

# INNER COMMUNITY TIMES

The Church Behind the Prison Wall

Fourth Quarter 2009  
Vacaville, California

## My Vision

by Raul H.

I had been praying for your ministry and as I prayed God had given me a vision and a prophetic word for the *Choir* and your ministry:

My Vision:

When the Lord allows *One Voice Praise Choir* to come to our facility, I see the Holy Ghost peeling back the layers of the weak, abused, and tired men. Their hidden scars and wounded calloused hearts. I see the Lord calling the *Choir*, “*Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?*” (Isaiah 6:8). I see all of you (the *Choir*) praying for them, encouraging them, and lifting their weak and wounded spirits up, in the precious name of Jesus. My heart fills and my eyes weep. The anointing power of prayer is upon the entire *Choir*. The Holy Ghost’s anointing spirit will saturate the *Choir*. Most of the men here are despondent and weak, but the spirit is willing, “*Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation, the spirit is willing, but the body is weak*” (Mark 14:38). I see men (inmates) coming up the aisles, from the hallways, from all the highways. Return, Repent, and Be Restored, “*Therefore this is what the Lord says: If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me; if you utter worthy, not worthless, words, you will be my spokesman. Let this people turn to you, but you must not turn to them.*” (Jeremiah 15:19). This vision I see is that ***ebenezer outreach ministry*** has an encouraging and anointing healing power! ***ebenezer outreach ministry*** has the compassion of a loving servant. Their hearts cries are like the prayer warrior in the midst of the battle. A legion of angels with their swords in hand. Their foundation in Christ is firm, bringing compassion, love, hope, and the power of prayer.

**A Brother in Christ at California  
Medical Facility-Vacaville**

My heart is personally touched as well, when you all come and minister a sweet sounding aroma of singing unto the Lord. I am moved by the Holy Ghost to give back a strong message of encouragement to everyone in the *Choir*. Keep me in prayer as I step out into Worship Ministry. Thank God for ***ebenezer outreach ministry*** and *One Voice Praise Choir*!

# The Challenge

by Tim May

This past October, I had the opportunity to attend a CAPA (Christian Association of Prison Aftercare) conference; during that conference someone made a statement which challenged me and my attitude about my ministry. One of the speakers stated, “Each of you in this room is considered an expert in your ministry.” With that statement my thought was, oh no, not me. He then stated that, “Those of you who said, oh no, not me, “you” are who I am speaking too.”



Reverend Timothy and Katie May

After the conference, I was discussing this with colleagues on how those words affected me and Dan, a fellow minister, stated that we (the resource team) have seen me in that way for a long time. His statement also affected me. A few moments later he again made a statement which challenged me even more. His statement was, “Tim, your ministry will never be what God wants it to be until you accept the call.”

After speaking with Dan, I went to my office, reflecting on what God has been saying to me, although I didn’t want to go there, I felt as though I needed to be obedient to God, and with that I said, “Father God, I want what you want for me.” Although my ministry has been doing extremely well, in my estimation, through continuous growth and new ministry opportunities, after my conversation with God, I was reminded of the titles several individuals had spoken over me throughout the years. Titles I had rejected because I felt I was not qualified, it is not my personality, and I did not want to be labeled or have the responsibility of any title.

While meditating on my conversation with God and driving to Sacramento I decided to listen to CD’s purchased from my home church. The first message I listened to was from my Senior Leader, David Crone, his message was on accepting the call, yet another message which challenged my spirit. He also mentioned the previous week’s message by Graham Cooke; his message was about ministering out of your personality or your persona (heavenly identity). Thankfully I had that one as well. Below is a portion of Graham’s message given on June 29, 2008.

## **Personality:**

*Integrated organization of soul and body. You’re a combination of psychological, intellectual, and physical attributes that have been shaped by your upbringing, your environment, your training, your modeling, into a learned behavior that’s either positive or negative.*

*A negative personality is one that has victim thinking, it’s cautious, pessimistic, maybe judgmental, prejudiced, fearful, fear of man, fear of being wrong, fear of looking stupid, fear of taking risks, always wanting to be safe, finding comfort in the familiar, hesitant, and is prone to deception, whether it’s self deception or deception of others, it’s believing the worse, it’s living with a sense of either general or specific unworthiness, or maybe it’s just overly self conscious.*

*A positive personality that’s rooted in a sense of values: knowing who God is for you, knowing who you are in yourself. It’s optimistic, it’s trusting, willing to try, it can be challenged, it’s not defensive, and it’s a risk taker, brave, honest, self aware, open minded, open hearted personality. We’re all a mix of those things and in our relationship with God; we’re learning how to deal with the negative stuff in our personality and how to call ourselves up into a higher place in the spirit.*

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*Our true identity is made up of who we are on earth in our personality and how we are known in Heaven.*

***Persona (heavenly identity):***

*When Jesus said “Isaiah 61: He has anointed me to...” He was outlining His persona; His mandate from Heaven. Part of our redemption is to have a persona in Christ. Literally a persona is an elevated status, it is how you are known and perceived in Heaven. The wonderful thing about being in Christ is that He is the union of human and divine qualities, therefore when we embrace Him fully; we must become aware of how the Father sees us, in particular, in Jesus.*

*Now you have a general relationship with the Father in Jesus because everything in our life is subject to His rule and His reign which is lovely, but you also have a specific persona in Jesus in the sense of what God has called you to in particular. So your persona is an expression of God’s image in you. How He wants to be specifically seen in and through you.*

*And our biggest joy is finding that out because all our favor is in that place, all our permissions are in that place, all our provision is in that place, it’s the place of our acceptance, it’s the place where we are the beloved, it’s the place where we are highly favored; your persona’s the place where you’re perceived perpetually in God and every time He looks at you and every time He talks to you, it will always be in the context of how He sees you, not how you see yourself, and that again is one of our great pleasures in life, is coming into alignment with that vision that He has over you.*

*And what we’re doing in community is, we’re not just coming into our own alignment in terms of this is my persona, this is who I am in Jesus, this is what I get freedom to be and become, but we’re actually practicing that on one another too. We’re learning to see one another in that way. So we’re learning to help to shape one another’s identity in terms of destiny. Accountability is holding each other true to that persona. So your persona is the roll that you adopt for yourself by kind permission of the Father.*

*As He is so are we in this world, and it’s where we put on Christ is in our persona, we don’t just put Jesus on generally, we put Him on specifically in the area of God’s choicest permission for us. So in our persona we are invested from Heaven with legal authority over the enemy in your persona. In our persona, we are invested with permission to overcome every obstacle. We are invested with the right to rule and establish peace. We have a particular charge from Heaven about how we get to act in our own behavior. So our persona is therefore the integrated coordination of our identity in Christ with our calling and our favor and our authority. That’s what you’re made up of, that’s what your identity’s established through, your personality and your persona; they’re both relational and functional.*

Acknowledging the call I looked at my I AM statement, developed from several prophetic words over the years, studying the Word, and encouragement from others, understanding how the Father sees me and His desire for me. This is my I AM statement or how God sees me: I am a lover of God and He sees the purity of my heart; I see people as the completed person in Christ; I walk in the favor of God to effect change to this state and the nations; I am an instrument of change, a peacemaker, a healing instrument, and uniter of the body; I am an evangelist, teacher, encourager, administrator, and releaser of ministers to go forth to the nations; I am a carrier of a radical anointing as warrior, healer, and speaker of prophetic encouragement; I carry a Spirit of wisdom and Word of wisdom to bring healing which breaks the spirit of contention in people that will bring freedom into their lives; I am a father to the fatherless, the orphan, and to those who have been neglected, scorned, and turned aside; I am a sower of seeds with a breakthrough anointing that releases the captives and breaks the chains of addiction.

So how does the Father see you? Are you content in where you are living, in your personality or responding to your heavenly identity? The question we all need to answer is how we will respond to the Word of the Lord. Will we respond from personality or heavenly identity? It's my prayer that you will respond from your heavenly identity.

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# Christmas Party at the Boys Ranch

by Nancy Gould

In December, the Youth Worship Team was able to provide a Christmas Party for the young men at the Sacramento County Boys Ranch. In collaboration with another group, who also ministers at the Boys Ranch on Sunday nights, over eighty-five young men were served dinner. The other group is led by Dee Currie-Porter, who also takes a team to minister in women's prisons throughout the year. The young men were very appreciative of the opportunity to have real food brought in from the outside! In fact, so appreciative, that after the meal, all eighty-five young men attended the regular church service...an all time record for attendance!



They joined in the celebration of Jesus' birthday through medleys of worship and traditional Christmas Carols. One of the staff from the Boys Ranch led the boys in singing, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," to us! They were wonderful! We all sang, "Happy Birthday Jesus," a wonderful children's song to Jesus that really set the tone for the day. Pastor Ron Silas, from Dee's group, gave a powerful message of hope and salvation. Many of the young men indicated a commitment to give their lives to the Lord. It was the highlight of our three years of ministry at this facility.

Last year a similar collaboration between the two ministries took place, and thus a wonderful tradition was established. Dee's group provided the financial backing last year, for which we were very blessed. So this year, the Youth Worship Team worked out a way to reciprocate. Sandy Evans, one of the worship team members, discovered a fund-raising opportunity. Every year at Christmas, Borders Bookstore in Vacaville offers "complimentary" gift wrapping provided by various nonprofit organizations in the community. For a "donation," these volunteer groups wrap

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# My Ninth and Last Christmas Here

by Merlin W.

I was walking the yard not long ago, when I saw a friend, Bill F., waving me to come over to the bench he was sitting on. I've known Bill for about seven years. We have sung in the choir together, sung in a small group together, and Bill helps me lead the Praise and Worship during our Tuesday night services. Bill is a lifer. When I got to the bench, Bill asked me, knowing I was short, how much time I had remaining here. I told him. He said, "You must be getting real excited." I acknowledged that I am, but it is tempered and even saddened by the many good things I have to say goodbye to. With an expression that indicated he could not understand that, he said, "Name one." I looked at him and said, "You." Then I went on to name several others: my bunkie, Joel, Jimmy, Dave, Ben, Isaac, Raymond, Sammy, etc. Bill acknowledged that he understood, but I could tell that he didn't fully comprehend.

About a year ago I was reading in my morning devotional, *Reflecting God*, regarding the two greatest commandments: Matthew 22:37, "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." The second, it says, in the King James, is "like it," to love your neighbor as yourself. The author in my devotional translated, "like it" to mean it is "equally important" as the first, as does my New Living Translation. Some I have talked with disagree with that, but

whatever their relativity is to each other, the point shouldn't be lost in argument, and that is: the second is very important. Our God is a god of relationships, relationships with Him, His Son, and among our brothers and sisters. That is why my time of incarceration has been such a blessing to me: I have clearly understood that. My relationship with Him and my brothers has sustained me, given me purpose and given me hope for my future. A future based on a lengthy track record with Him. I've developed some wonderful relationships in here, by His grace, relationships that I'm going to miss deeply and I know I have many wonderful ones to come.

In addition, there are all the memories, all of the many things I have done and participated in while I've been here. Memories are made as life, "the great adventure," unfolds. Which ones we keep on the front burner is a choice, however. By God's grace, resulting from nothing I've done, it is easy for me to remember the good while allowing the difficult to fade into near obscurity.

During my life, before this incarceration, there have been two adventures that I've had in which I had to leave, or move on from, leaving many friends to never be seen again: one was high school, the second, the Army. That's just

the way it was because of the vast numbers. There were just too many to even begin to think of trying to stay in contact with them all. Nevertheless, in both cases, there are so many that I still think about, sometimes pray for, and wonder what their lives are like today. I guess that's why so many go to high school reunions. Of course, after this, I won't be going to any more of those.

Although leaving and saying goodbye is such a difficult and mixed blessing, I'm not letting it depress me. I've seen God work in many ways throughout my life, especially while in here, and I know that He has many new blessings, friendships, and memories to be made in the new adventure which is about to begin. It is in Him which I find my excitement, while enjoying and

relishing the last moments that I'm going to get to spend in here. This will be my ninth Christmas

here, and it is going to be one really great Christmas. I am hoping and praying that yours will be equally as great too.

**A Brother in Christ at California State Prison-Solano**

# Advancing the Word

Fourth Quarter Ministry Report  
by Tim May

**D**uring our fourth quarter at California State Prison-Solano, the following classes were presented; Passport to Purpose (the Vessel); and Going for the Gold, a Prison Fellowship class which prepares men for release from prison. Our Spanish Outreach (a new component of the ministry) ministered at California State Prison-Solano on two yards, Ben Martinez ministered a powerful word with Dina Zamora-Alexander and Pastor Edith Zamora ministering in song and providing English translation. Eighty men dedicated or re-dedicated their lives to Christ.

**One Voice Praise Choir** ministered to the men of California State Prison-Solano on all four yards; Sierra Conservation Center-Jamestown; and San Quentin State Prison-San Quentin. We had the opportunity to minister to approximately 1150 men at these facilities with 120 men dedicating or re-dedicating their lives to Christ.

**Joyful Expressions** ministered in song and Word to the men at the main chapel of Sierra Conservation Center-Jamestown; San Quentin State Prison; and Folsom State Prison, Represa. This is in addition to the regular weekly ministry services in the chapel and the Joseph Project at California State Prison-Solano. On a monthly basis the *ebenezer* team ministers to the young men at the Sacramento County Boys Ranch in Sacramento.

In addition to the musical component, *ebenezer outreach ministry* provides weekly preaching, individual counseling, and assists with coordinating the CSP-Solano Demonstration Project as part of the Joseph Project featuring special rehabilitation teaching programs and guest speakers.

#### **Production Team:**

Kim Moreno, Choir Director;  
Rudy Aguardo and David O'Guinn,  
Sound

#### **One Voice Praise Choir and Joyful Expressions Members:**

Carolina Aguardo, Paula Cady, Marlee Certini, Sandy Evans, Lynne Gallaher, Nancy Gould, Judith Handa, Ron Handa, Jeanne Havlicek, Lisa Lamb, Tim May, Regina McCollam, Judy Moran, Norbert Moreno, Timothy Negrete, Peggy Preece, Pastor Jolene Queen, Verna Ringler, Jeanne Schultz, Richard Sheber, Carolyn Sheehan, De Val Smith, Silvia Smith, Carol Switzer, Tonya Stanton, and Daryl Stewart

#### **Weekly Ministry and CSP-Solano Demonstration Project:**

Pastor Richard Atchley, Brett Braidman, Pastor Bob Brigham, Pastor Russell Crooks, Carole Davis, Chris Davis, Pastor Alfred DeGree, Dave Dove, Ernest Echelberger, David Fernandes, Edward Fogle, Linda Fowler, Loyal Friesen, Dan Gamel, John Haaf, Ron Handa, Sol Irving, Herman

Littleton, Pastor Kenneth Love, David Michael, Ramon Molina, Pastor Darren Paulson, Pastor Daniel Robertson, Mikki Routheau, Antonio Saldana, Robert Silva, Pastor Eddie Thomas, and Pastor Stuart Welch

#### **Churches Involved:**

For a complete list of the churches involved with this ministry, please visit our website at:

<http://www.ebrock.org>

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Gifts can also be given on our website: [www.ebrock.org/financial/index.htm](http://www.ebrock.org/financial/index.htm)

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any purchases made at the bookstore. So, the worship team members donned Santa hats and jingle bells and a festive holiday cheer to entertain the patrons at Borders while they had presents wrapped. The team was able to raise enough to cover the cost of the meal for the young men.

We were so blessed to be able to give our time, energy, and talents to the Lord to be used, “to feed the hungry and visit those in prison,” as He commanded us. Our prayer is that these acts of kindness will speak to the hearts of the young men and tell them of the Savior’s love for them. Please join us in praying for those young men who gave their lives to the Lord that day so that God will continue to water the seeds planted in their lives.

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*Nancy is a member of One Voice Praise Choir and Youth Director for **ebenezer outreach ministry**; Nancy attends Providence Community Church in Vacaville, California.*

*“...If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.”*

(John 14:23)

## I AM IN YOU

Speak the words of life  
wherever you may be.

All need to know of Me.

You are called to heed

My command to go into all the world  
and preach, teaching My truths.

For I came to show you My Father  
so that you need not sorrow nor weep  
beyond the time of your mourning.

I have gathered believers together  
to not only weep with those who weep,  
but also to rejoice with those who share their joy.

Your life may change, but I never change.

I continue with you as the Spirit leads,  
guides, comforts and yes,  
gives the understanding  
of who I am in you.

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January 29, 2009

[www.Godcares.org](http://www.Godcares.org)

# One Day

by Edith Zamora

**O**NE DAY, ONE DAY CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE. I kept seeing this poster as I walked on the yard of the prison into a room where we would meet the men. I kept seeing this poster and reading it: ONE DAY, ONE DAY CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE. As I sat there in the room I kept thinking as I had walked in, what am I doing here?

My sister (the Director of Spanish Ministry for *ebenezer outreach ministry*) had invited me to come with her on a Monday evening for Spanish ministry with the *ebenezer* team at California State Prison-Solano. I kindly said yes. However, as my sister and I drove to the prison, I saw these tall wire fences and danger signs all over the place. I said to myself, what am I doing here? I cannot do this. There is still time to just say no! I cannot do this! I cannot go in! This place looks like the concentration camps in Europe. I could see the men from far away, they looked like normal men doing exercises in a gym, but these men were exercising in the yard, which is what they call the grass area. I grew up in a hard neighborhood but we never got in trouble because we were more afraid of our mom than the authorities. I knew I did not belong in a jail because I had survived that situation as a child. I didn't belong here! I shouldn't be here! "Yes, Lord," I said to myself, "I will serve you anywhere you want to send me." But little did I know my backyard needed help! Here was this prison, that

for years I had passed by while going shopping to the Outlet stores. All I knew was that I was not supposed to get close to that place.

And now here I was meeting these brothers, the main helpers had such a kind spirit, they were so FREE!! They were freer than most people I met on the outside. These men were free in the spirit and soon they would go on to be free in mind and body. They would eventually come out and I would see them in a church! I would eventually be able to see their families and friends in a church, celebrating the love of Christ. Why, because One Day I had the guts to go into my backyard.

Now this is my question to you, "Do you have One Day? One Day to go into your backyard, to the prison in your neighborhood?" The prison in your backyard, the prison you see as you pass by and have passed by for years? Save the ticket to the Far East for today and for this season. Go to your backyard prison for One Day and see your brothers get saved, these same brothers who will soon be your neighbors One Day.

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*Pastor Edith Zamora recently moved to Vacaville from Southern California; she currently attends the Father's House.*

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