

A
MESSAGE OF HOPE,
comfort and freedom in Jesus Christ

“Do Not Become Weary” by Kyle Murphy

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Lesson	1
Quarterly Scripture Focus	1
Volunteer Opportunity	2
Voices for Christ	2
Lesson (continued)	3
James Group	3
Correspondence Courses	3
Ministry Schedule	4
Facebook	4

Quarterly Scripture Focus:

Galatians 6:9-10

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”

In determining what topic to discuss in these quarterly newsletters I have done my best over these last few years to stay away from my own ideas and, instead, share as the Holy Spirit directs. The first time I failed to do this, my wife (when proofreading the article) fortunately pointed out it should not be published – ever. So, I returned to allowing God to direct the keyboard rather than my own hands.

That being said, over the last few months, the verses that are provided as our quarterly scripture focus (Galatians 6:9-10) have been impressed upon me – in multiple forms – more times than I can count. When this happens, I can only discern that the Holy Spirit is revealing something or speaking to me for one reason or another. Truth be told, it sometimes takes me a little while to catch on. That is probably why these verses were spoken into my life time and time again over the last few months...God knows me all too well. ☺

This admonition from Paul in Galatians, to not become weary in doing good, is of vital importance to us and our spiritual well-being. In jail and prison ministry, as with all ministry, it is very easy to become overwhelmed due to the imbalance between the amount of individuals who are in need of counsel or encouragement and those willing to provide it. Matthew 9:37 is a much used verse that is quoted...almost as commonly as Matthew 25:36.

In addition to this disparity, it can be discouraging (if we allow it to be) to see individuals falling back into their former way of living or refusing to allow God enough of a place in their lives in order for transformation to occur.

Paul encourages us, though, over and over again in his Epistles to press on and not grow weary. Just a couple examples are:

“And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good.”
(2 Thessalonians 3:13)

“Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your Lord is not in vain.”
(1 Corinthians 15:58)

Turning again to Galatians we find the reason behind why we should not become weary. Paul explains, “...for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Did you catch that? We press on and not become weary because we are told that we WILL reap a harvest.

For some, the harvest that we will reap may mean eternal life. To me, though, it entails more than that. To me, the harvest comes when someone I am ministering to or serving accepts Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior; or when someone is set free from the sin and addiction that has enslaved them; or commits their lives to God through being buried with Christ in baptism and

Continued on page 3...

Volunteer Opportunity

Message of Hope jail & prison ministry is once again expanding! We are in the process of developing a team of Prayer Warriors. The Prayer Warriors will be praying for our friends inside who request prayers for themselves or their family members. We have developed an email account from which the prayer requests from our friends inside will be disbursed weekly to the prayer team. This process would allow for a safe and anonymous involvement within the ministry.

We all know the power of prayer and our friends inside and their families are certainly in need of our prayers. If you are interested in volunteering or wish to submit your prayers requests, please do so at:

prayingforyou@messageofhope.org

We had shared about this opportunity on our Facebook page a month or so ago and want to thank Dale Ashton for his quick response in volunteering to be a Prayer Warrior. Dale is an awesome man of God who is (in my experience) always willing and eager to get involved with serving God...especially in the prison system. Dale provides support and encouragement to me, personally, on an almost daily basis. He is in Arizona so we have never met face-to-face but the Holy Spirit is not bound by location and has brought us together to serve alongside each other. Thank you Dale for being such a dear brother in Christ and for bringing glory to our God through your loving service!



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.

This day and age the internet reaches throughout the world allowing those who are behind the narrow windows to literally carry out the Great Commission as stated in Mark 16:15 and, "...Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."

Through this ministry our friends inside are able to submit works such as:

Words of Encouragement, Lessons, Poems/Hymns and Testimonies

After being reviewed, those that are approved are shared through the Voices for Christ website and Facebook page.

We are excited that we continue to receive many inspired submissions from our friends inside. We are especially excited about the influx of submissions coming from the women's facility in Michigan. They have submitted many beautiful and insightful poems and lessons as of late. We would like to encourage you to check them out when you have time. New submissions are added each week.

In other news, we were able to obtain a new domain for Voices for Christ. The new website name is:

www.voices4christ.org

This address is much easier to remember (hopefully) than the previous one - www.behindthenarrowwindows.org. Either web address can be used. Whichever you choose to type into your browser or save as a "Favorite" will get you to the right place!

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being raised to walk in newness of life. To me, THIS is the harvest that comes when we do not give up! Whatever the cost – whether it be time, money, sweat, tears – it is worth it for even one to find salvation!!

God has been reminding me over and over these past few months to not become weary in doing good because a harvest is coming – and He is faithful. I am confident that what He says will come to fruition. We WILL reap a harvest if we do not give up.

In fact, within this ministry, I believe the harvest has already begun. There have been those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior; who have been set free from the bondage of sin and addiction; and, who have been baptized for the remission of their sins. I would encourage all who read this to not become weary. Continue working for Lord and serving others in order to bring glory to our Father. The harvest is coming and it is plentiful!



Kyle (left) and Bertron “Brother Pete” (right), a former graduate of the James Group at MCJ. This picture was taken at a Macomb Jail Ministry volunteer event in which about 1,200 Easter bags were assembled for those who are currently incarcerated at MCJ.

The James Group is a Christ-centered Twelve Step ministry devoted to helping those who are held captive by the consequences of the choices they have made. The members of the James Group help each other work through the problems of their past and support each other's efforts to change their thoughts and behaviors (and, ultimately, their hearts). Our goal is to grow closer to God each day and learn to trust Him, His Word and His Will for our lives. We currently have groups meeting in three locations. An update on each of these groups is listed below:

- Macomb County Jail (MCJ): our 2nd class has come to an end. We had 29 participants throughout the 14 week program. Nine of the guys attended at least half of the classes and received certificates with three also earning certificates for Perfect Attendance! We are excited to be starting our 3rd class on Friday March 25th. As always, please keep this program in your prayers.
- Carson City Correctional Facility (DRF): we recently held our 3rd graduation ceremony for members of the James Group at DRF. Hunter reports that the classes scheduled to start in April and May are full and a sign-up sheet for June has started to circulate! We praise God for the hearts and lives being touched at DRF.
- Macomb Correctional Facility (MRF): We are just finishing a Twelve Step study at MRF. It has been an awesome study – with some great insight shared by many in the class. We are grateful for Ralph New, our volunteer who attends faithfully each week, as well as Tore Price, who facilitated a good portion of the study in partnership with myself.

Thank you for your prayers and support of this program that is helping to set many free from the cycle of addiction.



Message of Hope jail and prison ministry ended the 2015 calendar year with 27 students enrolled in the NewLife Behavior Ministries correspondence courses. These Bible-based courses are offered to our friends inside in Michigan and other states. Within the past three months the number of students has grown to 40 individuals. Unfortunately, the number of volunteers that assist with grading the lessons has decreased.

We shared this need in past newsletters and are asking again for your help. We need people who would be willing to grade and mail lessons to the men and women participating in these courses.

All correspondence is anonymous and is filtered through the ministry to ensure the safety of all graders/corresponders. Incoming mail is sent to Message of Hope's post office box and mail going inside is labeled with our post office return address label. Please contact us if you are interested in helping with this wonderful program.

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

Message of Hope weekly schedule

The James Group: Wednesday evenings from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

@ Macomb Correctional Facility, New Haven, Michigan

The James Group: Friday evenings from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

@ Macomb County Jail, Mount Clemens, Michigan



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Voices for Christ:
facebook.com/behindthenarrowwindows