

FISHERS OF MEN

"And he said unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." - Matthew 4:19

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Fishers of Men Ministries
Jesus Loves You!

A Newsletter For and By Saints of Christ in Prison

A NEW YEAR ARRIVES



Cultures around the world celebrate the New Year in different ways. Not all of them celebrate it at the same time. The Western World and eight other countries celebrate the New Year on the same day. The amazing thing for me is the cultural diversity that surrounds this day.

Consider such cultures as India, Indonesia, Japan and Korea to name four. Each of these countries has equally diverse religious views and they are as dynamic as our own nation. But seeing how some want to play the numbers game - - how about this one: An estimated one sixth (1/6) or just over one billion souls of the world's population celebrate this day as a holiday. It's amazing, huh?

As a Christian, we look at holidays in the light of our Savior (or we should). It allows us to honor Him and our Heavenly Father through a renewed commitment in our service unto the work He has called us to do. There are those of us who could argue to emulate Paul's words in Romans 12:1-2 to begin our New Year afresh. Even though we are told to have the spirit of our mind renewed (Eph. 4:23) daily, we can use the New Year to acknowledge diversity. It clearly gives diversity as an example through Paul's words in Col. 3:9-11. Here He speaks of Christian living and the difference in us - namely the change from the old man to the new man in Christ Jesus. So for 2008, I challenge you to become part of this diversity...make a change from the old to new in Jesus Christ. And in the worlds of Paul, I bid you a Happy New Year!

"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father in Him." (Col. 3:17 KJV)

His Servant, Clyde

WHAT IF YOUR SOUL SHOULD BE REQUIRED TODAY?

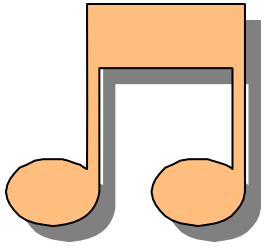


Many people live as if this life were all they are going to have. They think very little of living somewhere else (either Heaven or Hell). So, they don't make any preparation for Heaven. Most of the time, they are so absorbed with the everyday routine of making a living and taking care of themselves and their family, that they think little about their future eternal life.

Everybody needs to get their minds off of unimportant details of this life and prepare and work for tomorrow in Heaven. The transient, fleeting treasures of this life will soon melt and vanish away.

If God should reach down and take your life today, would you have treasures laid up in Heaven, huh? Well, would you?

Warriors for Christ, Jose



HYPOCRITICAL HYMN SINGING

We sing "Sweet Hour of Prayer"
And are content with five or ten minutes of prayer a day.

We sing "Onward Christian Soldiers"
And draw back when things don't suit us.

We sing "There Shall be Showers of Blessings"
And don't come to church when it rains.

We sing "Serve the Lord with Gladness"
And gripe about what we have to do.

We sing "We're Marching to Zion"
And don't march to Sunday service or worship.

We sing "Cast Thy Burden on the Lord"
And worry ourselves into a nervous breakdown.

We sing "The Whole Wide World for Jesus"
And never invite our next door neighbor to church.

We sing "O Day of Rest and Gladness"
And wear ourselves out before Sunday.

We sing "Throw Out the Lifeline"
And content ourselves with throwing out the fishing line.

**LET'S LIVE WHAT WE SING AND REMEMBER
"JESUS LOVES ME, THIS I KNOW, FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO."
Read it!! Believe it!! John 3:16**

*Warriors for Christ,
Jose*

CRUISE CONTROL CHRISTIAN



There is a lot of "cruise control" Christians today. They go to church on Sunday morning for an hour or two, and then they put their life in "spiritual" cruise control for the rest of the week. They are living a spiritually effortless life caught up in the cares of life, hoping they can cruise all through the week without church, mid-week Bible study, prayer and/or personal devotions. It might seem you can cruise a little while, but you'll come to a crossroad in your life and more than likely, it will be a crisis, a severe trial or death. Unless you have God to lean upon, you'll crash and pay the consequences.

You cannot make it on your own. You must get all of God you can possibly get to make it. So beware of "cruise control" and put **CHRIST IN CONTROL**.

*Your Brother in Christ,
Jose*



I BELIEVE IN GOD



Even in our modern society, some people still believe in God. Obviously, you can't have a personal relationship with God without believing in Him. But, is believing in God ENOUGH and what kind of God should you believe in?

All over the world people believe in many different gods. Hindu's believe in monkey gods, elephant gods and that every man is a god. And the Buddhists believe that God isn't a person, that He has no feelings or mind, so capability to love and care for us and that He's merely a principle. Plus, the Moslems believe in a personal god named Allah who has given mankind strict legalistic rules to follow in order to be saved. Only Christianity teaches that you can't have a personal relationship with God through any human efforts or self worth.

So, the question is, "Which God do you believe in?" The Bible teaches us that by just believing in God, even the true God, you still won't get into Heaven. Because it says that even the demons believe in God, but we all know that they won't be saved from an eternity in Hell. (James 2:19)

So, merely believing in God is not enough. In the same way, just believing food will nourish you isn't enough. You must eat the food before it will do you any good. Many people believe in God, but they either don't know who He is or they don't have the kind of relationship with Him that He desires them to have.

The Bible clearly teaches about God and says that though there are many things which are called gods, there's actually only one true God (I Cor. 8:5-6). It further states that it's impossible to have a personal relationship with the true God without going through Jesus Christ (John 14:6). So believing in God without accepting Jesus Christ isn't sufficient.

But who's this person called Jesus Christ and how does He affect each of us, huh? Well, Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God. He became a man over 2,000 years ago and was the only person who ever lived a sinless life. After 33 years of perfect obedience to His father in Heaven, He died on the cross, taking upon Himself the punishment all mankind deserved. But in reality, each of us should have died on the cross for our own sins, but because He loved us, He was willing to die in our place for us.

We can now be saved from the punishment of our sins if we will put our complete trust and confidence in Jesus Christ's death on the cross and resurrection from the tomb three days later. We cannot be saved from our sins by merely believing in God, going to church, trying to be a good person, doing the best we can, following the ten commandments, reading the Bible, praying or any other form of self-human effort.

A personal relationship with God can only be established by:

1. Accepting what Jesus Christ did on the cross (I Cor. 15:3)
2. Asking Him to forgive you for your sins (I John 1:9)
3. Letting Him be the Lord and God of your life (Rom. 10:9-10)
4. And with Him living inside of you (Rev. 3:20), turning away from whatever God and the Bible call sin (Acts 3:19)

Believing in God is good, but trusting in Jesus completely is the only way we can get into Heaven. If you wish to accept Jesus Christ into your life, please pray the following prayer, but do it only if you are sincere about it...and welcome into God's family.

PRAYER:

Father, it is written in Your Word that if I confess with my mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in my heart that You have raised Him from the dead, I shall be saved. Therefore, Father, I confess that Jesus is my Lord. I make Him Lord of my life right now. I believe in my heart that You raised Jesus from the dead. I renounce my past life and satan and close the door to any of his devices.

I thank you for forgiving me of all my sins. Jesus is my Lord and I am a new creature. Old things have passed away. Now all things become new in Jesus' mighty name. Amen!



Warriors for Christ
Jose



LOVE

Is destroyed by hate and apathy

JOY

Is destroyed by depression

PEACE

Is destroyed by fear

PATIENCE

Is destroyed by selfishness

KINDNESS

Is destroyed by thoughtlessness

GOODNESS

Is destroyed by not helping others

FAITHFULNESS

Is destroyed by laziness

GENTLENESS

Is destroyed by being rushed

SELF-CONTROL

Is destroyed by being impulsive

Rev. Kent Svendsen (June 1994)

Message from Momm



Happy New Year! Every month I receive letters from inmates telling me how the newsletter touches their hearts...and others say how they are putting together an article for the future...guess what? Other than Clyde's article this month, the articles haven't arrived yet. So, if God is urging you to share your experiences or minister to others through this newsletter, now is the time. Your articles are needed! If you wish to share your testimony with others, please send it to me and it will be added to the testimony page of the website for all the world to see.

If the newsletter has been given to you by someone else, write Fishers of Men Prison Ministries, c/o Bethany Church, 5403 North Second Street, Loves Park, IL 61111. Include your name, number and address, and your name will be added to the FOM mailing list. Our request is that when you finish reading your newsletter, please pass it on to someone else for their enjoyment and spiritual food. Tell your family to visit the website at: www.fishersofmenprisonministries.com. *Love in Christ, Momm*

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TO: