



February 1984

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## Victim Offender Reconciliation Program

### VORP News in Fresno County

January was an active month for Fresno County VORP. Our case referral load has again increased, our new volunteer, Gail Boldt has arrived, we completed a training session, and we have nearly completed plans for establishing ourselves as a separate non-profit corporation.

Our cases have continued to increase in number. The positive part of this is that there are more victims and offenders exposed to the VORP process offering healing and reconciliation. It also means that those making referrals to us believe that we are doing a credible job. As you will recall our numbers on referrals are 5 cases Feb. - May, 1983, 25 cases June - Oct., 1983, 24 cases November, 1983, 22 cases Dec., 1983, and 29 cases Jan., 1984. A new milestone in our development happened in January. One of those cases was an adult case. This was our first adult case. While we do not intend to develop this area rapidly, we do plan to accept some adult cases on a continuing basis. As you can see from the numbers referred, we have been busy and welcome Gail to our staff.

Gail Boldt comes to us from Iowa. She has just graduated from Trinity College in Dearfield, Illinois with a major in Psychology. She has made a commitment to serve two years with us through the Mennonite Voluntary Service Program. In this program she lives in a unit house with others who have made similar commitments. They live a simple lifestyle and therefore can offer their services to charitable or church organizations at a low cost. Gail is a very capable person and her help has made a difference already. I hope that all of you will have a chance to meet her.

In addition to her, we now have the help of an additional 12 volunteers. They participated in the training sessions that ran two evenings, four hours each evening. Some of them will be taking cases on their own immediately, and others will be working on their first cases in pairs. Since several informed us that they could not make it to this session but would like to attend one in the future, we have set the date for the next training session. Again, the training will consist of two four hour sessions. Both sessions will be offered twice so participants can choose which will be most convenient. Session #1 will be offered on March 12 and 15, and Session #2 will be offered on March 19 and 22. Enclosed is a registration form and further information. Please share this with others you think might be interested. Please encourage them to pre-register.

In the fall of 1982 Criminal Justice Alternatives, Inc. agreed to have us be a program under their umbrella, we also agreed that as soon as it seemed appropriate we would form a separate organization. It seems that that time has come. On February 16, 1984 we will be signing and filing our articles of incorporation. Along with incorporating we will be establishing a Board of Directors who will assume responsibility for the program. Next month I will introduce the new members. Two of the members of our advisory board will not be continuing due to other commitments. Both of them were very key persons in helping move VORP from the idea stage to a functioning program. Russell Templeton, Director of Christian Conciliation Services and Oscar Becker, Fresno County Probation Department; we thank you.

With an increase in cases, we are experiencing an increase in expenses. Your continued support is essential. If you are a member of a church, SS Class, or Service Organization that would be interested in considering contributing to VORP, please let me know. I would be very willing to make a presentation.

As you might recall, we had requested to borrow two desks and a file from a warehouse of stored items from discontinued programs. We had requested these items in the fall in anticipation of Gail coming. The day after she arrived, we had a call that we could pick up the items requested. We continue to marvel at the way things work out and continue to commit ourselves to seek to provide leadership that is consistent with the spirit of Christ.

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VORP Volunteer Training

VORP training consists of two 4 hour sessions. In order to make it possible for you to fit it into your busy schedule, each session will be offered twice. The dates are and the time is:

	Dates	Time
Session #1	March 12 or March 15	6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Session #2	March 19 or March 22	6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

If you are interested but not sure, please register and at the end of the training sessions you may decide. The location for the training sessions will be in the Fireside Room at the College Community Church, 2529 Willow Ave., Clovis (the VORP office is located at the church).

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Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
                    First                                    Middle                                    Last

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

First Session (please check preference) March 12 \_\_\_\_\_ or March 15 \_\_\_\_\_

Second Session (please check preference) March 19 \_\_\_\_\_ or March 22 \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your registration form to the VORP office as soon as possible.