



To the Church Outside:

By Bill Mothershed

I have been sitting here in my cell for the past hour, moved in the Spirit to write to you, and resisting that call, questioning whether it is of God or my own ego. Who am I to write to you? I could tell you true stories of angels and demons behind bars, of heroes of the faith that you will never know, and you might be entertained for a moment, but that would just be my own ego speaking.

What is on my heart today is to presume to speak to you about your own children, because it breaks my heart to see how many of them end up in prison.

My father was a hateful, paranoid schizophrenic, an alcoholic with Vietnam issues. My mother was a rebellious sixteen-year-old, who left home and allowed herself to be seduced by that man. Their idea of spirituality was to delve into the occult. It would have been a miracle if I had NOT ended up in prison.

What brings me to tears and confounds my mind is how many young men and women end up behind bars, who came from sane parents that took them to church, sent them to Bible Camp, and gave them a good home. I have spent a

great deal of time talking to these young men, and there are some obvious scapegoats. Some fell into drug use, others into gangs; some were lured aside by “bad company”, and some into radical philosophies or religions.

But these were all secondary effects. The common root behind these outgrowths of evil was that these young men had somehow managed to be raised in the church without ever developing a real relationship with God. They were simply going through the motions.

True relationship with God through Jesus Christ was replaced with ritual. And this applies across the spectrum of Christendom. They learned the church, acted like everyone around them, but the God of Heaven and His Beloved Son had no real place in their lives or hearts. I am tempted to wonder whether they were merely reflecting the depth of their parents’ relationship with God.

You can take a child to church, but if he is not learning about God by watching God work in his parent’s lives, then he is merely learning empty doctrine that will

never touch his heart.

What is truly heartbreaking though is the number of these young men who freely admit that their parent’s faith was real and obvious, but they simply never embraced their parent’s faith, never took it seriously. It’s not necessarily that they did not really

become Christians, they just didn’t care. They did what was required

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of them, and then got back to what was more important to them.

The enemy used that spiritual void. He lured them, small bit by small bit, from indifference to mockery to disobedience to genuine evil. Paying no heed to the Spirit of God, not knowing or wanting to know His voice, they allowed themselves to be lured from the path of righteousness and into destruction.

They weren’t necessarily “bad kids” and they did not always even want the evil they embraced. They were just lost and empty, never having taken their true faith seriously. But God does not

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abandon His wayward children. Eventually, He brings many of them to us, chastened, distraught, and suddenly forced to take their relationship with God seriously.

It is our privilege to help build them up, to nurture the faith that’s been lying dormant all of their lives. But it is so sad to see them come to this state, knowing from where they have fallen, knowing the unappreciated potential they cast aside.

I don’t know how to end this letter, having declared and mourned the problem. I don’t pretend to have a solution that is not obvious. You don’t need me to tell you how to parent the children that you love more than I do.

If your own faith is genuine, you don’t need me to tell you how vital it is to instill that same genuine faith in the hearts of your own children. Having been teenagers yourselves, you don’t need me to tell you that the true heart of a teenager is often, if not always, hidden from his or her parents.

All I know is that your children are on my heart today, the ones who are here with me now, and especially the ones who still have an opportunity to come back to a genuine relationship with God and hopefully will never meet me.

I just want to encourage you to make certain that your children’s relationship with God is true and deep and sure. I don’t want to meet them, but I’ll pray for them today.

*It’s easy to fall away from God’s intentions.
Apostasy comes when man’s words take over God’s Word*

*“...There are some who trouble you and want to pervert
the gospel of Christ...do I seek to please men?*

*For if I still pleased men,
I would not be a servant of Christ.”
(Galatians 1:7, 10)*

EXHORTATION TO THE CHURCH

Church, you have been too complacent
with the things of God.

I have given Spiritual gifts that
have been ignored or have not been accepted.

You have unwittingly allowed the enemy
to enter in and ignored My desires for you.

I am bringing a shaking to My body
that you be awakened to the battle
that needs to be fought.

Stop the encroaching of false words into My holiness.

Put on My full armor. It’s time to fight.

Get on your knees, repent, and
submit to the authority I give you
to cast out the evils of man’s ways.

Receive only what I have for you.

Seek My face alone and allow the Holy Spirit

His full reign in the church to rule.

This is My battle for the life of the church.

Will you serve Me or the approval of man?

Depart from evil and pursue
the truth found only in Me.

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September 9, 2011

<http://www.Godcares.org>

Awaking the Sleeping Giant

By Tim May

As we look at current events throughout the nation and the world we see much of what Luke 21 describes as the signs of end times. We see earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, and massive droughts in America and throughout the nations of the world, wars and commotions.



Reverend Timothy and Katie May

Many are discussing one world government; one world financing and the downgrading of America's financial status, as a nation we are divided ethnically, politically, spiritually, and socially.

As Christians, Scripture tells us we are not to worry because our provision is provided by our Father above. Simply stated, we are not of this world we are only passing through. We are not to worry about our life, what we will eat or what we will drink; or about our body, or what we will

wear. Is not life more than food and clothing and what we wear? Scripture tells us to look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet our heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

Because of what's happening in the world, our challenge as believers is to share Christ's love and the Gospel message to a lost and dying world. The Father has awakened the sleeping giant behind prison walls, shaking and changing hearts which will glorify Him. As believers you have been given all you need to do great and mighty things outside the church doors. John 14:12-14 says, *"I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."* Have you awakened a sleeping giant?

There was a time I would tell the men to find the baddest guy on the yard. Now my challenge to them is to ask God who He has prepared to hear His Word, as well as to develop friendships with non-believers so they can see Christ living in you. We must overcome fear and what others might say when you share time with pre-Christians. Don't worry

about their comments because "If you don't tell them about Jesus who will?" Always remember, Jesus went to the non-believers that they would know or sent others like you to share His Word, love, grace, and mercy.

Sometimes we believers utilize the excuse I can't share because I am at work. However, we must always remember to render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's and to God which is God's. As we study His Word, He will give you wisdom and understanding of what to say, guided by the Holy Spirit. You can share your faith with your neighbors, strangers, and fellow employees, assist the widows, feed the hungry, visit the sick, and the prisoners. You have the favor of God and increased favor will be yours when you are accomplishing the things He is instructing you to do.

Many volunteers enter prison fearfully expecting to see what is portrayed on television, yet find something totally different. Seeing men happy, discussing their relationship with God and how He has transformed their lives. The first time I heard an inmate state to me, *"You and your team are to many of us the expression of the love of God toward us,"* tears came to my eyes, humbled and never thinking of myself or our team members in that way. Are you willing to be the expression of the love of God toward someone or a group of people needing help?

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C. A. R. E. S.

Compassionate Accountability Remorsefully Expressed through Community Service

By C. M. John C.

The purpose of this article is to first thank you Pastor Tim May, for all your hard work and assistance in getting this first ever event at CSP-Solano started. The equipment you provided was highly appreciated and very much needed. I personally want to thank you for your involvement with our organizing committee, taking time out of your busy schedule to attend our meetings and participating the day of our event.

The event was a huge success on a personal level for all the participants who walked. There was an overwhelming amount of prisoners who came up to me and various members of our team, and shared personal testimonies about why they were walking or running. The men all reached the goals we set for them and met their own personal goals for the amount of laps they wanted to complete for members of their own family and friends. It was a truly remarkable effort on behalf of everyone who participated in this event and helped raise funds needed for the American Cancer Society.

It must be noted there were some small adversities we faced that day, Saturday, August 21, 2010. The first adversity was Mother Nature, the second was that a few of the buildings had issues with the amount of prisoners being let out; because we had an overwhelming number of sign-ups. However, none of that was going to stop what we wanted to see come to life at CSP-Solano.

Our entire organizing committee and staff members were determined, knowledgeable, and improvising on issues which did not breach any safety or security concerns at the institution. The weather and release of participants did affect our start time, but not our finish time; as the 625 laps, 125 miles per building continued, many had the opportunity to participate in the event as well as listen to the bands and speak with other participants. Personal goals were attained, such as Mr. Gregory Rivers, who ran until 3:30pm. His goal was to

complete 25 laps for three family members and loved ones who supported our event.

This was just a small reflection of commitment from our participants; whose conduct and commitment was also reflected when our celebrity guest and special visitors/speakers came in. Most of the men continued running or walking; all while our guests walked around, spoke, and signed autographs. To see this was a beautiful thing; along with the two older men, Mr. Ricky Dotson and Mr. M. Martel, who both ran 125 laps (non-stop) by themselves.

Also, not a single complaint was made about the event. The men really enjoyed the whole day. The men who did not walk for a family member or friend walked to support our cause and effort for bringing this positive event together. For the past week everyone has been thanking me for putting this event together and expressing the wish to do it again next year.

The men here really appreciate the opportunity to be part of something very positive and are willing to do more if allowed. The educational and informational stations that were set up (at the suggestion of Associate Warden K.M. Young and the Organizing Committee) to provide participants who would not be on the track something to do while they awaited their turn to do laps was fun, intriguing, and warranted by all in attendance (including our custody staff).

This was a memorable day, a great event, and a big success as the institution and AMC goal for us was only \$1,000 we raised close to \$4,000. Again, I thank you, all of our participants, donors, staff members (including the warden and his staff) and our organizing committee members. Hopefully we will be able to do this again next year and double what we raised this year.

What's In Your Barn?

By Jay Copeland

Do you remember this song by the Rolling Stones, 'I Can't Get No) Satisfaction', some of the lyrics speak of a man on the car radio giving useless information, television ads talking about how white your shirts can be. Another lyric tells the importance of smoking a manly cigarette (you can tell it's a 60's song). The singer continues to lament trying and trying to find satisfaction, but failing to do so.

Jesus relates a parable in Luke 12:16-21, which runs along the same lines as this song, except for how this story ends. There is a rich man who simply can't squeeze any more of his crop into his barns. So he decides to build bigger barns to hold it all. In this way, he thinks, he will be set for years to come, and can kick back and enjoy life. Sounds good, doesn't it? Kind of like the American dream: work really hard, accumulate a lot of wealth, then retire and enjoy it.

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There is a constant barrage of advertising telling us the best way to save for our retirement. There are also those get-rich-quick schemes: "I made \$20,000 on my first deal!" If you can read the fine print it usually says that such results are not guaranteed or even typical.

Getting back to the parable told by Jesus, we see that all this rich man's dreams were short-lived because God called him into eternity that very night. And, God isn't looking for what's in his barn, God is looking for the man's soul. Not only that, but God asks him who will get all that he worked so hard for? Jesus ends this story by stating that this is what happens to those with earthly treasure who are not rich toward God.

Let's not miss the point that this man neglects his faith in God, in order to become rich. This is not an indictment against rich people in general. After all it is God who gives us the ability to become wealthy. God has blessed some to be able to make a lot of money, and they still have a vibrant faith in God.

Following this parable, Luke 12:22-31 parallels Matthew 6:25-33 from the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus instructs his disciples not to be anxious about any of their physical needs and He gives two reasons why:

The first is that life is more than food and clothing. Tell that to the Madison Avenue types who create advertising designed to make us feel deprived if we lack a certain car, shoe, burger, or cat food. The god of this world wants us thinking about material things, not spiritual truth.

The second reason is that we are not to worry about our basic needs, because God takes care of the needs of the rest of His creation. The ravens have food without working two jobs. The lilies don't make their own clothing, nor do they buy designer labels, yet they are clothed more beautifully than Solomon. Even the grass looks good, though it may be cut down tomorrow or burned.

You and I are the crown of God's creation, made in His image, and given stewardship over the rest of the world. Aren't we more valuable to God than the birds? Can't God clothe and feed us as He does the rest of His creation? Then why do we spend so much time worrying about these things?

Jesus says that all the nations of the world are caught up single-minded seeking after the things our Father knows we need. Instead, we are to seek His Kingdom, and He will give us what we need. And in verse 32 of Matthew, Jesus states that it is the Father's good pleasure to give us the Kingdom. No box tops, Blue Chip stamps or frequent flier miles to collect. We simply surrender ourselves to Him, body, soul, and spirit.

Further connecting Jesus' parable to His sermon are in verses 33 and 34 of Luke. Jesus says to sell our possessions and give to the poor. In this way we will accumulate treasure in heaven where it is safe from moth, rust, and thieves. The rich man could only see himself and what he wanted.

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He wasn't about to sell what he had, let alone give anything to the poor. He wanted it all to himself. This rich man's heart was with his earthly treasure. If his heart had been with God, he wouldn't have lost anything. By loving his wealth rather than his loving God, the man lost everything.

When did you last check to see what you are treasuring in your heart? I recommend a daily personal inspection, with frequent help from an accountability partner or two. If you focus daily on the Lord, and your work for His kingdom, He will show you if there is anything you need to let go. God will make it clear if you are working too many hours for the wrong reasons. He will let you know if your pursuit of your career is hindering your spiritual growth, and that of your family.

Finally, our Father will increase your trust in Him as you see prayers answered. You will be amazed by how much direction you are experiencing in your life. The things of this world will grow dim, becoming less desirable and hollower than before. More importantly, the things of God will become more significant and your focus on your ministry will intensify. And, you will wonder why you spent so much time chasing rainbows when God was holding your pot of gold the whole time!

C.H.A.N.G.E

“Called Heaven and No-one Gave Excuses”

By Ronnie Randon

Change is at the tip of your tongue. The question I asked myself was, “Am I willing to let go in order for me to receive it?” This is what I had to face. In an earlier article I wrote “Crossroads to Repentance” (Godly Repentance) and now C.H.A.N.G.E.

In 2008, I received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. While I was familiar with the Bible, I had never read it in its entirety. Soon I kept pondering how I can say I love God or His Son, yet having never read His Word completely.

I wanted a relationship with my Lord and Savior. Not a title of being called a Christian, but

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for the reason I needed to know myself.

I knew this would require a commitment, obedience, and courage. I vowed to read the Bible in one year. Not as an activity, but for the purpose of strengthening my relationship with my Lord and Savior.

I later realized making that vow changed things for me. I became more faithful, not only in my daily reading, but in my studies. Early in the Scriptures, it talked about vows, and I had to read it several times. A vow to God is a voluntary commitment to do something that pleases Him. Remembering I wanted to strengthen my relationship with God and His Son, Numbers 30:2 says, *“If a man makes a vow to the Lord, or swears an oath to bind himself by some agreement, he shall not break his word; He shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth”*. I wasn't forced to make the vow it was a voluntary commitment to strengthen my relationship.

The first five words of Genesis 1:1 became

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His Hands and Feet

Get On The Bus

By Michelle Milton

Not many people would want to wake up at 4 am on a Saturday, I know that's not on my top ten list of fun things to do. But this day, June 18, was a different story. Get On The Bus was going to be bringing 100 plus kids from the Southern California area so they could visit their family members on Father's Day weekend and I was going to be the face painter for the children. To be honest, the thought of getting up before sunrise, on my day off and painting the faces of children, with a VERY limited artistic ability, intimidated me just a tad. However, I knew that was the position God had placed me in for the event and I was excited to see what He had in store.

This was my second year of volunteering with Get On The Bus for the CSP-Solano visit and I am amazed at the hand of God upon each family that participates. Although this is my second year serving as a volunteer, this is my first year going inside of the prison to assist with the visitation. I was so excited for what the day was going to hold, but first we must meet at the church to serve breakfast to everyone who came from the long Southern California journey.

Once everyone arrived at The Mission (the host church for the

breakfast event) and had their share of breakfast served to them by local volunteers, everyone started to make their way to CSP-Solano. It looked like business as usual for those who had helped in years past, however, this year we had a special surprise for them. As the buses pulled out of the church parking lot, a Harley Davidson riding team named The Black Sheep pulled up in front of the buses, treating the children and volunteers like royalty with



a motorcycle escort. I had the AMAZING thrill of riding with one of the Black Sheep bikers and it was such a thrill to look in the buses watching the children wave to the bikers as they rode along side of them blocking traffic. Their faces lit up and it seemed to be a good lifter of spirits for them after a long night in a bus while calming the anxiousness of visiting a prison.

Once we arrived at CSP-Solano and the visitations began, you could see the whole atmosphere change. This didn't

feel like the visiting room of a prison, it felt like being a fly on a wall watching other families interact within their own homes.

As I looked over the room, I could see families sharing meals together, spouses laughing with each other, children watching television, as their parents discussed matters and a son coloring with his dad. Little would you know from the appearance, that son met his dad for the first time a few moments earlier?

As the families interacted with each other, I set up my area for the face painting. As I sat there, a girl came up to me wanting her face painted, wanting hearts drawn on her cheeks. As I began painting her face, I notice her eyes are missing the joy you normally see in a child. I take my time painting and I start asking questions so I can become acquainted with this young girl. After a few minutes I discovered she was there visiting her grandfather for the first time. At this point I'm still taking my time painting her face and because I could tell something was wrong. I then proceeded to ask "Are you scared right now?" She then looked to the ground, causing me to stop painting her face and she shook her head saying yes. She then looked back up, assuming the position for me to finish the

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second heart and I asked her, “Is it hard for you to be here right now?” She said yes again. As I finished her face I asked her to look at me and I told her, “I know this is scary for you. When I was little I had to come in and visit my dad in prison and I was really scared. But you know what? You’re going to be okay. Do you see these guys in the uniform? They are going to protect you in case ANYTHING happens and you know what else? We’re here to help you feel safe.” I began to say other encouraging things to make her smile and ease the nervousness inside of her soul and after a couple of minutes she walked away from my area with a huge smile on her face, off to show her family her new artwork.

That was the highlight for me and that is why I do what I do with Get On The Bus and other similar organizations. It’s not just about shipping a kid or family off to see an incarcerated loved one. It’s about helping them through the process before, during, and after the visit. Some of these children met their father or grandfather in prison for the first time. Others got a chance to see them for the first time in years and it may be years before they see each other again. That can be a very emotional time for a young child or teen and I know I wish I would have had someone there holding my hand making sure I was okay during the process.

In order to break the cycle and really show God’s love we need to actually be the hands and feet of

Jesus. Sometimes that will mean getting up at 4 am on a Saturday to cook breakfast for 100 people. Other times, it will mean riding a Harley Davidson through the streets of Vacaville blocking traffic so the children can feel like royalty. Occasionally, showing the love of Jesus will be the assignment of just making a child smile when they are nervous or scared in a situation.

We are each called to one area of service or another. There isn’t a job too small for His Kingdom and each person has a God designed plan for their life. I got to brighten the face of a young girl that day by painting hearts on her face and sharing some encouragement her way so she wouldn’t feel alone. Although that might seem small to some, it felt like one of the biggest things I’ve ever done in ministry.

Michelle Milton is a member of Liberty Christian Center, Fairfield, California

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Many men in prison have broken all family bonds by breaking their word in the past, however; the transforming power of God is truly healing hearts and transforming men and women behind the walls into powerful children of God. As we see what God is doing with men and women, who in many cases committed horrendous crimes against society. Those who participate in various ministries of helps better understand God’s forgiveness, love, healing, grace, and mercy toward all of us.

Ministry Report

This past season we had several guest ministries participate behind the walls:

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: all the volunteers for your hard work; 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>

CJ: Second Chance Ministry with Clifford J. Orndorff III and Robert Martin Maier ministered on all four facilities to 670 inmates. www.2ndchanceministries.org.

Wings of Love Ministry coordinated by Marian Alice Barnes. The ministry brings the Gospel message to CSP-Solano and several prisons including juvenile facilities throughout California.

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

Passport to Purpose taught by Carol Davis ended the Vessel workbook with 240 men now taking the Charter class. Comments from past class participants may be viewed on her website: **Mission of Grace Foundation**, <http://www.gracefound.org>, also on Facebook, Mission of Grace; classes facilitated by Ebenezer Outreach Ministry Re-entry Team.

Effective Communication an eighteen-week program started in June, developed and taught by Joseph Tomlinson and facilitated by Ebenezer Outreach Ministry Re-entry Team.

Finance, Job Networking, and Entrepreneurship an eighteen-week course, developed and

taught by David Michael and facilitated by Ebenezer Outreach Ministry Re-entry Team.

Transformational Project a Prison Fellowship program, continues to instruct 20 men; these classes include Celebrate Recovery, Discipleship and Mentoring for the men, facilitated by several volunteers from Prison Fellowship, <http://www.prisonfellowship.org>

Men of Purpose a discipleship program instructed by Pastors’ Alfred DeGree and Eddie Thomas with 40 men participating monthly and facilitated by team members.

“The Way” Gavel Club a speaking program facilitated by Linda and Ervine Fowler with Tim May, led by the inmates, with 38 men in the initial group. They are anticipating an increase in the number of men involved.

Christian Anointing a worship and Prayer gathering facilitated by Daniel Robinson and Lisa Wiley, and members of the Ebenezer Outreach Ministry Team, led by inmates. They have approximately 100 men on the ducat (pass to enter) list.

Ongoing Ebenezer Outreach Ministry Activities

One Voice Praise Choir this Spring ministered to the men on

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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 800 men at these facilities with 57 men dedicating or re-dedicating their lives to Christ.

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, Avenal State Prison, Atascadero Medical Facility, and California Medical facility, where approximately 45 men committed or re-committed there lives to Christ at the various facilities.

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.

One Voice Praise Choir and Joyful Expressions

Members: Carolina Aguardo, Galen Anderson, Nancy Anderson, Marvin Ashe, Paula Caddy, Sandy Evans, Lynne Gallaher, Brenda Gittens, Judith Handa, Ron Handa, Jeanne Havlicek, Quinton Kelley, Regina McCollam, Tim May, Janell Michael, Judy Moran, Norbert Moreno, Barbara Niehoff, Kathi O’Grady, Julie Oppenheim, Verna Ringler,

Carolyn Sheehan, Tonya Stanton, and Joseph Tomlinson. In addition we had eight men from CSP-Solano sing with the choir.

Production Team:

Pastor Kim Moreno, Music Director, Jeanne Schultz, Assistant Choir Director; Rudy Aguardo, Sound

Weekly Ministry and CSP-Solano Demonstration Project:

Pastor Richard Atchley, Clifford Burks Joseph Chang, Peter Curzon, Carol Davis, Chris Davis, Pastor Alfred DeGree, Cheryl DeGree, Ervine Ray Fowler, Linda Fowler, Dan Gamel, David Gutierrez, Jay Grover, Donna Haaf, John Haaf, Judith Handa, Ron Handa, Doctor Samuel Huddleston, Michael Ingram, David Michael, Christopher Mullen, Kelley Murphy, Maureen Murphy, Henry Ong, Pastor Daniel Robertson, Doctor Michael Savage, Joseph Scanlan, Ronald Schexnayder, Pastor Sammie Shavers, Robert Silva, Pastor Ronald Stillwell, Pastor Eddie Thomas, Joseph Tomlinson, David Tuaodo, and James Turner.

Tim’s Angels:

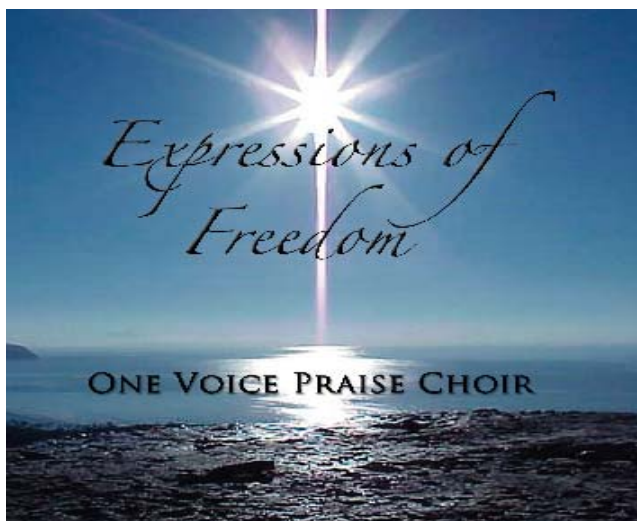
Millie Schlegel, Gert Tormey, and Verna Ringler

Calendars:

Tom and Connie Vanides

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:

Ebenezer Outreach Ministry
PO Box 2715
Vacaville CA 95696-2715

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ARE WE THERE YET?

By Gigi Pack

The inevitable question that is asked on a long trip could be heard throughout the buses as children and their caregivers traveled along I-5 in the wee hours of the morning on June 18th. The buses were headed for CSP-Solano as part of the annual Get On The Bus Program sponsored by The Center for Restorative Justice and The Department of Corrections.

Get On The Bus (GOTB) unites children with an incarcerated parent during the months of May and June. Sr. Suzanne Jabro explains, "Children are the hidden victims of crime." While it is the parent who commits the crime, the whole family suffers the punishment, especially the children. GOTB goes a long way in restoring family ties with these visits.

The buses rolled into The

Mission on Leisure Town Road at 6:15 am after traveling all night from the Los Angeles area. Pastor Tim May and Deanna Allen along with Ebenezer Outreach and their crew had prepared a hot breakfast for the families before they



headed over to the prison. They were treated to a buffet of mouth-watering food that was needed and welcome after the long trip. The families re-boarded the buses and headed off to the prison to see their loved ones.

Upon arriving the children and their caregivers were processed in and entered the visiting rooms

where they met their dads in warm embraces and tears of joy. For some of the children, this would be the first time they had seen their dad in many years. For others, this was the first meeting ever! No matter how long it had been since seeing each other, walls of separation melted away and family ties were established and re-established.

Matthew Cate, Director of California Department of Corrections said, "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."

Families spent time getting reacquainted while enjoying a pizza lunch provided by St. Joseph's Hospital in Stockton as well as Children's Network of Fairfield. Activities during the day included family photos, face painting, as well as arts and crafts

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for the children. Each child had the opportunity for a private art lesson provided by the talented inmate artists of CSP-Solano. Community volunteers were in the visiting rooms to help with the activities and lunch.

The visit seemed all too short as the children said their good-byes and began the long trip home. Along with a teddy bear provided for each child, they carried with them memories of a wonderful day and a feeling of belonging to a whole family.

Gigi Pack is a member of the Inmate Family Counsel at CSP-Solano



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the foundation of everything I would read after because it says, “In the beginning God created.” And believing that everything thereafter is also true.

According to Hebrews 1:1-2, God’s son Jesus Christ being the appointed Heir of all things through whom also He made the worlds. I have learned that sorrow is the road to heaven, there will be trials and tribulations. Philippians 4:13 comes to mind because I can do nothing on my own. Daniel is an example for me that I draw encouragement from. Daniel 1:9-21, he and his friends faced many adverse circumstances, yet they held true to their faith in God and His promise.

I stopped wrestling with God in 2008. I’ve committed my life to serving Christ to live life completely gull. One thing I have been assured of is that I can always call heaven!

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