

THE ILLINOIS GIDEON

Publication of the Illinois Association of The Gideons International

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Change of Address

Send all change of address notices to:
Wil Lowther, Illinois State Secretary,
1617 NE Glendale Ave, Peoria IL 61603,
or go to
The Gideons International website:
www.gideons.org.

January – February Issue

Deadline: December 15, 2003

Your Camp events or blessings should be shared as an encouragement to others in the state. Write up a report, then email or mail to Editor, Ted Self.

Include color photos, slides, 35 mm negatives, (or email digital (.jpg) files) to help draw interest.

Testimony Prompted by 2003 Distributions

Dear Brothers in Christ Jesus,

I received an e-mail tonight about the distribution of testaments in Colleges and was prompted to share some testimony with you in the prayer it will edify our Lord Jesus Christ. I became a Gideon approximately six months ago. As a recovering drug addict and an ex-convict, my life has been changed by the love of Christ.

I have been to Cook County Jail distributions. At the Jail, I walked into cells with testaments and asked the inmates, "How many of you like to fight?" Then told them, "You're on the wrong team! I spent most of my life on the wrong team. I know the pain of living without Jesus firsthand."

I am very busy running my own businesses today and try to go to distributions whenever possible. Since becoming a Gideon, I always have Bibles. I witness on sales calls and everywhere God opens a door for His love to change a life. I love to witness to the homeless, the addicted, the alcoholic, and the prostitute. I like to witness to the really lost and broken souls because I was once one of them.

Last week I was in San Francisco walking on Fisherman's Wharf and met Monty. He was on the side of the street begging for money. I always contribute, but first want to hear the story that comes with the lost. I gave Monty a Testament, took his picture holding it, and looked down. Monty did not need a story, for beside Monty was a skateboard. That is how Monty gets around. Monty has no legs. Nevertheless, Monty now has a Gideon Bible. Monty knows Jesus loves him.

I am happy to have found a ministry where I can be of service in the Gideons International. I am proud to be associated with other Godly men who desire to make a difference for eternity in the lives of others. Remember that we are to be Soul Saving Soldiers in the Army of Christ. It is war. Our Lord is looking for a few good men. We must increase our numbers, and work harder, smarter, and longer. There is a dying world out there so desperately in need of a Savior. God can take the worst of us, and then change us. What the enemy meant for evil, God could use it for good.

In Christ,

Mark R. Durham, Sr.