SOUND THE TRUMPET IN PRAYER

**And if you go to war in your land against the enemy that opresseth 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).**

Peace

In the perilous times we are living in, peace has become a much sought after commodity. It cannot be purchased with money, and certainly must not be confused with happiness. There are many “robbers of peace”. Ultimately, it is up to us to decide if we will allow a person, circumstance, or our own thinking to rob us of our peace. There are many things we cannot control. We certainly cannot change the past actions of others or ourselves. However, we do have control over our future actions, and our present situations in that we do not have to allow anything or anyone to take away the hope we have in Jesus. This hope is the promise that He will never leave us or forsake us, no matter where we are. This is important to know and believe. It is a hope that we must hold on to, and convey to others as we enter the holiday season. There are many that feel alone this time of year. While it is meant to be a joyful time, and we should be strengthened by this, we must not forget those who have suffered loss or feel forgotten. While we cannot hope to bring the message of peace to everyone, we can pray that God will send someone or visit them Himself. God is not limited by distance, circumstance, or iron bars.

God encouraged those who turned their backs on Him, and went into captivity by sending the Prophet Jeremiah. While He continually sent prophets to warn them, they repeatedly turned the other way, and sought other gods. If we are to be honest with ourselves, we are really no different today. We just have other idols. Sometimes we ignore God’s obvious warnings, and keep going in the wrong direction until things get so bad; we have no other choice, but to turn to God. However, God did not leave Israel, and He will not leave us. His promise was then, and now is; when we seek Him, we will find Him, when we search for Him with our whole heart (see Jeremiah 29:13). This promise was made to Israel after He had pronounced 70 years of captivity in Babylon on them. God in His mercy, did not leave them without a Savior. He instructed them to seek peace in their place of captivity. Jeremiah 29:7 says, **“And seek the peace of the city wither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the Lord for it: for the in peace thereof shall ye have peace.”**

The term “peace of the city” comes from the Hebrew word shalam (shaw-lam'), and has the following various applications, according to Strong’s Concordance: *“make amends, give again, make good, (re-) pay, (be at) peace (-able), (make) prosper (-ous), recompense, render, requite, make restitution, restore”*. God asked them to pray, but also to make amends and restitution, to pay back, restore, and become prosperous. In doing these things, God told them they would find peace. He did not pronounce destruction on them, He pronounced restoration. His plan was to make them better and stronger than before. They were given the power into their hands to change. He did not require them to do this entirely on their own. He promised them a Messiah when He spoke to them in Jeremiah 33:15-16, saying that He would cause a branch of righteousness to grown up in David, who would execute judgment and righteousness in the land. And furthermore, **“In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The Lord our righteousness”** And so the promise has been fulfilled to all, Jew and Gentile alike; for all those who thirst to come and see. And to taste that the Lord is good; no matter your place of captivity. He is the Everlasting Father, The Mighty God, and The Prince of Peace. We can have hope, and find peace in this truth. No matter how low we may find ourselves, or deep in despair we may go; underneath are the Everlasting Arms of God. BMLR

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Inmates, family members, and those who are interested can now access the monthly newsletter. Please visit [**http://www.inspirationalwordsforinmatesandtheirfamilies.yolasite.com/**](http://www.inspirationalwordsforinmatesandtheirfamilies.yolasite.com/)to be added to the monthly email list or to obtain copies.

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**THE ROSE MEMORIAL FUND**

A recipient of the newsletter, who is also an Inmate, requested a memorial for Rose Golden because he was a recipient of her prayers and cards. Most are not able to visit those in prison, but for the cost of a stamp; a difference can be made for someone who doesn’t receive mail. All funds go to mailing the monthly newsletter or sending a card to an Inmate who has lost a loved one. Please make all funds payable to International Christian Fellowship. Thank you.

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On behalf of the church, I would like to thank Johnny Plass for his monetary gift to the Rose Memorial Fund.

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WORDS FROM BEHIND THE WALL

GOOD WORK

A Christian’s boss or co-worker would be thankful to God to have a hard worker with them on a job. Even a non-believer is influenced by dedication and hard work. One time we were in a freezer fixing a leak, and three dietary workers had to put away a skid of eggs in one of the coolers. Since we had to wait anyways, we helped, but one of them left, and the second just had a seat on some of the boxes. This left us, and the third guy to put all of the eggs up. The man who stayed working thanked us because they normally leave him alone. So being a good example can make a difference because we serve God, we serve His people (Titus 2:9-10).

 **William Moctezuma**

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WHAT ARE YOU DEPOSITING TODAY?

II Corinthians 4:16

If you’re one of God’s “Silver Saints”, listen to what Paul says; “Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. We don’t look at the troubles one can see, we look forward to what we have not yet seen. For the troubles we see will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever” (II Corinthians 4:16-18). I was once told of this 90 year old widow, who moved into this nursing home because she was legally blind. My friend told me when they were on the elevator, the nurse began to describe her new room, but the elderly lady exclaimed, “I love it!” The nurse said, “But you haven’t even seen it yet.” “That doesn’t matter”, she replied. “Happiness is something you decide ahead of time! Whether or not I like it does not depend on how the furniture is arranged. It’s how I arrange my mind that is important, and I have already decided to love it. Every morning when I wake up; I can choose to dwell on the parts of my body that no longer work, or give thanks for the ones that do! Every day is a gift, so as long as my eyes open; I’ll focus on the blessings of each new day, and all the great memories I’ve stored away.” What an attitude! I believe if we thought more like this woman and many others; this world would be peaceful. I believe old age is sort of like a bank account; you get out only what you deposit. If you deposit lots of good stuff early on, you’ll be able to withdraw it later when you need it. So my question to all who are reading my article is---what are you depositing today for many tomorrows? **Brandy Holmes**

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THE ENGRAFTED WORD

In speaking to believers, James said, “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls” (James 1:21). That must mean that after you are born again, your soul still isn’t saved. People say, “We had so many souls saved.” People came forward. They might have received Christ, and been born again; but their soul wasn’t saved. Even after you are born again, you still have to get your soul saved. You soul is made up of your mind, will, and emotions. James says to receive the word with meekness; meekness means to receive it with humility. In other words, humble yourself, and be teachable. The engrafted word has the ability to save, deliver, restore, and make your soul (your mind, will, and emotions) whole. Why does James call the word “the engrafted word”? The word doesn’t work unless it’s implanted. It won’t work for you unless it is implanted on the inside of you. How do you get it implanted? You do this by acknowledging every good thing that is in you in Christ. In other words, you stick with it, and keep feeding and meditating on the word.

 **Jamie Alexander**

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THE SOUL

The soul is a feeling; the soul is an idea, a feeling, a saying. The soul is funny, and it is wallet size. The soul is funny, and it is greatness. Some days I wonder if I can find the soul. Some days I am off. Some days I am blue. And the blue is there. Some days I can sing. The soul is me, and my son. Yes, the soul is me. The soul is my soul. The soul is my heaven, and the soul is my earth. I look at my soul, and see a blind spot, just a blind spot. You can knock me down, but my soul is still there. My eyes love pretty, and so is the soul of my soul. **Joseph Williams**

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**FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR**

I want to take this opportunity to wish every Inmate the most blessed Christmas possible. I pray in Jesus Name, that His Spirit will be very close to you. I am including a poem I wrote some years back. I feel that God has inspired me to share it with you to express the true meaning of Christmas.

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He Thought of You

As He set his face towards Gethsemane that day,

He Thought of You Every Step of the Way

As He healed, delivered, and set captives free,

With everlasting love, He thought of you and me

As He became the perfect sacrifice,

As He paid the ultimate price

As He made His way to Calvary,

He became sin for you and for me.

He wore a crown of thorns to purify our minds,

Through His power alone, healing we will find.

Through His sacrifice made at Calvary,

comes healing of the soul for all humanity

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**Inmates, please submit your inspirational thoughts for Words from Behind the Wall to Beth Marie Laccone-Rexford, C/O International Christian Fellowship, 9146 Lincoln Ave, Brookfield IL 60513. Office Phone: 708-387-9009. Thank you.**