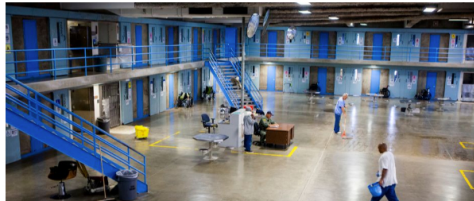


Pastors to Prisoners Newsletter

March 2020

<<First Name>>,

Welcome to the monthly snap shot of what God is doing, both in my personal life and in the ministry at R.J. Donovan. These certainly are interesting times we are living in. Due to COVID-19 and all of the shutdowns, lockdowns, and social distancing regulations, I was only able to spend two weeks at the prison during the month of March. That being said, there is still plenty to give thanks and pray for, so let's get to it!



Ministry Praise Reports

- **Final Words of Encouragement:** On Sunday, 3/8 (the last day I was with the men at Donovan), I was able to warn them of the very real possibility that they were not going to see me for a very long time. Given the looming shutdown (our current reality), I expressed my deep gratitude for how God had used them to bless and minister to me in a great variety of ways, as anyone who has ever spent any time behind the wall thoroughly knows! In addition to expressing gratitude through tears, I was able to encourage, empower, and remind them that I am not the church, nor is the chapel the church, but that THEY ARE THE CHURCH, and that they need to remain in the Word, and have Bible studies and prayer groups wherever and however as often as they are able. It was a moving moment like the final speech of Brave Heart where everyone feels built up and ready to go! 🙌
- **Letters of Hope:** While I have not been allowed to have physical contact with the men, they have been in my prayers, and I have been graciously allowed by the Chaplain to communicate with them every fortnight via a one page letter of encouragement and hope. Writing and praying into the impact of that correspondence has been a special gem in my life. 😊
- **An Administrative Blessing:** As King David made preparations to build the temple of the LORD for his son Solomon, during this time of waiting, I have been able to make a great multitude of administrative preparations for all of the programs I facilitate at the institution. When that glorious day comes when they open the doors, I will be ready.

Ministry Prayer Requests

- **Perseverance:** That the men would use this time of minimal movement at the prison to establish, solidify, and maintain healthy spiritual rhythms. That they would not become discouraged or grow weary in going good works, but rather press deeper and run more fervently the race marked out before them, fixing their eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. 🙏
- **Cleaning House:** That this time of minimal movement would provide a clean up, if you will, of all of the drugs that are on the yard. May the supply chain be broken along with the chain of bondage that comes with addiction that far too many men know painfully well. May this season be a season of deliverance! 🙏



Personal Praise Reports

- **Rhythms & the Gift of Time:** Since I have not been able to go to prison for the past four weeks and have been on lock down at home, I have used this gift of time to invest more in God, my dad, and myself. I have been able to establish a more faithful rhythm with God in my morning devotional time as well as with working the Celebrate Recovery steps. a little bit every day has been water to my soul. As for my dad, he has been enjoying my increased presence and attention toward him. For me personally, I've been enjoying much needed rest and much needed exercise. I am feeling refreshed and restored in my mind, body, and spirit! 🙌
- **My Dad's Attitude:** For the past three days my dad's attitude has been much more pleasant and tolerable. He has even requested to go for walks around the block three days in a row! That is huge coming from a man who never wants to do anything. I see this new found zest for life as being a direct result of your faithful prayers. Here is one of my favorite "Now & Then" photos of Walking with Dad:





- **A Heart of Prayer:** Within the past month, I have prayed more **WITH** my dad than the entirety of my life. God is definitely doing a work within his heart.



- **The LORD's Provision:** During this time of scarcity, hoarding, and fear, the LORD has been so good and faithful to me and my household by consistently providing the exact supplies we need as soon as we need them. This has been a great blessing and encouragement for me AND it enables and empowers me to further TRUST the LORD in more difficult and meaningful circumstances.
- **Personal Devotionals:** In addition to being faithful to provide for my physical needs, God has been so good with his blessing and provision of my spiritual daily bread. I have spent the past two weeks in Deuteronomy and plan to spend the whole month of April to continue to absorb and be ministered by the heart of the Old testament. There will be a sermon series which comes from this that I will post on my [BLOG](#). Stay tuned. 🙏

Personal Prayer Requests

- **Habitualized Rhythms:** That the healthy physical, mental, and spiritual rhythms which I have established during this time would be long lasting and deep impacting.
- **Trust in the LORD:** That I would fully embrace and live in the truth and goodness of [Pro. 3:5-6](#), [Ps. 27:13-14](#), & [John 10:14-15](#).
- **My Dad:** Phil. 1:6 - That the LORD would bring to completion the good work he began within him so many years ago...and that I would have the wisdom, the heart, and the eyes to partner with what God is doing, not reacting to irritating situations out of my flesh, but responding to them with greater compassion and love, empowered by the Spirit.
- **Boredom:** The worst feeling I can personally experience is boredom. I've always hated it and the uneasiness and discomfort which takes over my entire being when experiencing this unique torment. Given this lockdown we find ourselves in, there have been moments where I have found myself prayed out, read out, exercised out, eaten out, TVed out, wigglin' out in an agitated state. Ruminating upon this, I realized the key of deliverance for such situations is found in worship...for thankfully our hearts have been wired for this affinity. That being said, I have downloaded some fresh songs to add to my worship playlist and have been basking in the Spirit. My prayer request in all of this is that when I find myself in these tapped out situations, that I would rest in the sweet sanctuary of worship. 🙏 That being said, here are two songs which have really been blessing me:

Caleb & Kelsey

Shema

- **Our Nation:** Last, but not least, please pray for our nation. In the weeks following the horrific attacks on 9/11/01, our country was united in a way not seen since WW2. The great tragedy of that event was not the massive loss of life, which was devastating, but how quickly our national solidarity dwindled and atrophied back to the status quo. Almost two decades later, we remain a deeply divided and self-focused nation. Now, with COVID-19 there is a spirit of #INThisTogether. My prayer for our nation is that this renewed sense of neighborly compassion and national solidarity would not be short lived, but long lasting...that people's faith would be bolstered, that the unsaved would be saved, that the Kingdom of God would expand, and that lives would forever be changed for Jesus to the glory of God.

Thank you for your much needed support with all of this. Know that through your faithful prayers, lives are being transformed. May you experience the power of the resurrection this Easter in a timely and life changing way, and may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you always. 🙏

In Service of The King, With Love,

Aaron

Ministry Data

Monthly Totals	Hours	Inmates	Volunteers
ADMIN WORK	27.5	N/A	N/A
BLOG/NEWS LETTERS	9.5	N/A	N/A
CELL VISITS	3	28	N/A
COUNSELING	3	11	N/A
RAISE SUPPORT	0.5	N/A	4
PRAYER	7.5	N/A	N/A
PROGRAM PREP (Home)	13.5	N/A	N/A
PROGRAM PREP (Kairos)	12	N/A	N/A
SERMON PREP	7.5	N/A	N/A
CHRISTIANITY 101	4	13	N/A
ELDER'S MEETING	3	14	1
INTERCESSORY PRAYER	6	80	3
OTHER FAITH FACILITATED	6	11	N/A
PROGRAM PREP (Inst)	17	N/A	N/A
SEEKING RECOVERY	15	127	N/A
SUNDAY SERVICE	6	85	6
WORSHIP PRACTICE	4	12	N/A

PREPARATION HOURS	84
HOURS AT INSTITUTION	61
TOTAL MINISTRY HOURS	145
VOLUNTEERS ESCORTED	14
TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS	204

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

This email was sent to <Email Address>
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
Pastors To Prisoners - PO Box 2757 - La Mesa, CALIFORNIA 91943 - USA

