

**Jesus Is The Key  
Ministries**



*Isaiah 61:1*

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# County Jail Chaplain Ed Welsh

**Matthew 25:36**

*I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'*

## ***Our GOD Is an Awesome GOD***



I have just finished the first week of my new job and I am in awe of what GOD is already doing!

I feel so blessed to be able to serve our LORD in this new ministry.

I already see where there are going to be many challenges ahead. Many things that I will have to learn and of course having to completely depend on the LORD to guide and direct me through it all.

It isn't hard to understand that a place like the L.A. County Jail is the enemies dominion . It is definitely a stronghold for spiritual warfare. I will need all the prayer support I can get, so please keep this ministry in your prayers.

The LORD has already allowed me to see fruit in just the first week.

While in the cell-pods counseling with the men on Tuesday I met a man named John. He had such a look of

despair, of hopelessness on his face.

I just had to spend extra time with him. It really touched me,

the pain I saw in that mans eyes.

I asked him if he felt hopeless and he said that he did. And I told him that our GOD is the GOD of hope, the GOD of new beginnings.

After praying with John and promising to bring him a

Bible the next day , I left him to go on to talk to many other men .

I just couldn't get the look in John's eyes out of my mind.

When I got home that night I told my wife Allison about everything that had happened that day. Especially all about John.

The next morning my wife and I prayed for John before I left for the Jail.

Well later that morning I saw John again but something was different about him. When he saw me coming up the stairs he waved and smiled. It was a weak smile but it was a smile none the less. And what was far more important to me was that look was gone from his eyes.

He told me he had done as I

had suggested and been praying. There really is power in prayer!!! The comfort John had received was written all over his face

John is probably going to prison. We talked about the consequences of our sins. And what he could do about it. John 1:9

I told him that the Bible tells us that GOD will not give us more than we can handle and as it says in Rom. 8:28 " All thing work together for good....."

Well the HOLY SPIRIT did HIS work because John asked Jesus to be his savior that morning and now no matter what the judge sentences him to John has already received his pardon from our LORD.

Please pray for John. That he will remain true to his new commitment where that will truly see him through what ever lies ahead for him.

## **The Russian's are coming**

On Tuesday November 14th and Wednesday the 15th ,there will be something very

unusual happening both here in Chino and in downtown Los Angeles. Two men, named Vitali Dmitrievich Vinogorov

and Vladimir Alexandrovich Shevnin, will be touring both the Chino Men's prisons and the Heman G. Stark Youth Author-

ity. Plus the Los Angles County Jail.

These two men are actually Colonel's in the Russian Ministry of Interior.

Colonel Viogorov is the Chief of Youth prison Camp.Colonel Shevnin is Chief of the Adult Penitentiary Department.

Eastern European Outreach is hosting these men on a tour of prisons around the country.

For a number of years now these men have been instrumental in letting E.E. O. into the prisons of Russia.

## The Russians are coming continued



And now they are over here to see our prison system . One of the things of interest for them is the religious services system .

There have been many different Prison Ministries over there sense the break up of the old Soviet Union . They have seen the fruit of the gospel message in their institution. They don't understand it, just know it is working.

My family has a heart for the Russian people. I have been there once, my wife Allison has been there twice and two of my girls, Jessikah and Jennifer have also been over

there.

Jessikah just came back from being over there for three months and hopes to go back for a long term mission the early part of this next year.

I wanted to go into the prisons when I was over there and it is my hope to someday yet do that. But for now I think my plate is more than full with the ministry the LORD has already given me.

I am more than satisfied for now to just have the privilege

of going on this tour with

them. Making the connection, for some possible chance to go over there sometime in the future .

Another extra benefit from this is that we had been trying to make inroads into sending

a prison ministry team into the Youth Authority at Heman G. Stark for a few years . Now with this chance to go in with them on Tuesday, it is my prayer that it will open the needed doors.

## Bringing Living Water to the Desert

Come next weekend we will be having our second yard concert at Chuckawalla State Prison near Blythe .

The first time was in June and we did two yards then.

This time it is for their minimum . A kind of Thanksgiving themed outreach to "F" Yard.

The worship teams will be Our own worship team from church, Scarlet Hope and another group called The Good News Band. It all the same groups we had in June .

But the real show stoppers are going to be Pat Wood and Don Fagan. We were in a very serious car accident last month on our way out to Chuckawalla's next door neighbor Ironwood State Prison . They were both in Intensive Care and all the men out there know about it.

You should see all the cards , letters and banners those guys sent Pat and Don. They will steal the show for sure.

The administration is completely behind it. They saw the results of our first

time out there .

God's Word dose not come back void!

There were some hardcore convicts who gave their heart to the LORD back in June and to the amazement of prison officials these men's live have changed. They are attending Bible studies and going to church. Guys who were up to nothing but no good just a few short months ago.

Its that changing power of GOD and what HIS word does in all our lives. It doesn't matter which side of the fence you are on.

Between the two prisons there are nearly 10,000 men. Five yards to each prison.

We go out there every third Saturday of the month with 15 to 20 volunteers that go to

C.C.C.H. We have Bible studies on five yards in the morning , break for a potluck lunch & fellowship and then go in and do the other five yards in the after noon. It really is a blessing. Just like any ministry you often get

far more back than you give.

If anyone who reads this is interested, the prison Chaplain just loves what we are doing and wants to come twice a month. That is a lot of travel for the same group of people to do. But if we were to get a second team built up where we could go out there with different teams so much more could be done! Come look me up and ask me about it or better yet ask some of the others that are in the ministry and ask them what they think about it.

These men are hungry for the word of GOD, they want to change their lives. *When you get so far down the only way to look is up.*

If nothing else when the third Saturday of the month come around and it comes to mind. Please pray for the teams that are there.

***“There were some hardcore convicts who gave their heart to the LORD “***



## Christmas Cheer for Teens in Trouble

On December 17th. C.C.C.H. along with Calvary's Downey, SouthBay and Montebello, will be going to Fred C. Nelles Youth Authority in Whittier, well not the whole church, 30 of us will be going.

We will be bringing enough Colonel Sanders chicken and Marie Calendar pies for 1,200 teen age boys!

They will be getting an early Christmas dinner and a chapel service.

C.C.C.H. will be going to two of the living units that house about 75 youths in each unit.

Pastor Joey Roper, the Jr. High youth pastor will be teaching in one of the units, Cameron Pourhassanian, who teaches in the 18 to 25 Ministry will be teaching in the other unit.

There are many from the 18 to 25 group that have signed up, along with some from the prison ministry. That should give it the right kind of balance.

Our youth can be salt and light in a very rotten and dark place.

We even have a few signed up from the Law Enforcement ministry for good measure!

God really does have a sense of humor. Just a few years ago, there is no way I would have believed that I would call any law enforcement officer a friend. Now I have many that I don't even know, praying for me!

Pray for the chapel service and for the dinner. Pray that some of these guys get turned around now. So that we don't have to go see them in the prisons later when they graduate to bigger and worse things.



*“My question is, of the Many potential saved souls in prison, what number would it take for you to feel it was a worthy calling?”*

## Why Should We Go

For starters because Jesus said we should. Matthew 25:36.

But on a more personal level, over 2,000,000 people are incarcerated in the U.S.A.— more than any other nation on earth!

85% of these prisoners will be released. Research shows that within five years 75% of the released inmates will commit another crime. However, only 14% of the released inmates will commit another crime if they have studied the Word of God while they were incarcerated.

You have to ask yourself what kind of person would you want to see getting back out? Remember most are going to get back out.

I would like to give you an example out of a conversation Abraham had with God over destroying Sodom and Gomorrah:

Gen 18:23-24  
*And Abraham came near and said, “Would you also destroy the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it?”*

My question is, of the many potential saved souls in prison, what number would it take for you to feel it was a worthy calling?

For myself I know that I am not worthy of anything but judgment and yet Jesus shed His blood so that I might have life. It is the message that has to be given in the prisons and jails of this country.

Our verse for the prison ministry that we chose is

Isaiah 61:1  
*The Spirit of the Lord God*

*is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;*

Whether its in the prison ministry or in my job as chaplain, its my heart to proclaim liberty to the captives. Then let Jesus be the key that sets them free.

If it is your heart, come join us as a volunteer, a prayer partner or financial supporter.



Matt 9:37  
 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few."

### Having to tell someone of the death of a loved one

This has happened to me three times in just the first two weeks of working as a Chaplain.

I knew it would be a part of my job. But knowing it was coming still doesn't help you know how to deal with it. I am learning fast it is just one of the many things I am having to give to God and let Him be in control.

The first time, was to console a man who was just told in a visit that his brother had been killed in a head on car crash

He was still sitting at the now empty window in the visiting area where he had just been given the news by his grandmother. Looking out the empty window, talking more to himself than anything, he kept saying over and over,

" I'll never see him again, he is gone."

Loosing someone you love suddenly, unexpectedly is very hard to deal with under normal circumstances. Add to it being locked up, where you can't even be with family and friends and just the uncaring , hostile environment of jail, makes everything about the experience so much more intense.

It brought me back to when I was fourteen years old, in Juvenal Hall and having them come tell me my mother had died from a car accident. Then at 21 while out at the LA County jail facility Wayside, a Chaplain called me out to tell me my father was dead. At least I could to some extent know what he

was feeling, I had been there myself.

While sitting there with this man, trying to convince him he could have, would have, the assurance that he would see his brother again. I had this overwhelming feeling of compassion come over me. I was feeling this mans pain, in part because I was remembering the pain in my own past, I wanted to help him, wanted him to be comforted. He sensed it too and I believe it helped to give him some peace. A peace beyond understanding.

As I walked back to my office I was so blessed when I realized that God has raised me up for this. All my past, He will now use for His kingdom and His glory.

Every day I am humbled

by what God is doing in the jail.  
I know it is none of me, He equips me, puts the words in my mouth, the scriptures to mind when needed and the compassion in my heart to love the unlovable.

I thank God for allowing me to do this ministry. I thank Him for a Pastor who is so mission minded and supportive. And I am very grateful for a church body that has come up along side this ministry, enabling me to do this job.

Thank you and may God bless you.

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: All Chaplains associated with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department jail system , work on a strictly volunteer basis. There is a  
: complete adherence to the separation of Church and State . So as a form of disclaimer, I wish to clearly state this newsletter in no  
: way represents the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. I work with the Sheriff's Department in the spirit of cooperation for the  
: purpose of serving the men and women incarcerated in the Los Angeles County Jail system . The county in no way compensates us  
: for what we do as Chaplains. My support comes solely from donations made to send me as a missionary to the incarcerated .  
: .....

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