

# FREEDOM CHURCH

(Facility A, R.J. Donovan Correctional Facility, San Diego, CA)

*February 2020 Newsletter*



<<First Name>>.

Welcome to Freedom Church's inaugural newsletter. At the end of each month you will receive a report of the ministry data along with ministerial and personal praise reports and prayer requests. With that being said, let's get to it because there is much to share!



## Ministry Praise Reports

- **We have a Name!** We as a body of Christ have decided to name ourselves FREEDOM CHURCH based on Acts 13:39—Through Jesus, everyone who believes is set free from every sin.
- **We have a Vision and Prayer Focus!** Our vision is to cultivate a culture within our church which trans-forms the culture of the yard. We acknowledge in order to accomplish this, we either go forward in prayer or not at all. Thus, to unite our efforts, we have established nine prayers points to pray throughout the year.
- **We have Elders!** Last month we acknowledged and commissioned 5 elders to assist with the management and vision implementation of the church.
- **A Successful Message Series!** At the beginning of this year we finished a message series called, "The Fully Submitted Life," where I challenged the men to seek what living a more fully submitted life to Jesus might look like. The men loved it and are equally excited about the current message series called, "The Time Is Now," where we are focusing on the importance of evangelism.
- **Prodigals Returning!** At least 5 prodigals within the inmate population have returned to their senses, stepping out of their drug addictions, and returned to the church.

## Ministry Prayer Requests

- **March 29<sup>th</sup> Revival.** On Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, we will have a revival event on the yard instead of our chapel services. This event will be the culmination of our current message series on evangelism called, "The Time Is Now!" Please pray for the Spirit to empower the event, that logistics would go well, and for men to be drawn into a closer walk with the Lord.
- **2020 Prayer Focus.** We invite you to join us as we pray for our nine 2020 prayer focus points.
- **Church Leadership.** Pray for the elders and myself, that we would follow the Spirit and lead faithfully with wisdom, truth, and grace.
- **Church Unity.** Pray for unity within the brothers. There are doctrinal issues spreading on the yard that are dividing the church. Pray we would be United In Christ!



## Personal Praise Reports

- **A Secret Treasure!** A few weeks ago I had an amazing Sunday at the prison; I felt God blessed the sermon, I was able to provide pastoral counseling for several inmates, and the substance abuse program I facilitated in the evening was magical, during which we commissioned an inmate who, after serving 23 years, was paroling. Needless to say, it was a powerful moment...at the end of which, with tears in his eyes he said, "Aaron, I'll never forget what you've done for me." What a moment! What a day! As I drove home that evening, as with most powerful days at the prison, I felt profoundly alone. For I had no one to share the experience with...no one who could understand the fullness of what had transpired. That evening however, for the first time in my life, God blessed me with the knowledge of how pleased he was of me, and how he had experienced it all with me and oh what a glorious moment it was. As I rejoiced and rested in that truth, I gave God thanks and realized...that was enough. At that moment, my loneliness was completely dispelled and replaced with fulfillment. Since then, the drive home has become our secret treasure where we marvel, rejoice, give thanks, and rest with all that's been done.
- **Heart of Prayer!** For years I have been praying for God to soften my father's heart. One evening this past month, as I returned home from prison, he told

me we had to pray for two specific people for two specific reasons. I thought, "Who are you and where is my dad?" Later in the week he also commented that we needed to pray for one of our neighbors. God is cultivating within my father a heart for prayer. Praise God!

Personal Prayer Requests

- Intimacy.** It is my desire and focus to grow more intimate with the Lord this month. To help flesh that out, I share a prayer I wrote last week: God, take my desire for intimacy and help me find how its fulfillment is in you. Show me how I can spend more time with you and how I can rest more with you. Help me to discover deeper ways to experience and feel your presence. That I may grow in my understanding and knowledge of who you are and who I am in you. That I may learn to celebrate with you and share my life, my song, my worship with you in ever creative ways. May my sense of awe and wonder of who you are never run dry. Teach me to enjoy and embrace the man you have made me to be. That I would become fully absorbed with you and your ways. That we would become intimate.

As always, we thank you for your interest and involvement in what God is doing within our church! Know that through your faithful generosity and sacrifice, lives are being transformed and the kingdom of God expands. Without your support, none of this would be possible. You and those you hold dear are in our prayers. God Bless you and Keep you.

In Service of The King,

Pastor Aaron

Ministry Data

Monthly Totals	Hours	Inmates	Vols		
ADMIN WORK	21.5	N/A	N/A		PREPARATION TIME 87.5
BLOG/NEWS LETTERS	0.5	N/A	N/A		TIME AT INSTITUTION 64.5
CELL VISITS	1.5	16	N/A		TOTAL MINISTRY HOURS 152
COUNSELING	9	26	N/A		VOLUNTEERS ESCORTED 13
RAISE SUPPORT	N/A	N/A	N/A		TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS 293
PRAYER	6	N/A	N/A		
PROGRAM PREP (Home)	24.5	N/A	N/A		
PROGRAM PREP (Kairos)	12.5	N/A	N/A		
SERMON PREP	12	N/A	N/A		
CHRISTIANITY 101	6	41	N/A		
ELDER'S MEETING	2	10	N/A		
INTERCESSORY PRAYER	12	165	6		
KAIROS	N/A	N/A	N/A		
OTHER FAITH FACILITATED	6	10	N/A		
PROGRAM PREP (Inst)	3	N/A	N/A		
SEEKING RECOVERY	21	196	1		
SUNDAY SERVICE	8	134	6		



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