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).**

Beyond the Wall

Whether we have had a wall(s) imposed on us or we have constructed walls that we think keep us safe; walls place limits on where we can go spiritually and physically. There are different kinds of walls. There are walls of unforgiveness, walls of fear, walls of self doubt, walls of failure, and walls of hatred---to name a few. These are often constructed out of pain, sorrow, abuse, personal failures, and other negative life experiences. In order to keep moving forward, we must believe that there is something to strive for beyond the wall. If one’s physical wall is a lifelong or near lifelong, there is still something beyond those walls---something greater than the walls that separate, and more powerful and eternal, that is the Lord Jesus Christ. **“For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us”** (Ephesians 2:14); In doing so, He has given all the opportunity to become part of a body of believers, who can offer hope to one another of a better eternity. Also, He removed the yoke of sin that held us back from God, making us all one in Christ. No matter where we are, if we will seek God according to His word, **“being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life”** (Titus 3:7). We can rest assured; that there is life beyond the wall. BME

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WORDS FROM BEHIND THE WALL

DEAL WITH IT

All year, I’ve been having trouble with how I have been treated. It got to the point where words get exchanged, fists thrown, and me hating my environment to the point where I’d be willing to give it up just for a not for sure change. But then in my Daily Devotional, I read II Corinthians 12:10 and Paul’s Holy Ghost inspired words made me realize my mistake. Without the hardships, persecutions, and difficulties; I wouldn’t turn towards my source of strength. That is why we must delight in our weaknesses because it becomes our reminder. **William Moctezuma**

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ECOURAGEMENT FOR BRANDY HOLMES

I’ve also lost loved ones while being incarcerated. However, these steps will help you, and everyone else in your special time of need. People cope with grief in different ways, that’s why no one can tell you exactly how you are going to grieve because it’s a personal path for everyone who walks it. Always remember Psalm 23:4. “Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me”. He quiets our fears, comforts our hearts, and reassures us that we will make it. Even though at times we may not be so sure. Every griever begins to wonder, “Will life ever get better”? We don’t need to get alarmed when things don’t make any sense or if it seems to be reoccurring. The process of grieving is far from orderly, and it’s messy at times. It may feel like you’re losing your mind, and there’s no universal pattern for grief. When people hear the shocking news that someone close to them has passed away, the initial defensive response allows us to carry on. Shock is normal, God designed shock to protect us--- when it would be otherwise impossible for us to function under the emotional overload of grief. So don’t pretend that everything is alright because attempting to be okay or strong will only hinder your process of grief. A grief denied is a grief unhealed. You need to be honest about your feelings because through our tears we see the tears of God. When we grieve, we join God because God has given us profound emotional capacity like His own. The things grievers feel are shock, pain, disbelief, disconnection, denial, anger, unfairness, loneliness, depression, and more. But the healing process can only begin when we sort through our emotions that are inside us. God is big enough, strong enough, and loving enough to handle our emotions, even when we lash out in severe pain after a tragic loss. Just take a look at Job, he suffered multiple losses, and in dealing with terrible heartache; he discovered that putting words to his grief helped him begin to accept his loss, its okay to cry. In fact, it’s important that you do. Tears are an emotional and physical release to the grieving process. Having a good cry is healing for the body and soul. Release your tears of a broken heart to Him, He understands. In Revelation 21:4, He states that there will be no more death or mourning of the coming day.☺ Jesus openly wept at the tomb of Lazarus. That shows that He also feels our pain, and only He can offer comfort to our hearts and souls. Losing somebody does change us, and is unavoidable. It’s not natural to want to isolate yourself while you wait for the pain to fade. Going at it alone never works. The writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us that “two is greater than one”. Moving on with your life will be difficult, but your loved one wouldn’t want you to stop your life. Just be reassured that you will reunite with them in heaven.

 **Charles Moctezuma**

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IS THERE SOMONE YOU NEED TO FORGIVE? (Part 1)

“Forgiving one another even as Christ forgave you”

Colossians 3:13

The greatest power you have over anyone who hurts you is the power of forgiveness. When you say “I forgive and no longer hold it against you,” both sides are set free from the negative bond that exists between them. But you see there’s much more: we also free ourselves from the burden of being “the offended one”. As long as we don’t forgive those who’ve wounded us, we take each other with us. Even worse, we carry each other like an albatross around our necks. And it seems to be one of our greatest temptations is to cling in anger to another, and make someone else our enemy to cut down, and then define ourselves as the one who is wounded. We all have hurt one another, or even lied to one another, played mind games, and even wounded each other. I can write this from the heart based on my own experience, and want to say, “I am sorry Korey Davis”. I want to move forward, let go, and be free. I forgive you! Forgiveness not only liberates us, it liberates the other person. I have found it’s a way to true freedom. Forgiving doesn’t always mean forgetting. Though I forgive you, the memory of what you did to me, and all that was and wasn’t said will stay with me a long time. I will carry it in my emotions as a scar, and even in my body as a physical sign. Bur forgiveness changes how we remember. It turns the curse into a blessing. I forgave you for it all, your lack of love, unfaithfulness, the tick tocks, the lies, games, your unfair treatment that keeps going on and on, and etc. I no longer have to experience being the victim of each of these events over which I have no control. Forgiveness allows me to take back my power and not let these events embitter, limit, or even destroy me. You can do the same if you will forgive me. Its way easier said than done, but it’s possible. Is there anyone else out there needing to forgive and let go? Take it from me, it feels better if you do. A hostile spirit prevents us from experiencing joy, and our resentment towards them will fade to nothing. It will motivate you to free yourself and forgive. **Brandy Holmes**

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NEED JOY AND HOPE? ---THEN READ THIS

In Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21, the Apostles ask Jesus what will be the sign of His coming, and the end of the age. Jesus responds with very specific signs that we should look for. Some of these signs have been fulfilled in the generation that you and I live in. This lets us know that His coming is soon, and that He will come for those who wait on His appearing. Here are a few of these signs: The rebirth of the nation of Israel (The fig Tree), fulfilled in 1967, Jerusalem back under the control of the Jews, fulfilled in 1948, the Gospel preached to all nations, being fulfilled now, a great increase in earthquakes, and natural disasters, also being fulfilled now. Jesus said that the generation that sees these signs will not pass away until all these things are fulfilled. Although no man knows the time of His coming, we can rest assured and have hope that if we wait for His coming, living according to His word, His promises are true, and it will be exactly as He has said. If you’re hopeless today, and feel like you can’t go on another day, remember this; Jesus will be here soon. This is no fairy tale. It’s a promise from God. I urge you to hang on a little bit longer because it will be worth your wait. God bless you.

 **Joshua Cooke**

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PONTIAC

I lie here in this dark secluded cell, a dungeon really, and just stare at the walls. It seems as if I were trapped between time and space, someone in the netherworld, a place others do not exist. Time stands still, while the rest of the world passes by. The only thoughts you are able to hold in your head are the same patterns repeated again and again. How can one’s existence mean so much to one, and so little or nothing at all to another? This is a world where loved ones drop off like rain…and friends disappear like morning dew in the sunshine. The air is stale, but you learn to cope. You learn to accept the inevitable; that this is how it is for you. You are enslaved…you are under the thumb of the one who controls your every move, and strives to control even your thoughts…This is a world of wanna-bes, used-to-bes, and has-beens, bunch of losers given a role of authority to misuse. But no matter how much you despise their contempt, you can’t do a thing about it. So you continue to dream…recalling the days of having a woman, regretting what you took for granted, thinking of what used to be. Other than the thoughts of a woman, the focus is leaving this place. As days turn into months, and months turn into years, it’s amazing that you still hang onto the hope of leaving this place. The air is thick with mold, mildew, and perspiration. All you view and touch every day is heavy steel and cold concrete. We own nothing. All we have is the clothes on our back, a face cloth, towel, and some state boots. That is, if we get them. And our precious letters, and writings we have collected over the years. Fellow sufferers of the steel and concrete reality, we can’t let it rob us of life, vitality, or our dreams. **Manuel Malave**

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JUST A BREATH OF FREEDOM

Held captive for your politics, they wanted to break your soul; they ordered the extermination of all minds they couldn’t control, for your fate was far worse than a brutal homicide. They caged you like an animal, and watched you slowly die inside. As you breathe your first air of freedom on the day you become a free man. Raise your regal brow in pride, for now you are in God’s hands. The lives of so many were given so that the day would be one day. Come that the devils in power at Pretoria would pay for the evil crimes they’ve done. Only God can judge us. **Sandro Thomassini**

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**FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR**

Happy Birthday to those with birthdays in October/November! Inmates, your column is six years old this month. We have a lot of new writers, and I am so thankful for this. I try to get all submissions published in a timely manner as I receive them, and as room allows. Also, I have always reserved the right to edit all submissions. We/you have a large and diverse audience. It is my goal to make your writings look good, and that all readers will be edified. Our goal is doctrinal accuracy, if applicable, easy readability, and punctual and grammatical correctness. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Administrative Assistant Kathie Wellman for her help with proofing, and getting this out to each of you. She is a true Christian, who also cares for and prays for you. Thank you for being a part of this great and popular column.

 **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.**