

Let Freedom Ring



"And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:32

The Baptism

shared by Sue Pierce -Volunteer

Wednesday I visited an inmate who expressed how thrilled she was to be leading a daily bible study in her cell. She was animated while chatting away about how much she had learned, and how strange it was that she was so happy while incarcerated. She exclaimed "I am fully devoted to Christ, who has changed my life forever." Then she dawned a serious face and proceeded to tell me about one of the girls in her group who had not been baptized. She stated that most of the girls had already been baptized by being sprinkled with Holy Water, and they were worried about their friend who had not. What came next was so uplifting and inspiring. With a face full of glee she explained in detail how the group had found some crackers and prayed while they broke them over water to make it holy, then they sprinkled it over their friend. I was overwhelmed with joy to know that they had gone to such lengths to make sure their friend was baptized and right with God. This was truly an act of loving their neighbor as their selves. Because the girls come from many backgrounds and different church experiences, they get mixed up about baptism. I chuckled slightly and indicated what a wonderful thing they did, and praised them for their loving act. Afterwards, I said "but that is not exactly how it works," and explained the truth about baptism. As I spoke, she leaned forward totally absorbed with my explanation, taking doctrine notes in her head so she could share it with the group.

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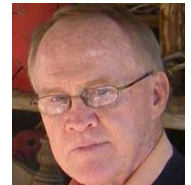
THE KEY



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

July/August 2017

CHAPLAINS CORNER-Ted White



When July rolls around, we see flags on houses, we think about how we will celebrate the 4th and maybe, just maybe, give some thought to our "Freedom". I doubt many inmates give it much thought at all, certainly the idea of being free. A good number of our inmates at the jail go on to prison, serving long sentences. How can they ever celebrate being free? There is only one way, and that is that they have a freedom in Christ. They are free to turn their lives in a different direction, serving the Lord while incarcerated. I often call these inmates "missionaries" to the incarcerated. I recently got a letter from an inmate that had been in the T.I.M.E. for Christ Jail Ministry classes for about a year. While I rarely look into why they are in jail, I asked a guard if he knew this fellow. The guard said he had been in and out of Bexar County Detention Center for the past fifteen years. He also said the big man was a serious threat and one they had to keep an eye on. Then the guard, paused and said, "He is completely changed. I think he is one of yours now!" Well he is not one of mine, but one of the Lord's. He not only had an impact on other inmates but even the teachers were moved by what the Lord was doing through this man in the jail. He was sent on to prison with a long sentence. I recently got a letter from this man, from his prison at the TDC. The following is an excerpt. "Brother, I see that when God led the children of Israel out of Egypt, He did not lead them the short and easy way. For God said, "Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt". (Exodus 13:17b) God knew that in order to possess the Promised Land, they were going to have to walk by faith and not by sight; therefore their bondage mentality (conditioned by years of slavery in Egypt) had to be broken and they had to be reconditioned and built up to place their confidence in God alone. In other words, God took them the long and hard way to lead them into a position which according to the natural eye seemed impossible for them to get out of. That is what is going on with me." He continued, "The Lord is taking me the long and hard way to break a mentality conditioned by years of gang-banging, incarceration, alcoholism and drug addictions. He is reconditioning my mind that is disciplined to trust in Him and Him alone. Whatever mission God sends me on, I will go with the confidence of knowing that I have been appointed and anointed." Was it worth investing the T.I.M.E. ministry in this inmate? Apparently God thinks it was. In this great country, we love to celebrate the freedoms represented by the 4th of July. This inmate celebrates his freedom in Christ every day!

Our Mission is to evangelize and disciple inmates resulting in spiritual awakening and an intimate love relationship with Jesus Christ, thus empowering them for an extended incarceration or return to society.



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

PO Box 780484

San Antonio, TX 78278-0484

**The Jail Ministry is an incredible
Mission Field:**

**500 Weekly Chaplaincy
Requests**

700 Baptisms a year

100 Monthly Classes

80 Volunteers

Psalm 142:7a (ESV) *“Bring my soul out of prison, so that I may give thanks to Your name.”*



My Country 'Tis of thee,
sweet land of liberty, of thee
I sing, land where my
fathers died, land of the
pilgrim's pride, from every
mountainside, let freedom
ring!

Time for Christ Jail Ministry

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The Baptism

The Baptism Continued: We prayed together and before leaving, I expressed how their act of kindness gave me joy and inspiration. Their process showed their hearts and how important the work at the jail is. Moreover, I was impressed with the fact that she took no offense when I explained their actions were not quite Biblical, and also astonished at her attitude of embracing the Biblical correction. God surely loves his children, even if they don't get everything exactly right. The Bible is clear that the motivation of the heart is crucial for those who strive to live "in Christ" and practice a faith-based life. **Acts 8:30**... "And Philip ran thither to *him*, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou **readest**?³¹ And he said, how can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him." (KJV) The inmates desire that someone sit with them also and explain the mysteries of Christ. I give praise for the hard work of the volunteers, for the inmates might never be exposed to the truth, if it were not for them.

T.I.M.E. stands for Teaching, Intercession, Ministry and Evangelism