



THE KEY

March/April 2023

T.I.M.E FOR CHRIST JAIL MINISTRY

The Chaplain's Corner
Ted White



In San Antonio, we sell Easter Eggs on the street corner. How can anyone miss Easter?

I recently read an article in the newspaper from a college English teacher who also went to the prison to teach inmates. She said, "College should be more like prison because the corruption of the world and declining claim of political relevance are no longer important. What I am offering is about and before the practical business of the world, it is just an English class. She went on to say these distractions removed, offer her much more of an opportunity to have the inmates look into mysteries of learning, a plunge into the depths of the subject...even memorization and recitation!

I know all of this sounds pretty deep for the inmate population but that is exactly what occurs in our **TIME for Christ Bible studies at the jail**. Many taunt me and say, "They only want to get out of their cells or this is just a jailhouse conversion." Well, praise God! When these men and women are pushed to the wall with their circumstances, God has only used this as an opportunity to reach them with the message of Jesus Christ.

I think about this **Easter** season when most people see the hope of Christ everywhere. This is lent season. There are crosses of ash on the brows of some people, there is preparation for Easter Sunday celebrations, it is on T.V. and decorations are for sale in stores. **In San Antonio, we sell Easter Eggs on the street corner. How can anyone miss Easter?** Those walking in darkness can. This is foreign to them. Their minds and hearts are cut off from the offer of Easter through Jesus Christ; to the free gift of salvation and a new life in Christ. Ephesians 4: 19 says they are "darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to the hardness of their heart." But God...most Christians know those two words mean that God has a way to intervene.

Sometimes that is incarceration and an invitation to a **TIME Bible class**. Sometimes it's going to a "Pod" and meeting one on one with an inmate and offering a Bible study they can do on their own time. It's the offer of a Bible. God sends us to seek and save those who are lost. **Ephesians 5:14 says, "Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."** Isn't that a beautiful statement? The mysteries of Christ can be and are being opened to those God is reaching down to. Happy Easter to one of the darkest places the Easter message should go forth, Bexar County Detention Center.

*For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life!
(John 3:16 KJV)*



Update on the Ministry

- Hope continues as the Lord shows us his work, when we least expect it. One of our inmates reached out to us, that we worked with at least 15 to 20 years ago. He has been released still filled with faith. It is amazing to see that this transformation and his incarceration were used to witness to others and today he working, and praising the Lord for his life.
- The chaplain's office continues to fulfill hundreds of weekly requests for visits, Bibles, and other help.
- T.I.M.E. for Christ Jail Ministry passes out hundreds of materials from Bibles, to Bible Study books, and the Book of John.
- Work with family members and jail administration to communicate with inmates and or answer questions to family members about their loved ones inside the jail
- More classes are opening up!



T.I.M.E. FOR CHRIST JAIL MINISTRY

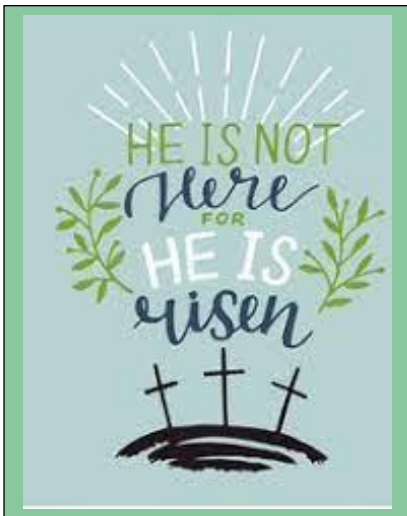
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**T.I.M.E. FOR CHRIST JAIL
MINISTRY Needs:**

- Pray for the inmates, the guards, and leadership in the jail.
- Financial contributions

1 Corinthians 6:14: "And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power."



You can donate by mail or by Pay Pal using our website and clicking on donate.

Time for Christ Jail Ministry
PO BOX 780484
San Antonio, TX 78278-0484

Website: time4christjail.com

You can donate today

The Ten Commandments

Most recently we had an opportunity to provide a Bible study to what we call an introductory class. These classes are meant to be an introduction to the Bible and the plan of salvation. Sometimes this will be the only time we have to share the gospel or others will begin a walk with the Lord in Bible Study for the next few months with us. The study started with a discussion about the Ten Commandments. It was surprising that most of the inmates didn't know them, had little reference to them, and the few that did, had no understanding. It is always baffling that something that seems so obvious could be hidden from them. This allowed for a good discussion about what they are but also that they aren't just a list of the "do's and don'ts" in life. Sure, they are good to know but they are representative of the sin that separates us from God.

Not only is it incredibly important for our inmates to truly know the Ten Commandments but further understand that they can't "fake it till they make it". In other words, these are good words to live by but won't be possible to be obedient. They can't dress up and try to be good. It is the understanding that Christ died for our sins and surrender to Christ that puts them right with God because Jesus did obey and fulfilled the law, that will make it possible. For our inmates this is tough, like many, they have spent a lot of their lives trying to do it "their way". The concept of surrender is essential to overcoming addiction, trauma, and their wicked ways.

It's really the beginning of the Easter story. As Christ spends his last days with the Disciples at the Passover/Last supper, He is beginning his process of sacrifice and a new way to redemption through Him.

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me'" (John 14:6).