

A  
**MESSAGE OF HOPE,**  
comfort and freedom in Jesus Christ

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**“The Ministry of Reconciliation” by Kyle Murphy**  
**2 Corinthians 5:16-20**

With the start of another New Year many of us will make resolutions. Of all the noble goals and resolutions we set, there are none more important than renewing our relationship with God through Jesus Christ, His Son.

Paul explains in 2 Corinthians 5:16-20 that anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. (Please take a moment to read the “Quarterly Scripture Focus” verses.) Paul goes on to explain that God has reconciled us to Himself and He calls us to reconcile others to Him.

When we answer God’s call, He blesses us. I have experienced this firsthand since becoming involved in prison ministry. Week after week, the scriptures come to life for me when I am with these men – men who truly do hunger and thirst for righteousness (Matthew 5:6).

Some have already become new creations in Christ, others are undergoing a process of transformation, and many more still need to make a commitment to Christ. In order to become a new creation they must first hear the message of reconciliation.

As Paul stated, those of us who have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior are ambassadors for Him. This should not be taken lightly. When God commits to us the message of reconciliation He expects us to share it with others!

“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.” Matthew 9:37

The prison system is full of people who hunger and thirst for something better. These men and women are eager to hear the message of hope, comfort, and freedom that is found in Jesus. They are human beings who have feelings and emotions just like us. They too experience heartache, loss, and loneliness. They have an enormous amount of love to give – but very few “Christians” are willing to accept their love or offer any back in return.

Some might think prison ministry involves carrying the message to a hostile and scary place. The opposite is true. While volunteering at MRF I have never felt threatened in any way. I have always felt completely safe.

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**Quarterly  
Scripture Focus:**

2 Corinthians 5:16-20

“So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.”

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The men we minister to choose to attend our classes – they want to be renewed. They are seeking reconciliation with God. They just need someone who is willing to appeal to them on God's behalf – with the love and light of Christ.

In Luke 4:23-27 Jesus spoke of how during the time of Elijah and Elisha the works of the Spirit were done outside of Israel even though the Israelites were God's chosen people. Our culture has fallen into a mindset similar to Israel in that many of us have forgotten that this is a spiritual life. We have limited God's power and miracles. We use spiritual words like grace, mercy, faith and love but that is all they are... words. We must renew our relationship with God and put these words into action. We need to be love, show grace and mercy, and put our faith into action. This life is a spiritual life. God has reconciled us to Himself through Christ. We are a new creation. We are Christ's ambassadors. He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. Are we sharing this message or have we become like Israel where we view God as a religion rather than entering into a relationship with Him and obeying His Will? Make a resolution this New Year to live this life as a spiritual life and get involved in the Ministry of Reconciliation.



In an effort to continue to expand our outreach to our friends inside and find additional ways to show the love of Christ to them, I will be attending a "One Day with God" Camp in Muskegon on Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup> (and hopefully one at MRF later in the year!)

The "One Day with God" Camps began with a vision of one day inside prison walls where parent and child could reconcile with one another and spend time together with God-anointed mentors working beside them. The day includes games, crafts, lunch, music, clowns, an illusionist, face painting, and a parent and child quiet time. It is a divinely appointed time for both child and inmate where both can experience the love of God and find forgiveness and reconciliation. If one child could have a Christ-centered Mom or Dad return home from prison, there would be a joyous

change in that home forever, and it could change the path that child takes in life.

We have been fellowshipping with an amazing group of Christian brothers & sisters from Northridge Church in Plymouth that share the same passion and love for our friends inside that we do. Because of their hard work and efforts, I have been blessed to be able to attend the "One Day with God" camp in Muskegon.

We hope this will be the first of many opportunities to volunteer with this amazing ministry started by Forgiven Ministry, Inc. As always, if you are interested in donating, getting involved, or finding out more information on this wonderful program please contact me!



## Angel Tree

The **Angel Tree Christmas Party** was a great success thanks to the love and generosity of so many at Roseville Church of Christ! Thank you to each and every one of you who showed the love of Jesus to these children and made their Christmas an extra-special one this year!

## *Voices for Christ...behind the narrow windows*

We are very excited to announce the start of a new ministry called:

### *Voices for Christ*

Voices for Christ is dedicated to the Christian voices behind the narrow windows of prison. Giving an opportunity to communicate with the world and tell the story of how Christ has changed their hearts and their lives. It gives them a chance to adhere to Jesus' words in Mark 16:15 and "...go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."

Voices for Christ accepts the following works, to name a few, from our friends inside:

Testimonies, Sermons, Essays, Lessons, Hymns, Poems, Christian artwork

Before inclusion on the website, all works will be subjected to a review process to ensure they meet a minimum biblical standard. In an effort to remain unbiased and hold true to the Holy Bible, rather than the views or traditions of men, Voices for Christ recruits committee members from across denominations who are dedicated to serving Jesus. It is the goal of Voices for Christ to include Christians with a solid foundation in the Word of God to assist in the review process. Committee member names, churches and titles (if applicable) will be published on the website.

In addition to maintaining biblical accuracy, Voices for Christ has established the following criteria:

- Must promote Jesus Christ, not a religion or denomination
- Must not contain any offensive language
- Must not be divisive or argumentative
- Must be original material

Currently, we are mainly accepting submissions from Macomb Correctional Facility. We would love to expand this ministry to other locations but are in need of additional volunteers before we can do so. We are praying for additional committee members to assist in the review process as well as volunteers to assist in keeping the database up-to-date and help with other clerical work.

If you are interested please let us know!

FIND US ONLINE AT:

[www.BehindTheNarrowWindows.org](http://www.BehindTheNarrowWindows.org)

### Contact Us...

Please feel free to contact Kyle Murphy via email at [murphy\\_k@live.com](mailto:murphy_k@live.com) if you are interested in finding out more about Message of Hope prison ministry. Don't forget to stay tuned to **Kyle's Blog** on the Roseville website for weekly updates, praise reports and prayer requests.



**ROSEVILLE  
CHURCH of CHRIST**  
17415 Eleven Mile Rd  
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**Website address:**  
[www.rosevillecoc.org/  
prison\\_ministry.php](http://www.rosevillecoc.org/prison_ministry.php)

**Interested in receiving  
our quarterly newsletter  
via email?**

Send your request to:  
[murphy\\_k@live.com](mailto:murphy_k@live.com)

*A Message of Hope  
MINISTRY SCHEDULE*

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month:

Level II church services (9:45 – 10:45 a.m.)  
Level IV church services (12:45 – 1:45 p.m.)

Every Wednesday evening:

Level II James Group (6:45 – 8:30 p.m.)  
*\*\*volunteers needed\*\**

Every Friday evening:

Level II Celebrate Recovery (6:45 – 8:15 p.m.)

MESSAGE OF HOPE  
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