



# THE KEY

Jan/Feb 2025

## 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

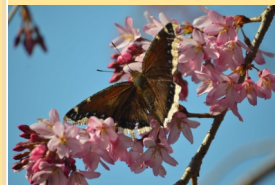
We recently had a new *teaching Paster* join our church staff. This was the first time that I had heard Pastor Russ Barksdale deliver a sermon. It is interesting to see the difference in teaching styles and also how it can open our minds to see the "Word" from a different perspective. Let me give you an example. He was explaining how Jesus left heaven to come to earth and that he came in the form of a human baby. He arrived with human flesh. He asked us if we knew what Chili-con-carne meant? Most everyone does in our congregation because the city we live in is highly populated by the Mexican culture. Everyone eats Mexican food! Chili-con-carne is a spicy sauce with meat, often used with enchiladas. The word for meat is "Carne" which is made from beef. I don't think I will ever read John 1:14 in the same way again. (*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...*) Who knew there was more than one way to explain this passage, and it was so clear! Jesus came as the main entree to earth to rescue us from a rice and beans life! He made a way for life not just to be good, but delicious and abundant! The plate would be incomplete without the *Chili-con-carne* to fill our bellies. That is the way it is with all of us. Without the indwelling of the Spirit of Christ, we, as the Bible puts it, are not a sweet aroma to our Father, apart from Christ. This pastor put it pretty bluntly. He said, "We are a "garbage dumpster," full of the stuff of the world which the bible describes as sin. This is what separates us from God. While this is all amusing, the sad part is that the inmates at Bexar County Jail already know this. The law has been broken and they are going to have to pay for it, if found guilty. In fact, even if they are not found guilty, they will have to pay for the sin in their lives at the end of their life here on earth. They deserve it, right? This is where the love of God comes in. Another great pastor from long ago, Charles Spurgeon shared just how much God loves us, this way: In Isaiah 41:14 KJV God says, "I will help thee." Spurgeon put it this way: "Consider what I have done already. Why, I bought thee with my blood. What! Not help thee? I died for thee. Before the world began, I chose thee. I laid aside my glory and became a man for thee; I am giving thee what I have bought for thee already. 'Tis **much** for thee to need, but it is nothing for me to bestow." While we were "**yet enemies** of God he died for us." (Romans 5:10) One of us might die for a



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a friend, but how about someone we might see as a worthless human being? What's the point? A lot of good people need to be saved! God, however says there is **no one good**. (Mark 10:18) This is why T.I.M.E. for Christ Jail Ministry was founded. One person had a call on his life to obey God and go after that "garbage person." He heard God say, "This is my command: Love each other as I have loved you. I no longer call you servant, because a servant does not know what his master is doing. But I call you friend, because I have made known to you everything I heard from my Father. You did not choose me; I chose you. And I gave you this work." (John 15:12-16) Not only is there a call on my life to take the gospel to inmates. The 30 volunteer teachers also heard God's call to this work. He called **you** to be part of the plan to get the "Chili-con-carne on the plate," to fill lost inmates up with Jesus. God wants to give his abundant life to each and every one of the inmates we encounter in this ministry. We are so thankful to start another year with you on the team! Each of us has a part as one inmate at a time comes to the way of salvation through Jesus Christ.

In Him, **Ted White**, Protestant Chaplain *Bexar County Detention Center*



### **The Blossom Conference:**

A women's conference or retreat is something that most of us are aware of; they include colorful décor, a theme, and a nice lunch along with meaningful messages and fellowship. I bet you can't imagine that our ministry works hard to make sure the women inmates have such a conference that even includes a nice lunch. We all enjoy a special luncheon but as you can imagine this is like a 5 star dining experience when you are incarcerated. They are served cookies and punch too! We have many wonderful volunteers but we want to share with you about Dr. Waynette Turner who runs classes for our women and who coordinates this women's conference inside the jail. Yes, that's right a women's conference in the jail! It is called the **Blossom Conference** and includes butterflies as inspiration. It focuses holistically on the women and provides a day of seminars that (cont)



**T.I.M.E. FOR CHRIST JAIL MINISTRY**  
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### Ways You Can Help:

- **Make a significant financial gift**
- **Commit to a regular monthly Donation (pay pal on our website)**
- **Pray for the ministry**
- **Share this newsletter with a friend**



My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love; so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ. Colossians 2:2



**The Blossom Conference for Women addresses the Body, Mind, and Soul**

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### *The Blossom Conference Continued...*

...address the body mind and soul. This gift of a conference offers the opportunity for women to see themselves differently. They are worthy of such a beautiful event that includes their own folders with butterflies on them and a special luncheon. The conference includes a time to say, out loud, words of affirmations that are scriptural based. For most of these women, hearing and believing anything good about themselves is not something they have experienced. Along with this special event created just for them, these affirmations change the spirit of the room and the spirit of the women. Dr. Turner shared that you can feel the difference when they spend the time going over these powerful words and speaking them out loud together. The experience and words are things the women can hold in their hearts.

The conference includes a health and wellness component, soul counseling, (mental health), and a spiritual delivery of the Word. Finally it concludes with a panel discussion from a variety of powerful women who also answer questions from the women inmates. Like the first article in this newsletter, this conference is not just a quick meal of *beans and rice* but it includes the *Chile Con Carne*. The women leave filled with a deeper understanding of the love that Christ has for them. Dr. Turner, shared that an inmate we will call Lisa, attended the conference with an obvious desire to dig deeper. During this panel discussion at the conference, she had many questions and seemed to become more inspired as the Word was revealed to her. It was amazing to see her desire to be filled with knowledge, beyond the initial emotion of love, acceptance and salvation. These things are important but we know that these women need something that can sustain them through their incarceration and their new life in Christ when they get out of jail. Almost all of them have experienced a lot of trauma, shame, and hurt in their lives. They need the sustaining strength of Christ and an understanding of the Bible. Another young woman asked the panel how to get it right; how to get on track and stay on track. Many of the women in the room resonated with that question. Isn't that what we all want to know? Dr. Turner shared that we simply have to start and to take it one day at a time. There was a sense of relief for the woman and others in the conference to know that they don't have to get it right all of the time. Just like we all need something special to feel good about ourselves, the women's Blossom Conference inspires, engages and shows love to our women inmates. The event was held in November and they plan to host another in Spring of this year. Isn't it incredible to think a *Blossom Conference* is being offered to the women inside of the Bexar County Jail!