

The Freedom Flier

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Free in Christ Ministries Foundation

A Word from Tony

Hello Friends,

In our last letter, I talked about Jesus giving Peter a commandment to feed his sheep. In Acts and Peter I and II, we read that Peter did just that. He is still feeding the Lord's sheep in God's word today.

It gives me great peace to know when God calls you, he also equips you with the tools and supplies that you will need for the journey.

When the Lord showed me at Joseph Harp Correctional Center that he was going to use me for prison ministry, I knew right then what my mission was. Candy and I were barely getting by, so I had no way to support a ministry. God was going to have to move "big time."

My wife and I began by doing all we could. We went through the orientation at Joseph Harp and got our badges. We started by going with other established prison ministries, "Hooked on Jesus" with Slim Crabtree, Benny Boeck Ministries, and "Prison Invasion" with Lonny Foster. As I went with these men to prisons and churches, God began to open doors at once. I was introduced to a little church named New Heart Fellowship in Broken Arrow, OK. Charlie and Sharon Jackson,



Tony with the Foundation truck

Pastor and First Lady, led a church full of loving people. There was such joy and a warm family fellowship. This Jesus Loving church became our church home.

Jesus began to move like only He can. He spoke to these people about helping us. Charlie gave us a ministry that was ready to go and the name of it was Free In Christ. AWESOME! People began giving money, and get this!...They ordained me and gave me a job as Associate Pastor over prison ministries. The giving increased and people began to get involved. Money was gathered for a tent, and then some men of the church got together and bought a truck and trailer to pull the tent. And it was

not just any old truck; it was a 2001 Dodge dualey. Another vehicle was purchased to drive volunteers to the prisons. FIC was up and running. We have a board of 20+ people and a volunteer list of 100, and growing. I was once asked if I pass the hat for an offering in prison. My answer was, "I would probably loose my hat!"

Thank God for people who don't look at my past. They don't see a convict, they see a convert. Last year we traveled 100,00 miles for the Lord. We have been able to take Bibles to those who need one, purchase clothing for released prisoners, help in finding housing, and purchase bus tickets for trips home. The prison chaplains have needs we can help with, everything from a new roof for the chapel to vacuum cleaners. The Word says that the greatest of needs is love. Because of the loving, giving hearts of our contributors, we are able to touch lives in many ways. Thank you so much from the very depth of our hearts. I can still hear the Lord saying, "Feed my sheep."

Tony, Candy, and the Board of FIC

Charlie Jackson, Senior Pastor, New Heart Fellowship

Some four years ago, our church had the opportunity to hear a man share his life's story. That evening a "Marker" was established in the journey of New Heart Fellowship's ministry. There was no doubt that Tony "Mac" was sent by God to challenge this group of people, and me as their pastor, to witness the miraculous transformation power of the Holly Spirit. That evening has proven to be one of the identifying times of our church's outreach ministry. Hearing and seeing the *new life* that Christ had created in Tony

encouraged our church to actively engage in the ministry of restoration. Because of the impact his testimony had on our people, we have joined with Tony in reaching out to those who need a hand to help lift them up from where they were to where Christ wants them to be. Our church has never been the same after hearing and seeing what Christ will do in the life of an individual who will submit to Him. As Tony's pastor, I would encourage you to join with him as he ministers to inmates, youth groups, and churches

across the country, sharing the transformation Christ is capable of doing in people's lives. Tony and Candy are active members in our church and Tony serves as Associate Pastor. Even as they serve in our church, both are selfless in outreach to any and all who may benefit from their ministry. I strongly encourage you to consider partnering with FIC Ministries as they plant seeds of the gospel in the fertile ground behind razor wire and steel bars.

Jason Mitchell, Board Member

Through Free in Christ Ministries this year, we had the opportunity to minister to inmates in the Cushing Prison with the "Wild at Heart" program written by John Eldredge. The program takes the men through an eight week experience that was life-changing for many of them. Using movie clips, video instruction, music and interactive question and answer,

the program covers many challenging topics that help men discover the lost masculine heart. Many of these participants, for the first time in their lives, found healing of deep emotional wounds and then discovered the truth about who they are as men. It was an incredible eight week event. "Every man in his heart longs for a battle to fight, an adven-

ture to live and a beauty to rescue."—John Eldredge

Keith Ward, Chairman of the Board

I want to thank all of you for your contributions to Free in Christ Ministries. When you make your donations to FIC, we see God doing great things in the lives of prisoners. One of the things that we are able to do with these donations, is to purchase

Bibles to give to those who need one. We have given over 700 Bibles this year to inmates and others who have requested them. The Bible is a gold paper-back called "WORDS for Living, A Daily Companion," King James Version. If you would like to

have one of these Bibles, or you know of someone who would like to receive one, please let us know. We will send one at no charge. May God Bless you. Please keep Free in Christ Ministries in your prayers.



Letters to Tony

Dear Brother Tony,

I wanted to write you a short letter of thanks. I really appreciate you and God for the blessing. God has really been good to me. I'm so ready to join Him in His Kingdom. I know it will be a place of beauty.....I don't have much longer left in this world.....I'm not scared at all....I've been here (Joseph Harp) a long time.....

Love you,

Bob

(This man is dying of cancer. We bought him a pair of shoes.)

Tony,

God bless you.....I've listened to your (radio) broadcast for the last two Saturdays. I think it is great how God is working in your life.

I was (in a gang) when I turned my life over to Jesus. I burned off my patch and was beat down with steel pipes for it. It was the best thing that ever happened to me. I no longer serve two masters, just Jesus. I'm not much liked by the brotherhood now....I forgive them. They are just lost souls.

In your sermon you talked about getting a place ready for people getting out of prison with no place to go....I discharge (soon). I have no place to go and no family support. This has really been on my mind. When I heard you talk about Wings of Freedom, it put my mind to

rest....God has a place for me to go.

With love and prayers,

Your Brother in Christ,

Cyrus

Dear Tony,

I heard your testimony on the KNYD Road Show. I really enjoyed it and it ministered to me and gave me hope. My son-in-law was raised by a father that was a drug user and dealer, and his mom was a prescription addict. His whole family life was revolved around drugs. His Dad has been in prison several times...My son-in-law followed his family's habits and is in prison for drugs. I cried the whole time you were talking on the roadshow. I know you touched many hearts and lives. Thank you for sharing your testimony.

Judy

Dear Tony Mac,

We just wanted to tell you how we enjoyed your message....at S.E. Baptist Church. We have your CD and it was moving, but seeing you in person and talking with you was a joyous, wonderful experience for our family. You truly touched our hearts with your message of Christ. You are a shining example of what the power of the Holy Spirit can do if we only open our heart to receive it. The power of God is an awesome thing....May God continue to bless

you and your family richly.

Sincerely,

Jerry and Teresa

Tony,

I just wanted to write to say thank you a million for sharing the Word of God with us. We love you....You are really doing a great job for God. I've been at three of the prisons you preached at in the last 13 months....I just wanted you to know that the (inmates) were always happy to know you were coming. We are all real proud of you and feel like you ran a hard race and crossed the finish line first. There is a lot of love and respect for you....

Coondog

Dear Tony,

I remember the movie "Castaway" starring Tom Hanks. When Tom found himself stranded on a deserted island, he found peace and companionship with a Wilson soccer ball. "Mr. Wilson" played a roll in saving his life.

I would never dream of likening Christian volunteers to a rubber ball, yet count me assured enough to stand on this notion. The Christian men and women who come into this place and assemble with us to sing and share a word, play no second fiddle to the importance Mr. Wilson had upon Tom Hanks' life.

Rick

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In Summary



"Thank God for people who don't look at my past. They don't see a convict, they see a convert."



Free in Christ Ministries depends on the generous gifts of supporters, like you.

"Because of the loving, giving hearts of our contributors, we are able to touch lives in many ways."



As always, we cherish your prayers. Through all of us, God's work can continue.