

# The Key: T.I.M.E for Christ Jail Ministry Newsletter

Nov./Dec. 2022



## *This is not where I want to be!*

As you can imagine, this is likely the thought of any inmate at any time of year. However, at a time of community joy and celebration, it must seem even more painful to be in jail at Christmas. There is a sense of longing, wishing that things were different, and maybe a little of “this is not fair!”

This is very similar to the real Christmas story and the birth of Christ. Imagine what pain, worry, and “this is not fair” sentiment that Mary and Joseph may have felt when they had no place to stay and found themselves in the back of an innkeepers home having a baby where the animals live? God had a plan and this humble beginning was part of that plan. He came for all people and this simple birth was just the beginning of the story.

I imagine that many of us may have a feeling that we aren’t where we should be or that Christmas may not be living up to what we had hoped. It’s not an unusual feeling with a season that often has so many distractions from the true meaning.

You see our inmates are right where they should be at Christmas. For many, the time to look into themselves without the world’s loud distractions is as true gift. For many they are just hearing the good news for the first time. So, while it may seem like the worst place to be, it is the best. God has a plan and we are here to show them true love and grace for the first time.



## CHAPLAINS CORNER-Ted White

*Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and  
everywhere, go tell it on the  
mountain that Jesus Christ is  
Lord!*

Like every Charity, T.I.M.E. for Christ Jail Ministry has struggled through this down turn in our economy. In fact, I would say supporting a “Jail Ministry” is probably the last ministry that would come to a person’s mind. However, it was not the last thing that our heavenly Father was concerned about. I often quote **Luke 4:18-19** as the mantra for the T.I.M.E. Jail Ministry. In part it says, **He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners ...and to set the oppressed free.** In **Matthew 25:35-36** “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me., I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, **I was in prison** and you came to me.” Finally, **Psalm 41:1** says, **blessed are those who have regard for the weak; the LORD delivers them in time of trouble.** No, the Lord does not need your money to get the gospel to the inmates at the jail but the support we receive is indicative of the prayer support we receive, where your heart is or if you even believe you are to be a part of this ministry. We are so thankful for the small pool of supporters we have but with a population of over a million people in San Antonio, an inmate population of over 4,000, there is so much more we could do with even a small donation.

Can you believe I have been at the jail for 20 years now and that I just celebrated my 80th birthday? I often ask the Lord; how long do you want me to serve you at Bexar County? I haven’t received an answer yet, but I do know even if I am not there, the T.I.M.E. for Christ Jail Ministry must go on. God has raised up the Chaplaincy (I had no plan to be the Chaplain!), He has called the very best volunteer teachers and allowed us to office out of the jail, which is a privilege, not a guarantee.

Won’t you consider coming aboard as a team member with your support and prayers by giving a monthly donation on line, a check mailed in or a one-time gift before the end of the year? Can you picture not just the “quote” undeserving inmate but the lost souls like the apostle Paul, a murderer, a prostitute like Rahab, or the thief who hung next to Jesus on the Cross and was brought to saving grace? Remember this last scripture I will share from **Romans 10:14,15**, “**And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent?** That is why the Scriptures say, how beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news?” These inmates are not the unworthy, we all are. That is why the father sent him as a child in that poor, dirty manger. He has a plan of Salvation for everyone! That is true “Joy to the World!”



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



TIME FOR CHRIST JAIL MINISTRY

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### ***The Ministry Changes Lives***

- Inmates hear the **true gospel of grace**. Their incarceration & our ministry this Christmas season may be **the first time they understand the true meaning of Christmas**.
- Their transformation impacts their life, the life of their family and other inmates!

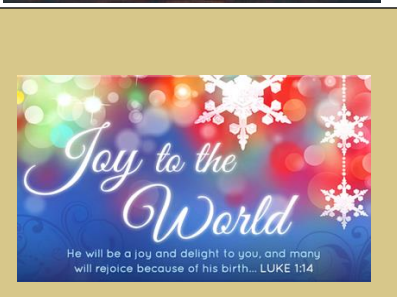
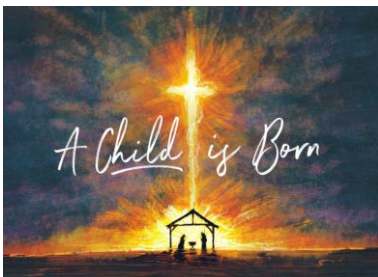
*Keep us in your prayers!*

*...there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." Luke 2:8-10*

### ***“Momma do you know Jesus?”***

While our primary ministry is to be available to share the gospel and disciple inmates, we are privileged to be part of God’s plan for people’s lives. This could include mentoring guards, sharing the gospel with employees, or encouraging inmates that are already saved but have found themselves in jail due to a wrong decision. We don’t know when we engage with someone how we will be used and it is an honor to experience it when it happens.

Recently an inmate was brought to the Chaplains office to be allowed a final phone call with his mother who was likely about to pass away at any moment. As he picked up the phone to talk to his mother, he began sharing the gospel with her. At that moment this rough, older man, became her loving child and said, “Momma, do you know Jesus? Momma, have you accepted him into your heart as your personal savior... Momma, say it with me...” It was a beautiful exchange and I was honored to have the privilege to give him this moment to say goodbye to his mother and share his faith.



We hope you will consider supporting our ministry

Time for Christ Jail Ministry  
PO BOX 780484  
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Donate online at:  
[time4christjail.com](http://time4christjail.com)

