

Pastors to Prisoners Newsletter

Spring 2021

Hi <<First Name>>,

Spring is in the air here in San Diego with the fresh rains and warm weather. I've always loved this time of year when winter breaks and new life bursts forth. As the buds begin blooming in my backyard, so they bloom in the garden of ministry and life. 🌱



Ministry Praise Reports

- **Lenten Devotional:** Hopefully you received my email a few weeks ago containing a PDF of the Lenten Devotional I put together with the Chaplain and various volunteers within the Christian community. It was a blessing to edit and stitch this document together. By now, you, me, the inmates, and hundreds of others have this resource and are journeying along this spiritual pilgrimage together. 🙏
- **Letters For Inmates:** Recently several members from my church asked how they could get involved with prison ministry. I told them, "Currently the easiest way is to write a monthly letter of encouragement." If you have any interest in writing such a letter, please email it to me and I will include it with the monthly packet I send to the institution.
- **Easter Video:** Several volunteers and I are working to put together an Easter video for the inmates. This would be very similar to the Christmas video we made, which was received with great thanks and praise. Word on the street is the inmates are working on putting together a similar video for us! I will let you know if they are allowed and get it accomplished.

Ministry Prayer Requests

- **Lenten Devotional:** As previously mentioned, hundreds of people within our community are engaging this devotional. Please pray that God would use it to bless each individual specifically, as well as bless us as a community collectively; that we would all grow stronger and deeper into his will and purpose for our lives.
- **Volunteers:** Historically, people have not lined up in droves to serve the prison population. With Covid, what little enthusiasm and momentum we had has dwindled even further. Please pray that at this very moment, God would be stirring and cultivating within the hearts of men and women a desire to serve the underserved. That once the door opens, people would be willing and able to come and see what the Lord has for them behind the wall as they step out in faith with a heart of service.
- **Inmates:** Many of the leaders on the yard are either being paroled or transferred to other facilities. Please pray for these men as they begin their next chapter of life; and pray for those left behind, that some would rise to fill the leadership vacuum in humble service to love and serve the church well.



Personal Updates

- **The Presence of Christ:** The Lenten Devotional has caused me to spend 2-3 hours each day in the Gospel of John and in prayer. This time has been a sweet and rich time of spiritual transformation. Though at the moment I am unable to articulate exactly how God is transforming me, my spirit feels His molding hands as I spend time with Jesus each and every day. As the song we sing in prison says, "I know I've been changed!" If I gain nothing else from this year of quarantine, may I cling to this practice of spending several hours each day in prayer and in the Word...resting at the feet of Jesus.
- **Prayers for Prodigals:** The other day the Lord took John 14:13-14, verses I've read and taught many times, dusted them off, and seared their truth onto my bleeding heart. Without getting too caught up in a teaching of what it means to pray "in Jesus' name," what I will say is this...it's not a formula we stamp on the end of a selfish prayer, or any prayer for that matter; rather, it's praying for things which Jesus himself would approve of with a spirit posture of "Thy will be done." As I spent time contemplating this profound truth in tandem with 2 Peter 3:9, I realized the following, "Lord, I know your desire is for everyone to come to repentance, and thus a saving knowledge of who you are. Thus, I know a prayer for someone's salvation is a prayer 'in your name.'" It was then when I prayed for my father's salvation as if I've never prayed for it before, with all the earnestness and fervor my poor heart could muster. When I finished, an amazing thing happened. I had the blessed assurance that it was done! Halleluiah! This has transformed and revolutionized my prayers for my father. Rather than continuing prayer for his salvation, I now pray for things that ease his way to that path e.g. "Lord, may he experience your grace, peace, love, and joy today and each day in ever increasing measure...through the radio, through the TV, through me, by your Spirit."
- **38 Years Incarcerated:** Last, but not least. This past week I was able to invite my friend Mario and his fiancé over for dinner.





We had a wonderfully blessed and sweet time of rejoicing and fellowship. Mario is a man who parolled last week from RJD after serving 38 years in prison!! The entirety of my life! I'm always blown away when I meet men who have been locked up for the totality of my existence...it's a crazy thought, reality, and experience for me. I first met Mario back in 2013 on my very first day going into the prison. At the time, he was serving his sentence on the maximum security yard. Over the years, as we both grew into Christ' likeness, I became a pastor and he became a leader and pillar of the Christian community on the yard. The story of God's redemption in Christ is the best ever written. May we continue to partner with God as He writes the rest of ours.

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](#)

May the God of Hope, fill you with his Joy and Peace as you Trust in him.

In Service of The King,

Aaron



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