



OCTOBER 2013

Dear beloved ministry partners,

This is the blessing that Moses, the man of God, pronounced on the Israelites before his death. About Benjamin He said: “let the beloved of the Lord rest secure in Him, for He shields him all day long, the one the Lord loves rests between His shoulders.” DEUTERONOMY 33: 2

The series of blessings given by Moses to the twelve tribes gives us a glimpse as to what God wants for His children. In Christ, we have His ultimate revelation to us as believers; and that is His unconditional love and forgiveness. The blessings put forth in the Old Testament are assurances to us as New Testament believers that God is interested in our wellbeing and that He loves us with an everlasting covenantal love that does not depend on where we are at or what we are doing. That is the blessed hope we bring to those who are incarcerated.

It is a blessing beyond words to have the privilege of ministering in the North Florida Prisons and to know that you are serving right along with us allowing us to be your hands, feet and voice behind the razor wire. When you read our letters, we ask that you pray specifically for our health and that God would grant us wisdom. We are grateful for your prayers and support. They spur us on in ministry; encouraging us to “just show up” by taking God’s Word to what is now referred to as “the 4th World” where there truly is a hunger for “spiritual food”.

The day after the Gospel Express Prison Ministry Banquet (a sister ministry of **Harvest Of Life**) we received an email from our dear friend and supporter Jo Anne Arnett. We met Jo Anne and her husband Joe 15 years ago when we first moved to Tallahassee. You see, Dan was to have been the keynote speaker at the banquet. He had planned his talk weeks in advance, gathering appropriate Scriptures, making an outline which included a few statistics, some hilarious one-liners (and definitely no singing), but as the time grew closer for him to take to the podium the Holy Spirit gently suggested that he ditch his planned speech and let Him, *the Spirit*, take over. As a result, Jo Anne’s letter reads as follows:

“Buenos Dias, my singing friends! Your secret is out and it’s a good one. I’ll be glad to help with your musical gigs when you’re ready to go viral.

Joe and I couldn’t get over your presentation at the banquet. It was just wonderful! Actually, it was beyond my imagination that anyone could energize that audience after such a long program, but you did it in spades. Somehow you gained everyone’s interest, gave inspiring and practical information, introduced exciting testimonies, let us know how to be involved with prison ministry, and gave honor to others, all within 30 minutes. Joe remarked about it again after we got home and, as you know, he is a man who doesn’t give compliments easily or often.

Thanks for including us. My prayer is that you not only gained volunteers but did well with the fund raising. Jo Anne.” ...President of the Center for Biblical Studies, Tallahassee, Florida.

Yes, Dan and I sang a few lines from a couple Spanish praise songs (honestly, it was pathetic) and then the program moved on to what we’re really about...saving souls and discipling inmates. What better way of demonstrating the fruit of our labor than inviting three former offenders, who were in the audience, to share their testimonies of how they were ministered to by volunteers coming into the prison and sharing the love of Christ with them. This was completely impromptu but it was definitely of the Spirit and from their hearts. These three lives that were saved and totally changed deeply touched all those that attended the banquet.

As we look back over the years when we first began Spanish worship services in the prison chapels, we’d arrive with tapes of Christian praise songs and the lyrics typed out on transparencies to be viewed on a large screen via an overhead projector. Each chapel was equipped with audio and visual equipment which by today’s standards are considered “antiquated.” As the services grew in attendance some of men who were musically gifted expressed a desire to form praise teams. Now at each prison that Dan ministers there is has a “full blown” band with talented singers and instrumentalists. This is truly a blessing but more amazing is the number of Hispanic gang members (the Latin Kings) who have given their lives to the Lord and are now serving Him using their God given musical talents. To God be the glory!

The **Men on Mission** Bible study class, which by the way is in English, will be finishing up the *Experiencing God* study on the 26th of this month. The pastor of our church, Curtis Clark, will be bringing the message at their graduation ceremony. I think I’ve mentioned before that this class is for inmates with sentences of 15 years to life. The goal of this class is to make missionaries of the men so they can share Christ on the compound. Dan found a great deal on an excellent Bible study called “*Christian Basics; the Path to Eternal Life.*” **Harvest of Life**, thanks to your donations, was able to purchase enough workbooks and teacher’s guides for the inmates to teach these lessons in their cell blocks. Meanwhile some of the men have written to Lee Strobel author of “*A Case for Faith*” and also Max Lucado, author of “*He Chose the Nails*” asking if their ministries would be so kind as to donate their Bible study workbooks to them for the upcoming cycle which begins January 2014. Can you believe we are already planning for next year? My, my time does fly!!

I wish you could have joined us last week in the women’s prison at Gadsden C.F. where we’ve been facilitating the Bill Gothard “Life Principles” study. We meet in the faith based dorm on Wednesdays from 1:00pm -4:00pm. This is a 6 month course teaching the character qualities exhibited by Christ. It was the first week of the new cycle and there were lots of new faces in the class. Before the class began Dan made it clear that in order to understand Scripture and engraft it into your life you have to be “born of the Spirit”. He asked if there was anyone in the class that had never made a decision to follow Christ. (We never assume that just because they are in the Faith Based program that they are Christians) One lady stood and came forward to pray the sinner’s prayer and receive Jesus into her heart. After she prayed, the other women in the class stood and cheered, crying tears of joy that they’re prayers for her had been answered. You see Melissa was put into the dorm by “mistake”. Maybe an error committed by classification, but it was a divine appointment engineered by the Holy Spirit.

In Christian Love,

Marilyn and Dan

JUST THOUGHT YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW: Harvest of Life Ministries is not supported by any one Church or Denomination. We count on the prayers and financial donations of those receiving this newsletter. We are grateful for you and we pray that God would bless you abundantly!