



A safe place to grow in turning
our lives 180 degrees
from ourselves to Christ and others

Website <https://www.live180.org> Facebook www.facebook.com/Live180PS

January 2025

WHAT'S IN THIS EDITION?

A Look Back at Some of The Lives God Has Touched Through Live 180

Andrea – Growing in Empathy


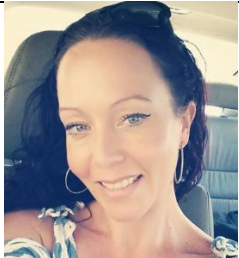

David – Reflections on Life & Ministry

2024 Financial Summary




How to Pray for Us





What We Believe

Contact Information

LIVE 180	A Look Back At Some Of The People That Jesus Has Helped To Live Their Lives 180 Degrees
	<p>Sharmila's life slowly changed from addiction and low self-worth to freedom from addiction, marriage, motherhood and moving closer to Jesus as she goes. She now lives in Florida</p>
	<p>Kerri came to us out of a very bad marriage and was self medicating. She deepened her relationship with Christ in our midst and began to have real joy which led to marriage with Johnathan, also in our group, and then to a new baby. Not long after she had a seizure and went on to be with Jesus!</p>
	<p>Daniel was very addicted and had very little peace in his life. Live 180 helped him to have a relationship with Jesus for the first time and have real peace even though his struggle with addiction has lessened, it still pursues him.</p>

	<p>David was an atheist before inviting his partner Kurt to come to the Live 180 Bible study. In time David was baptized and put his trust in Jesus. He still struggled with addictions that eventually took his life. Jesus is glad to have him!</p>
	<p>Kurt, David's partner, believed in Jesus when he came to us, but his relationship with Him became much more deep and personal over the years. Because of his past addictions his body was in poor shape and ultimately God took him home.</p>
	<p>David came to Christ and we helped him to transition from a life on the streets and addiction to a stable home and work in the recovery industry. He no longer sees himself as gay, but as a Christian man.</p>
	<p>Joseph joined us as an expert on Quitting Crystal Meth. He had written a book with that title. He had been on every spiritual quest you can imagine. In time, Jesus became the center of everything for him. He loved our meetings and was the one who coined the phrase "no labels just love" to describe us. Jesus took him home after a long battle with respiratory issues related to HIV and drugs.</p>
	<p>We helped Kenny off of the streets and into a sober life and continue to help provide resources so he can live in a stable environment and not return to homelessness. He loves Jesus deeply.</p>
	<p>Alex came to us through our contact with one of the local rehabs. He was adopted from the former Soviet Union into a Christian family in the US that had great amount of anger and hatred toward Christians and the church. He was overwhelmed by the love and the presence of God in our group, but could never get beyond his anger and his addictions. His addictions took his life.</p>

	<p>Lynnette and her mom Patricia. Patricia regularly attends our group and in time Lynnette, who had been estranged from Patricia for years living on the streets and addicted, also came to Christ fully and God restored their relationship. In my 40 years of pastoral ministry, I've never met someone like Patricia that has had so much healing personally, but even more so in her family, which is pretty large!</p>
	<p>I first met Larry at Our Savior's Church. He grew up in his grandmother's bar and wandered into the gay lifestyle with reckless abandon in Hollywood. He came to Christ later in life and just loved Live 180 because he wanted so desperately to help others not wander into the lengthy and debasing lifestyle that he had lived. He was an avid financial and prayer supporter until his death.</p>
	<p>Fred joined us late in life when he was very uneasy and upset most of the time. He found true peace and purpose in Jesus and our group. He is now enjoying Heaven's true rest and peace.</p>
	<p>We helped Tito with temporary housing when his apartment building burned. Now he is back in permanent housing and remains clean and sober helping others in the recovery.</p>
	<p>Billy came to Christ and we helped him with finances and daily life management, so he could age in place and not go homeless. Now he is in his heavenly home!</p>
	<p>We have helped transport people from their sober living homes to our group meetings, as they are just starting their journeys out of addiction.</p>

	<p>Jeffrey spent a lifetime in a false identity and a wild lifestyle that did not make him happy. He now says it was all a lie and that having his true identity in Jesus as a child of God has brought him true peace.</p>
	<p>Jack helped at Our Savior's for years and attended Live 180, but could never free himself of his addictions. He trusted Jesus, but lost his battle and is now in Heaven.</p>
	<p>Jorge is free from the bondage of a destructive lifestyle and has had many miraculous events in his life and enjoys his connection to our Live 180 community.</p>
	<p>Ray Ray came out of the Balitmore drug world and now works with me in reaching out to the recovery community.</p>

You may have noticed that close to half of these people have gone on to be with Jesus. It has been interesting to see how God brings people into our midst for real healing and hope, seemingly just to prepare them to go to glory. God's ways are above our ways.

If you would like to know any more about any of the people above, you can go to our website and read their full testimonies in the past newsletters.

Previous testimonies can be seen on our [website's newsletter tab](#).

Andrea - Growing in Empathy

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (English Standard Version)

My empathy level has grown dramatically this year. I started my year by closing my publishing business and unpublishing my book on Amazon. Yes, it felt like a failure, but mostly, it was a great relief not to have all the paperwork associated with running a business hanging over my head. I planned to update my book with some new content to make it more user-friendly and then republish it with a new title. Nothing went according to the plan. Instead, I got a horrible case of writer's block, which exposed my ongoing battle with the fear of success, which made the writer's block worse. Well, you can see the spiral.

On the other hand, I've finished a host of projects around the house that have been hanging over my head for several years. Procrastination can be productive!

So, how did this cause empathy to grow in my life? We work with people who have great intentions to change and accomplish great things. I watch some of them procrastinate, often still accomplishing good things, but ultimately, they don't do what they set out to do. They can't make the changes that will improve their lives, which frustrated me.

By July, I was so frustrated with myself I was ready to give up writing and trying to make some big shifts in my life. I hear the following phrases a lot in our ministry. "I'll never be different" or "It's always going to be this way." I finally started to understand. I've always been able to push through and do whatever I wanted to do. The feeling of wanting to give up and just coast was new to me.

Fortunately, God is gracious, and we always get a second, third, fourth, and fifth chance. He gives us as many as we need. For me, one of those chances came in my doctor's office when she suggested upping my diabetes medication once again. My whole body cringed since I was already suffering from the classic side effects of the dosages I was already on, and now she wanted to add another drug that had even worse side effects. In desperation, I asked if she'd give me a referral to a nutritionist and give me three months to make some changes.

Since I rarely ask for help because I think I can do whatever I need to get done by sheer strength of will, this one question changed the trajectory of my life. In my weakness, I've had to ask for and receive a lot of help. Like joining the local senior center to learn line dancing and join others in walking aerobics. Like using an app with a coach to help me shift my eating habits. Like finding a counselor to help me stop self-sabotaging (the way I've coped with the fear of success). I also found someone to design the book covers for the series of seven books I want to write and publish in the next year and a half. I just couldn't get these things done on my own.

This brings me back to empathy. Now, I better understand how hard it is to make changes and stick to them. It's too easy to get in my own way. The strength and humility it takes to ask for help shocks me, and some days, I just don't have what it takes. Thankfully, with God and the people He's gathered around me, I can do all things, even when I don't think I can.

I don't regret any of my struggles this year because they have given me the incredible gift of understanding the people around me better. I've always loved the sentiment in Psalm 51, but 25 years ago, Brian Doerksen wrote a song called "Change Me On The Inside." Since then, that title has been the focus of many of my prayers, and this year has seen more

change than any other year. I slowly step out of my old thinking and actions. I'm meeting incredible people and doors are opening that I thought were closed, or never even knew existed. In my helplessness, my hope and purpose are being renewed.

In my empathy for you, I'm praying that God will give you strength in your weaknesses so that you, too, can be changed from the inside out and experience a whole new level of God's love, hope, and purpose for your life.

David – Reflections on Life & Ministry

These are my reflections on life and ministry looking back on 2024. In late 2022 my mother passed away. In late 2023 my younger brother took his own life. Since I became a Christian in 1980, I've spent the last 40 plus years praying for both of them and caring for them. In 2024 I realized how much my thoughts still went to thinking about them. Frankly, I've been a bit surprised at how much that has affected my thinking about what my role in life is now that they are gone. Of course, there is always ministry and other family members, but I must say that it has been more emotionally charging for me than I thought it was going to be. It is interesting how one evaluates their purpose and how when things change it can have a dramatic impact on how you think about the world. As humans, we only have so much space available in our brain to think about different things and when you've filled that space with something for the last 40 years, it just seems like a vacant room every time you go there.

Live 180 ministry has been a bit different in 2024 as well. You've probably noticed a reduction in the number of newsletters this year as we have seen lives being touched, but not to the extent of being able to share those stories in a newsletter article. In some ways it has felt like a lull in ministry and that has been frustrating. We also have a few people that we've been working with that are in very difficult circumstances and the help that we've been able to give seems to be slow and not bringing about real change.

It is my sincere hope that in 2025 we will see some new avenues of reaching people in our community, especially in the rehabs and sober living facilities here in Palm Springs.

It has also been a year in a holding pattern trying to deal with the mobile home from the estate of my neighbor across the street where Glenn is living. I've been to court four times and expect to do it again on February 20th, which will hopefully be the last court date, but I've said that almost every time this year. As soon as that comes to an end, I will be working on remodeling it so that Glenn can have his own apartment and Andrea's adopted sister, Nancy, will be able to live in the other part of the house.

Another milestone coming in 2025 is that I turn 65 in October, and officially go on Medicare. I never thought that I would make it to this age, but I am grateful to the Lord for His sustaining mercies that have brought great peace throughout the course of my life.

Though there have been struggles, I can say with confidence that "surely goodness and mercy has followed me all the days of my life!"

4 YEAR FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	2024	2023	2022	2021
Ministry Income	\$90,600	\$106,400	\$102,100	\$100,500
Benevolence Income *	\$22,000	\$24,500	\$11,600	\$3,500
# of Giving Partners	37	39	33	37
Expenses				
Pastor David, Ray Ray's Salaries/Taxes	\$56,900	\$66,100	\$56,700	\$50,500
Medical Insurance & Expenses	\$21,700	\$6,300	\$12,200	\$10,700
Expenses for auto, equipment, internet, materials, office, meetings, phone, software, training, website and misc...	\$18,400	\$27,800	\$32,200	\$31,600
Benevolence gifts to people in need	\$20,700	\$27,800	\$16,600	\$3,500
Total Expenses	\$117,700	\$128,000	\$117,700	\$96,300
Year End Operating Capital **	\$15,700	\$20,800	\$17,900	\$16,900
Year End Benevolence Fund Reserve	-\$2,100	-\$3,300	\$0	\$5,000

* Donations given specifically to help people in need

** We try to keep about 2 months expenses in Year End Operating Capital

View the Live 180 [website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#).

Online – If you want to join the whole meeting some Sunday on Zoom, just email me and [I will send you the link](#). Our recorded [Bible Studies are online](#) on our website, if you wish to listen or pass them on to others. We also have a [phone app to download](#) that gives you on-the-go access to the Bible Studies.

HOW TO PRAY FOR US

- **Praise God That** – He has touched so many lives through Live 180!
- **That** – We will have great clarity for the next areas of outreach in 2025.
- **That** – the people we work with, who are struggling deeply, will find freedom in 2025.
- **That** – God will lead Ray Ray in his next steps with his job and in life!
- **That** – the process of Probate for Glenn's home will continue to go smoothly and quickly.

WE EXIST BECAUSE WE BELIEVE

- God wants all of us to live 180 degrees, that is, turning our eyes off ourselves and fixing them on Jesus and others.
- There are a large number of people in Palm Springs and the Coachella Valley who are uneasy about walking through the doors of a traditional church.
- There are others who are looking for a place without labels and a lot of love to grow in their faith walk with Jesus.
- These people are longing for the following things:
 - a safe place to meet one-on-one and in groups to talk honestly about God.
 - a relationship with God.
 - a place to use their gifts to serve God and others.
- That Holy Spirit will lead each of us closer to Him and to His church.

OUR MAILING ADDRESS

Live 180 PO Box 5167 Palm Springs, CA 92263

Live 180 is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit. Donations are tax deductible. Checks can be made out to "Live 180." Online giving is available through our [website](#) and [phone app](#) as a one-time or ongoing gift.

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