



Isaiah 61:1

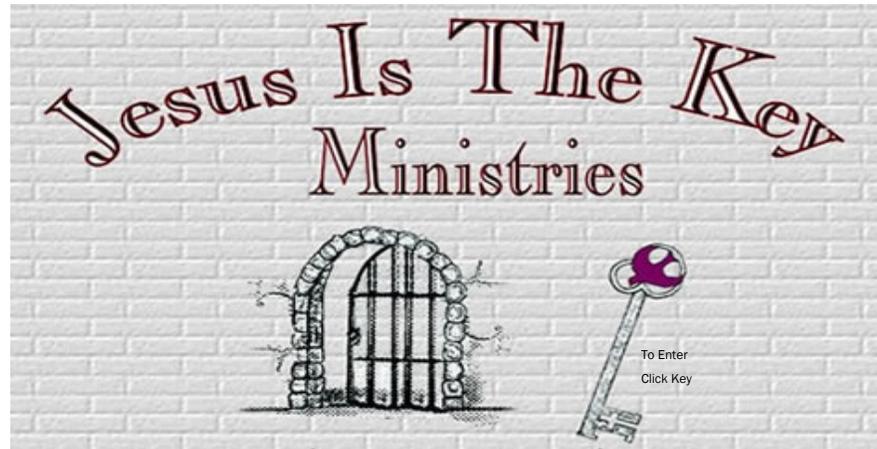
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*I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me;
I was in prison and you came to Me.*
Matthew 25:36



WE ARE NOW ON THE WEB AT WWW.PRISONKEY.ORG

It all started with Pastor John Kantorak a number of months ago. He suggested that I send the newsletter out by e-mail. I tried some experiments with cutting and pasting and just couldn't get it to work. I thought it just wasn't going to happen.

Then one night my wife and I went out to dinner with another couple from church. We were talking about his web site for his business. I made the statement that I would some day like to put a web page together for our prison ministry. Next thing I know he is saying he will donate the site for it and help me get started on putting it together.

Of course putting this site together is taking up a lot more time than I would have ever imagined. So everything else I am trying to do is impacted by it. Hence this newsletter is getting started much later than I should have. My school work and on down the line it goes. But I think it will be worth it in the long run.

It is expensive to do the newsletter and the mailings, plus the ones handed out at the church. But as Pastor John first suggested it will cut down a lot on the mailings. If I can get people to send me a e-mail giving me their e-mail addresses so that I can send out updated links each time a

newsletter comes out. I can be e-mailed at ed@prisonkey.org

People will be able to read them right on the web or they can download the pdf.file and print it out with Adobe reader. All past newsletters are posted up there as well.

There is one exception I would like to mention. While loading all the past newsletters on the page, I discovered that the first one I ever did is corrupted on the backup and only the first two pages could be read. So I am hoping that someone may sill have a copy somewhere that I may redo the last two pages. So anyone

out who may have the first Issue, please contact me.

It is my desire, first and foremost that this site will glorify God. And there are also some goals I have for it.....

As a chaplain, I have learned how hard it can be to find resources, Bibles, tracks, books and other materials. I hope that this site can become a place where Chaplains or anyone connected to jail / prison ministry can come and find the resources they need. For those just starting out in this ministry who may be discouraged, to find help and encouragement here.

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We are at www.prisonkey.org (continued from page one)

Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

Matt 9:37-38

Thanks to some different people at our church who know how to put together a web site, I've gotten this far but I hope as time goes on it will continue to

improve. If any of you have suggestions or comments on how to improve the site please let me know.

Eventually it will have a calendar of coming events, a guest book where people can leave their requests and concerns. I receive many calls through the church and through the mail where someone has a loved one or friend in custody. They are looking for advice, wanting me to go see them or just to find some encouragement. I see all of that as being an im-

portant part of this ministry. It is my prayer that being able to network through the site will be a tool to help even more people.

We have done a number of yard concerts and have four more planned for this year. The site will host some pictures taken in past concerts and ones yet to be done. We have had some awesome groups come out and be a part of the outreaches. I hope as word gets around there will be other groups who will want to be a part of it.

For those of you who are not on line and wish to be put on the mailing list please contact me with the needed information. For those of you who are on line and wish to get the e-mail notice each time a newsletter comes out, please send the e-mail address to me. And also mention you are on the mail list so that I can remove it, if you are starting the e-mail version

No matter what I am requesting your prayers as we embark on this new aspect of this ministry.

It is time for our yearly signups again

We are coming up on the time again where we sign up for the different prisons we go to. Over the next three weeks we will be taking signups out in front of the church after all three services. If you are not able to do it on the up coming Sundays, then stop by the church office and they will give you the paper work to complete. Either way please pray and consider if you are being called into this ministry.

As it stands right now we have about half the people need to cover what we are doing.

When we started seven years ago we started with a handful of people. Over the years the numbers have gone up and down but we have had as many as thirty-five people going

into the different places we go. That doesn't even take into account the many others that have been signed up for the special programs (concerts) we have done.

And there are some opportunities to expand to other prisons that would like us to go in but we don't want to do that until after we can cover the ones we are already committed to.

Right now we go into Chino Prisons four times a month.

- Second Saturday of the month at 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm
- Second Sunday of the month at 6:30 pm until 9:00 pm
- Third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm until 9:00 pm
- Third Sunday of the month at 1:00 pm until

3:00 pm

We go to Chuckawalla & Ironwood Prisons in Blythe twice a month. On the first and third Saturdays of each month.

Going to the Chino prisons could mean as little as two hours a month commitment and going to the Blythe prisons is much more involved.

When we go to Blythe, we leave at 5:00 am and don't get back to the church till 6:00 pm . It is a three hour drive each way and we break in the middle of the time at the prison to have a potluck style lunch. It gives us a lot of fellowship time and consequently the Blythe teams are a much closer group because of all the fellowship. I think if you talk to any of them they would tell you they have all developed some close

friends out of doing this ministry. I know I have.

I have been talking with one of the pastors from Costa Mesa for some time now and some of them may be coming in with our team. I am looking forward to working with them. And it has always been our desire to help other ministries . They are beginning a new jail / prison ministry so it should be a good thing for both groups.

What we are really in need of is people who can help us with worship! If you are willing God will bless.

I am reminded of a brother who a few years ago decided he would re-teach himself to play the guitar. He hadn't played since high school and now he leads worship on prison yard

Signups (Continued from page 2)

three times every month.

So many tell me that they are afraid to go into prison. I understand that and not all are meant to go in. But on the other hand, you will never really know unless you try. I have seen some people really grow in their walks since being in this ministry. Something I hear very often is how much the inmates bless them whenever they go.

You may feel that you have nothing to offer.

And that just isn't true. No matter what walk of life you come from, we are all the same in Christ. And sharing His love is what it is all about. We all have different gifts and if we let God be in control He will use any of us.

I am the perfect example of how God uses the foolish things to confound the wise.

I wanted to make sure and cover something that always comes up

at signup time. We do have women come in with our teams. They play a very essential roll in what we do in there. A Godly woman's

example goes a long way at being a very important testimony to these men. It is not an influence many have had much of in their life.

The men are the ones who do the teaching but women help in worship, opening us up in prayer, reading a verse or giving an encouragement of one kind or an-

other. Some of the most effective teams we have had are the married couples that are coming out with us.

That is the one restriction we have placed on it is that we want any woman who comes to come with her husband.

So please pray and see if the Lord is calling you into this ministry. And someday you too will be saying you were blessed because you came.

Updates on a few of the men

Many of you have been asking about Hannibal and Monster. I want to start this off by saying, all the prayers have been greatly appreciated! And I am here to say I have seen the prayers working, sometimes in very unexpected ways.

For instance, working with Hannibal as much as I have, has given me to have the opportunity to get to know some of the custody staff working with him in a much more personal way. I had one Deputy tell me that they have come to look at life in a much more spiritual way. And that when he goes home at night he takes the time now to appreciate life.

As for Hannibal, he was recently able to speak to his mother for the first time in over a decade. And we are working on getting

some funds raised to have her come here to see him. With the AIDS as far along as it is we have no idea how much longer he has and I want him to have this chance to see his mother so they can say their good-byes.

I have come to realize that I am in way over my head when it comes to his possession and although I have been given lots of advice, I've come to understand it is really not me but Jesus who will be the one to set him free. All I am trying to do is show him Christ in me, to build up a bond of trust between us where he knows that when I say I will do something for him, it means I will do it. Just a simple form of let your yes be yes and your no be no. He sometimes doesn't do very

well with the no's but it has helped to establish a credibility with him that seems to be working.

I do know that he does let me talk to him a lot more now about the Lord. There has been a lot of crying and emotion just no decision on his part. One thing for sure, he knows very well what spiritual attack is and that is why he is so afraid of making that kind of decision. Please continue to keep him in your prayers.

Now Monster is a different story, he is really coming around. I look forward to the time I get to spend with him. As of yet he has not asked Christ into his life but I believe he is just a step or two from it. He is reading everything I can get to him and is full of questions.

Recently he has agreed to do a interview with a Christian group that comes in. The group wants to do a video warning the youth not to make the same mistakes he has made. What blesses me most about it is his heart in this for he really wants to do it out of a deep conviction of his guilt and shame he feels over his crimes. He told me he knows it will never make up for what he has done but he hopes it will do some good keeping someone else from making the same kind of mistake.

We are waiting to hear if his lawyers will allow him to do this. If not, then maybe after his appeal is finished and before he goes back to prison?

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What I am hoping for is that this will be helpful in

Updates (continued from page 3)

him working through his issues that keep him from trusting in the Lord. If he works through his guilt, maybe he will finally understand that God does love him and will forgive even him if he would only ask.

I really mean it when I say, I appreciate when all of you are praying for these men in particular. And of course all of you that pray for me, thank you.

It is awesome to see God at work in all of these kinds of things. Everyday, I never know what to expect but one thing is sure that He will move in the lives of others.

I recently was out with our team to Ironwood Prison. During the service I noticed one of the men come in who look familiar but I see so many people I just never know for sure.

This guy was a very big man, tall enough where he really should have been playing for the Lakers or something like that.

He came over to where I was with a big grin on his face. Asking me if I remembered him. I was honest and told he did look familiar but that I didn't.

Well it turns out we had met back at the Twin Towers when I was first being trained as a Chaplain. He was a Buddhist back then and had only come to me for counseling because his wife had just filed for divorce, he was getting ready to go to trial and to him his whole life was falling apart around him.

After he reminded me of the circumstances I did remember him. I saw him

a number of times and he at some point did accept the Lord. But like so many others they leave the jail and you never hear what happens later.

Well obviously his trial didn't go as he would have liked. He went to prison. But he has learned:

"I will never leave you nor forsake you."
Heb 13:5

His wife did go on to divorce him, but.....

Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

Isaiah 41:10

He told me he is doing well, the court was lenient

and he will be out next year. His wife has stayed in contact with him and he said they are becoming good friends. As he put it, who know maybe after he gets back out and his wife sees for herself that he truly is a new man, maybe they will get remarried?

It is not only an encouragement to me to see the faith of these men grow, it also helps to increase my own faith. God truly is in the business of changing lives!

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