



Hi Bill,

I hope you and your family have been safe, healthy, and well. Over the past few weeks I have attended meetings with the warden, administration, and chaplains of R.J. Donovan, and one thing has become painfully clear; volunteers will not be allowed in the prison for the rest of the year. While my prayer is for the doors to open in January 2021, realistically, it will probably be June 2021. However, there are some in high places who say it won't happen until 2022. Whenever it may be, the Lord has given me great peace with it all. I have surrendered my expectation and desires for the reopening and I'm Trusting in His Perfect Time.

The good news is, while Covid-19 has definitely transformed the ministry, it has not stopped it! May the Good Lord bless your heart as you continue reading this update.



## Ministry Praise Reports

- **Letters of Encouragement:** Not only have my letters been received well, but now the chaplain is opening the door for anyone to write a letter of encouragement for the men. If you would like to do so, please email [AaronGButtery@gmail.com](mailto:AaronGButtery@gmail.com) your note of encouragement and I'll include it with my next letter. \*See the end of this newsletter for my most recent letter to the men.
- **Video Impact Opportunity:** We are getting very close to finalizing the videos we've been working on to send the men in lieu of programs in person. In fact, it is my hope that we will be finished next week! Hopefully by the next newsletter I will have a way to share them with you.
- **Volunteers & Small Groups:** Recruiting volunteers is always a difficult and never ending process for prison ministry. The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Just before Covid, I had 100 inmates on waitlists to get into my programs because I did not have enough volunteers to support them. That being said, I've been using this time to create "recruitment pods." These are groups of men who meet weekly via zoom to pray for the inmates and for each other. I've been using this platform to stir excitement about volunteering at the prison, as well as being a vehicle to encourage personal spiritual growth. Each week we discuss the following question and pray:

Spirituality: Was there a moment this past week when you knew Christ's presence was with you?

Study: Have you discovered anything which will help you be a better follower of Jesus?

Christian Action: Was there a time this week when you tried (intentionally) or found difficult (growth opportunity) to embody and demonstrate God's love for another person?

Prayer Request: How can we pray for YOU?

These groups have been very fruitful. As of now I have 3 groups of 6 and I'm looking to grow. If you know of anyone who would like to get involved with something like this, please let me know. We are ALWAYS looking for more men.

## Ministry Prayer Requests

- **Video Impact Opportunity:** Though we are 93% finished with everything, when it comes to making a video, if you're not 100% complete you might as well be 0% complete. Thus, please continue to pray the Holy Spirit will help us finalize this project.
- **The Men:** Please pray they would use this time to grow and mature as followers of Jesus Christ.
- **Volunteers & Small Groups:** Pray for the Lord to bring Laborers to the ministry, so that when the doors open, we will be ready to go.



## Personal Praise Reports

- **Mind:** For a period longer than I'd like to acknowledge, my life during quarantine had no structure. This led to adverse effects for my entire being.

Thus, last month I gave myself a pep-talk, and created a daily schedule to help me stay on track. This has proved to be invaluable.

- **Body:** After a month of not being able to do any strenuous activity due to my chest operation, my body was feeling disgusting and energy levels were low. However, two weeks ago I was able to start getting back in shape. Though I have a long way to go, at least I'm moving again and I feel great!
- **Spirit:** This past month I was able to regain my morning routine of spending time in the Word and prayer. This is foundational for my living a life in rhythm with God.
- **Music:** I've started playing my musical instruments on a daily basis (trumpet, french horn, & bass guitar). I forgot how much joy playing music brings me! What a gift.

## Personal Prayer Requests

- **Grace:** I always tell people, Donovan is a great place for a man to learn patience, for most things are glacial there. As God uses Donovan to grow patience within me, he now uses my father to grow my capacity to administer grace in situations where Extra Grace is Required. As all growth requires stretching, which is uncomfortable, please keep me, my father, and this process in your prayers. I definitely see how the cultivation of this skill is preparation for future ministry and life in general.

Thank you for your support with all of this. While prayer is the biggest need, know that any financial assistance you may be led to give goes a long way.

[Support Aaron](#)

I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

In Service of The King, With Love,

*Aaron*



### **Most Recent Letter of Encouragement:**

To the chosen people, the royal priesthood, God's special possession at RJD:

Grace and peace be yours in abundance!

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his year. While my prayer is to be with you in January 2021, realistically, it will probably be June 2021, while others in high places say not until 2022. Whenever it may be, the Lord has given me great peace with it all. I have surrendered my expectation and desires for the reopening and I'm Trusting in His Perfect Time.

Towards the beginning of this year, during our message series on evangelism, I said God has given each of us Time, Talents, and Treasures. Now, as then, I ask, are you being good stewards with what God has entrusted to you? During all of this I have been asking myself, "Aaron, when God asks you what you did with your gifts during this time, will you be able to say you used them well?" Though there have been difficult days, which I'll get to later, for the most part, this has been a wonderful time of recalibrating and preparing. I feel like a monk training in his dojo! My recovery journal is bursting, my sermon ideas are overflowing, and most importantly, I've been praying. Praying, Listening, Waiting, Abiding, Being Still, Trusting, are all activities I've been cultivating in ever increasing amounts during this blessed time...for blessed is he who trusts in the Lord!

Moving forward, I am going to start sending Bible studies to accompany these letters. In light of how many people I hear say we are entering into the "final days," I've decided to start with a seven-course study which will highlight the seven Jewish festivals, show their significance in light of Jesus, and reveal their significance in light of eschatology. Please share them with all you can, and please pray for me as I prepare. It should be a wonderful journey. : )

I always tell people, Donovan is a great place for a man to learn patience, for most things are glacial there. As God uses Donovan to grow patience within me, he now uses my father to grow my capacity to administer grace in situations where Extra Grace is Required. Even Tran, who was amazed with my ability to do this pre-Covid, would be amazed with how much I've grown in this matter. As all growth requires stretching, which is uncomfortable, please keep me, my father, and this process in your prayers. I definitely see how the cultivation of this skill is preparation for future ministry and life in general.

As mentioned earlier, while I am grateful for this time, it has not been easy. There have been days where I have zero motivation and no desire to do anything. In those times I can easily fall into boredom, which is a dangerous place for a man to be. To help combat that, I've created artificial structure in my life, but even then, there are times where I relate to John the Baptist. John, the forerunner of Jesus Christ. John, among those born of women there is none greater. John, who not only witnessed the baptism of Jesus (Father, Son, & Holy Spirit), but performed it, so that scripture might be fulfilled and proclaimed, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!" That John, who God had used in powerful ways and who had witnessed amazing things, only a year or so later, finding himself in prison and seeing a world that was not what he was expecting, inquired of Jesus. As I survey the world and see the wheat grow with the tares, I, like many Christians, inquire of Jesus. God, what is going on? Lord, what are you doing? What ought we to do? For a time such as this, it is important, now more than ever, to Remember what we have Seen and Heard: The blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the gospel is proclaimed to the poor! Men, there is a harvest yet to be had, both external and internal, will you reap your reward?

Trusting, Waiting, & Remembering With You,  
Aaron



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