

A
MESSAGE OF HOPE,
comfort and freedom in Jesus Christ

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“The Most Excellent Way” by Kyle Murphy

The quarterly scripture verse comes from Paul’s letter to the church in Corinth. He spoke of The Most Excellent Way – LOVE. Paul explained that their acts of service as well as the gifts of the Holy Spirit manifested through them were all meaningless – without love. The same is true in our Christian walk today. We can claim to believe in God and we can claim to be in Christ but all our words and actions are meaningless without love.

Jesus taught about the type of love we are to have for one another when he told the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37. Later, when asked about which was the greatest commandment in the law His answer was, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind...and love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37-40) Jesus also demonstrated the type of love we are to have for one another. (John 15:13) He loved us

so much that He gave His life for us. The Apostle John explains this further in 1 John 3:16.

When we say we are an American we are telling others that we live in America; our citizenship is in America. In the same way, when we say we are a Christian we are telling others that we live in Christ. Galatians 3:26-27 states, “So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” Those of us who are in Christ need to be expressing the same love that Jesus taught about and demonstrated. Jesus told his disciples in John 13:34, “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

Turning again to Galatians, Paul writes in chapter 5 verse 6, “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that

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Quarterly Scripture Focus:

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:3

“And yet I will show you the most excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.”



We are always on the lookout for other Christ-centered ministries that share our passion for sharing the hope, comfort and freedom found in Jesus Christ with those who are incarcerated. One such ministry is While We Wait Prison Ministry (WWWPM). We have been very blessed to be able to serve with this ministry and become better acquainted with its founders. WWWWPM was started by a man of God inside as a way of encouraging and inspiring others who are inside (and their loved ones) to live their lives for Jesus Christ. It is the goal of WWWWPM to spread God's love by providing opportunities to prisoners and their loved ones for healing, forgiveness, strength, deliverance and restoration. It is for the glory of Jesus Christ.

WWWPM accepts articles from those who are inside and publishes their work in a newsletter. This newsletter is mailed quarterly to our brothers inside. WWWWPM started with sending newsletters to 130 people in 7 facilities back in 2011 and has grown to serving over 1,230 people throughout 31 facilities in Michigan! God is doing amazing things in this ministry.

In the short time I have known him - Hunter, the founder of WWWWPM, has encouraged and blessed me far beyond words can express. Please keep this ministry in your prayers.



Message of Hope has launched a new website!! Stop by and check it out at:

www.messageofhopeprisonministry.org

Find out how we began, what we are up to and much, much more!

The new website for the Voices for Christ ministry is well underway. We have received many submissions already with more being sent every week. If you haven't already checked it out please do so at:

www.BehindTheNarrowWindows.org

We have also created a Facebook page where we will provide updates when new submissions are added to the site. Please stop by and "Like" our page at:

www.facebook.com/behindthenarrowwindows



In our last issue (January 2014), we introduced a new ministry called One Day With God. Due to the weather, the camp that I was supposed to attend in Muskegon was cancelled. Since that time I was able to volunteer at a camp at Macomb Correctional Facility – which is the prison I currently volunteer at. What an amazing blessing! Words cannot express the awesome power of God and the incredible ability of the Holy Spirit to transform lives.

This ministry provides reconciliation between parent and child and also provides an opportunity for men and women to serve inside in a safe and pleasant environment. It was awesome to witness the walls of resentment and shame come crashing down as the love of Jesus Christ transformed both father and child – allowing them to re-unite with each other.

More information about volunteering is available upon request. For those wishing to get involved in other ways, please consider sponsoring a child. The cost to sponsor a child for a One Day With God camp is \$175.

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counts is faith expressing itself through love.” There are thousands of “Christians” who fill the pews in churches every week, but when it comes to expressing their faith through love, far less actually do so.

It is important to ask ourselves – Which type of Christian am I? Am I truly in Christ or am I merely claiming to be in Christ? If we are going to listen to Jesus’ instruction to love one another and follow His example, we start by learning to serve others.

We could change the world, especially the dark world that exists within the walls of prison, if each of us would take hold of The Most Excellent Way – LOVE. There are many opportunities, both directly and indirectly, to share the love of Jesus Christ with those in prison. To those who are truly in Christ, or those who wish to be in Christ, I would encourage you to start expressing your faith in love!



The James Group continues to meet every Wednesday with Level II from 6:45 – 8:30 p.m.

This past quarter we took a break from our 12 Step study and have been studying a course offered by NewLife Behavior Ministries called “Sense of Self.”

Each class starts with small groups where we discuss our successes/failures with the

changes we have implemented over the previous week.

Following that we have devotional time where we pray, share Bible verses and sing old-time hymns acapella. It is truly amazing to sing praises to our Father alongside these brothers in Christ. Hearing the voices of 20+ men glorifying our Lord is enough to bring tears to your eyes. What a blessing!

We finish each class with a lesson and then spend some time in reflection, discussing how we can apply the lesson to our lives. As always, anyone wishing to attend the classes or get involved please contact us!

Also, please pray that God will continue to bless this program and continue to change hearts and minds.

Get Involved!

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

- ❑ Prayer / Fasting
- ❑ Encouragement
- ❑ Donations
- ❑ Volunteerism

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Matthew 22:37-40

MESSAGE OF HOPE

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Website address:

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Interested in receiving our quarterly newsletter by mail or electronically by email?

Send your request to:
murphy_k@live.com

Contact Us...

Please feel free to contact Kyle Murphy via email at murphy_k@live.com or through the new website if you are interested in finding out more about Message of Hope prison ministry. Also, don't forget to stay tuned to our blog for updates, praise reports and especially weekly prayer requests (available at www.messageofhopeprisonministry.org).



Message of Hope
MINISTRY SCHEDULE

1st Sunday of the month:

Level II church services (9:40 – 10:40 a.m.)
Level IV church services (1:30 – 2:30 p.m.)

Every Wednesday evening:

Level II James Group (6:45 – 8:30 p.m.)

Every Friday evening:

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

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