

1,014 PEOPLE RECEIVE JESUS AT ONE ALTAR CALL!



I knew something was happening when two hours before the WOW JAM even started there were over 1,000 people lining up for free tickets . . . and we had never been to Long Beach before! The previous day (on Monday) thousands came to Sepulveda Park in Panorama City for the WOW JAM, and 546 accepted Jesus that day! The largest group of interns ever (148) from around the country flew in, and the largest number of churches participated—36—in a monumental week of ministry.

We all sensed something in the air. I asked some of my staff and team of pastors to pray with me on the stage as the crowd grew to over 4,000 in a matter of one hour in one of the toughest areas of Long Beach. Pastor Paul and Pastor Bonnie Thiemens who have brought their church to work at WOW JAMS in Los Angeles for 7 years, were the Host Pastors for their City of Long Beach. We were all amazed as a sea of hands went up to receive Jesus. Behind the truck we fell on our knees and wept tears of thankfulness as the salvation cards that were counted came to 1,014! I felt in my heart that this was a new level that God was taking us to, and we would begin to see many nights with over 1,000 accepting Jesus at WOW JAMS.



That week 2,162 people received Jesus. One couple came to the Long Beach WOW JAM planning to score drugs and party. He was a gang member, covered in tattoos, who had just been released from jail. He had been hit by a car the previous week and was on crutches. His wife was on drugs and had been told she had only a few weeks to live because of cancer. They both got saved at Long Beach, and I prayed over them for their healing. They were homeless, and the church secured a place for them to stay.

On Saturday they got on the bus we provided and, along with 216 people from around the city, came to the beach baptism at Santa Monica Beach. They walked into the water for me to baptize them—he was on crutches. When they came up out of the water, he handed the crutches to one of my crew, Glenn Todd, and said, “*I don’t need these anymore; I’m healed.*” He then walked out of the water by himself. His wife got even more excited when she noticed that all the burn marks made by using the crutches (which had been there a few minutes before) were gone! Praise God! 216 people were baptized that day. Please go to the website for many pictures and testimonies from that week.

Why did thousands give their heart to Jesus that week in the poorest and toughest part of town? Did we argue with them, put them down, and tell them how sinful they were? The Bible says in Romans 2:4 that God's kindness leads to repentance. It was the kindness of over 500 wonderful Christians, just like you, showing God's goodness that week by serving 12,380 meals, 278 bikes repaired, 6,378 plants given away, 535 family photos taken, 374 hair cuts, 803 faces painted, 1,900 snow cones, 460 nails done, 178 makeovers, 427 Kids Corner photos, 1,200 food boxes given, 1,200 Fiesta Corn, 277 kids crafts, 170 auditions, and even 2 wheelchairs repaired! All of this helped to lead people to repentance and salvation. I want to say THANK YOU to each of you who came out and volunteered your time for the sake of so many others. It is simply NOT possible to do this without your partnership. The interns were absolutely amazing!

The WOW JAM L.A. week cost \$200,000—all of it came in—praise God! It was worth every penny! When you receive this, we will be in Charlotte doing four WOW JAMS; then, in September, we are headed back to New Orleans for two WOW JAMS. I'm so impacted by the

people there—they need much kindness. Since we have been going to the Gulf, we have seen 4,975 people accept Jesus!

Please, dear friend, I need your help. The WOW JAMS in New Orleans in September will cost \$70,000. The local churches are raising \$30,000; that leaves \$40,000 for us to raise. Will you partner with us? Your support will help to bring God's kindness—that will lead to repentance—into a city that has seen the murder rate triple and severe depression and debilitating hopelessness increase. Children are committing suicide at an alarming rate, but I have great hope for that city.

Consider coming with us to New Orleans! We'd love to have you minister with us for an intimate mission week with Linda and me and the whole WOW crew. The dates are: September 27-30. The cost is \$500 per person (excluding airfare). This covers all onsite expenses; we'll make all of the arrangements for your stay during that ministry time. *You'll love New Orleans!*

God bless you, and thank you for your kindness this month.

Stephen and Linda Varan



Couple saved at Long Beach use crutches to walk into water to be baptized.



No longer needed, these crutches are now on the WOW truck!



The crowd was enormous in Long Beach!



Stephen and Linda sing with great joy at the WOW JAM



WOW interns bring in children to be baptized. Hundreds line up in the back next to poles set up in sand.