



## Just Be There

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Every once in a while God provides us with the encouragement of a note or phone call from a youth we ministered to at the Community Center in East Los Angeles who is now an adult. I would like to share a note I got this year for Mother's Day.

*"Hi Sheryl, this is Susan from the Community Center on 2<sup>nd</sup> St. I've been thinking about what a blessing it was to have you and John in my life and the great impact the Community Center had in my life, both spiritually and personally. Your ministry really does change lives. You know that I still remember Bible verses I learned with you and songs that I now sing to my kids, and of course, "Life is full of choices and the choices I make today determine my qualities." What a valuable life lesson! May you have a wonderful and blessed Mother's Day."*

As I read this note I began to cry. Why? Because during those years (1986-2001) the challenge I had to deal with was wondering if anything John and I were doing was making an impact.

Working with at-risk youth and their families, day in and day out, was one of the most wonderful and agonizing experiences of my life. The joy of seeing one accept Jesus into his or her life, and later that same week hearing that "one of our kids" was killed by a gang member.

I remember crying on the way home and asking God what He wanted me to do with the kids and then hearing His simple answer, "Drip My Word on their hearts and just be there". It did not feel like it was enough.

Most of the people in our community lived in a constant state of fear. We heard their stories about sitting outside their apartment waiting for Mom to come home. Not having anything to eat. Being afraid to walk to the store or school because a gang might jump them and the hardest was hearing the stories of abuse at home.

Most years there was over 1000 different youth attending the ministry. Feeling over-whelmed, under staffed, in over our heads, God continually encouraged us to "drip My Word on their hearts and just be there."

This note from Susan was a gift from the Lord. I pass it on to you to remind us both that we might not see spiritual or physical proof that we are making a difference until years down the road. It is OK!! Our job is to keep "dripping God's Word and being there" because someday you may receive a letter from one of "your kids".

Thank you for always "being there" for us with your prayers and support.

In His Grip,

Sheryl  
for John and Sheryl Emra

### ANSWERED PRAYER

Praise God for the connections here in California and especially in the Los Angeles area. Our desire it to help those who minister to or work with kids – wherever they may be!

### PRAYER REQUESTS

John and Sally Childress will be leaving next week to drive "cross country" before leaving for England from the East Coast. Pray that the remainder of their support will come in.



On July 14<sup>th</sup> John will be filming "The Power of Positive Discipline". It will be used as part of the new Teen Training used by CRU (formerly Campus Crusade for Christ).

This training will be used to help Churches work with youth all across America and around the World.

LIFOC will also have the ability to use it on our web site as a separate training component or as a teaser to interest people in hosting or attending a seminar.