



A Christian Neighborhood Watch Ministry

PRESS RELEASE :
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GANG WATCHERS MEET WITH PORTERVILLE'S MAYOR

Gang Watchers, on this day, met with **Mayor Kelly West** of Porterville to discuss items relating to gang activities. Knowing that gangs are on the rise and how to deal with them, initially was the agenda ... until we all gathered and had Church.

Mrs. Williams, the mother of **Rachelle Williams** attended with her son John and told the group that her daughter was doing much better. She said that she is now at home and can stay at home for up to two weeks at a time before she needs to return to Stanford University Hospital for check ups.

Mrs. Williams continued by saying "... *this whole experience has been trying but at the same time, a blessing. Initially you question GOD and have moments of anger, but then you see the light at the end of the tunnel. What Satan meant for evil ... GOD is turning it around for good.*"

Rachelle, who was the victim of a drive by shooting in August 2005, will be attending the Christmas Ball at Porterville High School, with the help of her brother John, says Mrs. Williams. She's determined to go and we're determined to believe she will.

Mayor West, a life long Christian, was more interested in the stories that changed the lives of those who attended, including **Mr. and Mrs. Saucedo**. What started out as a meeting to create a new agenda for another program to address gangs and gang violence ended in prayer and praise.

"Talk about a real life story of Romeo and Juliet. This couple, says Mayor West, is the exact replica of that famous story of love where two people from two different sides of life get together and determine to stay together ... even unto death. And here's how it breaks down; one who's a Norteno (X4) and the other who's a Soreno (X3) ... fall in love, let JESUS CHRIST into their hearts, become born-again and are on their way to become better citizens. Now ... Hollywood couldn't write a better story."

Mrs. Saucedo, saved one year longer than her husband, shared a vision she had for the youth of Porterville. *"Before I was saved, I had thought that I would never have that kind of life. GOD really didn't care for me like HE did those other people. But one day it all became real, and every day since then GOD has been there for me. I continue to pray that one day GOD will let us have that old Porter Theatre and turn it into something good for the youth. When me and my husband pass by, we always pray that GOD will give us that building. There are a lot of young people who need help and I know a lot of us ex-gang members would be willing to help them ... if we had a place."*

Mr. Saucedo, as well, shared his faith in CHRIST and how one day he went to talked to his “Homies” about his new life and his concerns for them as well. *“I knew that I felt uncomfortable there with my old set, and Satan was trying to temp me, but I hung onto JESUS, and told them I wasn’t into that life any more. I left, explained Mr. Saucedo, went back home to my wife that night and today we are both happy and willing to serve the LORD. And today, meeting the Mayor and knowing he’s a Christian has really made me strong. I will make sure that our family prays for him every day.”*

Pastor Roman Hernandez, who was at this meeting as well, shared briefly his heart. *“GOD is getting us ready for something good. When you step forward and believe, GOD can use you. I joined Gang Watchers because I believe in the vision. I know that GOD put on Mr. Lucketta’s heart a desire to be used and that’s how Gang Watchers was formed.”*

For Gang Watchers, this is just the beginning. We believe that GOD wants the best for each and everyone ... including members of gangs.

Today’s meeting with the Mayor, is a start in the right direction. In time and with GOD’s help, we can all live together, and eventually ... believe together !

For more information on Gang Watchers go to www.gangwatchers.org