



June/July Newsletter 2013

Certified Jail Ministers

Would you like to be the one God uses to help equip a new Christian with the armor Paul describes in Ephesians 6:11–18? We all start our Christian life as babies, unable to walk by ourselves. We need milk to grow bones strong enough to withstand the falls that we inevitably experience as we learn to crawl, to walk, and to run. Finally, we must be equipped to fight the sometimes brutal battles with the powers of darkness that we all face.

“Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. ¹² For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. ¹⁴ Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God’s righteousness. ¹⁵ For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. ¹⁶ In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. ¹⁷ Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God ¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.”



ARM can train and equip you as a **Certified Jail Minister**, and provide the Jail with the certification they require to work with inmates one-on-one, studying through the Navigators’ *Design for Discipleship* series with them. The series provides 42 weekly sessions, although the counselor and counselee may choose to spend more time on particular subjects, especially areas that directly impact the inmate’s life and future – areas like anger, money, sexuality, work, honesty, authority, and family relationships. You would only need to commit to one hour per week with the inmate, and you would be securely behind the glass visiting window (no reason to be intimidated). You can schedule your visits any time that fits into your week, 8 am – 9 pm, Monday through Friday. Please pray about whether God would wish to use you in this way, or perhaps to provide materials for a counselor or an inmate. Navigators has graciously agreed to give us the materials at 58% off retail, and by faith we are ordering enough to equip ten discipler/inmate pairs to start. Curriculum for the whole 42-week course for one counselor and counselee costs \$63.11, or \$1.50 per week. Additional inmates after the discipler has been equipped are only \$28.09, or 67¢/week. The impact you would have on the inmate’s life would be eternal!

Ministry to the Butte County Jail — inmates, families and staff

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New Jail Visitation Volunteers

On May 28th, we graduated a new crop of about fourteen Thursday evening jail visitation volunteers, a welcome help for those of us going in to share Jesus' good news of hope among inmates eager for an encouraging word and a caring touch. I thank all of you who prayed for those who came forward that Tuesday evening, and I would ask you to pray for quick processing of their security clearances, so they can begin joining us this summer. If you've read any of our newsletters, you know the kind of transformation that God brings into people's lives when someone cares enough to speak God's truth from their heart



Redeemed Lives

Roxanne and I spent the weekend of June 15-16 celebrating Richvale Church's 100th anniversary. It was during my six years as Senior Pastor there that I began visiting the Butte County Jail. It all started with the daughter of a family in the church whom we learned to love. She and her fiancé ended up in jail on drug charges, and I went to visit them. They had prayed, "I can't free myself of my addiction, so please God, do whatever it takes to free me!" And now, they both cried tears of gratitude to God, that He had answered their prayer! I visited them, disciplined them, and finally married them. They are now drug free, working

full time, attending church together, and studying the Bible together with friends in Richvale, some six years later. They were there at the celebration, and I pointed them out to the assembly as I shared good memories and current ministry vision. Jesus is still changing lives in Butte County and across the world! Amen!

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for counselors and donors for curriculum to step forward to bring the inmate Certified Jail Ministers program into action in people's lives this month.
- Pray that the new jail visitor applicants would be quickly screened and cleared to begin coming into the jail with us.
- Pray that the Lord of the harvest will raise up workers, teachers, mentors, pray-ers, helpers, and givers. Pray for churches and Christians in Butte County to hear of the need, and rise to the call of our Savior.
- Please pray for Roxanne, struggling with pneumonia.

Thank you for your prayers, your help, and your encouragement. May the God of new life and new direction work among us together to bring new life to many inmates and families in Butte County! I'm excited to see what God is doing, and grateful to have a part to play in His plan! What is your part?

Ian and Roxanne Carlisle

