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My Dear Friends and Family,

My new year started off with a bang! On January 26, I was involved in a car accident while making a left-hand turn. No one was injured in the accident, though the other party later claimed injury, perhaps for insurance purposes? My 17-year-old van was deemed by State Farm not worth fixing, so it was "totaled". I was not sure that, at 80, I should be driving, but California renewed my driver's license, so I felt the freedom to purchase a new vehicle. As long as I stick to daytime driving, I should be OK.

Another change is that we are closing our La Habra office. Frank Baldus, the current Area Director, operates out of his home and church, so maintaining the La Habra office was a needless personal expense. We are keeping the La Habra PO box open for the time being.

Personal ministry:

The gang problem that I mentioned in my last letter seems to have let up at Townsend Street for the time being. Graffiti has disappeared from the street, and people seem more relaxed. Our kids seem to be growing in the Lord. Frank was out with pneumonia for a month, so we were missed. The kids came back when we returned.

Matti and Aubrey were two 15-year-old girls who showed up at Seal Beach on our Friday afternoon meeting at the pier. I helped them solve our picture, which leads right to the Gospel. As it turned out, Aubrey was A Christian already and was involved in her church. Matti was Roman Catholic and was not sure of where she was spiritually, but she proved very open to the Gospel. Would you like to ask Jesus to be your savior right now?" I asked her. Without hesitation, she said, "Yes!" After I led her in prayer, I asked if she meant what she prayed, and I got an emphatic "Yes" in return! I gave her a New Testament and asked her if she would go with Aubrey to church, and again, an emphatic "Yes"!

Thanks so much for your prayers and support!

Russ Hodder

Prayer needs:

- Pray for continued strength to do ministry in my 80's.
- Pray for a new generation of faithful volunteers to replace the old ones who are passing off the scene.
- Pray for Frank Baldus as he takes the ministry in new directions.

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