



SOMEONE CARES PRISON MINISTRY NEWSLETTER



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Quietly Changing Lives

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IT IS REALLY TRUE
GOD LOVES YOU.

BECAUSE OF YOU,
SOMEONE CARES.

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HELLO FOLKS

I am happy to write to you all and inform you that the ministry's transfer from my grandparent's home to mine is going well. I have the office all set up and that is a blessing! My mother and I have been doing our best to keep all the mail moving and get caught up on the mail that has gotten behind. We have a few alias names that we still haven't been able to figure out due to some mistakes that were made. A few of those alias names are Scott and Pat, Betty Larsen, Christian Arnold, Ramona Johnson, Little Lois and McBride. Again if you believe you are missing mail PLEASE e-mail me at jacobmichael5253@outlook.com with your real name and address along with your alias name so that we can get them matched up properly.

TIMES ARE TOUGH

I know that times are tough for us all. Everything from the economy to the prices of postage going up just make it harder for this ministry to survive. Fewer people are involved now than have ever before and that my friends, is a scary thought. I am doing the best I can with what I have. I am trusting the Lord will put in my heart what is right and lead me to do the right thing here. I am taking this ministry over for my grandfather because this is his life's work. He has invested so much time and effort into this ministry. Now that he is no longer capable of doing the work I refuse to just sit back and let it fall apart. I have been in control of it for the most part for about a month now. And I am seeing more and more every day just how much work it really requires and how difficult times are right now. Money is tight and that's something that I haven't had to deal with in quite some time.



JUST HOW DID HE DO IT?

For years, I watched my grandfather sit behind a computer screen for countless hours. Day in and day out he would push mail on, he would connect with people through e-mails, over the phone and in person to get them more involved with this ministry. I watched him in churches, preaching about God and the work we do with Someone Cares Prison Ministry. I saw first hand how much work, time, and effort he put into this ministry. What I don't understand is how he made a living. How he made ends meet all those years and provided for our family. He helped my mother and I tremendously through the years of my childhood. And the only thing I can think of is since he was doing the Lords work, the Lord provided what was needed. And my grandfather believes in that. He tells me to this very day that we do what God wants us to do. He says, "If God doesn't see that being fit, then he won't let it happen." I am doing all I can as a human being to develop that mind state. I am going to church here in Fort Wayne at a church called The First Assembly of God. I am trying to make the proper changes in my life that I think are needed to be a part of this wonderful ministry. I need your prayers, that God will provide for this ministry and see it through to success. We are doing a wonderful thing here, you all are. And the times that we are in are just making things harder.

MY CHURCH

First Assembly has such an amazing pastoral staff. Every time I go, I feel such a great presence of the Lord. I have never been in a church that made me feel that way. When the choir sings, I get chills, sometimes tears even start to run down my face. Not tears of sorrow or happiness, its like nothing I've ever witnessed before in my life. Its almost like tears of joy. I can feel the warmth of the Lord. The people there are always so kind and open to others and new commers. They support quite a few missionaries and give the opportunity to all the members of their congregation to take part in mission trips all around the world. They have recently helped build a church in India and in Romania. Every time I go into that house of God, I feel amazing and leave feeling so much better than when I walked in. That welcoming environment and crowd is what I believe every church should hold.



When I was a child my grandfather told me a story about a church that he and my grandmother had been attending in Kentucky when they lived there. It was a nice church with nice people, but they had high standards. Meaning that if you didn't dress nice or didn't carry a bible, certain members would look at you differently. And for the most part make you feel like you shouldn't be there. He said after attending that church for a while he had arranged to preach to the congregation. During his sermon, about 10 minutes into it. The chapel doors opened. A middle-aged man and his wife walked in, they weren't very well dressed, looked rather grungy. My grandfather continued to preach while they found a seat at the back of the chapel. My grandfather noticed a few individuals giving them odd looks and whispering about them to one another, more than likely about their appearance. After them being there for a little while they got up and walked right out of the main doors. My grandfather being rather angry that people would make them feel so out of place, stopped preaching and walked off the stage to go get them and bring them back inside. When he opened the doors of the chapel, they were gone. There were no foot prints in the fresh snow, there was no car driving off. He said it was like they vanished into thin air. He started to tear up and walked back into the church. He said to the congregation that he wanted one of them to get up and go look outside for any footprints. One individual did so and went back to his seat. My grandfather continued to preach but changed his topic and approach. He asked now what if that was the Lord in disguise?

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WE NEED PEOPLE!!!

Folks, I mentioned earlier that we have less people involved in this ministry now than there has been in years. Maybe that's due to my grandfathers age and sickness that he has endured the past year or so. Maybe that's due to todays world and people being so up in a bunch with their own lives and worrying about their personal struggles. All I know is that this ministry needs more. There are millions of inmates in this country alone. No, not all of them want something to do with this ministry. No not all of them are going to turn to Christ. But it is our duty to do what we can as children of God to lead the lost to the path of righteousness, to be their friend in dark times. My grandfather always said to me, "Ya know Jake, I don't do this for money. I don't do this so people will think highly of me. I do this work for God. I do it because that's what I was told to do, because others are scared to take this step."

If you have friends or family who are curious about this ministry, or maybe they have never heard of us, please take a minute or two to explain to them what it is that you do. Tell them how easy it is to write to just one inmate and take a few minutes out of your day to make someone else's day a little brighter.

MOTIVATION

I received a letter this past week from one of our pen friends. She has been writing through this ministry for 26 years! Now that is incredible, she has written to 14 inmates in her time with us and she wanted to write and thank us... that's where I paused in the letter. She wants to thank us? No no no.... I wrote her and said, "ma'am I thank you! You are the difference, you are one of the big reasons that this ministry has strived for so long and has been successful over the years." Now I'm not going to give away the whole letter, but I was so highly motivated by this woman! She has and elderly woman who has invested a lot of her life in this ministry. She has invested so much time and effort with us in our quest to do the Lords work, and that steady commitment, that loyalty is what we need in this world. Not just in the ministry. But in the world, in our communities and in our homes. That love and steady guidance she has provided for those 14 inmates she has written over the years is something that can never be replaced. For that, she is truly a genuine soul.



DONATIONS...

I want to thank you all. And I would do it personally if I had the means to travel to all of you! But I want to thank you for how much you give and support this ministry. Without all of you, this ministry would disappear. The donations you give are what keep this ministry able to keep moving forward. They pay for envelopes, postage, labels, tape, pens, post cards, stamps and so much more. And I cannot thank you enough for helping me keep this thing going. Your support is much appreciated, and I hope one day I will be able to thank you all personally for all that you do. You are the difference!

With that being said; this ministry is struggling folks. Sadly, the cost of postage has gone up almost 10 cents per stamp! That is crazy to me, but that just shows how everything in this country is changing. Little by little things are getting more and more difficult to maintain. I know you all are feeling it just the same as I am. God has put me in this position for a reason. God instilled it in my heart to keep this ministry going and to keep on doing what my grandfather has been doing for so many years, and with my God by my side I believe I am unstoppable. If he wants this ministry to grow, then let it grow. If he sees it fit for this ministry to survive these difficult times? Then let me tell you what folks, this ministry will survive one way or another. His work will be done!!

MY CHURCH

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What if he sent an angle into his home dressed that way to see if someone of his appearance was welcome? He could see the people's heads turn to the floor. He said now that is why I welcome people into my home and my life and treat them as if they were my closest friends. Because you never know who is sent into your life as a test of your kindness or as a blessing. He then went on to tell of his past. Which I'm sure you all know was not very clean or holy. He said; "I know many gangsters that know how to dress better than most of you". He told of how even as an atheist he dressed in a suit and tie, hair slicked back. Then asked them, how would you be able to tell if I was a man of God or a man of the devil? You wouldn't! That man could have been in a bad place in life just looking for a sense of security, maybe just looking for a place to worship the Lord, and he felt so out of place, so ashamed of the way that he looked that he left? You need to reevaluate and humble yourselves, rethink just who it is that you serve. Jesus's people were the poor, sick and banished people that society refused to be around, not the rich, privileged kings of the land.

That story has never left my mind and I hope that it holds an example for you as well as it does for me.

CLOSING FOR THE MONTH

Now I'm sure that most of you have been involved for some time now. And I'm sure that there have been some mistakes made over the years. However, there are a couple people who aren't so happy right now. I'm not entirely sure how it is happening but there are prisoners passing around their pen friend's information. Instead of going through the steps and applying through us to be a part of this ministry, they are simply giving the name of the person whom they have been writing to one another. If you are a victim of this, please do let us know. We have been contacted by a couple individuals whom this has happened to and there isn't much I know to do about this other than contact the prison and address it that way. Some of you have also been writing to your pen friends for some time now, if they get in conversation with another inmate about this ministry and talk about the good it has done in their life then that's good right? But what is not good is cutting ropes and jumping through loops to get their friends involved with you folks. For your security and peace of mind we have instilled the (alias names) using our P.O box as the sending address so that no one gets the Christians real information. Some of you choose to use this and some don't. If you have received a letter from an inmate that we did not assign to you, please do let us know! I will do what I can to get the issue resolved.

That's all I have for this month folks. Once again, I want to thank each and every one of you for the time and effort that you all put into this ministry, and on our quest to do the Lords work. Also, for the support that you all give this ministry. Without you and your donations, none of this would be possible. Let me reassure you that none of your efforts go unnoticed. Once again, if you have any friends or family who would like to get involved, please give them our information. Or even if they want to know just what it is that you as pen friends do, please take the time and explain it to them. Maybe give them an example of how it has changed lives for good, or an experience you have had with us. And last but not least. I am new to this, like I mentioned last month. If you have any suggestions, or advise that you would like to share, I am open to hear them. Again, my e mail is: jacobmichael5253@outlook.com. Please feel free to contact me, whether its with a suggestion, advise, or if you want to share a positive story with me on how this ministry has affected you or a loved one.

God bless you and yours! Sincerely,

Jacob Coates and the Someone Cares Family.

Thank you all for all you do!