



THE KEY

March/April 2022

T.I.M.E FOR CHRIST JAIL MINISTRY

The Chaplains Corner
Ted White



God is chasing you just like he was chasing me... this is no mistake.

As part of my job in ministry at the jail, I am often called to talk with an inmate when there is a case that is especially traumatizing and the family of the inmate is very worried. One evening, I received several phone calls late into the night from the jail administration about a woman who was involved in a serious crime in which her husband was shot. I was asked to reach out to her. The next morning, I went into the jail and requested her by name to be brought up to my office.

When the guard brought the young woman in, I was confused because she wasn't what I anticipated. I said, "So you are "Maria Sanchez" and she said, "yes". She seemed confused about why she was brought in to visit me too. She had many tattoos, and was rather masculine looking. I asked her why she was in jail and she stated that she was arrested for shoplifting. Now I was really confused because the "Maria Sanchez" that I was looking for was involved in a very serious assault charge. As we both looked at each other, the young woman before me, said that there was another "Maria Sanchez" in her pod. I realized rather quickly that a mistake had been made and so did she. She started to rise and said, "Oh, you weren't looking to meet with me; this was a mistake."

As I sat there, I realized this was no accident and voiced this to her. "Maria" this wasn't a mistake, God is chasing you. I asked her if she had a relationship with the Lord or had experienced faith in her life. She took one look at me and pointed up and at herself, and said "Are you kidding me?" She looked a little angry and looked at me like I was a fool.

I shared that I had been just like her, someone who didn't believe that God would care for me. I was lost when God began chasing me too and that I wanted her to know that she was a deeply loved child of God. She had never heard any of this before and there we sat because she shoplifted at Wal-Mart, and the guards brought the wrong "Maria Sanchez" up to speak with the jail chaplain. You see God knew her name and wanted this "Maria Sanchez". She immediately softened as her eyes welled up. I explained that God had a plan for her and for us to meet. I gave her some books and said that I wanted to check in with her in 3 days after she had a chance to look at these materials (Book of John). She asked me to write my name in the book; so that she would not forget and could request to meet with me again. No, this was not a mistake.



Update on the Ministry within the Jail

- A few volunteers have been allowed to return and are visiting inmates in both the male and female jail cells (pods)
- 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.
- Continued work to re-establish the inmate services such as daily classes administered and coordinated by T.I.M.E. for Christ Jail Ministry
- 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
- Minister to families and Guards



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

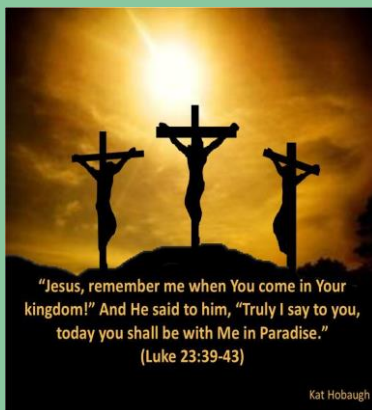
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**T.I.M.E. FOR CHRIST JAIL
MINISTRY Needs:**

- Pray for the inmates, the guards, and leadership in the jail. These are very difficult times to run a jail
- Financial contributions

Suppose one of you has one hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the one sheep until he finds it? Luke 15:4 NIV



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

To Be Available

The jail ministry has some standard daily work and activities from answering requests from inmates, delivering death notifications, and vetting inmate visitors. This also includes requests for information and specialized accommodations based on other religions. It's not a set schedule with new inmates arriving daily and others being discharged. The primary purpose is to **be available** at this very vulnerable time in someone's life. It's an opportunity and sometimes there is no way to know the impact this work can have on someone's life.

Most recently an inmate came to the Chaplain's office demanding certain privileges based on his Jewish Faith. The Chaplain's office actually serves any religious request and while T.I.M.E. for Christ Jail Ministry is Christian, the Chaplain is required to help inmates access other faith requests. The gentleman who wanted accommodations for his Jewish faith appeared intimidating with visible tattoos and he clearly worked out. He had also lashed out at guards. He came to the Chaplains office with many demands, a chip on his shoulder, and a sharp tongue. He used his knowledge to be off putting and wanted to get into a verbal debate about Old Testament scripture. This created a tense exchange and the Chaplain finally looked at him and said "what's going on here, you are really starting to irritate me and I am here to help you."

This young man started to soften and his harsh words and intimidating attitude was simply a cover for a hurting person (hurting people hurt people) and he looked up with tears in his eyes and said, "Can we start over?" They were able to talk and listen to each other and get some of his requests taken care of. No one knows what the end result will be for this troubled man but he was shown grace and the love of Christ at a time that he needed it. The Chaplain was available.