

The Freedom Flier

Volume 2, Issue 1

Spring, 2007

Free in Christ Ministries Foundation

A Word from Tony

When I was a small child, my great, great grandfather told me that someday I would be a very wealthy man. All my life I thought I would, one day, have a lot of money. Hard to believe sitting in a prison cell....

Now as a Christian, I knew what Granddad meant. I would be spiritually wealthy! In the hospital after the car accident, I knew. All the visitors, all the phone calls, all the cards... I knew, in the quiet, still moments with my Savior... I knew I was a wealthy man. Thank you, Brothers and Sisters, for all the prayers, love and support. You are awesome!

Spring to me is the most glorious time of the year to see the creation of our Father. We witness His beauty in the trees, the flowers, the grass turning green, and in the activity of the animals. When I was in prison, I would walk the prison compound and look out through the razor wire and fence at life awakening from winter. I was so awed and aware of His great love for us. The song comes to mind, "How Great is Our God."

Since my release, I've seen six more springs. This spring, somehow, seems so special to

me. Maybe because of the car accident and the time it gave me to look at all His glory and splendor, I have, again, drawn close to Him. How do we get so busy we sometimes falter in our relationship with Him? It happens to me more often than not, I'm ashamed to say. Lord, please, forgive me.



Tony and Candy ministering in the prisons

Hebrews 10:22-25, "Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-- and all the more as you

see the Day approaching."

So many people have stepped up to help in one way or another, But there are two people I want to thank from the bottom of my heart, Clay and Mona Schwab. They have kept the Lord's light shining in the prisons they have covered for me and Candy. They have kept every prison schedule, not missing once, and doing an awesome job. God-given friends like these, and so many more of you, who help with finances, prayer, cards and letters of encouragement, and my board of directors, who keeps me on the straight and narrow.... Granddad was right. I am truly a wealthy man.

I hope this year to have new doors opened into the schools to try to turn as many as will listen, away from the prison doors. And I hope to help those coming out of prison find church families who are willing to accept them and help them with a hand up, not a hand out.

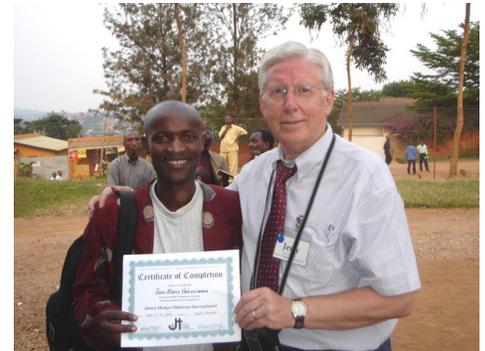
I will be going into surgery March 27th for hip replacement. Please continue to keep me in your prayers. I hope to be up and going soon after. May our Father richly bless you and yours.

FIC Goes to Africa

FIC helped to sponsor Jerry Hamlin, an FIC Director, on a mission trip to Arusha, Tanzania in July, 2006. The team of 37 from Jimmy Hodges Ministries International stayed in the faculty and missionary houses on the campus of Mount Meru University, a Baptist Seminary. They attended training classes during the first week and then did open-air crusades in the markets and villages during the second week.

The results were fantastic as 6,100 people accepted Christ during the 24 crusades. They also evangelized one-on-one.

All the people in Tanzania were friendly and gracious. They were glad the U.S. team was there to help them learn more about the Christian walk and ways to evangelize others in their country.



Hamlin said, "I'm thankful for this opportunity to be on the mission field even for a short time and look forward to future trips. FIC will help him on a similar trip during July, 2007 to Kigali, Rwanda.

Charles and Nancy Stanphill, Co-Editors

We are receiving a tremendous blessing being on the board of directors of Free in Christ Ministries. We are also co-editors of the Freedom Flier. We want to take this opportunity to thank you, the supporters of FIC, and share what we see FIC doing with your support.

As you know, Tony was injured in an auto accident last November. Since Tony's accident, what has happened through FIC can best be described using God's law of sowing and reaping. Before the accident, Tony worked day and night sowing the seeds you provided in the fields. Each month Tony went to seven prisons, local jails, schools and churches. As you recall, the night of the accident, Tony was on his way to Jess Dunn Correctional Center in Taft, OK.

Tony continued to sow seeds while in the hospital. He shared

Christ with doctors, nurses and other visitors, and gave many his Testimony DVD.

During his recovery, Tony has been looking at the soil where the seeds were sown. As many of you know, good soil produces a bountiful harvest, and stony soil, a poor harvest. Based on what we see, the soil in which Tony sowed your seeds, was good soil. Many ministered to Tony while he was in the hospital, along with cards and phone calls of encouragement. Many of you have stepped up to help Tony in the ministry. Clay and Mona Schwab, Chris Tsotsoros, Brian and Eddie Foster, Sonny Reynolds, Charlie and Sharon Jackson and the New Heart Praise Team have all been filling in for Tony at the prisons. Even as Tony thanks these who have helped him, they are thanking him and the Lord for the opportu-

nity to serve. (See Clay and Mona's article).

Since Tony was unable to travel, he asked us to place his Testimony CD's in numerous truck stops on I-55 between Chicago and St. Louis, and on I-44 between St. Louis and Tulsa. Now, the story of God's Saving Grace has been planted in the soil again, and the 18 wheelers are transporting and transplanting the seeds all across the country.

The story of what God did for a sinner in McAllister Prison's H Block in 1996 is being multiplied 100 fold. The basket's bounty is being shaken down, pressed together, and running over. What a harvest!

As you know, Free in Christ is not a large ministry, but we cast the seeds in good soil. We don't receive large institutional funding. So, the money you and I provide makes a big difference. May our Father richly bless you and yours.

Letters From Prison

Dear Tony,

I just want you to know that since I have become a Christian, you, Clay and Mona have become a fundamental part of my new life.

Anyone who sees you minister clearly sees that the Lord Jesus truly has called you to service!

I look forward to coming to see you minister each month. I look forward as though I am getting a visit from family, which in God's truth I am!

I have told my family about you and your ministry and we all prayed for you when you had your recent accident. Of course we were praying for you before too! I would like very much for them to know you too. Would you please send them one of your DVD testimonials for me? I love them that much! I want to take this opportunity to personally thank you, Tony, for allowing Jesus to lead you! You truly do touch people's lives. May the Lord forever and ever be with your spirit. Grace be with you my brother.

Hey, I really want to thank you ,Tony, for your dedication to the radio show. I think you know how much several of us look forward to hearing our Tony Mac. Those are not just words to make you feel good. It's the truth in every way. I am still encouraged by every word you say and I hang on to every word as well, just to live by.

About a month ago the program really grabbed me by the ear. I had just started up a store just to be able to eat half way decent. With just 20 dollars allowed every 2 weeks, it doesn't last! Anyway that very week God had put it on your heart to talk to us about hustling in prison to make ends meet and how running a store only sets us up for trouble dealing with the stories, the dead beats, and games people try to play. Your message was to not set ourselves up for disaster, to stay focused on God and learn to stay humble and content with the 20 dollars that's allowed and have faith that God will fill all our needs. He doesn't want us to break the rules because he doesn't want us doing things that will affect our discharge date, or visits with our children/grandchildren. That being said, Tony, you did get my attention. It's amazing how God will send a message to you in a way that he knows you will listen. I know a store is really nothing, but like you said, it could lead to a really big something.

Thank you for that. You are an angel from God, Tony.

A Word from Clay and Mona Schwab

Tony Mac's terrible accident last November altered his life and ours. In the midst of our deep concern for all that Tony and Candy were suddenly facing, we also found ourselves suddenly facing the awesome responsibility of covering their dynamic ministry.

Several surgeries, therapy and a great deal of pain has made it impossible for Tony to travel to all the various facilities he had secured through his years of ministry. In order to keep Tony's ministry secure until his return, it meant someone would have to cover the appointed services on a regular basis every month. We felt honored to step up to the challenge, even though we did it with much fear and trembling.

Adding one to three evening services to our already busy work week

and home church involvement could easily have become an increased burden, however the Lord has not only made that burden light, but very fulfilling. The Lord has greatly blessed us all these months while working with Free In Christ Ministries. His loving presence is with us as we travel to and from each facility. We have grown both spiritually and in our marriage, making us a much stronger team in life and in serving our precious Lord.

Although we feel so inadequate compared to the mighty anointing with which God has equipped Tony, the men and women we minister to have been very understanding and have shown us God's unconditional love as we fellowship with them. They have so embraced us that we have grown much closer to these

who are truly our brothers and sisters in Christ. We are now all the more compelled to continue helping in whatever capacity to see Tony and Candy's ministry grow and be abundantly blessed. We know that God is using FIC to strengthen and increase His Kingdom, encouraging and instructing the saints, setting captives free and drawing the lost to His glorious light of salvation.

Thank you, Tony, for the years of patience as you poured yourself out for us, training this simple cowboy and timid Sunday School teacher to step out in boldness and gratefully serve the Lord. We join all who love you in praying for your long awaited full recovery and restoration to your powerful ministry.

May God richly bless you and Candy.

*Free in Christ Ministries
Foundation*

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**We appreciate your
continued support!**



FIC BARBEQUE

LOOK FOR THE 2ND ANNUAL BBQ ON OCT. 13, 2007