



Humility and Submission God's Keys to Being Used by Him

Jay C.

You say you have talents you want to use for God. Fantastic! The church is always in need of men and women who are willing to serve God by serving the body of Christ. There is one thing all Spirit-filled church leaders ask of every volunteer—check your ego at the door. Ego? You don't understand. God has given me the ability to do this or that. I have a great plan for the ministry here, if you will all get out of my way.

Something is lacking in the man who would speak in a way similar to that last paragraph: humility and submission. There is a song that begins, "Oh Lord, it's hard to be humble when you're perfect in every way." We laugh at such words because they are so blatantly arrogant and self-centered. But there are times when our actions speak those very same words. Can God use an arrogant man? He has. But the end for such men usually is not very pleasant, just ask Samson. No, God prefers the humble men, those who have come to the end of themselves to

realize they aren't all that. They have, in a sense, returned to the clay from whence they came and are now moldable by the hands of the Potter.

That's the case with Moses. He was born with a price on his head just for being a Hebrew male. God rescued Moses and placed him in Pharaoh's palace to be raised. But Moses' mother who nursed him apparently told him of his Hebrew heritage, since he went out to see how his brothers were doing. Exodus 2:11-15 tells of how Moses killed an Egyptian who was abusing one of his Hebrew brothers. This resulted in Moses having to flee for his life and find a place to hide in Midian.

Exodus 3:1-12 describes how, 40 years later, God called a reluctant Moses to go and rescue Israel from Egypt. Moses didn't want to do it and God had to persuade him to go. Numbers 12:1-3 tells us that Moses was

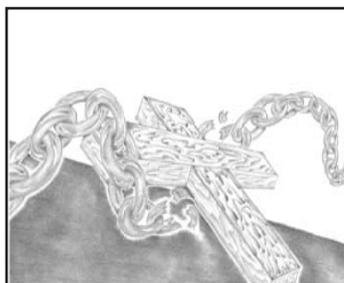
the most humble man on Earth. He followed God's instructions (except once in Numbers 20:10-12), even when they resulted in harsh treatment from Pharaoh, and led Israel out of Egypt.

At about 40 years of age,

Moses took the law into his own hands in his attempt to free his people from hardship. Forty humbling, shepherding years later, God calls Moses to follow

His plan for freeing His people. Moses was always the man for the job, but he had to let go of his own methods and submit to God's.

Fast forward to Saul, persecutor of followers of the Way, on his way to Damascus when Jesus arrests him in his tracks. Jesus humbles Saul and has him wait three days in darkness and fasting before being exalted to a new position—spokesman for the WAY (Acts 9:1-25). The newly



Unwrapping the Grave Clothes

By Tim May

As I stood in back of the visiting center I sensed the presence of the Lord as tears welled up in my eyes. I began to recognize the vision the Father gave me twelve years ago, it was happening right before my eyes. The vision is that the entire population at California State Prison-Solano (CSP) would hear the Gospel message and turn toward the Lord. Hope, joy, mercy, and grace have sprung up in this most unusual place. Scripture states that where sin abounds there is more grace. I can see the changes in the hearts and minds of men within the prison; this continues to give me great hope.

Rehabilitation is important, but more important is the transformation of lives happening behind the walls, where men are coming to the knowledge of Christ and growing in their faith. Many may say this is the same old jail-house Christianity, but, I believe God is doing a great work in these men. When Jesus called Lazarus out of the grave, He told the people witnessing this act of resurrection to unwrap his grave clothes. When men come to Christ we Christians have a great opportunity to assist these men in unwrapping their grave clothes of stinking thinking, transforming them through teaching the Word and by ministering to them behind the walls.

The regular team who minister behind the walls of CSP on a weekly basis present Christian-based programs, classes on practical living, and church services in preparation for the inmates to return to our community. These committed men and women are faithful to the ministry that God has entrusted to each of them in assisting these men to overcome the stench of inmate thinking. Also, there are several inmates, our brothers in Christ, teaching in these programs. In addition, we have provided training to over 100 Christian inmates to facilitate small groups; these men have proven to be invaluable to the ministry.

There is a great need for men and women in the body of Christ to come out of their comfort zone, scripture tells us the fields are plentiful, white for harvest (John 4:35). Brothers and sisters, are you

willing to look up and see the field, then be willing to step up and assist in the harvest? Remember Christ stated that when you visited them you visited Me. What will be your response? The challenge is to walk in the love and forgiveness of the Lord.

Ministry Update:

Get On The Bus (GOTB) brings children and their guardian/caregivers throughout the state of California to visit their mothers and fathers in prison. We had the opportunity to serve breakfast to the children, caregivers, and volunteers. It was a blessing to see the men with their families. Thank you to the following individuals and organizations: to all the volunteers, thank you for your hard work and support; The Father's House for their generous donation; and the Mission for allowing us to use the church facilities.

The Father's House website: <http://www.tfh.org>

The Mission's website: <http://www.tmvv.org>

A special outreach held on all four yards was presented by Nicholas Vujicic, a man born without arms or legs, his ministry is called, Life Without Limbs. During his visit Nick immediately connected with the men through the shared pain of being an outcast, struggling with self-worth and value, and yearning for life without limits. Nick shared how he found peace and purpose through his relationship with Jesus Christ and invited others to seek the same. This outreach saw in excess of 275 men commit or re-commit their lives to Christ. Singer, songwriter, and former inmate, Tim Kepler, whose music contains the perfect message for those who are hurting, ministered to the men on all four yards; this outreach was sponsored by Prison Fellowship, along with Ebenezer Outreach Ministry and Second Wind.

Life Without Limbs website:

<http://www.lifewithoutlimbs.org>

Tim Kepler's website: <http://www.TimKepler.com>

Prison Fellowship's website:

<http://www.prisonfellowship.org>

Second Wind's website:

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<http://secondwind1.web.officelive.com/default.aspx>

On her third visit, a special conference held on all four yards was presented by Pastor Melissa Scott, Senior Pastor of Los Angeles University Cathedral. Pastor Scott and her team ministered in song and Word bringing inspiration to the men on each facility.

<http://www.drgenescott.org>

Sherman Andrus, singer and songwriter provided inspiration in song and Word and Andy Eden, of Maximum Security Prison Ministry, preached the Word on forgiveness, bringing encouragement and joy to those men who heard both messages on facility 1 and 2.

Sherman Andrus’ website:

<http://www.Shermanandrus.com>

Sally O’Conner ministered in song and Word with a powerful testimonial message of forgiveness that challenged the men.

<http://www.improbablepeople.org>

Pastor Art Hallett ministered on facility 3 and 4 leading worship and presenting a challenging Word on being born again, Pastor Art is an accomplished and talented singer and songwriter. Pastor Philip Hicks ministers through the use of motivation, entertainment and comedy, bringing joy to all those who hear him.

Pastor Hallett’s website: <http://prisonee.org>

Pastor Philip Hick’s website:

<http://www.amerryheart.com>

During this period several programs at California State Prison-Solano (CSP) were completed:

Self Esteem by Gods Design instructed by Dr. Larry and Gail Day of Imagebearers International had 210 men complete the program; the class was facilitated by the Ebenezer Outreach Ministry Re-Entry Team members.

<http://www.larrydayministries.com>

Passport to Purpose (the Charter), taught by Carol Davis ended with 206 men completing the requirements. The Promise Land has begun; this class is the third of four in the series Passport

to Purpose and was facilitated by the Ebenezer Outreach Ministry Re-Entry Team. Comments from class participants may be viewed on Carol’s website, Mission of Grace Foundation.

<http://www.missionofgrace.org>

Transformational Project, a Prison Fellowship program, has begun the selection process for a program which will instruct twenty men for eighteen months; these classes include Celebrate Recovery and mentoring for each candidate, facilitated by several volunteers from Second Wind.

<http://secondwind1.web.officelive.com/default.aspx>.

Kingdom Inheritance, 90 men completed the program, facilitated by John Haaf, ministry associate of Freedom in Christ Ministries (FICM), facilitated by the Ebenezer Outreach Ministry Re-Entry Team.

<http://www.ficm.org/newsite/index/php>

Kingdom Living, currently has 90 men in the program, facilitated by Pastor Fred and Cheryl DeGree of Abundant Life, also facilitated by the Ebenezer Outreach Ministry Re-Entry Team.

<http://www.alcf.net>

Christian inmates taught two classes with over 100 men for Facilitator Training taught by the Offender Mentoring Group, facilitated by the Ebenezer Outreach Ministry Re-Entry Team.

Future Programs:

Coming this July, the Purpose Driven Life facilitated by Pastor Tim May, from Ebenezer Outreach Ministry. Also, Building a Marriage for Success, taught by inmate David Hassel and facilitated by the Ebenezer Outreach Ministry Re-Entry Team.

<http://www.ebrock.org>

Ongoing Ministries:

One Voice Praise Choir:

The Easter Tour ministered to the men on all four yards of California State Prison-Solano; two services were held in the main chapel at Sierra Conservation Center-Jamestown, we had the opportunity to minister to approximately 1300 men at these facilities.

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Joyful Expressions:

Ministered in song and Word to the men at California State Prison-Solano during the regular weekly ministry services in the chapel; the team also ministered at Sierra Conservation Center-Jamestown where approximately 20 men committed or re-committed their lives to Christ. On a monthly basis the Ebenezer team ministers to the young men at the Sacramento County Boys Ranch in Sacramento.

In addition to our 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:

Pastor Kim Moreno Music Director; Jeanne Schultz Choir Director; Rudy Aguardo and David O’Guinn, Sound

One Voice Praise Choir and Joyful Expressions

Members:

Carolina Aguardo, Galen Anderson, Nancy Anderson, Janet Hartwell-Brown, Paula Caddy, Sandy Evans, Lynne Gallaher, Brenda Gittens, Judith

Handa, Ron Handa, Quinton Kelley, Lisa Lamb, Tim May, Loraine Meek, Janell Michael, Judy Moran, Kathi O’Grady, Julie Oppenheim, Peggy Preece, Verna Ringler, Carolyn Sheehan, Tonya Stanton, Daryl Stewart, and Kathey Van Buskirk

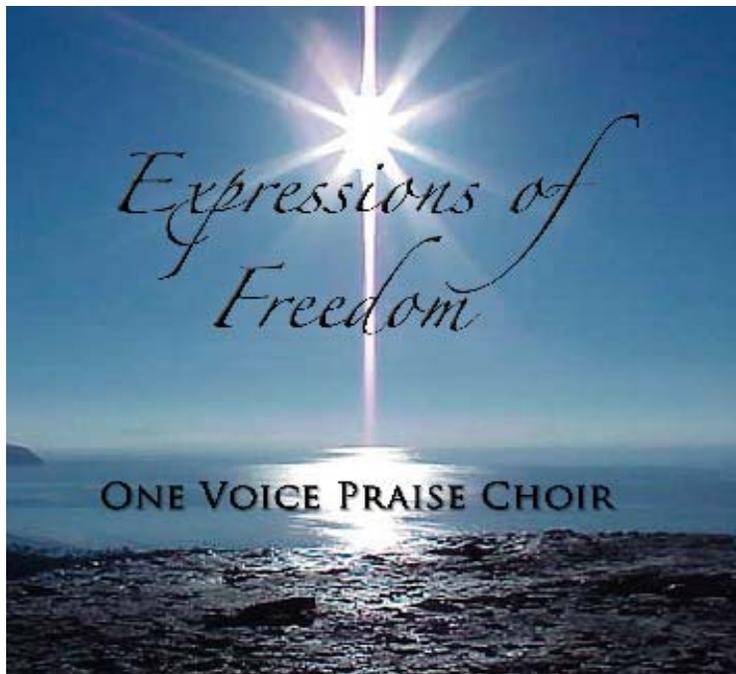
Weekly Ministry and CSP-Solano Demonstration Project:

Pastor Richard Atchley, Michael Barrett, Brett Braidman, Pastor Russell Crooks, Carol Davis, Chris Davis, Pastor Alfred DeGree, Cheryl DeGree, Edward Fogle, Tom Forrester, Ervine Ray Fowler, Linda Fowler, Dan Gamel, Jay Grover, Donna Haaf, John Haaf, Ron Handa, Doctor Samuel Huddleston, Sol Irving, Herman Littleton, Nathaniel Meek, David Michael, Ramon Molina, Roger Morgan, Christopher Mullen, Pastor Daniel Robertson, Serrita Santos, Doctor Michael Savage, Pastor Sammie Shavers, Robert Silva, Arthuretta William-Smith, Pastor Eddie Thomas, Joseph Tomlinson, Erik Trantum, 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/Links.aspx>



This is the choir’s first release; you may purchase a copy of this CD by sending a check or money order to:
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<http://www.ebrock.org>
using Google Checkout

Suggested donation
\$18.00

Letting Go and Letting God Be

By John

My name is John and I have been incarcerated for thirty-one years. The closer I get to my Lord, the more I begin to understand that I must give it all to Him. All meaning and every part and aspect of the life He has allowed me, to belong totally to Him.

Three years ago I wanted to continue my education in the study of theology. I wrote a letter to a church that my chaplain shared with me. Time went by without any contact and so I gave it to the Lord, put it on His altar, let His will be done and I went on with fellowshiping and seeking His will. Then a year later, I was attending

A Brother in Christ at California State Prison-Solano

service on a Tuesday evening with Pastor Tim, he let me know that someone came to the service to speak with me about the letter I had

written the year before about continuing my education. I received sponsorship and have since continued my education.

These past few years I have been working on and off doing my own legal work in regard to writs for relief with a parole date, to no avail. I stopped last year and again gave it all to the Lord, His will be done in my life. I will do whatever He wants. All along Pastor Tim, during his Tuesday evening services, would mention that prisoners with a strong faith in our Lord Jesus Christ will be getting out to further His service and will in the world.

Just recently my best friend paid for an attorney and another new friend visited with me to let me know their prayer group is getting the funds together to work on my parole. WOW! We have an awesome God, our Sustainer and Creator, who takes care of our needs. All we have to do is give it all to Him, our lives, our hearts, and our faith. I did not understand before about letting go and letting God be in control, but I do now exceedingly.

The Prodigal Returns

By Adam A.

The story of the prodigal son in Luke 15 (verse 11 -32) is one of the best known stories in all of scripture. I always gain so much by this story, more so now that I see how it reflects on my life.

When I first came to know Jesus as my Lord and Savior I thought the story was about lost souls coming to know God. But when I fell away from God and started living in conscience sin I was guilt ridden and in so much pain. I feared that God had saved me, called me, and gifted me, and yet, I still went back to my old sinful lifestyle after six years of being a Christian. I was so ashamed. Had I let God down so much that He would let me go, God, I am so sorry I let you down, now I truly don't deserve your love.

As I sat in this pit of despair and began to feel God would not take me back my life felt worthless. I felt like living was a waste of time. I was suicidal and broken. As I reread the story of the lost son again and again, God showed me that this is a story for the backslider. The son in the story knew what it was like with the father. He had a home and the blessings of being a son, yet he went out into the world. I could

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imagine the shame he must have felt going back to his father. I felt that shame, not deserving acceptance. Deserving to be sent away back out into that fast, lonely world. But grace is just that, grace, undeserved favor. I don't deserve God's love; in fact all I do deserve is His wrath. All I deserve is His punishment, yet He gives me His blessings, and He showers me with more than I can imagine.

Get On The Bus

By Gigi Pack

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and the Center for Restorative Justice Works (CRJW) brought together hundreds of children to visit their incarcerated fathers to celebrate Father's Day during the annual Get On The Bus (GOTB) event. Get On The Bus brings incarcerated fathers and their children together for a memorable visit," said CDCR Secretary Matthew Cate. "A strong bond between a father and his family helps that inmate succeed upon release and shows children how important they are in their parent's life." "Seldom do people ask what about the children?" said GOTB Executive Director and founder, Sister Suzanne Jabro. "These are the hidden victims of crime and punishment."

California State Prison-Solano (CSP) participated for the first time with this event held on June 19, one busload of children and their caregivers participated in the program. Leaving the Los Angeles area on a chartered bus in the wee hours of the morning, the bus cruised from Southern California arriving at The Mission in Vacaville at 7:15 a.m. There the children and their caregivers were treated to a hot breakfast of bacon and eggs provided by Ebenezer Outreach Ministry and volunteers from several churches.

Upon arriving at the prison, the children and caregivers were processed in and reunited with their dads in an emotional greeting. Families spent time getting reacquainted while enjoying lunch provided by GOTB and other donors. It was heartwarming to see children meeting their dads after many years of separation. One child had not seen her dad in eleven years, while another had not seen his dad in seven years. Children of all ages love face painting, after having a butterfly painted on her face, a hearing impaired child looked in the mirror and smiled from ear to ear. She then signed "butterfly" and made a

heart with her fingers and pointed to the volunteer indicating her love and appreciation for the day.

While some inmates sat at tables with their families, others walked around the visiting room introducing their families with obvious pride. Volunteers watched as a child spooned ice cream into her daddy's mouth and giggled as she deliberately smeared a little on his chin.

While the day took much planning and a lot of work, all volunteers agreed it was worth every minute of that effort. There were a total of eighteen inmate volunteers and many community volunteers who provided activities such as face painting and art lessons to add to the day's enjoyment. Music in the visiting room was provided by an inmate prison band.

The visit seemed all too short as the children said goodbye to their fathers and began the long trip home. GOTB provides children with travel bags, and provides comfort care bags for the caregivers, a photograph of each child with his or her father, and a meal on the way home. Following the visit each child is also provided a teddy bear, cookies, and a letter from his or her father as well as post-event counseling. The program is funded by donations from churches, schools, family foundations, grants, and other organizations.

"A child needs to know their father is safe and to know they are loved," added Sister Suzanne.

Gigi Pack is Co-Chair of the Inmate Family Council CSP-Solano and serves on the Executive Board for the Solano County Re-entry Council representing Children of the Incarcerated, Solano County.



The Symphony

By Gail Day

On May 12, I witnessed and participated in a symphony rarely seen when “Life Without Limbs” came to California State Prison-Solano (CSP) (<http://www.lifewithoutlimbs.org>). Nick Vujicic (a man born without arms or legs) shared with everyone that prison is not made of walls, or a lack of arms and legs, but is a life without God. It was a well choreographed series of movements which resulted in glorious music for the soul. As I walked the next morning I marveled at all the people whose efforts contributed to each of the sections of this symphonic moment.

Tim, the twenty years you have been walking in and through the prison confirming, suggesting, and demonstrating the love of a gracious God has been essential to this moment. Well done! You have worked hard and have been “the conductor” who has brought hundreds of volunteers in over the years, each one playing a crucial part in sharing God’s love and mercy. Through the years a foundation has been laid in the prison of people who were growing, changing, and forming a core of men desirous of a new type of living.

Those of us who have joined forces later in the game have

played a part as well, bringing in perspectives and skills which have helped add new instruments (classes, perspectives, friendship, and love) and thus added dimension to the symphony. Without prison leadership’s support and actions, chaplains and officer cooperation, there would be no way the symphony could have been performed.



Thank you Rick Atchley and Prison Fellowship for bringing the guest musicians, “Life Without Limbs,” to the symphony. In concert the

combination was incredible. What I witnessed was a wonderful melding of skills and passion resulting in a beautiful symphony of individuals absorbed in celebrating the freedom only available through the grace of a loving God who knows that before we were sinners and criminals we were ImageBearers of God in need of a savior. WOW!! What a day.

After forwarding this email to Tim May at Ebenezer Outreach Ministry, he asked me to take a moment and introduce how we have become part of the symphony at CSP. My husband, Dr. Larry Day and I have been privileged to teach classes

recently on the subject which Larry has been researching, studying, counseling others in, and teaching on for over forty years. *Self-Esteem: By God’s Design* (Larry’s book) is a compilation of the best research, theology, and his years of experience about how human beings develop a sense of self-worth that results in a deeply felt picture of who they are. Often circumstances, choices, and others can negatively impact that picture and we struggle with how to craft a healthy, happy, and successful life. You may wonder why this would be important to teach in a prison. The answer is very simple: most criminal behavior has a self-esteem component driving the actions that lead to breaking the law.

Most people have come to understand self-esteem to be “feeling good about ourselves.” There was a movement in the recent past that said that if we made everyone “feel good” about themselves, they would live more successful lives. We focused only on the good people did, removed obstacles so they wouldn’t feel failure, made sure everyone was treated equally, etc. However, implementing this picture of self-esteem usually created people who didn’t know how to handle life’s difficulties, compete for jobs or handle life’s hardships. Instead we raised children unable to work hard to achieve difficult tasks,

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unable to learn from their failures and mistakes or take pleasure in accomplishments and the benefits they bring to life. Instead of healthy, happy people, we saw confusion: “If I’m so wonderful, important, special, how come my life is not working?”

Why then would we write a book and teach a class about self-esteem if others are moving away from this perspective? Because an accurate understanding of the word self-esteem is the clearest picture of a concept that has life altering ramifications. By definition, to “esteem” something is to appreciate the worth of it. Therefore, self-esteem is an appreciation of our own worth. The next fundamental question then is: What is the basis of this appreciation?

A priceless jewel or gold nugget has an inherent value placed on it by those who treasure it. Similarly, human beings designed by a loving God, having attributes from His own nature (feeling, thinking, choosing, communicating, morally-aware, self-aware, spiritually aware, and creative), are treasured and “valued” as well. This forms the basis for our worth. We can appreciate our own worth because we are God’s children. He designed us in His own image. Just as our children are valuable to us because they are “our” kids, we are valuable to God. Our value is based on who we are and not on our accomplishments, our

intelligence, who we know or our possessions. It is based on our intrinsic worth: we are all human beings made in God’s likeness. When this forms the basis of our core sense of self-worth we are free to make life-giving choices, engage in healthy, wholesome activities that enhance our lives, and to develop into the people God designed us to be.

Just as God created the laws of gravity, aerodynamics, and good nutrition, He has designed the laws of good mental health. We have all observed someone determined to improve their physical health. They get sufficient rest; begin eating balanced, nutritional meals, and exercise more frequently. We can also improve our emotional and mental well-being in a similar manner: by learning about the principles of good mental health and building the skills necessary to improve our well-being. This is what we teach the prisoners. It is life-changing for them.

We fill a unique niche at the prison because we teach a topic that falls under the category of “mental health” and the men have an instinctive understanding that they struggle with their self-picture. Many have never attended a church or have not been in a chapel service for many years. By coming to them with a topic like self-esteem, we walk in a side door with principles and skills that help them take a new look at their lives and the One who created them. The ten session class,

workbook, and group discussions profoundly change their picture of themselves and one another.

A recent attendee wrote: “From the first day I heard you both speak the connection of my childhood and my life as a man became ever so clear.” Another attendee wrote, “In short, coming to this class truly allowed me to better know myself, as well as others and to better understand why they may be the way that they are. Very helpful/very-very helpful/ this class truly allowed me to let lifelong skeletons free.” From another attendee: “So many areas of my heart have begun to receive healing and I have begun to walk in love, with forgiveness.” And: “Really appreciated being able to recognize that my developmental ‘issues’ can be retraced and rectified or altered positively. Enjoyed learning that all of us have God concepts that are unique and personal. I found that I, a diligent Christian man for over seventeen years, have a God-concept that may not be wholly accurate-but erroneous in the areas of my bad life experiences.” Also: “It’s souls like yours that can and will change a whole civilization from the inside out.”

For years, I was a mom praying that God would bring someone to my son in jail so that he would know God loved him and that he was not alone in his life journey. Now, “we” are that someone to somebody else’s son. What a privilege to be God’s hand of

Finding His Love

By Cee Cee

In Jesus name I pray that the love and joy of the Lord will encourage and strengthen every person who reads this letter inspired by the Holy Spirit. It was an awesome experience to have had the opportunity to meet men and women who stepped out in faith to come experience the real side of being behind prison walls. It was a true honor from God to speak the truth of how God is using people everywhere.

Going through many hard times and many agonizing days God still carried me through, only to strengthen and grow me spiritually. You have a real opportunity to be someone for the Lord. Many of you have been called by God already. Don't let this opportunity just slip by you; it's an opportunity worth living for. I may be in prison but I won't compromise my faith for what God has done in my life. My life belongs to God and each day God gives me, I live unto the Lord. All glory belongs to God. We all come from different types of backgrounds, but no matter where we have come from or what we have done or what we are going through, I have news for you, we serve an almighty God, a God that cares 1 Peter 5:7 explains this so clearly, *"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."*

God can change all this around, God's love toward us has no limit, and it is unconditional. So don't beat yourself up like you are no one because you are someone special. You are the children of the most High God. You belong to God, you are blessed, and you are holy because He is holy. Don't let the Devil lie about who you are, the Devil is a liar. No matter what the Devil may say, you need to realize who you are in Christ Jesus. You are God's special people and He loves you very much.

I am a prime example of how God changed my life. I went through a lot growing up. I've been through it not only physically but emotionally. I had it so rough that I felt hopeless and I didn't want to live. I tried to use alcohol and drugs to cover the

pain I was going through. But all that did was make my situation worse and landed me in prison.

Feeling like it was all over I broke down and cried out to the Lord for help and God didn't hesitate. He touched my life with something I longed for all of my life (love). His love changed my life, I totally gave myself to the Lord and God gave me a brand new life in His son Jesus Christ. Even with all I have been through, if God can change my life, you can also make the same choice for your life.

The life I have and live today is amazing, even in prison. I encourage every one of you to not miss the opportunity to experience real life with God. God loves you He is waiting for you with open arms. I hope and pray that someone will be encouraged through this letter. May the love of God bless you from behind the prison walls.

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

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humbled Saul must be lowered in a basket, through the wall, to escape the Jews who now seek his life.

On more than one occasion, Saul (now called Paul) speaks of his old way of life and his lack of humility. In 2 Corinthians 11:16-30, Paul recites some of his resume, listing the many hardships he endured. His point in doing this was to highlight his own weakness and God’s strength which sustained him.

Philippians 3:2-11 has Paul using his pedigree as a Hebrew of Hebrews to deflate those who boasted in the flesh. After going through his blameless behavior under the Law, Paul says in verse 7 that he counts it all as loss for Christ. Paul turns in the righteousness he worked so hard for under the Law and receives by faith in Jesus righteousness from God.

Paul has learned to humbly submit to the Father’s will, regardless of the sufferings. In Philippians 2:1-11, Paul points to Jesus as his example and ours. The first four verses are an introduction where Paul shows our need to follow Jesus and stop trying to exalt ourselves above others. To look out for the interests of others rather than self.

How do we accomplish this? By adopting the mind-set of Christ Jesus. He was God and yet He came to live as a man in humble submission to the Father in heaven. He obeyed to the point of dying on a cross for the sins of all mankind. Following such humiliations, Jesus’ name was exalted above every name; a name who all will bow and confess as Lord in glory to God the Father. Wow, Jesus went through a lot to be exalted. I don’t know that I want to go through all of that. Can we just skip to the making my name great part?

That only shows our lack of humility and submission to God. Look at James 4:1-12, James gets to the heart of all our bickering with one another. We want things our way and we even pray to God to make them so. But God sees our motives and withholds what we are not ready to handle.

James exposes our worldly mind-set which puts us in opposition to God. He then explains that God is jealous and wants us all to Himself. That should give us a boost. Quoting from Proverbs 3:34, James says that God opposes the proud but gives grace to the

humble. He then concludes that if we submit to God, we will then resist the Devil and the Devil will turn tail and run.

That’s not all. As we draw near to God and let go of our sinful thoughts and practices, God will draw near to us. We will no longer laugh with the world, but in humility we will mourn our waywardness. It is in the humble state that God will exalt us. With this new mind we won’t talk bad about our brothers and condemn them.

As men of God don’t we want to submit to Him? You are a talented group of brothers and the Lord wants to use you to be witnesses of His love, mercy, and grace. But your pride can keep that from happening. Humble yourselves before God. That includes all whom He has placed in authority over you, whether chaplains, pastors, or correctional officers (Hebrews 13:7, 17). God’s word guarantees that when you humble yourself before God, He will exalt you. God will use you to bring Him praise and to proclaim the Gospel of Christ to others.

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mercy and love extended to those in need of it.

In a prison of over 5,000 we have had the privilege of teaching and demonstrating the love of God and His principles for successful living to about 1000 men in the past three years. We’d love to have you join our team to reach the next 1,000!

In His Image,
Gail Day

Dr. Day is a retired counselor with 31 years experience. He and Gail travel and speak at retreats, churches, and conventions on the topic of self-esteem and life skills from a Biblical perspective. Their passion is helping others grow and blossom into the people God designed them to be.
<http://www.larrydayministries.com>

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Ebenezer Outreach Ministry Re-Entry University

By Bill M.

I have personally been blessed by Pastor Tim's various ministries to us for more than ten years now, beginning with his Tuesday night chapel services. If he had only held Tuesday services, I would have been richly blessed by the many guests he has brought in to share the Word of God and their personal testimonies.

A Brother in Christ at California State Prison-Solano

His many other programs and ministries have added to this, supplying us with skills, encouragement, and practical experience in living fruitful, productive lives as representatives of the Kingdom of God.

I attended and facilitated Pastor Tim's first program, The Forty Days of Purpose (The Purpose Driven Life). Although the program was started by CCIH Sol

Irving, Pastor Tim's participation quickly enriched and broadened it, especially in terms of providing instruction and practical experience for each facilitator.

The program focused, not only on Christian Evangelism, but on the practical aspects of men trying to live righteous lives. Other programs have shared this focus, I have attended the following classes: Self Esteem by God's Design; Kingdom Living; Kingdom

Inheritance; and a worship and songwriting class, each made possible by Pastor Tim's ministry. I hope to participate in the other programs that have begun for the level three inmates.

I also appreciate the fact that most of the programs have included additional instruction for those of us who not only want to learn the lessons, but also want to share this information with others

and facilitate presentations. The facilitator lessons have been of great value to those of us who are left to minister to the men here after the volunteers and staff have gone home for the day.

In addition to the practical programs, we have been richly blessed by the countless special guests brought in throughout the years, and the musical blessings of the choir every Christmas, Easter, and summer. The value of these presentations are unique, men who simply will not enter the chapel would accept invitations to these events in the visiting center or gymnasium. Men who were hardened and set on courses of destruction to themselves and others have been turned to the beginning of living godly lives while sitting in these audiences.

Lastly, I want to express how deeply I appreciate that Pastor Tim has gone to great lengths to work with the existing chapel programs,

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“Re-Entry” continued from page 11

rather than competing with them. The value of these programs, events, and services simply cannot be overstated. Souls have been saved, lives have been drastically changed and this tiny piece of the world truly is a better place. Pastor Tim is greatly loved here and could easily have carved out his own fellowship and filled the seats with programs at the expense and detriment of the chapel programs. Instead he has chosen to work with them and both are stronger and more vital because of it. He is a true “team player”.

My one hope would be to see the entire correctional staff begin to recognize the simple correctional value of these programs and start making it possible for more men to attend. I pray for the day when staff actively encourages these programs, which would be of monumental value to all – the inmates, staff, and to society as a whole.

*“In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
And the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not comprehend it...
That was the true Light which gives light
to every man who comes into the world.”*

(John 1: 4, 5, 9)

COME OUT OF THE DARKNESS

Rise up, rise up all souls and give your lives
to reach out to Me.

You surely will leave all darkness behind
and come into My light.

Just as I make dark clouds dissipate
and the sky turns blue, surely
your life will change as you place
your trust more in Me.

You need never dwell in the dark,
for I am the true Light given to all men.

Believe this is so, and live!

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December 29, 2009

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The Inner Community Times

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