of the goals of our time with each of these local partners, is to mobilize our own congregation to get involved -- personally -- in the mission of each of these organizations. Discuss in your small group how your family, small group, or you individually can get involved in the ministry of our Local Missionary Partners.
- D) Of course, in the midst of speaking about missionaries and reaching the lost, we should not lose sight of who God is placing in the our own paths who need to hear about the Great News of Jesus Christ. Take some time in your group to share at least one name with your group who you would like to pray for that you sense God is calling on you to speak with about the Gospel. Sharing your faith can be scary stuff! Let's not depend on ourselves to make it happen, let's commit, in prayer, that God will make it happen and pray He will use us in the process. Make sure each of you note who you are praying for, and keep one another accountable to sharing the "next step" with your "one" in the weeks which are coming up in our Missions Conference!

Local Mission Partners

Long Beach Alliance Church • February 6th, 2005 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**“THEN THE RIGHTEOUS WILL ANSWER HIM,
‘LORD, WHEN DID WE SEE YOU HUNGRY,
AND FEED YOU, OR THIRSTY, AND GIVE YOU
SOMETHING TO DRINK? ‘AND WHEN DID WE
SEE YOU A STRANGER, AND INVITE YOU IN, OR
NAKED, AND CLOTHE YOU? ‘WHEN DID WE SEE
YOU SICK, OR IN PRISON, AND COME TO YOU?’**

**“THE KING WILL ANSWER AND SAY TO THEM,
‘TRULY I SAY TO YOU, TO THE EXTENT THAT YOU
DID IT TO ONE OF THESE BROTHERS OF MINE,
EVEN THE LEAST OF THEM, YOU DID IT TO ME.’**

~MATTHEW 25:37-40 (NASB)

**AND THEY WERE BRINGING CHILDREN TO HIM
SO THAT HE MIGHT TOUCH THEM; BUT THE
DISCIPLES REBUKED THEM. BUT WHEN JESUS
SAW THIS, HE WAS INDIGNANT AND SAID TO
THEM, “PERMIT THE CHILDREN TO COME TO
ME; DO NOT HINDER THEM; FOR THE KINGDOM
OF GOD BELONGS TO SUCH AS THESE. “TRULY
I SAY TO YOU, WHOEVER DOES NOT RECEIVE
THE KINGDOM OF GOD LIKE A CHILD WILL NOT
ENTER IT AT ALL.” AND HE TOOK THEM IN HIS
ARMS AND BEGAN BLESSING THEM,
LAYING HIS HANDS ON THEM.**

~MARK 10:13-16 (NASB)

Reverend William (Bill) Thomas
Pastor/CEO of Long Beach Rescue Mission

Reverend Bill Thomas was born and raised in Billings, Montana and is a fourth generation Montanan. His Montana forefathers were explorers, with a spirit for adventure which has been passed on to Bill. He graduated from Yellowstone Baptist Bible College with his BA in Christian Psychology. Bill met his wife Cindy at a Great America Christian evening, and they have been married for 24 years. The Thomas' have three children, Bethany (who works at the Mission as a receptionist), William (HS student @ Valley Christian), and Matthew (student @ Bethany Church School). Bill served in the US Navy as a helmsman on the USS Coral Sea during the 1st Gulf War.

Bill and Cindy have been working in Rescue Mission ministry for 23 years. Bill was ordained into Rescue Mission ministry in 1984. Bill served for 3 years at the Montana Rescue Mission in Billings, MT; 10 years at the Eureka Rescue Mission in Eureka, CA; and is serving in his 10th year as Pastor/CEO at Long Beach Rescue Mission.

What has God been doing at Long Beach Rescue Mission?

How can I get involved at LBRM?

What are the top prayer requests for LBRM I can be praying for?:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Claudia Arellanes
*Missionary Director, Greater Long Beach Chapter
Child Evangelism Fellowship*

Born in Germany, Claudia received Jesus Christ into her life as child. But it wasn't until the age of 16, when her mother was admitted to a hospital for an overdose on pills, that Claudia experienced attending church on a regular basis and her faith grew. After leaving home at 18 for Washington State, Claudia attended a Baptist church and had her first exposure to Child Evangelism Fellowship. Five years later, while in California, she drove past the Long Beach Chapter of CEF, inquired as to how she could get involved, and found her calling in life to work with an organization that reaches children with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Claudia has been actively involved with the Greater Long Beach Chapter of Child Evangelism Fellowship for 21 years. She is a graduate of the Children's Ministry Institute in Wattenton, Missouri (2001) which earned her a Master Teacher and Ministry Leadership Certificate, along with three Teacher Credentials. She is an experienced seminar and workshop trainer, and regularly reaches children in both public and private schools. She and her husband, Daniel, have been married for 23 years and are the proud parents of three daughters and six grandchildren.

What has God been doing at Child Evangelism Fellowship?

How can I get involved with CEF?

What are the top prayer requests for CEF I can be praying for?:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)