

The Freedom Flier

Volume 3, Issue 1

Summer, 2008

Free in Christ Ministries Foundation

A Word from Tony

Hello Friends,

Matthew 5:16, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Often when I begin to speak from behind a podium, I will sing, "This Little Light of Mine." This last year has been full of pain, anxiety and depression caused from my accident a year and a half ago. Then there are the prescriptions that were used to relieve those symptoms that took away from the purpose and vision that God had destined for my life. It would be so easy to lie down and never get up. For those of you who don't know, the doctors recently found two fractures in my back from that car accident on 11-21-06. The pain had become so bad that Candy put her foot down and insisted they do an MRI. That's how they finally found the fractures. This led to another surgery in June where they did a bone fusion on L4 and L5. In the midst of all of this were many different battles. In some of those battles I was knocked off my feet, but if I've learned anything, it is I am never a loser if I get back up. So many of you were praying and many times I felt my Father's hand on me and was reassured that I am never alone.

Jimmy Stewart starred in "It's a Wonderful Life" where he was very depressed. Life had knocked him down and he was getting ready to commit suicide when an angel appeared and gave him a chance to see what his world would have been like had he not been born. All the lives he had touched and saved, were untouched and unsaved. At the end of the show, he is brought back to reality and his life is restored. I have seen this movie over and over again in the lives of people around me, and certainly in my own life. My pastor is one of these lives. Charlie Jackson is his name. New Heart Fellowship was a church started by a



Tony and Candy Mac

handful of people whose lives he had touched. Now our church is growing every week. How many lives has the Lord used him to touch and save over the years? Who led him to Jesus? What an awesome life to look back on and say, "Jesus used me to lead that one to him." Another man I know is Rob Pierce, pastor of Exciting Southeast Baptist in Pryor, Oklahoma. He was asked to step into a church of 14 to 16 people. Today they are four or five hundred strong and growing. How many lives has he been used to touch? I can go on and on of the men I know. Dixie Peabworth, who ministers at God's Shining Light on 11th Street, was saved in jail. I was not the one to lead these men to Christ, but nothing is more rewarding for any of us than to look back at someone whose life you have spoken into through our Lord.

I was at church last Sunday morning and got to see a man there that had been led to Jesus while he was in David L. Moss jail. He was working with V.B.S. and he had big tears rolling down his face while the kids were up in front of the church singing. He's touching lives. His name is Jim Brashears. Then there is a man named Jeff Parnell who is

now at Oklahoma State Prison in McAlester, Oklahoma. Even where he is, he is touching lives. (See Editorial on page 3 for an update on Jeff) What about the man who led Billy Graham to Jesus? Oh, to be used by our Savior! It will bring you out of the deepest of depression, the darkest of times. This little light of mine, Lord, help me always to let it shine!

I want to give special thanks to Justin Jones, the director of the department of corrections. It is my belief that he is the best director I have ever known. He has opened the doors of McAlester, Joseph Harp and Mabel Basset to our cameras so we will be able to take the prisons to the kids in schools. Our thanks also go out to Sheriff Cannon of Wagoner County, and Chief of police Terry Hornbuckle for letting us use their jails. Also, thanks to Judge Shepard for the use of his court room. I can't say enough about Clay and Mona Schwab, Brian & Eddie Foster, Chris Tsotosros, Sonny Reynolds, Chuck Douglas, Jack Perry and all of those dedicated people who helped to keep the ministry going in the prisons while I was down. Finally, last but certainly not least, are all of you who pray and give so much materially that men and women in prisons, and young people all across the nation might see the Lord. Without you we couldn't do what we do. Matthew 25:40 "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'" Can you see the fruits of your labor? Nothing is more encouraging!

We love you and may our Father richly Bless you.

Tony Mac

A Note from Candy

Dear Friends and Prayer Partners,

Well, it has been a while since our last letter. We have gone through a lot of changes since then. It seems ever since Tony had his accident a year and a half ago, we have had many hills to climb. But I remember a saying that goes something like this; if the mountain were smooth all the way to the top you would never be able to climb it. Wow! What a true statement that is, and if it were so easy for you to climb it, maybe you wouldn't appreciate its true beauty once you reached the top.

Several months ago I read something that said, "That not so perfect a gift you may receive may be that very gift in which God is using to perfect you." When I read that I felt that it was speaking directly to me and that I needed to cut it out and keep it because I would need it another day. As it turns out Tony and I were to face many trials. He got to a very low point in his life, (the constant pain got to be almost more than he could handle) and as I watched, the only thing I could do was pray for him. In the midst of all of that, I lost my job. It was hard for me because God had given me a position I actually loved. I was blessed with working with people who were like family. I loved my job. It was so hard to say goodbye and even though I had watched

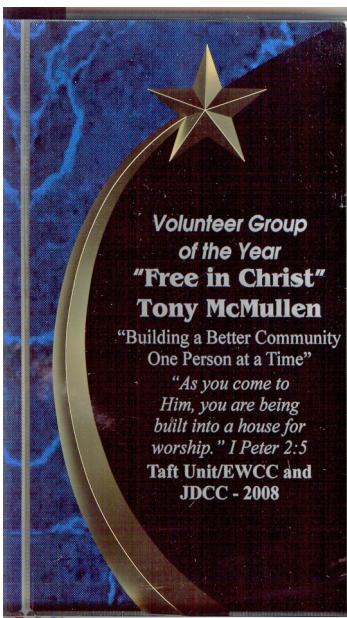
numerous people go before me because of the lack of work, it was still a hard thing to not take it as personal failure. God had to help me work through that and He has. God has now placed another job in my lap making more than the previous one. I didn't even have to go out and hit the pavement. He has really basically handed it to me. I must say I am struggling with fear and lack of confidence in myself as to whether I can handle this wonderful position God is giving me. That is an oxy moron if I ever heard one. Of course I will handle it! If God places something in front of you, He will give you the tools to handle it. What an awesome God we serve! If we have faith and confidence in God then we have to have it in ourselves. After all, we are formed in his image, and we are formed and created by Him. He is able to bring us through any trial or tribulation we may face if we only stand firm and hang on to His wonderful nail scarred hand. You know, if I was going to get laid off, it was the perfect time for it to happen. Within a few weeks of my being let go, Tony once again went through surgery, and I was able to be there with him without worrying about taking off work. This time it was his back. He had to have bone taken from his hip and placed in his back to fuse L4 & L5. This too was a blessing. Already so much of the pain has been relieved. He still has a long recovery ahead and I ask you to

pray for him to have wisdom to slow down a bit and not mess up what God and the doctors have set out to do. Sometimes Tony Mac thinks he is Hercules!

Last, but most important of all, I want to thank you all so very much for your prayers and your support to the ministry. If not for all of you, FIC would not keep going. We are steadily moving along on the DVD we are making. We are going to use it as a tool to show youth everywhere the dangers of wrong choices and where they can take you. We have already had calls from different schools wanting us to come and share with them once it is completed. We are all very excited about that. I can't wait to see the impact we are all praying it will have.

Our special thanks go out to many, many individuals who help support the ministry. I also want to give a special thank you to two very important churches that are such a big part of FIC. One is our very own New Heart Fellowship and the other is our home away from home, Exciting South East Baptist in Pryor. We could never express our gratitude to both of these beloved churches. God bless you all.

We love you,
Candy Mac



FIC Receives an Award

On Tuesday evening, April 29, 2008, FIC received the "Volunteer Group of the Year" award for 2007-2008 for its ministry to the men's Jess Dunn Correctional Facility and the women's Eddie Warrior Facility, both in Taft, OK. From the numerous volunteers who share their time, skills and faith, Tony was awarded this honor for FIC by Chaplain McCollum from Eddie Warrior and Chaplain Remer from Jess Dunn. It was a bittersweet moment as several volunteers and ministers that were instrumental in helping Tony with his conversion and Christian walk in prison were also there to see him receive this award. God has blessed Tony, and Free in Christ Ministries!

Update on Our DVD Project—You Can be a Part

Our DVD project is entering its final phase as the producers are editing the footage of the material filmed. As many of you know, we were allowed to enter the prison system in Oklahoma, and the Wagoner city and county jails to film footage of what life is like for prisoners in custody. We have already been invited by schools and churches to show this video, when completed, as part of a program to young people, and others, of the consequences of poor life choices. Tony will speak from experience about life behind bars and can now show actual footage of the process of booking, standing before a Judge, and life in jail. It is not pretty and is not meant to be sugar coated. It is a reality of how life can

change dramatically for those taken prisoner for a crime they have committed. We hope young people will be impressed enough by it to think twice about choices they make in life.

The expense of producing this video, as well as taking it to an audience, is high. We will not ask a fee from a group requesting this message. We hope to be able to fund this project entirely by interested contributors. Here is where you can help. We would appreciate a gift in any amount designated to the DVD project. We have decided to give recognition by name on the video to those whose gift is \$100 or more, received before September 30, 2008, unless you wish to remain anonymous. We are pleased that one

of our contributors has secured a grant from BP Fabric of America Fund in the amount of \$500 to help fund this project and will also match her contributions to FIC. If your company does matching contributions, please consider asking your company to match your contributions to our DVD project. We intend to have two versions of the finished program, one suitable for public schools that cannot be construed as "religious" in nature. If you need more information about this matching fund process or need a mission statement from us, call our treasurer, Jim Raymer, at 918-357-1158. Please state DVD Project on your check or envelope. We would deeply appreciate your financial support.

FIC Barbecue, 2008

Mark your calendar! The FIC Annual Barbecue is coming up on October 11, 2008 at 11:00 A.M. This year we are working with professional BBQ'ers. Even though we really appreciate our volunteer cooks of the past, our group has gotten too large for them to handle. We hope to serve up some of the best BBQ in these parts! The recipes have been sampled

by the FIC board and we can vouch for its tastiness.

Again, we will meet at Tony and Candy's ranchette in Coweta, Oklahoma. There are games for the kids, and music and inspirational messages for the adults. Brent Davis, from Exciting Southeast Baptist Church in Pryor, Oklahoma, has agreed to smoke bris-

ket. We are also working with Mack Ward, of "Boots and Barbecue," for other delicious smoked meat. Rob Pierce, also from Southeast Baptist Church, has agreed to be our keynote speaker. If you have not heard Rob preach, you are in for a treat!

You will receive more information and a map at a later date. We hope to see you there!

Editorial by Charles Stanphill

In our Fall, 2007 Freedom Flier, we printed excerpts of five letters from Jeff Parnell. As you recall, he had been stabbed in prison by gang members 39 times. Even though, Jeff was not expected to live, he has recovered from the stab wounds and was approved for a parole by the Oklahoma Parole Board. However, in Oklahoma, only the governor can grant a parole. Recently, we were told that Governor Brad Henry refused to approve the parole board's recommendation and the prison staff at McAlester has returned Jeff to protective custody. Please pray that God will place a hedge of protection around him. He refused to return the attack on them at that

time because he knew that it was not in God's will for him to do so. Threats of violence are very real at McAlester and we pray that Jeff will not be forced to make a decision about protecting his life again. Jeff is living for our Lord and hopes to one day be free to preach God's Word in the outside community. He is led, as Tony was, to be a light to the world of God's precious message.

Here is another short excerpt from a recent letter from Jeff.

Brother, there is not a single day that I wake up on this unit that my heart doesn't sink. I

don't understand this. There were 8 men on the run that day and I am the only one who did not panic and the only one who fought (to protect me). Now, I am the only one on P.C. (Protective Custody) Brother.....something is really wrong with this. Do you remember when you, me and Billy used to work out? The harder we worked, the bigger and stronger we got. Suffering is like that. The heavier the load—the better the results—the bigger and stronger we become spiritually. We become better, not bitter.

*Love you Tony Mac,
J. P.*

*Free in Christ Ministries
Foundation*

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**Thank you for your
continued support!**

Prayer List

God's desire is for us to pray for each other. FIC is asking that you remember these people and projects in your prayer time with the Lord.

Tony Mac's continued recovery from surgery and return to full time ministry.

Candy Mac's new job and her ability to overcome her fears and lack of confidence about it.

FIC's DVD project—the successful completion of the editing of the material and the necessary monetary support needed to carry the message to those who need to hear it—that its message will be life changing and

meaningful to those who hear it.

Jeff Parnell and his struggle with being in protective custody at McAlester Prison.

That lives will be changed through Tony Mac's ministry to prisons and the community.

That our supporters will be blessed abundantly by God.

Remember to visit our website, www.freeinchristministries.com, for continuous updates and information about Tony Mac's schedule and FIC. Please sign our Guestbook. It allows

us to know how we can pray for you. Please let us hear from you about how God is working in your life and how FIC is a blessing to you.

