

A Message of Hope – Prison Ministry

“God Changes the odds” by George Walker

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Quarterly Scripture Focus:

Romans 5:6-8

“You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Acts 12:5 “Peter therefore was kept in prison; but prayer was made without ceasing of the Church unto God for him.”

I remember watching a basketball game that was in the fourth quarter with only seconds left and the team with a two point lead has the ball with intentions on running out the clock and winning the game. I told myself this game is over and as I am getting ready to turn the channel the losing team steals the ball and shoots a three point shot and wins the game. I could not believe it and I seen it happen. The odds were stacked against the team that was losing.

It brings to mind Peter’s situation. King Herod wanted to afflict, torment and oppress some who belonged to the Church Act 12:1. He disliked them so much that he had James, the brother of John killed with a sword Acts 12:2. And because he saw it pleased the people he took Peter and had him imprisoned with four quaternions of soldiers around him. King Herod intended to kill Peter Acts 12:3-4. Let’s take a look at what Peter was up against:

1. He was imprisoned
2. King Herod wanted him killed.
3. He had four quaternions of soldiers guarding him. A Quaternion is a squad of four soldiers, so Peter had 16 soldiers guarding him.
4. King Herod had just killed James.

No doubt about it, Peter’s chances of surviving are pretty much one in a million. Now while Peter is in prison the Church is praying without ceasing unto God for him Acts 12:5. They have their faith in God and not man Psalm 118:8.

The night before Peter was to be killed King Herod had guards at the door of the prison and on both sides of Peter while he slept and Peter was chained to them Acts 12:6. But King Herod didn’t know the God that Peter served. He is a forgiving, merciful and loving God through whom all things are possible Matthew 19:26. While Peter slept the Angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him, saying, arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands. And the Angel said unto him, gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me Acts 12:7-8.

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Angel Tree - Update



“To open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.” Acts 26:18

Volunteer sign-up sheets have been posted in the lobby at the Roseville church of Christ for the **Angel Tree program**. Please be sure to sign-up if you haven't already as there is a limited number of positions for certain volunteer roles. The following positions will need to be filled:

Caregiver Contact Support

Message Presenter

Gift Purchaser

Welcome Party Planner

Gift Wrapper

Welcome Party Participant/Volunteer

We will be receiving the list of names (10 families) in early October. Keri will be scheduling a planning event to bring everyone up-to-date on the process and timelines.

Additional information can be found on the Roseville church of Christ website!!

A historical look at “The James Group”



A Vietnam veteran who was clean and sober through Alcoholics Anonymous and a man who was a medical professional were co-founders of the James Group in 1990. Both agreed on the need for a Christian-based recovery group where the Bible is viewed as the word of God and where the higher power is God as revealed in the Bible and His son, Jesus Christ. The group started meeting in facilities of the Webb Chapel Church of Christ in Farmers Branch, Texas.

The James Group is devoted to helping those who are held captive by the consequences of the choices they have made. The sole purpose of the James Group is to share our experience, strength, and hope with one another and reach out to others and help them to recover.

The mission of the James Group in the prison setting is to meet the spiritual needs of the members with the result of redirecting lives and restoring these individuals into the community as productive citizens, parents and family members. Redeeming, Reconciling, and Restoring lives is God's purpose and ours. By encouraging change from within the individual we also hope to reduce recidivism.

FACTS:

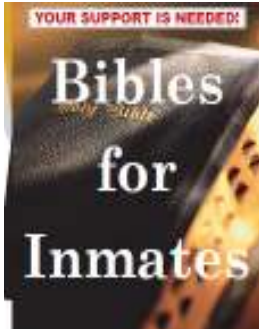
The lessons on the front page of our quarterly newsletter are written by Christian brothers at Macomb Correctional Facility.



Donations of the following supplies would be greatly appreciated for use each week during class (unopened items only please):

Sugar, foam cups, coffee creamer, instant coffee, plastic spoons, easy-zip freezer bags.

Bibles for Inmates – Donations accepted Memorial Day through Labor Day



Our Bible Drive was an amazing success. We want to start by saying thank you to those who helped to make it so successful.

First of all to Linda Badamo, who orchestrated the event.

Second, to all those who so graciously agreed be drop-off locations:

**The Elders of the Roseville church of Christ.

**Chaplain Roy Wolfe of the church of Christ Care Center

**Matt Makowski & Debbie McClellan of the Clinton Township Senior Adult Life Center

**Pastor Mark Reynolds & the wonderful staff at Bethany Baptist Church

Thank you as well to each and every one of you who lovingly donated new & used Bibles and partnered with us in this great endeavor.

To date, we have collected over 300 Bibles in addition to over 200 various other religious books.

NEW WEBSITE for “A Message of Hope” prison ministry

A special thank you to Keith Andersen for his love, hard work and diligence in this awesome resource!

We now have a webpage through our home congregation...the Roseville church of Christ. Here you can find why we got involved in this

ministry as well as many helpful resources, forms, links and previous newsletters.

There is also an area entitled “Kyle’s Blog” where additional information can be found. Please be sure to check the blog on the website often as I will be

posting [Prayer Requests](#) and updates frequently.

You can visit the website and find out all the latest news at:

www.rosevillecoc.org.

[Once on the home page of the website, click on the “Ministries” tab and then on “Prison Ministry.”]

Get Involved!

If you would like to get involved in serving the LORD through this ministry you can do so through:

Prayer

Fasting

Encouragement

Volunteerism

Volunteerism

Anyone interested in volunteering or attending the James Group, church services or other special events will need to complete a [Lien Application](#). These can be printed from the Roseville church of Christ website or by contacting Kyle.

**ROSEVILLE
CHURCH of CHRIST**
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Roseville, MI 48066

Website address:
www.rosevillecoc.org

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

Send your request to:
murphy_k@live.com

Contact Us...

Please feel free to contact us via email if you are interested if finding out more about the prison ministry or if you are interested in getting involved.

Kyle Murphy
Email:
murphy_k@live.com



Lesson (continued from front page)

Even with all the odds against Peter God brought him out of what looked like a hopeless situation. When you are under the cover of Jesus Christ you have got to know that He is in control of your life. Nothing is too hard for Him because He is all powerful 1 Chronicles 29:11. In our lives we are going to encounter situations like Peter did and are we going to give up or are we going to continue to press on toward the mark? There is victory in the name of Jesus Christ and we have to know this, believe this, speak the word over our situation, and walk in His victory. The battle is already won! Because He is always with us and He has the final word in all of our lives. Thank you Jesus!

George Walker , New Life Ministries

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