



Director's Corner



*"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*  
**John 16:33.**

By the time you receive this newsletter, it will have been over 5 ½ months since I or anyone else from Harvest of Life has stepped inside a prison! Hard to believe, but true. A lot has transpired over this time and we just have had to become more creative in our ways of encouraging the men and women behind the fences along with the chaplains AND our team! I know I have battled with discouragement and even complacency during this time away. So, if those of us on the "outside" are struggling with being quarantined and our life routines being radically changed, think about those on the "inside" and what they must be dealing with right now.

My mother died very unexpectedly at the end of July and I have had to deal with death so close to home for the first time in my life. The Bible says that life and death are in the power of the tongue, but life and death also have the power to take those words away from your tongue. What do I mean? Sometimes, the events that happen in our lives, whether it is a death or being incarcerated or whatever, cause us to do a lot of thinking and soul searching. Thoughts and feelings come at us in waves that are, at times, unstoppable and uncontrollable that we must deal with in some form or another. Life and death are real and honest, there is no mistake about that, and this virus is also real and honest.

I have thought a lot about life and death and the reality that they really are and how much closer each one becomes with each passing day. I think of my mom being completely whole right now and free of pain! No more diabetes, COPD, glaucoma, or the use of her cane! For some, each day brings us one day closer to seeing the reality of eternal life with Jesus and those who have gone before us again, but for others each day takes you one step further from never seeing what Jesus has prepared for those who believe.

So, what can you do? You can continue to pray for us as we seek more opportunities to bless others. I

have not stopped looking for ways to encourage those inside by using your financial support to donate DVDs, recreational equipment, Bibles, books, etc. Please look for ways to engage those around you and share God's love because life is too short. The Bible says our life is but a vapor, here today and gone tomorrow. Each one of us can be that blessing, and I encourage you to look for ways that you can be a blessing to those around you. Thank you for your prayers and financial support! We are so grateful for you! You are a huge blessing to us, and we want you to know that we are praying for you. You are a vital part of this ministry! May God continue to meet all your needs and bless you abundantly!

I just wanted to make mention of one way you can support the ministry during these times and that is through a program Amazon has called Amazon Smile. There is more information about this specifically below, but basically as you do your online shopping on Amazon as normal, they will donate a percentage of your purchase to a non-profit of your choice and I'm praying you choose us! This is at no extra cost to you, so I pray you take advantage of this opportunity, especially since we have the holidays quickly approaching!



Many of us have changed our shopping to online purchases. You can help Harvest of Life Ministry through this venue - Amazon Smile. AmazonSmile is a way for customers to support their favorite charitable organization every time they shop with Amazon.

Shoppers who start at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) will find the same Amazon they know and love, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the price of eligible purchases to the charity of your choice. Go on the link provided here to sign up and continue your regular online shopping and support Harvest of Life ministry too.

We are listed as Harvest of Life Inc

Location: Tallahassee, FL

Mission: Promulgation Of The Gospel

# HARVEST OF LIFE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

September 2020

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

## Missionary Report



*“When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you.” Isaiah 43:2*

During the past several months we've been shut out of the prisons here in North Florida but praise God, His Word continues to go out via our *Spanish Bible Project*. Daily we receive letters from inmates incarcerated in Federal Penitentiaries and I.C.E. Detention Facilities across

the US requesting Spanish Bibles. Since the first of the year we have shipped 1,126 Bibles along with Spanish Bible studies, tracts, and Christian comic books. We have received numerous letters from inmates writing to thank us for sending the Bibles and asking us to please pray for their family's safety and well-being. They come from towns and villages with roving gangs, drug dealers, rapists, muggers, and murderers. (Kinda sounds like Chicago) Please keep these folks in your prayers and pray too, that the Lord will continue to provide donations to purchase Bibles and cover shipping costs.

Because He Lives, *Dan and Marilyn*

## Encouragement Letter

Greet'ns from Tennessee! I trust the God of hope has filled you with joy and peace this week Romans 15:13. Since last week was a whirlwind trip to Ohio from Wednesday to the following Monday, a story last week was not to be. It is a comfort to know that Linda's Mom is with her Lord and her home-going has begun a work of healing within the family.

If nothing else, COVID-19 has given me plenty of stories to write about. Here is a story that came from shopping at my now favorite store, Rural King (a ramped-up version of Tractor Supply).

The mask had a “toothy” smile imprinted on it so when I told the fellow I liked his smiling mask, all I got was a “masked” grunt. Yep, could not have agreed with him more. This mask frenzy was “wearing” on everybody. Some felt very comfortable in thinking they were protecting themselves from an unseen virus that possibly lurked nearby while others were ready to live life as usual and stop fussing with “fool's rules” and mandates that have come since COVID-19 alias the “Wuhan China Virus”.

As I strolled through the store, I saw all different kinds of masks, though none as illustrative as the first one. There were blue ones, black ones, white ones, multi-colored ones, and a host of other “masks” that covered the faces of those that shopped and worked there. It reminded me of Halloween in a way but in this case hid more scary faces than it revealed 😊. One thing in common however, the mask hid the face so no one could actually see what was on the other side.

I have seen a lot of “smiling masks” in my lifetime that were really masking a smile. They pasted a smile on the outside but had a troubled heart on the inside. Their demeanor showed that the smile was only a façade trying to hide what they held in their heart. They could fool

some, but they could not fool everyone. Possibly at times they tried to fool themselves into thinking they were happy, but this was far from the truth.

The Bible teaches that a glad heart produces a cheerful countenance, but sorrow of heart shows a wounded or sad spirit (Proverbs 15:13, Nehemiah 2:2). Many things can bring this about and unfortunately many turn to the wrong antidote to try to fix it. Possessions, positions, and propositions are poor substitutes for the right remedy. Many end up with ruined lives and wasted years seeking relief from this gnawing feeling of emptiness or trouble that comes from within that many try to cover with a masked smile.

Jesus gave the invitation to come to Him for rest from heavy burdens (Matthew 11:28-30). This does not mean that one flippantly comes to Him for a quick cure and then heads back to the same lifestyle. It means that that person must realize he or she has sinned and have come short of God's glory (Romans 3:23). One must realize this sin has earned eternal death apart from God but He has given the free gift of eternal life through His Son Jesus Christ by receiving Him by faith (Romans 6:23, John 1:12, John 20:31). After accepting this free gift of salvation then following God as His child (Ephesians 5:1).

When one becomes a child of God, the masked smile is no longer necessary. God promises to give peace to His people (Psalms 29:11). He has thoughts of peace toward those that turn to Him (Jeremiah 29:11). He gives peace that the world can't give that will free the heart of trouble and fear (John 14:27). God promises to fill the believer with joy and peace that one can abound in hope (Romans 15:13). This sounds so much better than wearing a toothy smiling mask to hide the trouble within when one can wear a truthful smile caused by a joyful heart. – *Larry Cole Prov. 3:5,6.*

Your support through prayer and financial giving is more important than ever during these times to reach the men and women in our correctional institutions.

Contact us if you would like to be a volunteer or want to donate toward the needs in this ministry.

Email us at [evans@harvestoflife.org](mailto:evans@harvestoflife.org) or visit our web page <https://www.harvestoflife.org>

*“...Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are white for harvest!” Jn. 4:35*