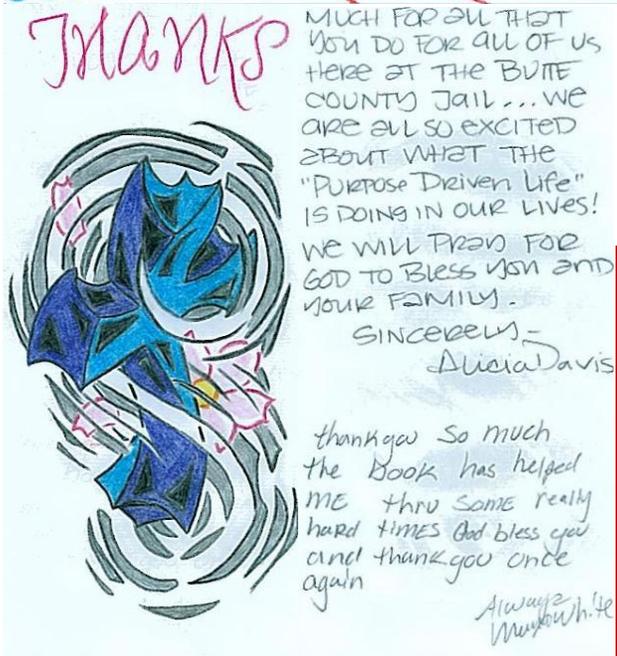


AMBASSADORS OF RECONCILIATION MINISTRIES



Life is messy, but Jesus gives hope
to all who need to be set free
behind bars of steel
and walls of bitterness.

November Thanksgiving Newsletter 2014



Gratitude and thanksgiving are inseparably connected to prayer, and to godliness! No one can stand before God without humbly acknowledging that every good thing we have and enjoy is a gift from His hand. This includes friends, food, a place to call home, a job, family members who love us, and even the difficult times that draw us to God and teach us so much. Paul wrote:

I thank God... as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. 2 Tim 1:3-8

God Bless You

These cards were drawn and mailed to ARM by inmates whose lives have been changed by Jesus, to express their gratitude to God and to those who came in His name to give them the good news of His love for them, right where they are. They remember us in their prayers, and those of us who visit them cannot help but remember their faces, their fervent prayers, their tears of regret over a past filled with pain, anger and selfishness (much like many of us), and tears of joy for the transformation they have experienced and are beginning to live out. They long to see us again, and to be built up in their new faith.

Some are reminded of a mother, father, grandparent, or someone else who once took them to church as a child, who told them the amazing truth about what Jesus has done for us. They taught them the songs that celebrate His grace toward all of us, even those in jail – perhaps *especially* those in jail! Now they are experiencing that sincere faith alive in themselves! As they share their new faith with family and friends, and with those in their pod, God fans into flame the gifts He has put in them. They leave behind a spirit of shame and guilt from their past, and a self-conscious (self-centered) concern about how they will be perceived. They receive the Holy Spirit of power, of love, of grace, and of self-discipline, testifying to the One who saved them, living a new life of victory over the flesh, and embracing suffering for His gospel, by the power of God. What a call to thanksgiving in this season!

Ministry to the Butte County Jail - inmates & families Ian Carlisle, Chaplain
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Scripture comes alive for those who know their need for the Word and power of God in their lives! We are putting it to work, showing our Father's likeness to family, friends, and fellow inmates. Are you? Jesus calls us all to follow Him in humble service to "the least of these." If God is calling you to reach out in service to an inmate or their family today, call me! I would love for you to experience the thrill of watching first hand as God works His transformation in a new life given over fully to His agenda! You may even get a hand-drawn "thank you" card from a grateful inmate!

Baptisms in Jail!

Last month, we hauled a metal horse trough into the jail, filled it with VERY COLD WATER, and baptized 87 men and 22 women. I wish you could have been there to witness the joy in the inmates' celebration of new life in Jesus! There was laughing and crying, and a lot of faces saying, "Whoa, that's cold!" Those of us doing the baptizing were outside the trough, but the ones coming up out of the water were splashing and hugging us, so we all got more than our share of wet! We told them how going down under the water symbolizes the death of Christ, and with Him, the death of the old man, our fleshly nature. And rising up out of the water represents Jesus' resurrection from death, and with Him, our re-creation as new creatures in Christ, forgiven and free to serve our Father in Heaven. And while baptism is an act of obedience, proclaiming to the world that we now belong to God as committed servants and loving children, it also proclaims to the recipients that we, as the church, the people of God, have embraced these new members into our family and fellowship. Thank You, Jesus!



"The Suffering Servant (as the Messiah is portrayed by Isaiah) identifies with every aspect of our humanness. He wept over Jerusalem and at the death of Lazarus, and His compassion and power ushered a convicted criminal into Paradise. Jesus Christ bids all the imprisoned to come and receive the water of life. (Rev. 22:17)...Jesus entered the company of the despised, the tortured, and the rejected. His public execution with two robbers (is) a sign of solidarity with these lost people."

Henry Covert, Prison Chaplain

Prayer Requests:

- Praise God for five current Certified Jail Ministers, discipling inmates once a week in the jail, and for four more who have indicated a desire to step forward. Thank God for His transformation in their lives and in the inmates they serve, and pray that He would raise up many more to carry His Word into the lives of new believers. Praise God for previous inmates who testify to God's continued faithfulness in their lives!
- Praise Him for new life in so many, and the gratitude and thankfulness at last month's baptisms. Pray for God's care and provision in their lives.
- Please pray for wisdom and workers to expand into Juvenile Hall. Pray also for donations of Christian books, concordances, and study Bibles for inmates who lead in their pods, and for supporters to meet our financial needs as home missionaries.

We pray a blessed Thanksgiving for you all, and may God use you, too, for His glory!

Ian and Roxanne Carlisle

