

Kingdom Builders Newsletter

Volume 18

December 2007

Merry Christmas And Have a Blessed New Year!



"Give God your ambitions and dreams, and trust him with the outcome."

"Mary responded, 'I am the Lord's servant, and I am willing to accept whatever he wants. May everything you have said come true.'" Luke 1:38

(Above quotes from God's Little Devotional Calendar for Women)

Jesus loved us this much!



He was born to die for us. Let us live as Christ and die to selfish ambitions to build up His Kingdom in the coming year.

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Articles & stories by Sheila Green

A Christmas Story

There lived a young boy who was raised on the streets in a city just like yours. His mother did not realize the importance of her role as mother in teaching him values. His father became invisible. He disappeared never to return, so the boy could not learn how to be a man. The neighbors and teachers in school labeled him a difficult child, unruly, and an underachiever. All the young boy wanted was for someone to notice him, but no one did especially not his mother.

As time passed, the boy's mother had more children and he found himself having to take care of his brothers and sisters. He watched as his mother become involved with one man after the other. For days his mother would leave him to take care of the family, he was only 11 years old. With no food in the house he would go to the



neighbors asking for food. All he would hear was "Get your bad but away from my door!" There was, however, someone that paid attention to him. It was an older boy. The boy told him of a way he could make big money if he did exactly what he was told. That day started a new course for the boy who only wanted someone to love him. He became the neighborhood dope dealer.

The boy grew in stature. He was street smart even though he was lacking in intellectual training. He rarely went to school and finally dropped out, after failing year after year, in the 9th grade. At the age of 13 he became a drug addict. At 15 he became an invisible father. And at 16 is found himself waiting trial for possession of a controlled substance. Because of his extensive record of criminal mischief, having no one to speak on his behalf, and because his birthday was just days away, his lawyer explained that he would be charged as an adult and would have to spend time in State prison.

All this young man knew was the streets. How would he ever be able to change his life? With no education, and his criminal record, how would he make money to live? There had never been anyone in his life that showed they cared about him. How could he care about himself? He was a throw away.

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My First Christmas Free

By Catherine Bowser

This is my first Christmas free (mentally, emotionally, and spiritually) to truly embrace the real meaning of it all. All of my past Christmas' were full of pain that later turned into depression. To be able to embrace the Scripture in Luke 2:11, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord" is a miracle and speaks to my soul. Those words tell

me of a baby that is going to give up His life for me in order that I may live in peace and have everlasting life!

This is my first real Christmas that I am able to enjoy. I am free of alcohol and drugs. For many Christmas' I was incarcerated and/or in treatment, out on the streets

and homeless. This year I have my family, my children back in my life. And I actually have friends. Being a part of Wholly Committed Ministries gives me the opportunity to reach out to others who are incarcerated, ex-addicts and alcoholics and those stepping back into society. It is an awesome feeling and blessing to be able to share the birth and joy of Jesus Christ! Have a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Letters to Inmates

We all need encouragement, and to be told we are loved. The following are messages written to incarcerated women. You may find that the words are especially for you.

Queenie, you have a good knowledge of the word. The Lord wants to increase that knowledge and seal it in your heart.

Carolina, I sense a great need that is deep in your soul for change. Continue looking to the Lord through reading the Bible and you will find the answer to your questions. And God's word will also calm your fears. You expressed a desire to be a part of a support group when you get out. I pray that God will lead you to the group that will walk with you as you grow in your knowledge of God.



Joy, Joy the artist. You have art in your soul to share with others that will bring encouragement to many. I pray that you will long to do it God's way. Allow God to mold you into that beautiful vessel that he will use to reach manv.

Silvia, you have a heart of a Lion. Jesus loves you. Hearing God's word read in Spanish was so very beautiful to me. I encourage you to continue reading and watch God give you a confidence in Him that you never thought possible.

Deborah, I want to encourage you to seek the Lord like never before. Don't let anything or anyone discourage you from talking to the Lord, reading the Bible, and living a Christ like life. You expressed the desire for change in your life. Allow God to bring about that change, which happens when you seek Him in His word.

Two of the above ladies have been released from jail. One is due to be released in the next few months and three remain incarcerated. Are you ready to receive these precious women back into the community? Will you become a pen pal today?

Inspiration Today

Unto us a Child is born!

"And this is how you will recognize him: You will find a baby lying in a manger, wrapped snugly in strips of cloth!" Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others – the armies of heaven- praising God: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to all whom God favors." When the angels had returned to heaven the shepherds said to each other, "Come on, let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this wonderful thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about. They ran to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. Luke 2:12-16 (NLT)

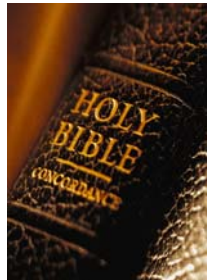
A Christmas Story

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After all that is what his mother and father did, they threw him away.

As the young man sat in his jail cell he watched a few of the men come together around a circle with a book in their hands. At first he kept his distance and just stared at the men as they talked quietly together. He noticed a difference between the men that gathered around the book from the other men in the jail. While the other men fought and cursed, the men he watched, night after night, did not fight. They had respect for one another and a strange peaceful confidence that permeated from them in an **extraordinary** way.

The men of the circle invited the young man to join them, but time after time he refused. Until the day arrived when the man that seemed to be the leader came over and said, "Young man we heard it was your birthday today. We would like for you to join us so that so that we can



celebrate this day with you." No one had ever cared about his birthday before not even his mother. Fighting back the tears he found himself sitting in the circle of men. In unison they began to sing in deep soft voices.

"Happy Birthday to you Happy Birthday to you..." The young man could no longer hold back the years of tears he had pushed way down in the depths of his belly. The men began to speak one by one to the young man. He heard for the first time in his life words of kindness like: you are special; there is hope for your life; God loves you and we do too; we are here to encourage you; you are going to be alright; we care about you. That day was the beginning of a new life for the young man. As he sat wiping the tears from his eyes one of the men knelt down in front of him and said, "Son I am so

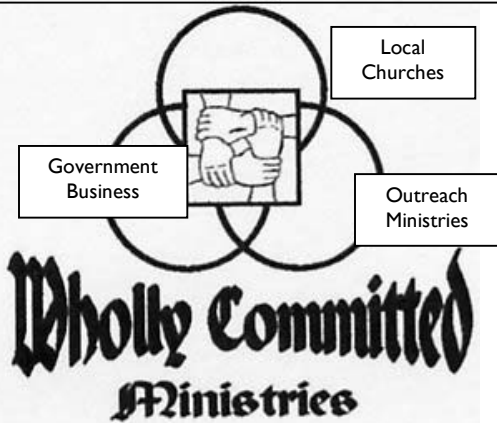
sorry, I hope that one day you will forgive me. For you see I am your father. When you were just a young boy I was sentenced to 15 years in prison. I had no way of communicating with you and it was just recently that I learned your name to know that you were my son. I am sorry for leaving you as I did. If you will please allow me in your life, I promise I will never leave you again." The two men embraced and cried together as they did the other men, wiping the tears from their eyes. After some time of silence the father explained that they were all Christians and the book that they were reading was the Bible, their instruction book on how to be **extraordinary gentle-men**.

Because of Christ's birth the young man found everlasting love, and hope for his tomorrow. The best Christmas present of all!

May this Christmas bring you great joy as you demonstrate the love of Christ to others

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Many are in need of hope



2007

Opportunities are waiting For you!

*Please consider becoming a
volunteer, a sponsor, a partner with
Wholly Committed Ministries*

*We are walking with people through
the challenging times of life,
one step at a time.*

*We can accomplish great things
together!*

**Totally, completely and wholly
committed to live as Christ**

Christcentered

As a Discipleship Training organization we attempt to inspire people to find positive solutions to their overwhelming problems and circumstances as we pattern a life of Christ before them. In 2007 we went into the jails to provide Bible Studies, moral support, and parenting classes to incarcerated women. We continue work with people struggling with drug addiction and those with mental disabilities. Each month we send correspondence to over 60 men and women incarcerated in prisons in Texas and Michigan. We have a monthly newsletter we email and mail out for the purpose of inspiring, encouraging and informing. We provide spiritual and emotional support as we go with recently released inmates to probation officer meetings, help them to find needed resources and provide them with home visitations. We go to court with our adult and juvenile offenders and provided work for our juvenile offenders to fulfill their community service hours. We mentor and have support groups for men, women, teens and children, and provide programming for youth. We visit the children at school, take youth on field trips. Provide new sets of clothes for the start of the school year for children whose parents are: incarcerated, formerly incarcerated, struggling with addictions or trapped in poverty. We provide weekly Bible Studies and remain available 24 hours a day to people needing help in a crisis.

As a Community Outreach organization we collaborate with other organizations, businesses and local government to provide services to the community. Monthly we take part in re-entry fairs at the State Jail for men 15 days from being released back into the community. We are represented on both city and county government subcommittees formed to help formerly incarcerated individuals integrate successfully back into the community. We have held community clothes and winter coat distributions, and participated in community festivals that provided information and services to local neighborhoods. In 2007 we collaborated with an organization and a church to bring a free weekly basic word computer course to the community.

In our effort to walk with people through their struggles we have had the opportunity to help a women in a weak mental state, her 8 year old son and elderly mother after being evicted, put their belongings in storage and move to a room & board, keeping them from being homeless. We paid for a copy of a birth certificate, for a man that had spent many years in prison, needed in order to obtain a State ID. Purchased groceries for people needing food, clothing, bus passes, gasoline for stranded motorist, and helped with rent for people we are mentoring. We have distributed donated furniture to people in need. We believe to have a positive impact on a person's life we must be ready and able to touch the various areas of his life. We minister to the whole person, and that includes his basic and spiritual needs, and the needs of the family as a whole. **We did all this with your help, and look forward to what the Lord has in store for His body in the New Year!**



Coming in January
A new look for the newsletter!