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).**

So We Can Be Free

Someone does not necessarily have to be incarcerated to be locked up in prison walls. There is a spiritual prison, which can lead to actions that cause physical imprisonment and torment. This spiritual prison is called unforgiveness. Jesus said, **“Woe unto the world because of offences”** (Matthew 18:7)! Jesus also taught that if we won’t forgive from our heart, we cannot be forgiven. Unforgiveness is the only offense that scripture teaches will remove the blood from our lives. The word “woe” that Jesus used means destruction. It is the blood of Jesus that remits sin (see Hebrews 9:22, which tells us without blood there is no remission for sin. For Old Testament typology, see Exodus 12:23). The blood that God instructed the Israelites to put on the mantels of their doors so the death angel would pass over is an example of this. The word “Remission” translated back to Greek means forgiveness, deliverance, and liberty. Peter asked Jesus how many times we should forgive. Jesus said **“Until seventy times seven”** (Matthew 18:22). In other words, He was letting him know, however many times it takes. Then He spoke a parable illustrating imprisonment for those who refuse to forgive; saying that the Kingdom of heaven is like a king who would give an account of his servants. There was a man (servant) who owed a great sum of money (the translation approximates $52,800,000). The man begged for time to pay his debt. His Lord was moved with compassion, and forgave the debt. Then the same man, who had been forgiven, ran into his neighbor (fellow servant) who owed him $44. He grabbed him by the throat, and demanded immediate payment. When his Lord heard that he did this, He asked him, **“Should not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow servant, even as I had pity on thee”?** Then the Lord of this wicked servant delivered him to the tormentors until he would pay all. The dilemma is that we can never pay all. The only way to get out of this spiritual prison is to forgive. Things that begin in the spirit are acted out in the natural. This spiritual sickness (unforgiveness) is a disease that causes many to continue in behaviors that are destructive and unhealthy. Jesus defeated unforgiveness; He also demonstrated His power through and by the cross. He made it possible for us to put the three points of sin under our feet when He showed Himself victorious over unforgiveness, fear, and death. The three points of sin that bring men into bondage and death are as follows: The pride of life, the lust of the flesh, and the world (see John 2:16). If we will not forgive, we will not because of pride. Pride is a mindset in which man exalts his thinking above God’s. Psalm 138:2 says that God has magnified His word above His name. Therefore, God cannot abide with unforgiveness because it goes against His word. People lust after different things, but in the context spoken of here; it can be said that some lust after revenge, think about revenge, and plot revenge. This is not of God, and will not be accepted in His Kingdom. The world is full of hatred, fear, and offense. Jesus warns us that in the last days many shall be offended, betray, and hate one another (Matthew 24:10). But He also encourages us to be of good cheer because He has overcome the world. Resurrection power gives us authority over unforgiveness, and the fear and division associated with it; enabling us to forgive. During His time on earth, God taught men of the importance of being in agreement by saying, **“Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them”** (Matthew 18:19-20). If we can be in agreement, our prayers will be answered. There is no kind of prison wall that can hinder prayers prayed in agreement by those of like faith. Let us stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free, and not become entangled again in the yoke of bondage through unforgiveness. We have been called into liberty, and to love one another. All the law is fulfilled in one word, even this; Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself. **“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you”** (Ephesians 4:32). BME

**\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \***

**THE ROSE MEMORIAL FUND**

Rose Golden believed that every inmate should receive a card or newsletter. Upon learning of her passing, an inmate requested a memorial in her honor. All funds go to mailing the monthly newsletter or sending a card to an inmate who has lost a loved one. Please make funds payable to International Christian Fellowship. For more information about the Rose Memorial Fund, The Illinois Prison System, Life Catalyst, Hospitality House; or if you would like to receive the newsletter by email please visit [**http://www.inspirationalwordsforinmatesandtheirfamilies.yolasite.com/**](http://www.inspirationalwordsforinmatesandtheirfamilies.yolasite.com/)

**\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \***

WORDS FROM BEHIND THE WALL

FEED THE BEAST

A few days after getting into a real bad altercation with someone, the Lord blessed me with some encouragement. Two letters from Sister Beth and her husband filled me with joy for their wedding, and with confirmation that I must dig deeper into the word. In the May issue of Sound the Trumpet, Charles Moctezuma wrote something which spoke deep in my spirit. Basically whatever I feed will win the fight. I must feed my good wolf with a constant diet of Bread and Living Water, and starve the things the bad wolf of the human flesh craves. So I must react with love, humility, compassion, and the other good stuff the Lord shows me.

 **William Moctezuma**

**\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \***

THE NEW ME

I used to be cold blooded, who would have known? You can’t tell by looking at me now, but before you were able to feel the hatred in me. Then one day I looked at myself in the mirror, and saw somebody that wasn’t me. In the mirror was a drug addict, a schemer, and a liar. I said to myself, “Lord have mercy. Look at what I have become”. My inner voice was saying to me, “Jesus is the one who will lead you to where you have to go.” I wasn’t ready, so I continued to be cold hearted, not caring about anyone I hurt. My inner voice was saying to me, “You don’t have to live this way. I know that you can make it”. I ignored it for a second time, and kept walking with my mind on when I was young and dumb. Each step was like the sound of a clock going tic toc. Every day time was looking me in the eye, asking me; when will you think about it? Time was just going by, and there went another year. No matter what I did time was just turning without me. I asked the inner voice “Is there really a way out”? The voice said to me, “For whosoever calls upon me shall be saved”. I didn’t believe, and kept on doing the devil’s work. I tried to get high, but felt so low. Then I got so tired, and asked God to rescue me. The next thing I knew, I got locked up. And the inner voice said, “You are saved.” Tell everyone I won your battle. So now the new me is a walking billboard for Him. God is so able. You just have to hold on no matter what you are going through. Even when it seems so dark and grey, don’t lose your faith because He promises you that He will never forsake you

 **Charles Moctezuma**

**\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \***

HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR MOTIVES LATELY?

Inspired by Proverbs 16:2

Are you quick to question other people’s motives, yet slow to examine your own? A highly self righteous woman was praying, “There’s something wrong, Lord I read and pray regularly, attend church religiously, always give to charity, and yet I don’t have much. My sister doesn’t do any of these things, yet she has tons of money. How come you have given her so much, and me so little?” After a pause, a voice said, “because you’re a sanctimonious pain-in-the-neck”! You can’t fool God with self-righteous justifications. He looks at hearts and judges motives. He knows when you do the right thing for the wrong reason. You can sit in church with a heart that’s far from God. The Israelites did (see Isaiah 1:10-17). You can help the needy and still be greedy. Judas was (see John 12:4-8). You can proclaim your love for Jesus, yet be furthering satan’s cause. Peter did (see Matthew 16:21-28). You can make sacrifices, but still be living in disobedience. Saul did (see I Samuel 13:8-10). You can pray with wrong motives. Some New Testament Christians did (see James 4:3). The Bible says, “A man’s ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the Lord”. God looks for one thing---love. Everything you do should be motivated by love for Him, and for others. So, take a long hard look beyond your actions to what lies behind them. Then ask God to show you what He sees when He examines them. **Brandy Holmes**

**\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \***

FAITH

When adversity struck me in the face again, I stumbled. I staggered, but with the help of a friend, I recovered. I resumed my walk. Sometimes we are tested to the point of being overwhelmed. Only through our faith, and belief in God and His sacrifice for us, are we truly brought closer to our objective; to believe in His promise. We must believe that He will never fail us; and keep our faith in Him, no matter what. **Oscar Falcon**

**\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \***

**FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR**

I am blessed, and never cease to be amazed by how God is using the newsletter to speak, and to encourage. Not only by what I am inspired to write, but by the submissions received from those of you behind the wall. This is not the first time, but I have many times typed what God laid on my heart to share; and have found when typing in your submissions, that our writings correlate with one another. This is the work of the Holy Ghost because with God as my witness, I do not typically read the submissions before writing the article. My time does not allow for this. Please know that I read, and appreciate each letter, card, drawing, and word of kindness I receive. None of these go unnoticed or unappreciated. I try to answer as many as possible. The articles you read come from a few suggested words spoken into my spirit, often during prayer, which I type up before entering the monthly submissions. I felt to take the time to share this with you. And I want to thank you for taking the time to share your words, and using your write-outs to make this possible. I realize many, if not most of you, have limited funds on your books. And that this is a sacrifice for you. Remember, no matter how dark the day, in loss, sickness, hardship, and discouragement; always turn to God because the things of this world will soon pass away. I promise to do the same. **Beth Marie Evans**

**\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \***

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