

A
MESSAGE OF HOPE,
comfort and freedom in Jesus Christ

“The Comfort of the Lord” by Kyle Murphy

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**Quarterly Scripture
Focus:**

Isaiah 49:13

*“Shout for joy, you
heavens; rejoice, you
earth; burst into song,
you mountains! For the
LORD comforts his
people and will have
compassion on his
afflicted ones.”*

One of my favorite biblical texts can be found in 2 Corinthians 1:3-4. In this epistle, written by the Apostle Paul to the church in Corinth, we read about the comfort of the Lord. Paul explains that the Lord comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others in trouble. He writes, “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.”

This is something I experienced in my own life. Years ago, I found myself in a state of hopelessness, despair, depression, and the feeling of being trapped by my sins. I had given up on myself and on God...but He didn't give up on me! Instead, as the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, He showered me with love and sent others to show me comfort. Through this compassion and comfort, my hope was restored and I was set free.

What a blessing it is to have a heavenly Father who cares so much about us! We read in 2 Chronicles 16:9 “For the eyes of the LORD range

throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.” I am amazed every time I read that verse. The thought that the Creator of the universe loves us so much that He scans the earth looking to provide us, His faithful children, with strength – how incredible is that!!

If we need any more reminders of the comfort of the Lord we can look as well to Psalm 34:18 where we read, “The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” Our heavenly Father loves us deeply and is concerned about our well-being. He comforts us because He loves us and calls us to do the same for the rest of His children.

We are surrounded by individuals who are in desperate need of compassion and comfort. And it will come as no surprise that the prison is full of individuals such as these. The hurts and pain that are shared each week in the James Group are too big to be resolved in human terms. Only the comfort of the Lord can bring the healing that is needed.

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The Message of Hope correspondence course ministry is off to a wonderful start! We continue to use the material published by NewLife Behavior Ministries in an effort to help our friends inside be transformed (change their way of thinking in order to change their behavior). At this point we hold licenses for six courses and are looking to add more as we become able to.

Since our last newsletter, we have received a few more requests from friends inside desiring to become students and we are looking for additional instructors (especially men due to some of the course material).

If this is something you feel called to do please contact us through our website or by email for more information.



As many of you know, the James Group is a Christ-centered 12 step class we offer each week at Macomb Correctional. Over the last several months we have been praying about the possibility of expanding this portion of our ministry. We have sent James Group workbooks to individuals at other facilities but no formal classes have been coordinated. Recently, though, there have been a couple of major developments.

The first involves Macomb County Jail. We have been talking with the Chaplains at the jail, Steve & Robin Malek, about the possibility of starting a James Group and with their permission and prayerful support we have been approved to start a program! We hope to begin classes soon.

The second development involves a James Group program being implemented at Carson City Correctional. God put it on the heart of Hunter Tokar, a friend of ours and a brother in Christ, to start a James Group program at his facility and he has been given the approval by the chaplain and administration there! Those classes should be starting within the next couple of months.

It is amazing how God has opened the eyes of those in authority so they can truly see the impact Jesus Christ has in breaking the cycle of addiction. No other name has the power to break every chain!

While we are very excited for these opportunities we are also aware that there is not only a time commitment required but a financial one (to cover the costs of workbooks and Bibles). We ask that you please pray for these two new opportunities and all those who are participating in the classes. It is our hope that God will continue to transform hearts and lives through the James Group. Please contact us if you would like to make a donation to support these growing ministries.

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The amazing thing is, when we step out on faith, and answer God's call – sharing the comfort we have received from Him with others – we enjoy blessings along with those we are ministering to! God is able (and in my experience, most certainly willing) to “bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:8

If you are not already sharing the comfort of the Lord with others I would encourage you to look for opportunities to do so. You will quickly realize that it isn't hard to find others who are, like I was, living in a state of hopelessness, despair, depression, and the feeling of being trapped by sin. God will lead you to them and them to you. If you are experiencing a season such as I was, if you are hurting or without hope, please know there is nothing that can compare to the compassion and comfort we receive from God. **There is great comfort in the Lord!**

As our quarterly scripture verse states, “Shout for joy, you heavens, rejoice, you earth; burst into song, you mountains! For the Lord comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones.” Isaiah 49:13



God continues to draw more of our friends inside to the Voices for Christ ministry. At this point we have published over 200 submissions on the website – words of encouragement, lessons, poems, and testimonies.

We hope you have had an opportunity to read some of the inspired works that God has placed on the hearts of those who have joined with us in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. We encourage you to check back often – on the website as well as the Voices for Christ Facebook page – as new submissions are added each week.

Website: www.BehindTheNarrowWindows.org

If you are in need of brochures or consent forms to send to a family member, friend, or pen pal who is currently incarcerated you can download them from the website or let us know and we will do our best to get them to you (or them).

A MESSAGE OF HOPE, comfort and freedom in Jesus Christ Other Updates...

Other the last few months I have been taking a Basic Public Service Chaplaincy course. I'm pleased to share that I have graduated from the program and am now a Public Service Chaplain.

Chaplains serve in many professions such as: military, police & fire departments, hospitals & hospices, assisted living & nursing homes, schools & universities, jails & prisons, and within the community at large. God has specifically called me to serve within the jail & prison setting and I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve by bringing a message of hope, comfort and freedom to those who are incarcerated.

Stepping into the prison for the first time just over 3 years ago, I witnessed the awesome power of God like I had never experienced before. It's truly a blessing to be able to continue serving in this way and I praise God for blessing someone like me in such a way as this.

MESSAGE OF HOPE

PO Box 221
Washington, MI 48094

Website address:

www.messageofhope.org

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

Send your request to:
murphy_k@live.com

Contact Us...

If you are interested in finding out more about Message of Hope jail and prison ministry or want to get involved please feel free to contact us via email at murphy_k@live.com or visit our website.



New Web Domain

We have recently acquired a new web domain! Our new website address is: www.messageofhope.org

Please add it to your Favorites and stop by often!

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PO Box 221

Washington, MI 48094