

KINGDOM BUILDERS NEWSLETTER

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ONE GRAIN OF SAND

The ocean breeze kissed my face ever so softly and the fresh smell of the ocean stopped me in my tracks as my senses danced with delight. Here I was standing in the Atlantic with the beautiful blue translucent water swirling around my feet. The waves had me under its spell pulling me further out into the ocean. Feeling the sand under my feet I could not help but wonder if the sand covered the entire sea floor. I bent down and cupped my hand to lift the soft warm sand into my hand only to have much of it slip between my fingers to escape back into the ocean. As far as I could see on the beach and out into the ocean was miles and miles of sand. The teacher finished reading her student's writing assignment. "What a great paper!" she exclaimed.

My name is Rasheed I took my first trip this summer to Egypt to meet my father's family. My parents had pictures, but they did not do justice to the beauty that my eyes beheld. I felt like

I had traveled back in time. It was a modern town and people lived as we do, but the customs and way of dress was much different than ours in the states. I got to ride a camel for the first time. It was very hard sitting on the camel. As the animal stood it felt as if I could touch the clouds that were suspended overhead like a canopy. My uncle asked if we wanted to go on an adventure. It was enough of an adventure getting on the camel, but something within me wanted to experience more so I said yes. Before I knew it we had left everything far behind. It took a while for me to get up the nerve to turn my body around to look at the houses we left behind. When I turned forward again I could hardly believe my eyes! As far as I could see stunning gold mounds of sand shimmered under the glorious rays of the sun. How could one area of the world have so much beauty, and so much sand? I stood in the place of the ancients with my uncle and



brother dressed as my forefathers. We were just feet from the pyramids and as far as my eyes could see - was a sea made of sand. Oh, what beauty!

Mrs. Jones sat for a moment reflecting on what she read. "Both papers are excellent work for six graders.", she thought. They made her appreciate the vastness of the sand on the earth, and each made her stop and think about how small she felt in comparison. "God has given us much beauty to enjoy. He spread golden sand, too much to measure, over the earth. I am so thankful for God's loves and amazed that He cares for me, just one grain of sand."

LORD MAKE ME YOUR INSTRUMENT

"Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is sadness, joy; Where there is darkness, light.

Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; Not so much to be understood, as to understand; Not

so much to be loved, as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, It is in dying that we are born again to eternal life."

The above prayer by St Francis of Assisi has been well published. His story can be found in the article "How Should We Live" on page 3. In order to pray such a prayer the com-

poser had to have had a life altering experience. We at Wholly Committed Ministries pray that in 2009 you too will have a life altering experience that only comes after a real encounter with Jesus the Savior. You then will be able to live with purpose as St Francis did, to become an instrument in the Master's hands.

A NEW YEAR PRAYER

Lord I pray for the little baby girl crying for a mommy as she grabs hold of her bottle and sucks air.

Lord I pray for the teen boy whose only role model is the gang that offers him manhood into the black hold of obscurity.

Lord I pray for the desperate mother that has run out of places to go to find help for her wayward adolescent.

Lord I pray for the men and women hanging out under the bridge like walking dead people waiting for the next hit on the crack pipe.

And Lord I pray for the Christians that will not, even during their own personal and family challenges, hesitate to give a helping hand and share God's love with others.



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THANK YOU

Due to a shortage of funds we did not have our Thanksgiving edition to thank everyone and was delayed until now. We know that our organization alone would not have touched the over one thousand lives in 2008 without the help of the many individuals, churches and organizations that assisted us. We thank everyone, living in the many cities in Texas, and in the states of Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Washington State, and New Mexico. Thank you for your financial contributions, gifts in kind, for selling and purchasing our tickets, sharing our emails with your friends and family, for volunteering and praying for us.

Thank you to the following volunteers: M. McClure, V. Sutton, C. Williams, W.&C McManus, C. Bowser, J. Green,



A CHRISTMAS FAIR

It was three weeks before Christmas when I received my answer from the Lord. Since our Back to School Outreach I had been asking the Lord what He wanted us to do for Christmas. Would we have a Christmas outreach? We did not have a place to hold an outreach or the money and then the day came for us to meet with the pastor of Hope Lutheran to discuss the possibility of our ministry being housed in their complex. What an appropriate

D. Washington, S. Downing, L. Washington, D. Rodriguez, A. Rodriguez, T. McQueen, L. McQueen, S. Pernel, P.&T. Heckmann, K. Dunn, T. De-freeze, D. Scott, C. Scott, R. Kolb, J. Clark, G. Coker, P. Wilcox, D. Gratten, The Fountain family. L. Brown, S. Edmunson, J. Carter, K. Carter, P. Carter, J. Callahan, J. Bell, B. Clerkley, C. Collins, D. Williams, L. Butler, C. Anyacho, R. Wilkins, L. Cannon, C. Chandler - Cade Productions, T. Mitchell, S. House, A. Orange. Thank you to: D. Dewhard, Q. Lofland Host Ministries, Pastor L. Chandler, Brenthen Church, Friendship Community Church, Hope Lutheran, Austin Baptist Association, ABBA, St Georges Episcopal, Austin Samaritans, Shoreline Christian Center, Levelfield our website provider, Pronto Wash, Christian Business Network, A New Entry, P. Daniels, Pediatric Junction, Thrident Financial, Round Rock Lions Club, UPS Store #76, Luke 4:18, Hobby Lobby 183 store, Apostle M.

Morrison, Arise Ministries New York, J. Houchins, P. Moncus, L.&D. Wehmier, D. McNeil, B&B. Thomas & sons, R. Williams, The Everett Family, A. Woods, B. Barney, B.&J. Bentzin, G.&M. Paisley, M. Oliver, J. Welch, Frank Ringer & Associates, B.&J. Rudolph, D. Shepperd & the Shepperd Family, R. Phillips, D. Eslap, D. Ware, S.&C. Buettner, Evangelist Sylvia, The Sutton Family, V. Crumley, Chief Gene Pampered Chief, Zac the artist, University Hills Library, T. Webber, L. Clewis, L.&C. Rusenas, M.&A. Shields, J. James, G.&K. Stevens, L. Schroeder, B.&G. Quigley, P. Cannon, J. Cochran, J. Mason, S. Dillman, Y. Claunch, V. Conklin, B.&J. Rudolph, T. Mongridge, D. Kolinek, E. Reinhardt, T. Dorris, R. Trevino, M. Mulhaupt, R.&R. Pedre, M. Aspenleiter, Wolf Pack Football team, B. Harrison, J.&P. Lebo, Barrett Auto, L. Surls (who passed away in 2008, she will be greatly missed.) We can accomplish great things together!

church name HOPE. At the end of the meeting I asked if we could use their gym for a Christmas outreach. The answer was a supportive YES. Now two weeks before the date for the outreach we had the place, but not the money. Immediately after learning we had a place we received our first donation of \$500! It was now up to us whether to continue trusting God enough to contact the families to invite them to a Christmas celebration.

On December 20th we served dinner for over 100 people, gave a gift to over 68 children from infant to age 16, and distributed donated coats, clothes, shoes and more. We spent the next few days delivering more gifts to the children that did not make it and to children in an apartment complex where many drug addicts live and hangout. The donations received made it possible for us to give a toy to over 100 children. To God be the glory!

HELP NEEDED

From January to December of 2008 Wholly Committed Ministries touched the lives of over 1000 people. Our organization is made up of an all volunteer force that depends on donations from individuals and churches. One family - a husband, wife, and three adult children made a huge difference in the Christmas outreach through their donation and help the day of the event. We had others come out to help from other organizations, and many sent money—all made that

day memorable for adults and children for years to come.

Wholly Committed Ministries is at a cross roads. We have been given the invitation to rent space from Hope Lutheran. This will make it possible to have a stable place to meet with people desperate for change. We are referring to men and women with no employable skills and with criminal records who no longer want to sell drugs as their source of survival. We have people hooked on cocaine and meth desperate for a safe place to go to

strengthen their resolve to get free from the bondage. We have teens living in rebellion and being courted by gangs and we want to help them make the choice not to join the gang or drop out of society.

We have the place we just need sponsors to make it financially possible to effectively follow up after each outreach. We need volunteers willing to give of their time and talent to change a life. Help is needed. Will you help? Please contact us today.



A CHRISTMAS WE
WILL REMEMBER
FOR YEARS TO
COME!

A PAROLE-ABLE LIFER

I'm a parole-able lifer, having served thirty five calendar years. I'm 56 years old. I came into this system at the age of 21. I must convey to you my brothers and sisters in Christ who are struggling on the outside God is good! It is true. The Spirit of the Lord entered my heart and saved my soul while I was waiting and anticipating Y2K in 1999 and I've been serving the Lord Jesus ever since. You know 35 years is a long time and its especially long when you're waiting for a

miracle as I am, but guess what? I have another saying now. When I'm asked, "how are you?" I respond, I am blessed, actually I'm too blessed to be stressed. Why? Because I have Jesus in my life.

I never anticipated I would be speaking so candidly about the Lord Jesus, but I am because I love him so dearly. I'm trusting and believing and even more I'm now depending on the word of the Lord for health and strength

to endure to the end. I'm just a happy person these days, happy because I have so much to be thankful for. The Spirit of the Lord spared me from death and saved my soul and is now allowing me the opportunity to be a witness for Him.

Whatever comes my way, all I need to do is say Thank you Lord Jesus and of course remember there is no other name greater on earth than the name of Jesus. I'm no longer ashamed of the gospel, not ashamed to mention his Holy name.

Tonya C., Incarcerated in Michigan



Prison can come in the form of an emotional or spiritual state of being as well as a physical place. Tonya now incarcerated for over 35 years has found emotional and spiritual freedom in a personal relationship with Christ Jesus.

All articles written by Sheila Green unless otherwise stated.

HOW SHOULD WE LIVE?

Would you be willing to follow the lead of a man who lived in the 1200's as our example for how to live in our changing world? The man is St Francis of Assisi. As a youth Francis desired to become a writer of French poetry. He was born into the family of a rich cloth merchant. His mother hoped he would grow to be a great religious leader. His father wanted him to be a successful businessman. After a while Francis became disillusioned with the world and with his family's wealthy lifestyle. The story goes that as he was selling cloth and velvet in

the marketplace, a beggar came and asked for money. At the end of his day Francis found the beggar and gave him everything he had in his pockets. His friends mocked him for his act of charity and his father, enraged, scolded him. Later, Francis was a prisoner of war, suffered a serious illness, and eventually left all behind to nurse the most repulsive victims of leprosy. www.wikipedia.com

Here was a man that left comfort of home to seek something more lasting. He did not get angry with God when a terrible illness stuck his life. He was not afraid

to serve a group of people that no one wanted to help, because of the highly contagious disease of leprosy they had that lead to a horrible death for many. Francis gave up riches to serve the poor.

How many of us today would even share the groceries from our own kitchen to feed the family, in need, next door? How many of us are willing to take time out of our schedule to spend time with a lonely soul, not to mention someone homeless? How many of us are able to thank God in our personal storm without becoming disillusioned with God? How shall we live?



St Francis of Assisi

UNCOMMON LOVE

Our country is in crisis. Financial markets and banking institutions are in distress, government and corporate fraud is on the increase, record breaking weather conditions is forcing more states to seek federal assistance, school systems across the country are experiencing a rise in the drop out rate, illegal drug use is growing, and with the rise in unemployment, more families are facing uncertain futures. Every

so often in all the bad news there can be found a light flickering ever so lightly, yet demanding of our attention. One such light is of a woman that found herself unemployed. She had no other income after her employment ended. As a member of a very large congregation one day the person in charge of benevolence at her church called to ask if she would be willing to bring a dish to a woman who had fallen ill.

The unemployed woman jumped at the chance to help someone else. With the little money she had she went to the grocery store and bought a lasagna dish. She took the food home divided the dish so that it would be just enough for her family and enough for the family in need. Then off she went with great joy to make her delivery. The unemployed woman was very thankful that she could help someone else. (A true story)

Uncommon Love

Obscurity

Darkness, gloom, dejection, insignificance

Membership in a gang leads to destruction. There is no grandeur in a prison term gotten as a result of participation in gang activities. There is no glory in attaining the status of dead from gang violence. There is no future in remaining loyal to a gang. There are no true benefits from membership in a gang - just obscurity.

Prayer on page 1

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2009

**We need your financial support
Volunteer opportunities are
waiting for you!**

We can accomplish great things together!

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WHOLLYCOMMITTED.COM



Walking with people through the challenging times of life

Place
Stamp
Here

WHOLLY COMMITTED

It was about 3AM in the morning as I slept in my usual place, now going on 3 months, on the only thing that I could without the pain in my legs waking me, my living room sofa sitting in an upright position with my legs elevated on a dining room chair. The strange pain in my shoulders has awoken me. I cry out, Lord I don't know why I am not healed. I know you are the healer that heals, but Lord, no matter what, I am going to serve you, I am going to trust totally in you, I will be obedient to you! I eventually drifted back off to sleep.

7:30 AM came quickly. I move the dining chair aside to get into position to get up off the sofa. It takes me a while because I am loosing strength in my thighs. the two specialist I am seeing are still trying to find the cause for my illness. I slowly climb the stairs, take a glance at the bed

that once provided comfort, and entered my bathroom to get ready for my meeting with 22 ladies at the county jail to talk about their successful reentry back into the community. I am so thankful that my hope is in the Lord and my joy is in serving.

Finally, I reach the gate and hear that friendly buss that allows for my entry into the area I must go. Entering the door and standing at the front desk the guards say with amazement, "We can't believe you have come in this freezing weather! The ladies are very lucky to have you." They didn't know I was half frozen from the bitter cold after walking a good distance from the bus stop. I walk through the campus to reach the unit where the ladies are waiting. I tell them that I needed just a few minutes to thaw out. They are surprised to learn that I caught the bus (It is a van story

again for the people reading this that know the story). They did not think I was coming because of the cold. I shared with them that I would be catching the bus to see them for a time. They expressed their gratitude for my caring about them.

My lesson that morning was about being completely, entirely, and wholly committed. I shared with them my story. I was the object lesson for the day. I told them that if they wanted to change the habits and lifestyle that brought them to the place of incarceration that they too would need to be wholly committed.

I hope you reading my story will be inspired to be wholly committed to change old habits and develop a positive attitude, to continue to trust God no matter what your circumstances, and commit to obey God. For the Lord our God is God!



*Representing Christ
on earth, and making
a difference around
the world!*