

## 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 Prison Ministries  
Jesus Loves You!

*A Newsletter For and By Saints of Christ in Prison*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

### *Overcoming Adversity in 2010 and Beyond!*



Adversity is not all bad. The more the adversity the bigger the result. Just as we would not turn down a diamond in the ruff, we shouldn't steer away from adversities. Each adversity cuts us to a new level and as it heals it can make us stronger.

Today I viewed a DVD with my Mom's funeral service on it. My heart pumped rigorously and my head ached for what seemed like weeks. In the silence and quiet place of my heart I could only ask God why and how can I again overcome such a devastation. Prior to my Mom, one brother, two sisters and my Dad had been called home. God truly carried me and sent angels each day to help me overcome.

New wounds, new devils, new levels yet God had already equipped me for battle. The enemy is not going to beat me down. Yes at times I have been afraid but I know I have a Father in heaven that will protect me. He says "no weapon formed against me shall prosper!! David had to be nervous when he went to fight Goliath. But he knew he had a Father who would protect him. I can smile in the face of my difficulties. This is not out of pride but out of the confidence in God. Through these difficulties God has protected me and because of Him I am a better person.

David was a man after God's heart, a man of great faith. Yet God allowed Goliath to come in his path. Goliath was conquered. The size of David's problem (great) was the size of his future (great). Big problems, big futures. When God gives us a problem He also gives us what we need to overcome it. When it seems like our bottom falls out, God always gives us springs. As my family stood by my Mothers' side and she took her last breath, my brother Darnell witnessed a gold coin falling onto the bed and disappear. God had sent an angel to take her home. We can no longer be sad but rejoice that Mom is with the Lord. God gives us what we need. We have to stay in faith, continue to believe and trust.

David defeated Goliath with little equipment. His crew tried to put armor on him, but it was too heavy and he refused to use it. David took five stones and a sling-shot. Some may say he was foolish but when you know who you are and whose you are then you know that God can defeat your enemy with anything. God has equipped each of us for every battle. When God puts a dream in your heart you are anointed. Don't look at what you don't have but at what you do have. When you stay in faith God will cause people to see you differently. God is multiplying what you have. You have to stay in faith. Stay in agreement with the Word. Stand confident and secure. Don't lean on your feelings. I remember reading about Moses who was troubled as his followers were discouraged. God turned Moses' rod into a snake then back to a rod to illustrate that He is in control. Don't let your head control you with the "I can't mentality." You can't be defeated with God in control. When you are weak, then He is strong. If you only have a sling-shot or a rod, He will direct you. He will become what you need.

A Marine lost contact with his comrades, so he hid in a cave hoping not to be discovered. He began to pray for help. Then he saw a spider. The Marine sighed with despair as the enemy soldiers approached closer and closer searching each cave one by one. When the enemy arrived at the front of his cave they noticed a thick spider web. They said no use going in that cave because the spider's web was not broken so no one could have gone in. They passed the cave by. The Marine asked for God to forgive him because the spider's web was stronger than a wall. God gave him what he needed.

Adversity is not meant to defeat us, but promote us. He won't make problems for your size but the size for your destiny. Don't run from your challenges, but run to your destiny. In doing so, you will rise above it and honor God. When the blind man was healed, lots of people questioned how. The blind man said, "I was blind but now I see." The reason I can see is because God gave it to me.

Some don't believe that God can help during sickness. I have seen otherwise. Some don't believe that dreams can come true. I have seen otherwise. Over fifteen years my prayer was to be able to see my daughter more. This year I was told that my daughter will be able to see me as much as possible. Prayers are answered in His time. Even David was challenged. He had killed a lion, a bear and Goliath. Then the King tried to kill him. The worst of worst was when his family turned against him. David didn't lose focus and he overcame. He said, "But you, O Lord, are a shield for me." I now say yes when I am going through a tough time because "You O Lord will see me through."

Remember as a child of God that your chains are broken. When the enemy comes God will raise a barrier. Challenges are not meant to destroy but to promote. Let's not get discouraged but encouraged. Then you will see God's favor and verify His anointing in your life. No obstacle can hold you. Our struggle is to not give in to defeat. Declare victory in the name of Jesus.

*With Jesus in Mind  
Brother Gene*

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### *A Message from Momm*

**Fishers of Men Prison Ministries is all about Jesus. It's all about Jesus using inmates to minister to other inmates. There are many ways you can help Jesus do that. If you can write a sermon, tell a Christian fiction story, or write a poem, you can contribute to this ministry. Also, if you wish to share your testimony with others, please send it to me and it could be used as an article and added to the testimony page of the website. Please be patient as you wait for your article appear in the newsletter. The newsletter currently is reaching hundreds of inmates by mail and thousands of ministries and families via email and through various internet sources.**



**If the newsletter has been given to you by someone else, write Fishers of Men Prison Ministries, 5403 North Second Street, Loves Park, IL 61111. Include your name, number and address, and you will be added to the FOM mailing list. Our request is that when you finish reading your newsletter, please pass it on to a friend. Tell your family about the website: [www.fishersofmenprisonministries.com](http://www.fishersofmenprisonministries.com) for more information about the ministry.**

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### *What Does it Take to Follow God?*



Our love for God makes us want to follow God's guidance. John 5:3 "For this is the Love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not grievous. However, Paul pointed to something else that we need when he said, "We are walking by faith, not by sight." (2 Cor,5:6,7). Why is faith so important to the Christian? Well, God leads us in "The tracks of righteousness". But those tracks of life do not lead to wealth or privilege in this world.+(Ps,23:3). And for that reason our eyes of Faith needs to be fixed on the incomparable spiritual rewards that comes from serving God. When we look at 2 Corinthians 4:17,18, Here Paul tells us ... "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, works for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory: Verse 18, While we look not at the things which are seen for the things which are seen are temporal. But the things that are not seen are eternal. And Faith helps us to be content with modest material provisions. 1 Tim,6:8)

Jesus indicated that TRUE WORSHIP involves self-sacrifice, which also takes Faith,(Luke 9:23,24)Some faithful worshippers have made great sacrifices, enduring poverty, oppression, prejudice, and even severe persecution,(2 Cor,11:23,27; Rev.3:8,10) Only strong Faith will enable us to go through these things with Joy. (Jas.1:2,3) Strong Faith makes us absolutely confident that following God's Guidance is always best, and it is always for our ultimate good. We as Christians should have no doubt whatsoever that the reward for those who loyally endure is far greater than any temporary suffering.(Heb 11:6).

Consider, also the role of humility in following God's guidance. Take the example of Hagar, Sarah's maidservant, demonstrates this, when Sarah continued childless, she gave Hagar to Abraham, and Hagar became pregnant with Abraham's child. Then Hagar became arrogant towards her barren mistress. As a result, Sarah began to humiliate her, and Hagar ran away, An angel of God met Hagar and told her, "Return to your mistress and humble yourself under her hand". (Gen,16:2,6,8,9). even though Hagar no longer wanted to be there under the rule of her mistress, Nevertheless, Hagar humbly did as the angel said, and her son was born in the security of His Father's encampment.

Following God's guidance means that we also have to humble ourselves. we will no doubt see others enjoying forms of recreation that are displeasing to God, We need to humble ourselves and we will know that God has greater things in store for us. The words of Proverbs 29:23, "The very haughtiness of earthling man will humble Him, but he that is humble in spirit will take hold of glory."

## How Does God Guide Us?

The foremost source of divine guidance is the Holy Bible, God's inspired Word. (2 Timothy 3:16,17) "All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for instructions in righteousness;" verse 17, "That the Man of God might be perfect, (meaning mature in the word) thoroughly furnished unto all good works." To make the most of that word, we are wise as Christians not to wait for a challenging situation to arise before seeking helpful words in the scriptures. Rather, we should make Bible reading a daily habit. (Ps,1:1-3) ••• "Blessed is the Man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the sit of the scornful." Verse 2, "But his delight is in the Law of the Lord, and in this law does he meditate day and night." Verse 3, "And He shall be like a tree planted by the river of water, that brings forth his fruit in his season. His leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." When we meditate on our daily studies, the inspired word becomes familiar, God's thoughts become our thoughts, and we are ready to face even the unexpected problems in life.



In addition, it is important to meditate on what we read in the scriptures and pray in connection with it, when we ponder on Bible verses, we consider how they might apply in specific situations. (1 Tim,4:15). "Meditate upon these things, give yourself fully to them, that your profiting may appear to all." When we face serious problems in life, and we pray to God asking for help to find the guidance we need, God's spirit will help us to recall helpful scriptural principles that we have read in the Bible during our day to day studies. Read Psalm 25:4,5.

Christian brotherhood is another valuable resource in seeking God's Guidance. I have found in this Christian brotherhood there are mature individuals, especially the elders, who are more than qualified to give personal and scriptural counsel.(Isa.32:1) we Yes, in a number of ways God offers guidance, and I will do well as Christians to take full advantage of it, Speaking of the time when Israel proved faithful, King David said, "In you our Fathers trusted; they trusted, and you kept providing them with escape. To you they cried out, and they got away safe; in you they trusted, and they did not come to shame". Ps,22:3,5.

If we trustingly follow God's guidance, we too will not come to shame and we will not be disappointed in our hope, if we rely upon God instead of relying upon our own wisdom, the results will be rich spiritual blessings even now.(Ps,37:5). If we loyally persevere in that course, these blessing of God is eternal.

King David wrote in Ps.37:8,29 "God is a lover of justice, and He will not leave His loyal ones. To time indefinite they will certainly be guarded. The righteous themselves will posses the Earth, and they will reside forever upon it".

*Your Brother in Christ  
Larry*

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### *Changing Lives, One at a Time The Testimony of Charles R.*



In August of 1999, I was in Sayre, Oklahoma at North Fork and life in prison was a breeze (so I thought). I was a gang leader...I was a drug dealer... and I had women in the prison on my team. It would look like I was on top of the world... on the outside looking in. Yet the reality was at night when I laid down, I had no peace. I questioned my life and I was in search of something better.

Well, as the Lord would have it, one of the Christian brothers named David invited me to church. He was an ex-gang member of my click. So in honor of that, I agreed to go. That night at 7:00 p.m. I went to chapel. It blew my mind because I didn't or never had been to church with whites before. What was amazing was these people didn't judge me and I felt I could be myself and I felt the love. I had fun... It was a Bible study and I liked it!

So it was good, but when I got back, I had a verbal warning from my gang because I didn't have security when I moved around the prison. The next day at 7:00 p.m. they called chapel and I went again; and it was whites again, but a different group and denomination. But the crazy thing was I felt the same love. It really had me thinking and wanting what they had. When I went back to the pod, the gang hollered at me again and taxed me two packs of cigarettes for going with security again.

So the next day, I had to go again and I didn't want my gang friends to know, so I snuck out and went to chapel. It was different again because it was a service and the pastor preached about everything from the Law to the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Before the preacher was done, I was crying, somehow I had moved to the altar and I gave my life to the Lord, right there in the prison chapel that night.

It felt so good and I went back to the pod, the gang guys knew I was different. They saw it all over me and they were mad. Then I got a violation for three incidents of not having security with me, but I didn't care.

Now I had Jesus and from that time on, my life has been better....yes, at times it has been more difficult and sometimes it's been a roller coaster ride with the Savior... But praise the Lord, I have seen miracles. I have seen many of the men that were in the old gang are now saved! God is working in prisons every day, changing lives one at a time! Glory to God! Praise His Name!!!



# Footprints in the Sand



One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord.  
Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky.

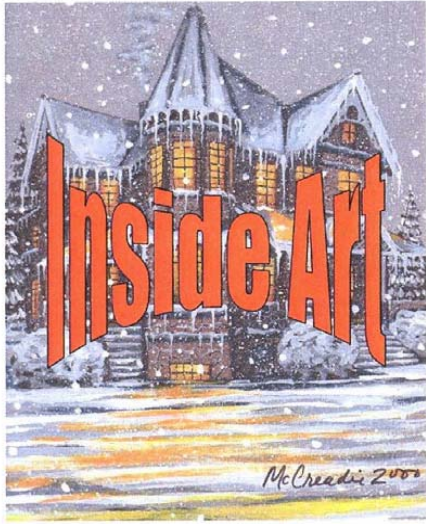
In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand.  
Sometimes there were two sets of footprints,  
other times there were one set of footprints.  
This bothered me because I noticed  
that during the low periods of my life,  
when I was suffering from  
anguish, sorrow or defeat,  
I could see only one set of footprints.

So I said to the Lord,  
"You promised me Lord,  
that if I followed you,  
you would walk with me always.

But I have noticed that during  
the most trying periods of my life  
there have only been one  
set of footprints in the sand.  
Why, when I needed you most,  
you have not been there for me?"

The Lord replied,  
"The times when you have  
seen only one set of footprints in the sand,  
is when I carried you."

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**"INSIDE ART"** ~~ Fishers of Men Prison Ministries is seeking inmate-artists to donate drawings or paintings that will be sold to raise funds to keep this ministry moving ahead for God's glory! If you are an inmate artist and would like to donate one of your original works of art, you can mail me at: Fishers of Men Prison Ministries, c/o Bethany Church, 5403 N. Second Street, Loves Park, IL 61111, for more information. We will be send you a release form to sign and include when you send your art.

