

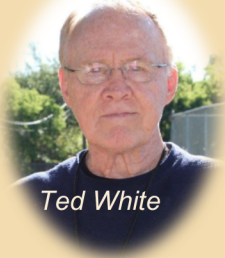


THE KEY

Nov./Dec. 2024

T.I.M.E for Christ Jail Ministry

Mission: to evangelize and disciple inmates, resulting in a spiritual awakening and an intimate love relationship with Jesus Christ thus empowering them for extended incarceration or a return to society.



Ted White

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

You know it wasn't a grand event when Jesus was born. You know the story. He was born in a manger because there was no room at an Inn for his parents. His father in heaven knew this would be his birthplace. He has a purpose for all the circumstances we encounter. In the same way, a jail sentence may be where a person needs to be for a new life in Christ. Jail is the right place and this is the right time for salvation to be born into their lives. Most inmates are under 30 years old. Many are young men or women who have been raised in Christian homes and gone to church, growing up, but they hardened their hearts when the gospel was shared with them. You may wonder if I ever encounter an inmate that I know personally in my private life? The answer is, yes, I do. Many times, I get a call from a parent or grandparent or someone who is a friend of mine. They want to know how their child or young adult can be rescued from the situation they are in? I, of course, do not have an answer to **that** question, but I do have an answer. The T.I.M.E. for Christ volunteers can reach out to them. Sometimes this dire situation is the first time they will be ready to talk about what got them there. This situation is no surprise to God. He has been patiently waiting to speak into their hearts but the timing had to be right. The circumstances had to be right. Scripture says, "At just the right time, while we were still **powerless**, Christ died for the ungodly". (Romans 5:6) The human mind cannot see "good" when bad actions bring bad consequences. Only God can put those puzzle pieces together when he is putting a call on a person's lost soul. It is for this reason that Jesus was born, so that when we are walking in a maze of life, he will say "come, go this way, come to me" and all of a sudden, we hear and see like we never have before. Being in jail can do that. When nothing else could reach them, they are ready to hear the message of salvation in Christ Jesus *because they are in jail!* Adding to that, even the worst of the worst has probably experienced something of the Christmas season. Now, these inmates will spend Christmas in a cold, dark place. Most likely, it is far worse than a manger, but like the baby Jesus, they have love reaching down to them. God put T.I.M.E. volunteers in the jail with these lost souls! You see, God never leaves us alone, with no hope. Before they were

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:21



Continued... arrested, God had *His team* in place. He says, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (Matthew 11:28,29) Indeed, so many are tired and weary of the life that put them in jail. This is true for the inmate but it is also true for the family who think this is the end of the road. They are weary of trying to stop all the nonsense! It is never the end! In fact, Bexar County Jail may be the *beginning*. The jail may be Bethlehem for an inmate. The T.I.M.E. team can't wait for the approaching Christmas season. When an inmate is put in one of our classes, they may get to see an episode of *The Chosen* on a DVD, the teacher can't wait to start the class with a Christmas Carol and they have prepared a story to tell that some have never heard before! There can be a new born babe borne in the jail, one who is "born again." Maybe your loved one will never be in this situation. I hope not. If they are, God, is ready to offer grace, mercy and salvation, with hope and a future for your child.... your grandchild...your neighbor's child.... he is "God with us, Immanuel," right there with the one you have been praying for.





T.I.M.E. FOR CHRIST JAIL MINISTRY
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Year End Giving

Financial Support is vital for our ministry. This time of year as we celebrate the season of Thanksgiving and the birth of Christ, we hope you will give to our ministry and support the opportunity for a new life to those we serve.



But Thanks Be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 15:57

The Unseen that is Eternal

Our ministry in the jail can often be quite complicated. While the jail needs us to officially provide a few types of services, its primary purpose is to incarcerate individuals accused of a crime and awaiting trial. As you can imagine the level of bureaucracy is incredible with close to 5,000 people at a time who may

Continued... or may not have committed all types of crimes. We never know what God's plans are for them or for our ministry to serve them or maybe their families. We have so many barriers to overcome in order to even do this work and operate in a system that is not here to serve the inmate or the family. We are to be used by God to let the family members or the inmate know that despite what is going on, despite a catastrophic problem, that God is in charge and he is still here for them.

Most recently I was contacted by a previous inmate who had been in the Bexar County Jail over 7 years ago. He left a message and then I couldn't find his number and yet his name was brought to me more than once. I knew God wanted me to know something. After reaching out to where he works, now (yes works), I learned that he is giving back to others by working a re-entry job. He shared that his life had been transformed through his salvation in the Bexar County Jail. He had been baptized there and then sent to prison serving a total of 7 years. He now works with men who have been recently released and he wanted to contact me to offer any support or his testimony to our ministry. I was blown away by what he had to say and I had no idea of the impact our ministry had on him and now others he was ministering to. So many times I don't get to **see** the end result of the work we do and I have no idea what God's vision is for those we serve. It's incredible when God wants to make sure I know!

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

2nd Corinthians 4:18

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Ministry :

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www.time4christjail.com

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