

THE KEY

Sept/Oct 2023

T.I.M.E FOR CHRIST JAIL MINISTRY



The Chaplains Corner
Ted White

Romans 10:14-15

How can they call on Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent?

I have been thinking about the love of God lately and how that is to be expressed at Bexar County Jail. I so often hear disgruntled people say how inmates are getting what they deserve. The insinuation is this ministry is a waste of time. I understand, in this day of lawlessness in our society, why people feel this way. In this sense, I am not dealing with human *order* but the unqualified love of God.

Certainly, I am turned off by vile criminals but when God brings his elect to our classes, I see the person God sees. I see an Apostle Paul, a murderer, or a King David who sent an innocent man to his death so that he could have that man's wife. Did they deserve God's forgiveness? Of course not! No one deserves to be forgiven! It is by God's mercy that anyone is saved. It is the calling of the Holy Spirit when the Word of God is taught in our classes that men and women are saved from the penalty they owe. Oh, they may go to prison to satisfy human judgement, but they can escape the judgement of God.

Our Father sees things differently than humanity. If He didn't, we would all be in a "pickle of a fix!" May I quote Isaiah 55:11? "So, will My word be, which goes out of My mouth; It will not return to Me void (useless, without result), without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it." (AMP Version) Do you believe God? Paul wrote that though he was chained, God's Word is not chained. What is he calling you to do about the incarcerated? Are you going to visit the imprisoned, which is a command to the church? Are you praying for lost souls to receive God's message or for the messengers He has sent? Do you support a ministry to go where you cannot go?

This is for you to answer but just know it is not God's will for you to do nothing. God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. (Phil. 2:13) Jesus said: "For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost." (Luke 19:10) He did not say I came to save nice people, pure people or those that are lovable. **Will you be a part of T.I.M.E. for Christ Jail Ministry?** This is how you can express God's love in your life. We depend on you for our support at Bexar County Detention Center.



What are we doing in the Jail Now?

Just like the rest of the world, we are truly coming out of the new normal that was a result of COVID. Many of our classroom spaces were taken over by video conferencing; so, the jail could bring people to court this way. Much of that has gone back to the traditional way, and our classroom space has been returned allowing for the return of faithful volunteers. We have been able to bring back on a full slate of classes each day, have volunteers visit inmates and minister to them, and fulfill the in person requests we get daily from inmates or families wanting to have us visit their family member. We are right where we need to be!



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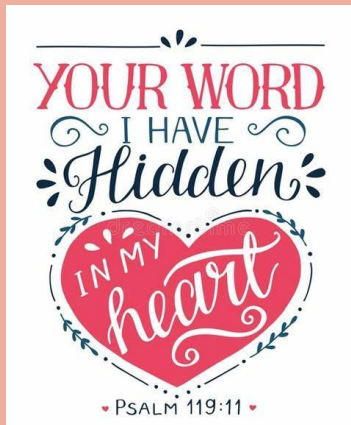
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T.I.M.E. FOR CHRIST JAIL
MINISTRY Needs:

- Prayers
- Financial Donations
- Share this newsletter with a friend.

**Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.
Hebrews 13:3**



What God Can Do If We are Willing

Vicki Culp has been a long-time volunteer for the *Time for Christ Jail ministry*. In the past, she handed out books and visited with incarcerated women. However, she had never taught a Bible class to the women inmates. She shared that it had been on her heart to share about her walk with Christ to *someone*, thinking it would be a friend or a neighbor, but this opportunity never seemed to come along. Vicki said that she was praying about it when Chaplain Ted White called her, asking if she would consider teaching a woman's class at the Bexar County Jail. She shared that she was nervous and felt inadequate to teach, but perhaps this was the opportunity God had provided to share Christ with others! On her first day of teaching, she said the class was amazing. The women were so happy and hungry for what she had to share. They also felt proud to help her, after she shared with them that this was her first time to teach. They were happy to be able to encourage her. First of all, she couldn't get the music to work on the system and one of the young ladies (inmates) volunteered to help her get it working. At one point the fire alarm was going off! Vicki said she felt like this was such a distraction, she should just quit, but the ladies, said, "No please keep going." She shared that she felt like Satan was sabotaging the class, but then she says she realized that God was showing her that He would take care of it. She had another class following this one; so she decided to try something else. Vicki wanted to tell the women that they could have God with them all the time, by memorizing scripture. How could she do this without intimidating them when most had very little exposure to the Bible? Vicki knew this is where the power of God lies because the Word of God never comes back void. She used a power point and verse from a children's class she had taught at church. Surprisingly, the girls got a kick out of the juvenile presentation and cartoon pictures, but were so proud that they could learn and carry the scripture with them in their hearts. God showed Vickie the real teaching experience is the interaction between the women inmates and the connection to God through each other. It is truly amazing what God can do if we are willing.

Time for Christ Jail Ministry
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You can donate today using
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