



THE KEY

July/August 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

When I first started working in the jail, I was probably a little naïve. I had the idea that lives would be changed for the better, if I could just get these inmates to accept Jesus. While that statement is true in the realm of their salvation, I saw disappointing results with the lives of inmates that I had no control over. Many weren't able to make it outside of the jail, some lost their life to the streets, and others got very harsh sentences. I had the opportunity to see them the way our Father sees us. We are a mixed bag of believers.

It is kind of like the parable of the seeds. The farmer plants the seeds and some grow it seems, some fell on the path and the birds ate it, some on a rocky ground where there was little soil and the sun burnt it up, some fell among the thorns and were choked out. Some fell on good soil and the plants produced corn! This is an example of an inmate I will call Emmett, who met Jesus at Bexar County Jail. So far, he has been in prison 20 years but is living out his life with Jesus Christ every day. This inmate is paying for the serious crime he committed and was sent to prison with a 40-year sentence. I cried when he was transported to prison as I had seen the transition of a new life in Christ. Despite the sentence he received, he had fallen on the "good soil" of the gospel, offered to him through the ministry of **T.I.M.E. for Christ**. He got saved. I had grown to love "Emmet" though I understood the need for him, or anyone to pay for their crime. His transformation and loving nature made me weep for what I thought was a lost life. What could God's plan be for him now?

Emmet has kept in touch with me over the years. Needless to say, it was tough for him to grow in the prison environment. Recently I received a letter from him. We have corresponded over the years and he calls my wife *mom* and me, *dad*. Not all of his letters have been positive either; he worries about his son being raised without him, his mother's health, and most of the time in prison, he shared that Christian outreach is limited. Finding a way to stay connected to God is difficult. In this letter he shared how God cares for his sheep even in prison and the foundation he received through **T.I.M.E. for Christ Jail ministry** had helped him face what looked like a death sentence with a cancer diagnosis. He told how he had an injury while lifting something and while getting treatment, he learned it was bone cancer. He was scared, but then God allowed him to see that he could depend on HIM to work in this situation.



For *I* know the *Plans* I have for *You*,
Declares the LORD
Plans to Prosper *You* and Not to Harm *You*,
Plans to Give *You* Hope and a Future.

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

...continued

Others see this too and we can't know how many might be moved by Emmet's testimony in prison. Can you imagine depending on the TDJ providing the kind of life saving care he needed? He was told he couldn't start treatment for 3 months!

Emmet said, "God showed up on day one." He was notified that he had been accepted in an experimental program, starting in three days. He is now through with his 18 weeks of treatment and there is no sign of cancer. He saw that God was with him every step of the way. He began to look back and see that he could praise God for the injury that led to his cancer diagnosis. The timing was perfect for him to be chosen for the treatment program.

While receiving treatment, he was cared for by men and women of faith. Because of his stellar record as an inmate, he was allowed to be used as a volunteer, which gave him purpose! He was supervised by a believing guard and many conversations occurred in the Word. He was built up daily by this guard as faith was shared. Over and over in this letter, Emmet shared how he saw God loving on him. He kept saying he had **God's favor**. How can this be God's plan for Emmet's life? How can we see it as good? I don't have the answer, but I do believe Emmett sees the joy of having God in his life and that he has a future and a hope. Sometimes, we put the work of **T.I.M.E.** in a box, while God puts that work into eternity!

The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted. Matthew 13:23



T.I.M.E. FOR CHRIST JAIL MINISTRY
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Ways You Can Plant the Seeds:

- **Make a one time significant gift**
- **Commit to a regular monthly Donation (pay pal on our website)**
- **Pray for the ministry**

All the flowers
of all the tomorrows
are in the seeds
of today.



***How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed?
And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?
And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they
preach unless they are sent? Romans 10:14,15***

Faithfulness to His Plan

Our work and its value are seen in stories such as the story of Emmet. After 23 years, we are still able to witness God working in his life. Daily there are hundreds that enter the Bexar County Jail for whom God is chasing. We are here to offer them a solution in a life full of chaos in which incarceration is a time that they can slow down and see a better option. I received a call from a relative of someone named Gary. This person left me a message that I needed to

Continued... visit him because his sister had just passed away. They didn't leave a phone number or last name. I didn't have enough information to go any further with the request. The next day, I had another call about Gary from someone else who also didn't provide a lot of information and so I was still not able to do anything. Then later that week, a guard asked me to help with an inmate having a meltdown. I said, "Is his name Gary?" The officer said that it was and I thought to myself, "this could not be a coincidence."

God had a plan for Gary to hear the gospel. I asked the guard to bring him up to my office and learned that at age 40 Gary had never held a job. He had dealt drugs or been involved in petty crimes his entire life! I also learned that he had 2 brothers and now a sister who had lost their lives to the streets. Gary sat across from me and said this had to stop. He had to do something different and he recalled a statement that he didn't even know was a scripture! As he wept, he said. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me". I was able to show him where that was in the Bible. After this meeting Gary went back to his cell and we signed him up for our Bible classes.

I also planned to show an incredible movie about the faith of a mission team who witnessed to a tribe deep in the Jungle who ended up spearing to death one of the missionaries. It is a powerful story of forgiveness because the wife of the missionary who was killed stayed in the field leading the entire tribe to a new life in Christ. I wanted Gary to see that God has a way for all to come to him no matter what they have done or how ignorant they are of who God is. Wouldn't you know it, the DVD for the movie wouldn't work. I struggled with the technology and was about to simply give up. Then I felt the Holy Spirit whispering to me, but "what about Gary?" I had to make a way to show that movie! With God's help, I got it to come on. Gary was in the class and was truly moved. I could see that God was showing him a way to salvation he had never imagined. Those people in the tribe didn't know God either and yet, God sent someone to tell them the way to be saved. That is what God was doing for Gary through **T.I.M.E.** It is never too late. The thing is that God gives us opportunities to do his work all the time. I didn't get the message on the first call, or the second but God made sure I got it on the third try! He is always looking for his lost sheep and provides ways for them to be rescued through our **faithfulness to His plan.**

Please Support the

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T.I.M.E. for Christ Jail Ministry

PO Box: 780484

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