

January 2016

Calvary Jail Ministries Newsletter

Newsletter Overview—Page 1

Pastor Rob Peters
Pages 2 & 3

Brent Jones —Page 4

Chaplain's Corner—
Page 5

Conclusion Page 6



Calvary Jail Ministry Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 1

**HAPPY NEW
YEAR!!!**

Greetings from the Calvary Jail Ministry team! We are continuing in our quest to publish a newsletter that will increase the awareness of the ministry that God has laid on our hearts and ultimately give Him praise for what He has done for us through Jesus Christ.

I hope you are enjoying 2016. It is always great to start a New Year. Most of all, the greatest new start is what Christ gives us as we turn our lives over to him.

In this edition, Pastor Rob Peters shares how God has worked in the jails throughout the Bible and how He is working today.

Brent Jones is one of the newer members to the Calvary Jail Board. He shares with us his early fears and tells how he is blessed when he reaches out to those that are incarcerated.

Finally, our chaplain, Dan Rodriguez encourages us to examine ourselves and pray for the ministry.

Calvary Jail Ministries Newsletter

Pastor Rob Peters



Prison is mentioned in the Bible many times and some of the most notable characters in the Bible were prisoners – Joseph, Peter and Paul to name a few.

God has done some of his best work in the jail cell. God transformed Joseph’s heart while in prison. God wrote a good portion of the Bible while Paul was confined in a prison – the Prison Epistles. Peter led the Philippian jailor to Christ while he was incarcerated. You see just as the Apostle Paul said 2 Timothy 2:9, “I may be chained but the gospel of God is not bound.”

Isaiah prophesied about the Messiah and his message by writing in Isaiah 61:1, “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.”

Jesus encouraged his disciples that when they visited those confined behind the prison bars they were ministering to him. Matthew 25:36, “I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.” And those of you sharing the gospel, discipling believers, and ministering to prisoners are still blessing, ministering to and encouraging our Lord through your work in the jail.

There are several things I want to say to you in this month’s article.

1. I am thankful to God for you and for your ministry. You minister to people at some of their most critical moments of their lives. You being there to teach, bless and encourage them is critical. I am thankful for how you are there at this pivotal moment in their lives to point them to God.
2. God calls each of us to a place of ministry and in that place He works both in us and through us. My guess is that each of you are much like me in my daily prayer and preparation as a pastor. I learn so much more from the ministry, than I could ever give or share. I often hear how others were blessed by a message, a time of counseling, or a prayer offered for them, but I always leave that moment of ministry feeling like God has let me see or learn something deep and profound about Him and about my life. Yes, God is working through you to love and care for others, but God is also working in you to transform you more and more into the likeness of his Son.

Calvary Jail Ministries Newsletter

Pastor Rob Peters—continued

3. I hear about the impact you have. It is remarkable how often I run into people who share with me how one of you were in the right place to be used by God in the life of one of their family members or friends. Stories of lives saved and directions in life changed abound. Your investment in the life of another person is an eternal work of God that will reap eternal dividends. Well done!

4. I pray for you each week. Every week in my prayer time I pause to pray for the prisoners in our community and those they will come in contact with through the ministries of our Christian community. It is a real joy to pray and then see God's hand at work.

I am so thankful for how God is at work through you. Remember the words of Psalm 69.33, "For the Lord hears the needy and does not despise his own people who are prisoners."

Pastor Rob



Calvary Jail Ministries Newsletter

Brent Jones

What do you think of when you hear the word “inmate” or “incarcerated?” Maybe you think of criminals you see on TV or gang members or maybe even a family member or friend. I pondered this question when I first felt God’s call on my life to join the Calvary Jail Ministry team. A simple help wanted “ad” in the church bulletin got my attention.

I allowed fear and selfishness to prevent my prompt response to this call but eventually reached out and began the process of becoming a certified volunteer for the Forsyth County Detention Center. My required training from Forsyth County didn’t ease any of my anxiety about serving but did help prepare me for the journey to come. The first time you enter the jail as a volunteer and hear the doors close behind you is a moment you will never forget. My first volunteer experience was as a counselor for our monthly worship service. What I experienced that first Sunday afternoon, and the many other Sunday afternoons that have followed, is beyond what I could have ever imagined. Listen to these “inmates” as they sing praises to God at the top of their lungs. See the tears in their eyes as they pour their hearts out to you during times of prayer. Feel their conviction as you lead them in prayers of repentance and reconciliation to God. You see, behind the county issued jumpsuits and many stereotypes are people just like you and me, joined together by our common need to be made right with God through the blood of Jesus.

When I leave a worship service at the jail, I leave knowing that I have once again seen a great example of how to truly worship, singing to make a joyful noise to the Lord without concern about what the person sitting next to you thinks about how you sound, listening to the word of God knowing that your very life depends on it, and praying as a drowning man seeks air.

Now when I think of the word “inmate” I think of “God seeker” and “God worshiper.”

I urge you to prayerfully consider how you may join the Calvary Jail Ministry Team as we endeavor through the power of God to make more God worshipers. If you cannot join us physically, I ask that you join us in prayer. Your prayers are needed daily.

Brent Jones

Calvary Jail Ministries Board Member

³ Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.

Hebrews 13:3

Calvary Jail Ministries Newsletter

Chaplain's Corrnar—Dan Rodriguez, Calvary Jail Ministry Chaplain

22 Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; **and do it**, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with **sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord** 23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, 24 since you know that you will **receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.** 25 Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism.

Colossians 3:22-25

Greetings to all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ !

May His grace, mercy and His peace be with us all.

Once again, it is time to write and share with you the things that are in my heart concerning our jail ministry.

But first, let me say to all, Happy New Year! I pray and I wish that many blessings be bestowed upon you and your family in this new year!

And in this spirit of this new year, I would like to exhort you to think and pray about your involvement in ministry. That is to say, in your service to our King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Jesus Christ. When we serve, we serve Him. Our Lord Jesus Christ. Everything we do should be of service unto Him, and for His Honor and His glory.

Read Colossians 3: 22-25 (in the left margin)

So, as we read and think what Paul wrote in his letter, we can clearly see that we should all be working with **sincerity of heart and reverence to Our Lord.**

That we will **receive an inheritance from our lord** as a reward of our work, and finally, a warning,

Anyone who does wrong will also **suffer consequences and there is no favoritism.**

I hope this makes us think. I hope we pray. And I hope we consider our own service to our Lord!

Are we doing all that **we know we can do for our Lord Jesus Christ?** Are we willing to commit to our calling? Give more of our financial resources to His service? And as you know, the list goes on and on.

Time is running out very quickly. **Jesus Christ will return for His church very soon**, and all our work will come to an end..... and we will all give an account to Him. Let us do all we can!

God bless you and keep you all,
Pastor Dan Rodriguez
Chaplain

Calvary Jail Ministries Newsletter

In closing, it seems like Christmas was a long time ago, but we all know that it was just a few weeks. We are all busy (too busy at times) and this makes time go by really fast. I hope in 2016 you will take some time and pray for Calvary Jail Ministry. Prayer is so critical. Pray for the inmates. Pray for their hearts and minds to be open to the Gospel that is shared with them. Pray for the personnel that work at the jails. They have a hard job and face difficult decisions and situations daily. Pray for those that go out into the jails to share and minister. Pray for their witness to be bold and strong. Pray for the words to be given to them that will glorify our Heavenly Father and be according to His will.

Thank you so much for your prayers and I hope you have a great year!!!

In His Service,

Keven Carroll

Calvary Jail Ministry Board Member

Contact Information: WWW.CALVARYJAIL.COM

Mailing Address: Calvary Jail Ministries
P.O. Box 25123
Winston-Salem, NC 27114-5123