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).**

It Began With a Thought

In the year 2004, while reading my Bible, I was inspired by Numbers 10:9 to write a prayer newsletter. At that time, I wanted to create something that would sound an alarm against the enemy, and bring glory to God. In 2004, the newsletter was made up of a short article on prayer, prayer requests, and praise reports. It was intended to inspire the reader to pray. What a different place this world would be if we all took the time to pray. Many mishaps and dire situations could be averted if only time was taken to pray. Souls can be saved. Part of prayer is thanksgiving. Therefore, there was also a column for prayer requests and praise reports. In 2007, a change was made to include the column, Words From Behind The Wall. However, it is still accurate to call this “little paper” the prayer newsletter. The words within still cry out against the ever present darkness in this world, not only with a cry for help, but also with words of hope. I have been encouraged by the many submissions, and kind letters I have received over these five years. I appreciate every submission, and letter from those who let me know how they appreciate this work. I will sometimes receive something, and as I’m typing in the words I read, my heart is truly touched as they speak into my life. I am once again reminded of how much is taken for granted. Most of us will never know how it feels to receive a life, or near to life sentence, or how it feels to be on death row. Even from these dark places, God hears the cry of those seek Him. So this newsletter is for all to remind us that if we cry out to God no matter where we are, we will be saved from our enemies. God never forgets, and neither should we. Whether ours is a cry for help or of thanksgiving, we should always remember to pray. 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 that a memorial be made for Rose Golden. He made this request because he was also a recipient of her prayers and cards, and knew of her love and concern for Inmates. Most of us are not able to visit those in prison, but for the cost of a stamp; a difference can be made in the lives of those who society, and sometimes family members, may have given up on. All funds will go to sending out the monthly newsletter to Inmates, supporting our ever growing mailing list, or to send a card to an Inmate who has lost a loved one. Please make all funds payable to International Christian Fellowship. Thank you.

FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

One day, in September of 2007, while I was stuck in rush hour traffic, inspiration came to me to add a column to the newsletter called WORDS FROM BEHIND THE WALL. It was at this time, my hope and prayer to give those who were incarcerated an outlet for their inspiration. It has now been five years since that day, and God has been faithful to answer prayer. He has opened many doors so far. I believe He will open many more. God has proved to me that even though society may forget about these men and women--He has not forgotten. It is my prayer that there will be Apostolic Ministry, and the delivering power of God in every prison in this country. The column was started to give Inmates a voice, to let them know they are valuable, and that they can rise above their current situation. No one can reduce the recidivism rate, but them. How will they do this if no one shows them the way? They deserve the chance to hear the gospel that Jesus died for. I have included the first submission I ever received in 2007, which was the inspiration for this column.

WORDS FROM BEHIND THE WALL

As I sit here again going through yet another phase of my crazy life, it is becoming clearer to me that there is still madness far deeper than what I can express to you in words. Being confined to these four walls and barbed wire fences is a rude awakening that I don’t wish on any man. It is lonesome and grey! I sit back and contemplate on all the places I have been and things that I have done, and I must admit that many of them are empty vanities. Sometimes this life seems so ironic and I feel so out of place, but God almighty is sustaining me through yet another day! One thing is for certain and two things are for sure: I am learning that there is no such thing as a bad day, but we will definitely have some terrible moments! This is unelectable. Not one person can see these unseen tears, but they do shed within the confines of my soul! I laugh at times in order not to be seen with a shed tear, but God knows that there is great pain within this aging heart of mines! I hurt as a father! Son! And for that loving human being that God wants me to be! I do care! I do love! I do desire! I do hope! I do believe! As this new day unfolds and comes to an end—the ironies of myself being are becoming clearer to me. With God all things are possible, and that today is always a new day. **Anonymous—Cook County Jail 2007**

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HIGHER STANDARDS

As Christians God wants us to act and live by His ways. To do this, we must be determined by faith not to allow our desire for pleasing God pass quickly by. Reject anything which can cause you to fall, and keep away from temptation. It is better to show true love with mercy, keeping oneself from maintaining a perverse heart; by these we set goals to live by (Psalms 101:1-4). **William Moctezuma**

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SELF-WORTH NEEDED

In order to gain a true sense of self-worth, you must first understand how God feels about you. Here are some great scriptural truths to help you do just that: God loves you dearly in spite of your faults! Paul said; “Absolutely nothing can get between us and God’s love” (Romans 8:39) Listen again: “Don’t be afraid…you are deeply loved by God” (Daniel 10:19). Take a moment and allow those words to sink in. God’s watching over you at all times! Listen: “The eternal God is your refuge, and His everlasting arms are under you” (Deuteronomy 33:27). Listen again: “The Lord…will make you strong and guard you from evil” (II Thessalonians 3:3). He’s got you covered! God is the father you always dreamed of! He said, “I have called you by name; you are mine” (Isaiah 43:1). Paul said, before he laid the earth’s foundations, He had settled on us as the focus of His love, and decided to adopt us into His family” (Ephesians 1:4). Still need more proof? James said, “God decided to give us life so we might be the most important of all He made” (James 1:8). How important? “We are the most important!” God will never turn His back on you! He said, “I will be faithful to you and make you mine, and you will know me as Lord” (Hosea 2:20). And Paul writes, “Even if we are unfaithful, He remains faithful, He cannot deny Himself” (II Timothy 2:13). God’s spoken, written, proven, enduring love for us is the only foundation on which you should base your self-worth. **Brandy Holmes**

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DOING TIME

Being in Jail is like shooting a kite, and waiting for letters that nobody writes. It’s waiting for a visit that never takes place, from so-called friends that have forgotten your face. It’s wondering how it could go so slow, with prayers that are answered. And the answer is no. It’s learning that brotherhood is something that’s dying. When they call you “homeboy”, you know that they’re lying. It’s depending on people you thought were your friends, and waiting on pictures that nobody sends. It’s sitting around with nothing to do, except finding out who’s really who. It’s learning that hearts are made out of stone, and realizing that you are really on your own. But I’ll do my time with my head held, and keeping my pride till the day I die. That day will come when I’ll soon be free, so think twice my friend, when you need something from me. **Deatrice Reed**

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FROM COWARD TO MIGHTY MAN OF VALOR

A classic, yet radical identity change that took place in the Bible was with Gideon. He was living in a hole in the ground hiding from the enemy. If you live in a hole in the ground long enough, you will develop a certain philosophy about life. If you don’t think so, find someone who lives under a bridge. If you talk to them for very long, you will find they not only have an external bridge; they have one internally in their thinking and attitude. When Jesus came to preach the Gospel to the poor, He didn’t just pass out a bunch of sandwiches. He taught them the ways and thoughts of God. He taught them that they didn’t have to be poor or sick or defeated anymore. God is still changing people’s identities! Every time Gideon tried to do anything, the Midianites destroyed it. In the midst of his hole-in-the-ground existence, God sent an angel to Gideon with a message: “The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valor” (Judges 6:2). God has a sense of humor because at this time in Gideon’s life, there was no evidence of valor! Yet, His Word is all that you need. Romans 4:17 says, “He quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were”. God’s Word will cause “nothing” to become “something”. Gideon chewed on God’s Word to him---you mighty man of valor---until he finally swallowed it. Then with trumpets, pitchers, lamps, and a cry of “the sword of the Lord”, Gideon and this three hundred man army whipped the enemy (Judges 7:20-22). Anytime you get involved with God and His Word, He will totally change the way you see yourself, and the way you see life. The Word of God changes everything. **Jamie Alexander**

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RESPONDING TO THE ROSE MEMORIAL FUND

I wanted to write when I saw the memorial put in place for Sister Rose. I can bear witness to her thoughtful and caring words, along with her prayers for me in the moment of need. I received a card, with Spiritual healing, from someone who has never met me. But because she heard of my situation, she reached out to me. I can speak for many in my situation. It’s hard enough that our families don’t write in a time of support. And when they do it’s truly a blessing. Rose did not know me, but she wrote encouraging words. That was a bonus and a blessing. She came from the heart. So since this memorial has been built, we should come from the heart. I know inmates who spend money on something they know nothing about, but because it sounds good they want it. Well, please believe Rose was someone you would want to keep. I strongly believe any amount is for “US” like Rose prayed for. R.I.P. Rose. **Johnny Plass**

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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.**