



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

I'm so Glad I'm a Part of the Family of God!



As family, united by the blood of Jesus Christ, we must never forget that we need each other. Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus, "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the Saints and of the Household of God, and are built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Cornerstone; in whom all the building fitly framed together growth unto a Holy Temple in the Lord: IN WHO YE ALSO ARE BUILDED TOGETHER FOR A HABITATION OF GOD THROUGH THE SPIRIT." (Ephesians 2:19-22). I like the way the "Today's Message" version reads: "God is building a home. He's using us all – irrespective of how we got here – in what He is building. He used the Apostles and Prophets for the foundation. Now He's using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day – a holy temple, built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home"

There are times when we need to be alone with God in devotions and prayer. But there are other times when we can only experience the fullness of His presence when we come together with His people. Your church, chapel or Bible study group is like the family dining room. When we are there to worship, praise, receive instruction be encouraged and to be used for service, it's like a family getting together to get fed. God's Spirit shows up in a powerful way as we feast in His presence and share His Word.

This world and the circumstances we encounter may beat us up and make us feel like losers. But when we get together with other members of God's family, we are reminded that we are on the winning side! My mother used to sing a song that included this message: "We may lose a battle now and then...but we've already won the war!" Now that is something to celebrate! But it's hard to celebrate all by yourself! When you have something to celebrate, you get those closest to you together to share your joy! And when you do, your celebration and joy gets all over others and gives them something to celebrate and be joyful about! Jesus Christ is so excited about His victory at the cross that He calls His family together during the week to celebrate and share His joy! So, the next time you get together with your Christian family, remember that you are a vital part of the family structure, remember that you (and they) are on the winning side and remember to celebrate the joy of belonging to the Family of God! *Love in Christ, Brother Rick!*



My Daily Prayer



My Heavenly Father:

*Help me to live each day like Jesus lived; to be pure of heart and clean of speech,
to be kind and gentle in all my acts; to be sincere in all I say;
to be faithful in all I undertake; to seek to make others happy,
to show sympathy to those who are troubled,
to show patience when I am tried, to forgive all those who trespass against me.*

Give me strength to hold fast my faith in Thee.

*Give me courage never to deny Thee, never fail Thee,
but always honor Thee, in word, thought, and deed.*

And let my life be lived in service to Thee.

I thank Thee for Thy boundless love and tender mercies.

Forgive my wrong doing and guide me by Thy spirit.

Give me grace to do Thy will.

In Jesus name I pray.

Amen.

Message from Momm



The first time that I typed this newsletter in 1991, we produced 25 copies and sent them to Chaplain Tsulous at Joliet Correctional Center. At that time, I would never have dreamed that one day we would be printing over 550 copies to mail to inmates in every state in the United States and sending over 1,000 newsletters via email. In addition, many ministries abroad who receive the newsletter by email, reproduce it and send it to inmates they minister to in foreign countries. What a blessing! If God is urging you to share your experiences or minister to others through this newsletter, please answer the call. That is what Fishers of Men Prison Ministries is all about...inmates ministering to other inmates. Did you ever in your wildest imagination dream that you would one day be a minister? You are and your articles are needed to minister to those in need of the saving grace that Christ has to offer! Also, if you wish to share your testimony with others, please send it to me and it will be used as an article and added to the testimony page of the website.

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 you 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 for more information about the ministry.

Are You Shooting Them or Sowing Them?

My name is Brother Rick. I am 47 years old and sentenced to a term of 40 years to life for armed robbery. Since this is my third prison term, I was sentenced under California's "Three Strikes You're Out" law. At the time of my arrest in December 2006, I was an unemployed, alcoholic, former Assistant Pastor of a Pentecostal Church fallen from grace. I had served the Lord faithfully for 14 of the 17 years I had spent out of prison, but walked out of the church one Sunday evening hurt, offended, spiritually wounded and walked into a bar and left my precious relationship with the Lord at the door.



I hold no one to blame other than myself for my present circumstance. I made the decisions to walk away from my family, my brothers and sisters in the Lord, my church and my God. I allowed the enemy of our souls to use words spoken by a loved one who had good intentions to bring me down. Since then, I have turned into the Lord's embrace again, who never left me, but held His nail-scarred hands out to me. All I had to do is change direction spiritually and there He was.

I know there are others who have been hurt by words and the enemy has torn apart their lives because of them. I have a message to you if you're one of those: **THE ONLY WORDS THAT MATTER ARE HIS WORDS!** Don't allow satan to use the weapon of "vocabulary" to destroy God's purpose for your life. I also have a message for those who would feel the need to advise or criticize: "You can offer your words to others as bullets or as seeds. You can shoot them or sow them," Richard Halverson writes. Words used as bullets will kill inspiration, motivation and possibly keep you from leading someone to salvation. Words used as seeds will take root, grow and produce fruit in the life in which they are planted.

We can say the right words sometimes, but use the wrong manner to say them. God's words are wasted when we use a "ram-it-down-your-throat" approach. Christian's especially, have got to learn how to say the right thing, the right way. Isaiah 50:4 says, "The Lord God has given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary..." (NKJV). To accomplish the desired effect in someone's heart, the words we use must be the right words – spoken with the right attitude.

We can't help others move up higher in Christ if we don't approach them with genuine love and care. Without those two crucial elements, efforts to help others will fail, or even worse, totally alienate them. Most of the men at this prison already know what their problem is; they've been dealing with it long enough. Deep down they want to do better. But unless I want a "who-are-you-to-tell-me?" response, I have to demonstrate a genuine concern. "Pleasant words are like a honey-comb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones." (Proverbs 16:24). Jesus said, "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32) His truth will always set people free, but if they refuse to listen to the truth, the way we're sharing it, maybe we're firing bullets instead of planting seeds. We all need to desire to be God's gardeners and not satan's snipers! **In Christ, Brother Rick**

Revival of the Spirit



Like the Prophet Jonah, I've been called to teach and preach the Word of God ...having not given this credit to myself...yet by many Christians, circumstances, providence, Holy Spirit confirmation and even unbelievers over a period of many years since my justification. Sadly, I have done just the same as Jonah and have run away from my calling, time and time again only to procure the disciplinary judgment of God into my own life and of those around me – yes -- our sin affects our loved ones, family, friends, children. Just as Jonah's disobedience affected him and all those on the ship with him.

Jonah, Chapter 1, praise God for His goodness, mercy and longsuffering, that we may all proclaim with Habakkuk 3:2 that in His wrath to remember mercy... and in that He certainly has, because in His delivering the full measure of His wrath upon the body of sin, in Christ, it is at that very place we have received His richest and greatest mercy! The Bible says that the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable (Romans 11:29) We are most certainly living in perilous times, and it is high time to be more serious about the things of God and Holy affections as never before, a corporate, or large scale revival is long overdue in the assembly of God's children.

For if the righteous will be scarcely saved, what does that say for the ungodly. Though revival must begin in the hearts of individual believers with a fervency to exhort, admonish and encourage our brothers along with self to examine his/her faith, to be continuously reminded that even of those things in which we are already established. As Peter says in 2 Peter 1:11-15, we are ever striving for that holiness in which we are called and we must shine as Moses did coming off the mountain. That is to say, when people behold us, they will say, "Surely, he has been in and is in the presence of almighty God. We are challenged to shine to the point that our mere presence convicts the sin of those around us, as the Israelites couldn't even look upon Moses! Do people look at us – you --- me – and say, God is truly working through him/her?" I challenge us all to be even more sold out for Christ than ever before!!

Jesus is my Soulmate!
Brother Winkler

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### *I Have Faith*

Recently, I heard someone ask another how they were doing. The typical response to that question is, "I am fine. I'm doing alright, or even so-so." The response from this person was "I am blessed!" When I heard that my ears perked up. I thought and sought out in my mind's eye for a sign of what God could have done for him. What a tremendous mistake I made. I was looking on the outside when God works on the inside. They knew how blessed they were because God is not with them, but rather in them.



It's a God kind of faith. This is the faith that overcomes obstacles because it comes from the inside and can pull you out of any situation. I have to let the faith inside me take root for God is speaking through that venue. I realize that this way of thinking is not common because the mind says different. I realize that when it comes to the way God does things one needs to turn the mind off and make the leap of faith. Do not let the "can't" seed take root. Shake it off because God can! Faith is more than knowing that God can do. It is the absolute belief and trust that He will do in accordance with his word. For all things work together for those who believe.

I have an "I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT GOD WILL" feeling. It is from God who lives in me and in you. God's faith says yes. We should let it, His faith, take root in our heart. It is the voice of hope. He that is for you is greater than those against you. God has put His faith in us. LISTEN TO YOUR INNER SPIRIT. We should speak to our hopes and dreams to overcome obstacles. He is talking directly to us. Our mind will try to talk us out of His faith. OUR MIND HAS TO BE TURNED OFF because can't is not an option with God.

I have found that God does not give us desires without the faith to go with it. God doesn't need us to figure it out. All we have to do is believe and have faith. LET'S LET THE FAITH OF GOD RISE UP AND GOD WILL BRING IT TO PASS. He is planting a new seed in our hearts. That mustard seed can move mountains. That mountain or perceived problem will be taken away. That means that you can overcome any obstacle and live a victorious life. It's not your faith rather the faith of God within you. He will come to be in the right place at the right time. He is the solution before you realize you have a problem. I no longer settle for defeat. I am trapped into His faith window to do the impossible.

I realize that at one time, I had set back in despair and had given up on my dreams. Now I have loosened the mind set and allowed the faith of God to take root. I subsequently can now truly feel the victory. It doesn't make sense in my mind, but deep in my core, I know God has made a way. My faith alone isn't strong, but God's is, and that's what had to be tapped into. Paul had lots of adversities. He was in prison and he was ship wrecked. Yet, in the book of Galatians, he wrote that he has learned to live by the faith of God. When our mind tells us we can't and to settle for second best, let it go and remember that nothing is too great for God. All we have to do is believe. That means get into agreement with the Word. His spirit is inside us.

I have to allow God to help get my mind aligned with my spirit. I then won't have to ask how I can be happy again because the God spirit will take control and the mind will be in line with the God kind of faith. With that faith, we have favor. He is not limited. He has the way. HE IS THE WAY. You must dare to believe. Your future will be brighter than your past. God is opening doors and bringing new life to fulfillment. You are blessed and keep believing. *On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand, Brother Gene*



### *Choose Your Friends Carefully!*

It is better to be alone, than to be in the wrong company.  
Tell me who your best friends are and I will tell you who you are.  
If you run with wolves, you will learn how to howl, but if you associate  
with eagles, you will learn how to soar to great heights.  
A mirror reflects a mans face, but what he is really like is shown by  
the kind of friends he chooses. The simple but true fact of life is that  
you become like those with whom you closely associate for the good and the bad.  
The less you associate with some people, the more your life will improve.  
Any time you tolerate mediocrity in others, it increases your mediocrity.  
As you grow, your associates will change. Some of your friends will not want you to go on.  
They will want you to stay where they are. Friends that don't help you climb will want you to crawl.  
Your friends will stretch your vision or choke your dream.  
Those that don't increase you will eventually decrease you.

### *Think About It!*

Never receive counsel from unproductive people. Never discuss your problems with someone incapable of contributing to the solution, because those who never succeed themselves are always first to tell you how to. Not everyone has a right to speak into your life. You are certain to get the worst of the bargain when you exchange ideas with the wrong person. Don't follow anyone who's not going anywhere.  
With some people, you spend an evening; with others, you invest it.  
Be careful where you stop to inquire for directions along the road of life.  
Wise is the person who fortifies his life with the right friendships.  
Happy moments, Praise God! ~~ Difficult moments, Seek God! ~~ Quiet moments, Worship God!  
Painful moments, Trust God! ~~ Every moment, Thank God!  
If you see people without a smile today, give them one of yours.  
Choose to rise...Don't settle...and go for your dreams.

**MOST OF ALL, LET GOD LEAD YOU IN EVERYTHING YOU DO!**

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