SOUND THE TRUMPET IN PRAYER

**And if you go to war in your land against the enemy that oppresseth you, then ye shall blow an alarm with the trumpets; and ye shall be remembered before the Lord your God, and ye shall be saved from your enemies (Numbers 10:9).**

Repairing the Breach

While it is true that nothing can separate us from the love of God, a study of scripture shows us that sin, the condition of one’s heart, and the way one treats others will form a breach that can only be closed by truly repenting of the wrong that has been done. This will required a turning away from evil behaviors by changing thought patterns, and making a decision within the heart to hate the things that God hates. This is the first step in drawing close to God. This will not only benefit others, but the man or woman who has become tired of living in darkness. A breach is a dark place where God does not dwell. Now there are dark places where God does dwell. Those are times of trouble and loneliness, where we can call upon Him. He will be the lily of the valley, and the bright and morning star. However, God will not abide rebellion, hatred, strife, or thievery. His light will still shine to show the way, but He will not violate His word by dwelling with such foolishness.

There are those who think they are clever enough to outsmart not only others, but God. They cannot live in peace. It is written, there is no peace for the wicked. The prophet, who was rebuked by his donkey, thought he could get around God’s word by doing things his way. He thought maybe if he went along, saying he could only say what God told him; that he could twist the word of God, and make a profit for himself. He misused the gifts that God had given him. In his pride and rebellion, although he foretold the coming of the Messiah, he brought about his own destruction. He had hoped to turn a blessing into a curse for others with his actions. He caused a breach between himself and God that was never repaired. It did not have to be that way (see Numbers 22). This is not the only account of this kind. There was another man of God who went to dine where he was told not to go. He chose to listen to the voice of a man instead of the voice of God. His choice of company caused him to be devoured by a lion (see I Kings 13).

Some decisions made are fatal. There is a chance that God, in His mercy, will grant space to repent. But one never knows when making the choice to turn away from God, instead of towards Him, will be fatal. The Apostle Paul wrote that perilous times would come. It has become apparent that perilous times are here. We cannot afford to gamble with our souls, and push God away. It is time to draw close to the safety of God and His people. Do not find companionship with those who choose to live in darkness. Seek God while He may be found. God is alive! He is well! He is very much at work in this earth! In His righteousness, He will not dwell with wickedness! Our world is in trouble. Those that will remain or become faithful are needed to pray for our nation, and the world at large. We need to stand in the gap to close the breach between heaven and earth. The time is drawing near when God can no longer look upon the blood of the innocent on our hands or allow the abominations, which seem acceptable to some, to go on any longer. It is time to be reconciled to God. II Corinthians 5:17-18 says, *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation”.* Make the choice today to turn away from the vain things of this world that are soon to pass away. Choose to see the miraculous, the restoration of families, healing of body, soul, and spirit. Be a repairer of the breach. Be reconciled to God. BME

WORDS FROM BEHIND THE WALL

HARD TO BELIEVE

Other made up religions teach all kinds of lies. Such as, their god or gods are too good to speak with or care. Even saying it’s alright to do evil in their names. The best is the story of how they come down to rule over men, but then leave them without a trace. Now the God of the Bible is unlike any idea we can come up with on our own. In fact, He is not only everywhere, but has also filled us with His Spirit. God even cares so much for us that He showed His power, and came down in human form in a way we never thought possible. Not just to rule, but to take our place, and make sure we are able to join Him in Heaven. Now that sounds like a creator.

 **William Moctezuma**

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RECEIVING LOVE WITH LOVE

Since I have been in Chicago, I had the chance to go to restaurants that seemed to try and outdo each other. Not only with great food, but with portion size; those generous portions make us feel as if we were at Grandma’s house when she poured on the love through her cooking. I also feel an outpouring of love when I read that my heavenly father is able to do “exceedingly, abundantly above all we ask or think” (Ephesians 3:20). I’m so grateful that our God isn’t a stingy God who slowly dishes out His blessings in small portions. But instead He pours out plenty of loving kindness, and tender mercies (Psalm 103:4). At times we think God hasn’t provided for us as we would like, but if He never did anything else than forgive our sins and guarantee Heaven for us, He has already been abundantly generous to us! So today, let’s rejoice in our generous God.

 **Charles Moctezuma**

COMMANDMENTS 9 & 10

(Exodus 20: 16, 17)

Do not testify falsely against your neighbor. It’s important to always be truthful. Listen: “The Lord detests lying lips, but He delights in men who are truthful” (Proverbs 12:22). This commandment goes way beyond merely telling the truth. It involves treating people fairly and graciously. Whenever people say, “sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me;” it’s not true! Words do hurt! They inflict wounds; especially words that are malicious, gossiping, misrepresenting, judgmental half truths. One author writes; “Lord, what a cruel thing my tongue is. It ruins reputations, lies when pushed into a corner, boasts to satisfy ego, talks when silence would be golden, does not report matters correctly, makes trouble for me, my relatives, friends, and cell mates. Adjust my tongue to truth, gentleness, love, fairness, and perform a miracle of compassion in me”.

Do not covet…anything that belongs to your neighbor. Coveting means: (a) grasping, (b) continually craving, and (c) lusting after things that don’t belong to you. It’s when you can’t stand to see others doing well, without wanting something for yourself. It’s what stopped the prodigal’s older brother from going to the big welcome home party. Instead, he stayed outside sulking, feeling resentful, and missing the celebration. Covetousness does that; it alienates you from God and other people. So ask God to remove all traces of it from your heart and life today.

 **Brandy Holmes**

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GIVE ME LIBERTY

Give me liberty or give me death! This is a quote that was conceived by a revolutionary concept. What is freedom? Is it a physical or mental state of profit? Or, is it an endless striving for perfection? To know its event, one must first share in its effect. Give me liberty or give me death. A statement coined and transcended within the echoes of the world’s best revolutionized to the south cry, live Mandela and apartheid die. From the un-arrested development of Africa, when George and Jonathan Jackson envisioned blood in my eyes, to the untimely death of Martin Luther King’s dream, who sought to have freedom reign---To the perception of Malik Al Shabazz; freedom is an ideal valued by oppressed human beings. To the overthrowing of governments, and civil unrest; their insurgency alone defies freedom best. Give me liberty or give me death! For freedom isn’t marked by material conquest, but that of painstaking hardships of a global effect. Liberty is a movement, which commands true justice rather than political rhetoric. Give me liberty or give me death! **Ro’Sean Newson**

LORD HELP ME THROUGH

Lord help me through the night from worry and fright and help me through the day from all the snares the devil lays, as a lion waiting for his prey, help me from the temptation that comes my way, help me to do the right thing for you. Help me to always pray and stay out of trouble everyday! Help me in all my wants and needs, turning away from evil deeds, to believe in life and succeed. Help my faith, and let it not be erased, turning my heart into a dark place as I pray to you my Savior Calvin Green

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FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

Happy birthday to everyone who had/has a birthday in December/January! And to those upcoming in February! Celebrate your life by finding purpose in every situation that life brings your way. I am praying we all can make good choices. In Jesus Name!

For past and current issues of the newsletter, please visit the website@:

[www.inspirationalwordsforinmatesandtheirfamilies.yolasite.com](http://www.inspirationalwordsforinmatesandtheirfamilies.yolasite.com)..

Inmates please send your submissions to keep the column going. I hope to hear from some of you in the coming month. Thanks! ☺ In February/March a new Column will be added to the newsletter called, Life in the Valley. Look for details in the next issue ☺

And much gratitude goes out to an inmate, who wishes to remain anonymous, for his generous monetary gift to the Rose Memorial Fund. The Rose Memorial Fund insures the mailing of reading material and cards to inmates, who have lost loved ones. As we look towards the year to come, let’s remember to seek God above all else, never forget to pray, and never forget about Jesus; He hasn’t forgotten about us.

 **Beth Marie Evans**

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**Inmates, please submit your inspirational thoughts for Words from Behind the Wall to Beth Marie Evans, C/O International Christian Fellowship, 9146 Lincoln Avenue, Brookfield IL 60513. Office Phone: 708-387-9009. To request to have an inmate added to the mailing list, please email your request to bethspeaktruth7@gmail.com**