



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*

A very Long time coming

Every so often I would run into or hear from someone who would ask what happened to the newsletters. I never had a good excuse and would say I would get one started soon. I even started to write a few different times.

This past week I heard from someone once again and I knew I had to stop procrastinating and start writing. When I opened the template I use to write these newsletters, I was shocked to see it has been two years since I last wrote. I feel really bad that it has taken me so long!

To start this off I want to copy the e-mails that were sent back and forth that finally got me going. I think they will speak for themselves.

Hi Ed,

I was just curious if everything is okay with the ministry. I have not received a newsletter via e-mail or snail mail. I would love to know what is happening.

Kathy

Hi Kathy

Good to hear from you. Yes I know I have been more than lax when it comes to sending out a newsletter. It been so long I don't remember when I last wrote one. I could say that I have been just too busy to take the time and to some degree it would be true. But that's really not the main reason.

In some ways I started to feel that I had run out of new things to write about. More and more in my position as Senior Chaplain I find myself having to deal more with the politics of

the job and administrative aspects of the job than the actual ministry part of what I do. I tell myself that I have to do all the junk as part of the job, after all "someone has got to do it". But most of the time I don't like having to do it, would much rather just spend the time sharing with the prisoners.

That being said I feel very blessed because in spite of it all, God continues to provide in unexpected ways. During a time where I am seeing other churches and ministries failing and closing their doors. I truly have seen God's amazing grace!

That is another thing that made it harder and harder for me to write a newsletter, I got to feeling like more and more I was having to bring up funds, donations and the struggle with what these times have brought. I started to feel like I was begging for money and I don't deal well with that.

For nearly two years Allison was working at the jail with me as an LVN nurse. That was a blessing on a couple different levels because it helped with our finances and for the first time in a long while we were able to have medical insurance. But better than the security it help give, we were getting to do ministry together.

Well even that changed this past December, when she was basically forced to quit her job. She is still in school to get her RN in nursing and the county was making it very difficult for her. They wouldn't work with her schedule around her classes. As

budgets got cut the more petty things became.

Allison will graduate in June as an RN, hopefully by July or August she will find a job somewhere and her salary will double and we will start to get back on our feet. In the mean time God continues to provide our needs and we are doing OK.

Actually there is a lot going on with ministry. Recently the Lord told me I needed to go back to CCCH and I now call that my home church.

Tonight I will be going to the Women's prison to conduct a Good Friday service and for the first time they are letting me have a communion service in there.

Tomorrow I'm bringing into my jail a panel of people who deal with sexual sin. They are called XXX Church, a group of people from all over the country. One of the services will be to the sex offenders that are at our jail. This is a first and it was at the request of the Captain of the jail that we target that particular group. Its going to be very interesting to see how that goes!

On Sunday I get to do an Easter service at the Men's prison. We are also working on the largest prison concert we have ever done that will be on May 8th in the Women's prison (the day before Mother's Day) with more that 40 people coming in, seven

A very Long time coming (continued)

different worship teams, with four of them being different bands.

So yes there is still a lot going on and I know I should do better at letting the supporters know. I'm sorry, I really do appreciate how faithfully you have stood beside the ministry the way you have. You have been one of the most faithful of all! And I know that you have gone through your own trials during all of this, so it makes it all the more meaningful for me.

You are not the only one that has asked about the newsletters, all I can say is please pray for me and I hope I can find both the time and the inspiration to write another one sometime soon.

Take care and God Bless,
Ed

Hi Ed,

Thank you sooo much for the information. Wow, there is a lot going on and I think you just wrote your next newsletter. I want to encourage you to share with others what you shared with me about the money aspect and the writing of the newsletters. I truly believe that we all want to hear from your heart!!! And think about it, although you are having to deal with the politics of things perhaps you are ministering to someone in that capacity that you do not even realize. Perhaps someone in administration is watching how you handle all of the "admin" stuff.

I am blessed to know that God is providing for you and Allison and I pray that He continues to do so.

I too am attending CCCH, I go to 2nd service and I am going tonight.

May our Lord and Savior continue to lead you and Allison through all things.

Love You guys,
Kathy

Now this helps to set the stage for me to tell what has happened over this past weekend. I will attempt to do that within this next section.

Weekends work of the Lord

I had set it up ahead of time with the Chaplain at the women's prison to have communion for them. It would be perfect to have with the study I prepared for Good Friday service. I was really excited about doing it. Thursday night I had dreams about what the service was going to be like. I woke up at 4:30 in the morning on Friday and couldn't go back to sleep and I ended up rewriting everything. If you had asked me why I'm having this heightened emotions I wouldn't have been able to explain. In hindsight I think I was just sensing the Lord was about to do something awesome!

In the late afternoon I received a txt from one of the ladies who comes in with our group saying she wasn't going to be able to come in with us because she had become ill. I misunderstood her txt to say that neither of the volunteers were going to be able to come! Out of five volunteers I thought none were going to be able to come in. That would

mean I couldn't go in either, we would have to cancel altogether. I can't and shouldn't go in there by myself. I do it all the time in the men's prison but at the women's prison that wouldn't be appropriate.

I tried getting in touch with the last possible volunteer hoping she was still planning to come. All I could get was her voice mail. So when I drove out to the prison all I could do was give it to the Lord.

The next trial came when I got to the prison, when at main control I was told my gate clearance had expired! We already had three of our other volunteers clearances expire and now this. They said they would let me in this one time. It was about that time Pam showed up! Her clearance was up the following day so we were good to go!

After all of this what in the world did the Lord have in store for us? I didn't have to wait long to find out.

As Pam and I headed out into the prison, we were talking and at first I didn't notice the large group of women walking towards us. When I did I immediately knew something unusual was happening. When you are in prison you never group up in a large group. When that happens it generally means something bad.

When the group of women got closer to us I realized that in the front of the group was a woman named Paula who used to be part of our ministry years ago, she since established her own very successful ministry at CIW.

Paula informed me that they had, as sometimes happens, double booked the room where we supposed to have our evening service. She was going to go up to the Watch Commander's office and ask if we could conduct our service in the auditorium instead. So for the next 20 minutes or so we stood out in front of the auditorium waiting for Paula to get back from talking to the administrators. All the while the crowd of women continued

Weekends work of the Lord (continued)

to grow. The women were curious as to what was happening.

When Paula came back the news was not good, the Watch Commander had said we couldn't do it without prior approval. The women were ready to have us just do the service out in the middle of the yard on the grass. I doubt very much the staff would go for that either.

That was when God intervened on our behalf. The acting Captain came by, some of the prisoners talked with him. They went back up front and in the end the approval was given. When Paula walked back out giving a thumbs up sign I felt so very blessed. I knew God was in the middle of this whole thing. Paula being there at just the right time, the acting Captain coming by at just the right time, everything about it, Glory to God is all I can say! And of course I am so grateful to Paula too.

Like right out of Genesis 50:20 what the devil intended for evil, God used for His will to be done! It turned out amazing, far better than I could ever imagined. I guess because people were curious?

Instead of the 75 to 80 women that normally come to our Friday service, I thought there might be a few more because of it being Good Friday maybe a 100?.

As the auditorium started to fill, I thought to myself I don't think we had ever had this many in here during one of our concerts. At the concerts they would come and go as the day would pass. Some would stay all day and some would come and go. This was different. We had a well over 200 women show up? Maybe even more than that I really don't know. What I do know is as the women started to

sing their favorite worship songs, I realized why there had been so much spiritual warfare throughout the day leading up to what I watched unfold before my eyes!

All of a sudden it became clear to me why I had woke up so early in the morning to rewrite my study. He gave me just what I was to say. It really is all about Him!

When you speak in front of a crowd you see all these eyes looking at you and if you take notice you can read their expressions on their faces.

As I talked of the blood that was put on the doorpost in the Passover I explained it was a picture what the Lord would do to cover us with His blood on the cross. How the bread and the cup were to be taken in remembrance of Him. And many other things I don't remember right now, their eyes were all on me, yet who they were really looking to was unto the Lord. It truly was a holy moment.

Before communion there was a time of prayer and it seemed like all in the room were praying. I then asked then to break up into small intimate groups to pray and partake of the elements together.

As I looked around the room, there were many tears as well as many who were smiling. I was full of joy myself. I can't think of many other services I had been a part of that had ever got to me in that way. It was truly a blessing!

The next day was just as much a blessing in its own right. We had arranged for a ministry to come into Men's Central Jail to do two services on Saturday. The name of the group is XXX Church. A ministry

that deals with pornography and other sexual sin. I figured with all the things in the news ranging from Tiger Woods & Jessie James to the recent arrest of another predator in the murder of the girl from San Diego County. I thought it might touch a few people and maybe get just one to stop and consider.

This is what Wikipedia has to say to explain what XXX Church is:

XXXchurch.com is a non-profit Christian website that aims to help those who struggle with pornography. Its target is consumers and those in the adult entertainment industry.

The organization launched in January 2002 when the founders, Mike Foster and Craig Gross, set up a booth inside the AVN Adult Entertainment Expo in Las Vegas to promote the website as an alternative to porn, and it continues to attend porn conventions worldwide.

The organization describes itself as "the #1 Christian porn site designed to bring awareness, openness and accountability to those affected by pornography. We are an online community that tours the world speaking at colleges, churches and community centers.

XXXchurch.com exists to help those who are in over their heads with pornography, both consumers and those in the industry." It has received support from prominent Christian pastors such as Bill Hybels and Rob Bell, and has also been deemed controversial by other Christian leaders.

Craig Gross, one of the founders and the leaders of the XXXchurch as of 2008, is an international speaker¹ and author who has written *Questions You Can't Ask Your Mama About Sex*, *The Gutter*, *Dirty Little Secret* and *Starving Jesus*.

Weekends work of the Lord (continued)

We did two different services with XXX Church. One was with the general population inmates and the administration really cooperated letting out about 150 people for the program. Normally if we get half that many out for a service we count that as being good. There some good reasons why they don't like to have too many out at one time. Any time you get a large group out at one time there is a real potential for trouble.

I wasn't real sure how well the message they were bringing would be received but to my surprise we had their attention and good response when all was said and done.

Our second program for the day was the one that turned out to be the real surprise to me. When I had gone to the Captain to get his approval for the program, he had made a request that one of the services would be for the "288's" the sex offenders. They can only come out by themselves because if they were out with general population they would be in danger. There are many who would hurt them if given any chance. Just like the first service we got out somewhere around another 150 men, that was really amazing considering that these were 288's.

I was not prepared for the response that group had. I got up to speak to the group at the end of the service and as I looked out at the faces you could see the guilt and shame all over their faces. For the most part I have little sympathy for this particular group and the kinds of crimes they are in for. But as I looked out at their faces instead of the normal judgmental attitude, I was just struck at how lost and ashamed they were. I think for a moment I was shown a window into their bondage. There needs to be more done. I don't have the answer but I for the first time really got a glimpse of the great need.

I have spoken to Pastor Gross about starting some kind of continuing program within the jail to deal with this

issue and we are going to see what we can get worked out. Please pray for this that the Lord would reveal to us what it is that we can do.

The last of the three weekend outreaches I had e-mailed Kathy about was the Easter service at the Men's prison here in Chino. Unlike the other days this was not in front of large groups of people. This was being held at the Reception Center Central where about 1,400 medium / maximum custody level inmates are housed. It is where in 2005 Manuel Gonzales, a guard working there at RCC, was stabbed to death.

It took a long time before they would let any kind of ministry back into that facility after that tragedy. Now all these years later they will only let a dozen or so out at one time for services. They have to sign up ahead of time to come out for the Bible studies.

There was a good group of men who came out that morning and it being Easter gave me the best topic of all to share with the men. And to the best of my ability that is what I attempted to do was share that message of hope in the gospel. If nothing else I wanted to try to get across I wasn't talking about religion but instead a personal relationship with a living God, who wants to live in and through us.

As often happens at the end of the study it become a opportunity for a question and answer session that many times turns into the best part of the service. It opens me up to some

real challenges to come up with a good answer but usually God helps me out.

This day was no exception, when one of the men made a comment that he had never really bothered to read the Bible. He didn't see much need for that. After all he had always had a belief in God.

I quoted from the book of James 2:19 "You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe — and tremble!"

Most say they believe in God, many want to have a Savior but few will submit to a Lord. It easy to create our own kind of God when we write the rules, its where so many false beliefs came from.

That same man came up to me after the study was over and said he now understood the importance of reading the Bible and how he now intended to do just that. I knew then and there why I had been there with a handful of men rather than being able to be a part of services at my own church with my family.

I truly hope that man really meets his risen Lord within the pages of his Bible there in the solitude of his cell.

God's Word will never come back void!

Isaiah 55:11

The Legacy we leave behind

A year ago today I lost one of my closest and dearest friends. Some of you reading this who have been involved with this prison ministry from its early days, will recognize the name if you don't remember the man. His name was Danny Barabas and he was part of the very first prison concert we ever did.



Danny at our first prison outreach, sharing his testimony with the men at Chuckawalla State Prison.

Danny and I go back much farther than the beginnings of the prison ministry. Our friendship spans more than forty years. We first met in the California Youth Authority facility known back then as the Youth Training Center (YTS). Later it became Heman G. Stark Youth Correctional Facility. I have no idea what they are going to call it now that it just recently turned into an adult prison.

I served two separate terms at YTS and in my second term there Danny and I first became friends. We were "home boys"; both of us were "valley boys" meaning we were both from the San Fernando Valley. We had grown up on opposite ends of the valley, from different neighborhoods, and knew many of the same people but this was the first time we had ever met.

We formed what would turn out to be a lifelong friendship that took many twists and turns throughout the years. We traveled all over this

country together on the wrong side of the law. There was a time we lived together in Albuquerque, New Mexico thinking of ourselves as modern day outlaws. There were a number of transplanted home boys living in the area, all of us "on the run" from the law.

Throughout the years we both spent many of those years in and out of different prisons doing time. Danny split his time between the federal prisons and the state of California. Where for me, I have done all my time in California. We never did time together after our first meeting back in YTS. We kept missing each other within the system but always managed to stay in touch.

The last time I got out was just over thirty years ago now and it was not too long after that I got a letter from my long lost friend. He was now finishing off what would become his last term in prison at a California Men's Colony located in San Louis Obispo. I had once done time there too, some ten years earlier.

When Danny wrote he told me something that at first kind of surprised me. He informed me that he had become a Christian. For me, I didn't have much respect for Christians within the system. I thought the guys on the yard were weak and couldn't deal with the "politics of the yard" and were just hiding behind the Bible, using the status of being a Christian to do easier time and thinking it might get them out earlier.

Well now comes Danny, who I knew had all kinds of "heart", was nothing weak about him, so that meant I needed to rethink my attitude about Christians. And so I finally came to the conclusion that Danny was the exception and it was just the rest of those guys who were the weak ones. I laugh at that some thirty years later

because of the lesson I would later learn about all of that.

There was someone else also serving time where Danny was, it was a man by the name of Billy Clark. He was another old and dear friend of mine who I first met while we had been in San Quentin together. Billy was actually my "crime partner" on my last term in prison. The only reason Billy got out after me was he had a previous use of a gun that had given him and additional year on his sentence. It was because I had stayed in touch with Billy that had enabled me to reconnect again with Danny.

It didn't take Danny long at all and he was trying to witness to me about his faith. Now I had a lot of respect for Danny but I had to tell him I really wasn't into all that stuff and really didn't want to hear it. Well that didn't slow him down a bit on his witnessing, if anything he might have just gotten even a little more pushy about it as I remember now. You see both Danny and I had this hard headedness about us, we bumped heads many times throughout the years but the respect had always been there between us.

I had tried the God thing once before. I had asked Him into my life at a Billy Graham Crusade many years before. But at the age of fourteen, while I was in juvenile hall on charges, my mother was in a car accident and because He didn't answer my prayer and let her live, I didn't want anything to do with God for many years to come.

Not long after I was out of prison I started to get back into everything I said I wouldn't. Just like so many others, most actually just end up going back to what they know. It doesn't matter how many times you told yourself you weren't going back

The Legacy we leave behind (continued)

to jail again. Without a plan to do things differently than the past, the past will repeat itself.

Not long after I got out I started to think about and eventually start planning to go do another robbery. You know, just once to get on my feet. I started to contact friends to make the connections to get something put together.

It was about that time providence stepped in, I got another letter from Danny and yes once again he was witnessing to me. But this time there was something else that he said that got my attention.

He simply made a comment about how he hoped that I stayed out this time so that we could be out there together on the streets at the same time. For years we were either both in, at different places, or one was out while the other was in.

The statement he made that really hit me was, "Brother, just remember the worst day out there is still better than the best day in here. Do whatever it takes to stay out there."

It turned out to be a wakeup call making me realize that I was heading right back to prison if I continued down the road I was heading. And it was then I made the conscious decision go in a different direction.

Several things started to change. God was blessing. I realize that now in hindsight, and I had not yet even turned to Him.

I don't want to turn this into my testimony but instead show how Danny played an important part in how I first started looking back to the Lord.

Both Danny and Billy got out and

started to rebuild their lives. Danny stayed up in the area where he parole from and lived there for the next 30 years.

His wife had moved up there near where he was doing time and was part of a local church that became their home church for many years to come. Together they raised three children and made a life for themselves; both very active in their church.

I remember a time where Danny wrote an article in a magazine telling the story of his past. Many who had known him for years were amazed to hear about who he once was. They only knew him as the man he came to be. Not the man who was once on the FBI's most wanted.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17

Even though we lived in different parts of the state we always managed to stay in touch. Either he would call me or I would call him but Danny was always who I wanted to talk to when I had something on my mind. I think I was that same thing to him as well. I miss that so much now that he is gone home to be with the Lord.

Billy passed away many years ago and when he did Danny drew a poster size drawing that would be used on the cover of a magazine. It was a drawing with two angels in the background with Billy standing behind a Harley and Danny and I squatting in front of the bike. I have the original drawing framed and hanging over my computer desk. I stop to look at it often and think of both of them up there in heaven and I picture them laughing and enjoying whatever it is God has for us all one

day. I find peace and strength in the thought. But none the less I still miss them both very much.

I had the privilege of conducting the memorial service for Danny's family. Or to be more precise I shared the pulpit with the pastor of their church. I was probably not the best choice to do the service, I was more than once overcome with emotion during the service.

In trying to prepare for what I would talk about. I wanted it to be a celebration of his life and I was sure that Danny would have wanted God to be glorified.

With the message I did put together I attempted to say that when all is said and done, when it comes to the end of anyone's life, it's the legacy that one leaves behind that matters and of course what its what we have done with Jesus within our life.

There were many amazing things that happened at that service. One was that his service being held on a weekday evening had people show up from many parts of the country. There were many there all to honor a man's memory and come along side the ones he had left behind.

As happens at most services many people got up to share their personal memories of Danny. And they were all a blessing but one that has remained in my mind over time was a women who got up to tell her story of her unbelieving husband. She said she had been going to that church for years but her husband would not. Yet when he heard of Danny's passing he cried. And he told his wife that Danny was truly a man that lived his faith like no other he had know. That was the kind of legacy he had left behind!

Its true that he lived a wild life in his

The Legacy we leave behind (continued)

early years. Made many mistakes that I know he later came to regret but when all is said and done he ran the race, completed the course and always tried to do his best. Besides, its not how we start off in a race, its how we finish that matters.

Once he became a Christian he did his best to live his life as one. He believed and tried to do what the Bible calls us to do, all to His glory.

1Corinthian 10:31

My life has been better for knowing him and having him be a part of it in the way that he was. I'll miss him till we are together again in glory.

About five months after Danny's passing an irony of legacy was really brought home to me in a very powerful way at the death of another long time friend. Her name was Susan Atkins.

Before I ever went into the women's prison I had heard some amazing things about Susan. A good friend of mine from church worked at the prison and had known her for years. My friend assured me Susan was the real thing when it came to her Christian faith. She said that some of the staff and the inmates looked to her for spiritual counsel. Upon meeting her about ten years ago I found it to be true for myself.



This pictures shown here with Susan and myself was taken back in 2004 at one of the outreaches we had done. At that time she had served nearly 35 years. She had been at CIW longer than any other woman had ever been.

She hadn't become a Christian to try and get out of her trouble as many have done. Her life turned around a few years after she started to do her time. By the time I met her she was very reluctant to come around most of the ministries who came into the prison. Too many times they tried to exploit her name and try to promote themselves. That is why I have waited until now to say anything about her.

I have some good stories that I could share about her but I won't, for I want to have them remain personal to me.

I have sometimes told an inmate about her during a counseling session but I am sure Susan would never have felt betrayed by that.

But there is a story I wish I could tell the world about concerning her and I guess this will be the closest I'll ever get to being able to do that. The story I would like to tell is about the memorial service that was given for Susan at the prison for the ones who knew her best. The ladies who had lived with her throughout her time at CIW.

One afternoon I got a call from Chaplain Woodard, the state chaplain at CIW. She had come down with the flu and sounded terrible! She said she was calling to ask a favor of me, if I would go in an help with the memorial service she had scheduled for Susan. She was so sick she just didn't think she was going to be able to make it.

During Susan's long illness I had asked the Chaplain many times about how Susan was doing, would she please give her my love or give her a

silly get well card that I had for Susan. I guess that is what made the Chaplain think of me when she needed someone to stand in for her that day? Whatever the reason, I felt very privileged to be asked to help and just be there to be a part of it.

Susan had died from brain cancer where she spent nearly the last year of her life in a prison hospital ward. As the illness progressed she became paralyzed on one side, had to have one leg amputated and eventually lost her ability to speak.

Ironically, Doris Tate, the mother of Sharon Tate, who Susan was convicted of murdering, also passed away from cancer. Doris Tate spent her life campaigning for victims rights and as part of the campaign made it a point to attend all of Manson murder parole hearings.

When asked to go to the memorial service, there was just a few hours forewarning and I really didn't know what to expect. I didn't know if I was supposed to just supervise what the women themselves would be doing or if I was to actually give the eulogy. So I just tried to prepare for either possibility.

I went to what was on the internet to find out some background and it was there I found a quote from her husband of the past 15 years; a man by the name of James Whitehouse. He said, "Susan passed away peacefully, surrounded by friends and loved ones and the incredible staff at the skilled nursing facility at the Central California Women's Facility. Her last whispered word was 'Amen'. No one on the face of the earth worked as hard as Susan did to right an unrightable wrong." What became an amazing thing to me later was when I stood in the parking lot of the prison talking with James and he told that in the last part of

The Legacy we leave behind (continued)

her illness she couldn't speak. But after a long while of him reading to her from the Bible she would blurt out the last word or two of a verse as he read it to her. And then just before her last breath here on earth she was able to say "Amen" or let it be so.

In all Susan spent almost 40 years in prison. I think of Moses who was also guilty of murder. He was not allowed to go into the promised land after his forty years in the desert either but we all know "the Law Giver" is in glory and I believe Susan is there also.

The part of this whole thing that I wanted to try and explain in this article is the dual legacy Susan left behind.

As it turned out Chaplain Woodard did show up and was the one who conducted the service. But just being

an observer was a real blessing for me. What I had prepared to say was taken right out of the things I had shared at Danny's service, months before; the legacy we leave behind.

When it got to the portion of the service where everyone got up to share their remembrance of Susan, a long line of women got up to share their personal story of her.

Woman after woman spoke of the Godly example she had been to so many of them. One woman's story sticks out in my memory. A middle aged woman got up and told of how she had come into the prison as a teenager and when she saw the "famous Susan Atkins" she said to herself that she just had to go introduce herself. Susan knowingly smiled and told the young girl, "better take it slow Honey, choose your friends wisely". She told how

Susan helped her get her first job and gave her some soap and toothpaste because she had nothing. She said, "in all of my years coming in and out of this prison, one thing was always the same...Susan's smiling and reassuring face."

I remember that evening as I sat in the back of the auditorium listening to all those women share, how ironic life can be.

I thought of the message I had prepared that I no longer needed to give, the legacy we leave behind. I thought to myself, the legacy the world sees of Susan Atkins is that she is the one convicted of killing Sharon Tate and her unborn child. Yet the legacy Susan left behind at CIW was 40 years of sharing God's love to the ones who knew her and lived with her till she went home.

Another e-mail I hope will bless you

Where I first got inspired to write a Newsletter and I wanted to do something I have never done before in any of my newsletter.

As believers we all get e-mails forwarded and many continue to be passed around to everyone in our address books. I read most that are sent to me and I sometime forward the good ones on. But this is the first time I have ever included one in a newsletter and now I have shared a few.

A friend in ministry who goes to Greg Laurie's Church, Harvest by the name of Robert

Jimenez sent me this e-mail. I called him up the other day and asked if it was alright if I share it with all of you.

Robert works as the Southern California Director for Champions for Life, a Bill Glass Ministry. Bill Glass is a former professional football player who started going into prisons many years ago doing outreaches.

He would bring in celebrities from the sports world as well as the entertainment world and has had a very successful ministry all over the country.

The man by the name of "Mruf

the Surf" who is talked about in the following is an example of some of the "platform speakers" he brings in to speak to the prisoners. Take the time to Google Murf for yourself, I think you will be blessed.

Dear Friends,

As some of you may know last month I had the privilege to go to Huntsville TX. with Bill Glass Champions For Life Prison ministries.

Another e-mail I hope will bless you (continued)

That weekend we ministered in 10 prison and jail facilities to approximately 15,000 inmates with 2,249 decisions for Christ.

This letter was written by CF Hazlewood to Jim Subers our CEO at Champions for Life. CF Hazlewood is a Pastor and a very high ranking Prison Official in the Texas Dept. Of Corrections, he has 27 yrs with the Dept. and prior to that USMC vet.

During his early years as a Correctional Officer he was brutal with inmates that stepped out of line. He somewhat thrived off of all that physical interaction, and as he worked his way up the ranks there was an inmate worker assigned to help clean-up and run errands in his office named "Shorty". Hazlewood said that "Shorty" a short black Christian inmate doing a Life-sentence was the man God used to lead him to Christ by leaving bible scripture passages on his desk.

Later Hazelwood attended Dallas Theological Seminary and today pastors a Church in Huntsville.

While I was coordinating in the yard at Eastham prison we had Clifton Jansky (famous Country singer-writer) and Jack Murphy aka. "Murf the Surf" (former notorious jewel thief) on the platform, Jansky singing songs and Murf sharing his testimony.

CF Hazelwood came out to see the program and afterward asked Murf if he would go with him to speak to this out of control inmate named Freddie Pendley, please follow and enjoy the

forwarded letter:

Blessings,
Robert

----- Forwarded message -----

Date: April 5, 2010 12:44:14 AM
To : "Jim Subers"
JimS@BillGlass.org
Subject: Inmate Freddie Pendley

Jim,
I hope you are doing well and the Lord is moving through the ministry still. I just wanted to drop you a line to provide you an update on Inmate Freddie Pendley.

If you recall Pendley is the inmate I took Jack Murphy and Matt Martin to see, after he had been placed on the lock-up Segregation wing the weekend of the Bill Glass Weekend of Champions.

He is a third time loser and is doing a Life Sentence for Capital Murder and a 25 year sentence for attempted Capital Murder. In addition, He is constantly struggling with extreme anger issues and frequently gets in conflicts with both officers and inmates.

If you recall when we went to see him both Jack and I presented him a straight up presentation of the gospel. In spite of that Pendley continued to beg for me to mention something to the Warden to help him out.

He even requested I over rule the Warden's call to have him

locked up. I told him I would do neither and if he wanted to get off lock-up it would be God that would get him off. I told him I was done with his conniving underhanded ways of conducting business and his only hope would be Jesus.

Murphy told him much of the same and was constantly presenting him the gospel. I have witnessed to this guy for over 5 years and he was respectful but would never openly confess a relationship with the Lord.

When we left the cell block I told him I would see him in about 30 days and his only hope was to get on his face before God cause I was done fooling with him. We left the cell block and I have had no contact with him since then.

This Friday I went back out to the unit to see what was the outcome on Pendley. Shortly after I entered the hallway an inmate came up to me that regularly attends worship services there and told me that Pendley had gotten saved.

He said Pendley had gotten so saved that He himself thought he might be lost. I laughed and told him I would see Pendley and I appreciated the information.

Before I could get to the south end of the building where I knew other inmates were that would know about Pendley I was approached by 4 other inmates that relayed similar information on Freddie Pendley and talked about his transformation.

I did not know if he was back in

Another e-mail I hope will bless you (continued)

his job but I stopped in the Woodshop where he had been working and figured I would speak to his two co-workers and see what they knew about his condition.

When I opened the door to the wood shop I was surprised to see Pendley in there. Upon seeing me he jumped to his feet and said Mr. Hazlewood I need to tell you something. He had a big smile on his face which is extremely unusual for him.

He proceeded to say that 20 minutes after Murphy and I left the cell block he sensed God really dealing with him and it drove him to his knees. He said he fell upon the floor of his cell and began to weep uncontrollably what seemed like an hour.

He said the Lord broke him completely and he stood up a new man for the first time in his life. To quote him He said, "the Lord hulled me out and emptied my wretched soul in that cell and for the first time in my life I know I am loved and I am happy cause I know I am forgiven. It does not matter how much time I am doing cause now I have a reason to live and I want to live for Jesus."

Jim I have seen thousands of inmates come to faith in Christ but I have to say I was shocked at the words that came out of his mouth. Even though I have prayed for this guy for 5 years and worked to be patient with his manipulating ways, I was still taken back by the shocking change in him. He was laughing and dancing around like a kid as it was obvious he had been changed.

He said that before this encounter with the Lord he would walk down the hallway full of hate and when he saw other inmates he only thought about how much he hated them and wanted to smash their faces in etc. He said now as he walks the hallways he just sees them as people that need to be loved.

Having worked with inmates for going on 28 years this is not heard very often even from the most spiritual ones I encounter. He said when he woke up in his dorm this morning (Friday) he looked out at the guys and said Lord I love these men and want to see them converted.

He said tears come to his eyes now as he walks the hallway and sees how lost they are and remembers when he was in the same place as them. He said this with tears in his eyes. I have never seen him ever act like this.

He said the warden listened to his story about the situation that resulted in his lock up and the warden wanted to give him another chance as it might have been a misunderstanding but time would tell.

Inmate Pendley was restored to his old job with no discipline for the incident and has full privileges again.

Freddie Pendley is a big inmate. He stands 6' 4" and weighs close to 260 pounds. He had a violent temper and few if any other inmates would challenge him at all. He is street wise and has a reputation for his numerous fights and continual conflicts within the

Prison system since the early 80's.

I personally over just the last 2 years had to intercede in arguments he got into in my presence with other inmates that he said he was going to kill. Going to kill them over trivial matters but I knew he was serious.

I would sit him down and talk to him until he calmed down but I was always concerned he would have one of these violent spells and actual do it because of his volatile nature.

Inmate Pendley told me he is currently in a discipleship program and is reading his Bible every day. He has applied for the Therapon program and hopes he gets accepted.

The Therapon program is an in house spiritual discipleship program for offenders hand picked by the Chaplain.

In addition, Pendley says, and this is verified by other inmates on the unit, he has not missed a worship service since being released from the lockup wing.

I told Pendley there is no telling how god will use Him if he stays faithful with the Lord and continues living for him. I cautioned him that he would have his faith tested but in spite of what it was just look to the Lord and don't go back to his old ways of dealing with problems. He said, "Mr. Hazlewood

I had the biggest test yet just last week on the dorm Let me tell you about it." I said sure go ahead. Pendley relayed the fol-

Another e-mail I hope will bless you (continued)

lowing story.

He said when he was a young teenager a black kid 4-5 years older than him jumped him after school and beat him severely. The injuries resulted in some facial paralysis and broken bones.

Pendley said since then as a young teenager he has lived his life with the internal drive to find this guy one day and kill him. He said this has been with him all of his life. He said even at times when he was down he would think about the possibility of finding this man and having the opportunity to kill him. He said for all these years he has lived with this on his mind virtually every day.

Well last week they introduced him to a man on the cell block that was from his old town. He said he did not recognize the guy but after conversation realized the guy even went to the same school but was several years ahead of Pendley.

After further conversation he asked him his name and you guessed it, it was the guy he had been after for all these years.

He said it was not until then that he recognized the guys eyes but because of aging he had not recognized his physical features.

He said when he knew who he was those evil thoughts of revenge came flooding back in his mind. he said he reached out in instinct to grab him and when he did he hugged him and said "I forgive you for what you did to me....I am Freddie Pendley the

guy you beat up that day back home."

He said the guy pushed him away and said I remember that and I got saved several years ago and want you to forgive me for what I did.

He said they embraced again and now they are brothers in Christ. He told the guy that ever since then He has hated black people cause he had so much hate after that incident. He said, "Dude you are the reason I have hated blacks all my life but now I have a reason to love you and them now because of Jesus."

Is that not the craziest thing you have heard? It is almost like a scripted movie the way the Lord worked that out. As he relayed this story the two helpers of his were grinning like possums and shaking their heads in disbelief..

It just goes to show how God can do what we are incapable of doing in lives of others. Would you please send this story to Murf the Surf for me and I do not have his email.

I want him to know cause he helped play a part in this also. I know it is all of God but somebody had to relay the message and pray for the guy and that little part we did but God gave the increase. Praise the Lord for His power.

Dealing with inmates can be one of the most frustrating things in the world but when things like this happen I believe I am good for another 27 years plus!!!!!! Halleluiah Please have people pray for Pendley as I do not want him to fall away from the Lord as I believe he can be used greatly by God in this

unit.

I have always thought that about this man and I guess that is what kept me trying to work with him in spite of little progress in the past.

Well I hope to see ya soon and would like to share this story sometime as I believe it would give people confidence to not stop trying to work with these guys. Please let Jack Murphy know about this also.

Take Care, In Christ

CF Hazlewood Jr.

This story blessed me because it speaks of more than one changed life. Many were touched and all were used by God. The football player who wanted to share his love of God: The jewel thief turned evangelist. The inmate clerk serving life leaving his Christian tracks on the desk of an abusive guard who was no better than the inmates, we truly are all sinners. And now that guard change by amazing grace is sharing that love with others. And of course the story of Freddie Dendley changed and being used by God Just today at the my jail I talked a man who is also facing life without parole. He said his life was over and told he was wrong, God could still use him in a powerful way, I he would only let Him.

Some Prayer Requests

I just got the news tonight. We have been given approval to do the concert at CIW (the women's prison in Corona)

It will be on May the 8th, one day before Mothers Day. Many, probably most women there are mothers and yet will not see their children. Its my hope that we can bring in some joy that day to try and help replace some of the depression and loneliness that will be a very real part of that weekend.

Its going to be the largest group we have ever attempted to bring in. The will be 7 different groups playing that day. Somewhere around 40 people. I would ask that you pray for it to be a real

blessing to the women at CIW.

There are some needs yet to be met for that day. We will be in there all day so we need to be able to feed all the volunteers lunch. I am now actively looking for a Pizza place or some other kind of food outlet who would be will to donate their services. Or that enough funds come in to do the same thing.

There is another prayer concern I would like to mention here. Due to the falling economy some of our largest contributors of Bibles and other Christian materials have had to cut back or realign their priorities. The bottom line is we will have less Bibles to hand out because of it.

Our God owns the cattle on a 1,000 hills, nothing is impossible to Him. Even with the economic downturn in 2009 we where able to obtain more Bibles and other Christian materials than any other year than the 10 years I have been at Men's Central Jail.

I know He is able to supply all of our needs, I just ask for your prayers that He continues to do so.

Another prayer request is there may be a chance to later this year return to the prisons in Germany with a Brother from the East Cost and His ministry, Taken It 2 the Streets. If its God's will, then I am sure the doors will be opened.

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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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