



- 1. I would like to tell you about a couple of people** whose life has been changed recently due to our ministry. There is a guy at one of the correctional facilities that came forward in our program with Connasauga Tennessee Missionaries. He told me some of the issues he has been dealing with and how he had been pretty involved in church while locked up, but felt like he needed to come forward at the invitation. We talked some more and found out that he did not have the assurance that if he died today he would go to heaven. So, I asked him did he want to nail down his salvation that night. He said yes. So we prayed together and he asked God to forgive him and save him. The most amazing thing happened after we had prayed. He said to me, you know I see you all the time when you come here, and I kept on asking myself why you keep coming to this place. He said I am in a room on the front and I see you drive up (he described my car to me) and said I see you come with things for the center and I see that joy you have. He said I see that you have something that brings you back to this place time and time again, I see it on your face when you come. He said I know now why you come to this place, you have something we need, and that is Christ. I saw him recently, and I asked him how he was doing. He said he is a lot different, he hit the spot over his heart with his hand and said I am different here. I say all of this not to blow my own horn, but to let you know we make a difference when we go out to minister to others. It is not me, it is Christ that lives in me (Galatians 2:20). I also say this to let you know that wherever you go and whatever you do, someone may be watching, and one day come up to you and say I want what you have. I thank God for the opportunity that he has given you and me to be used when we are available to Him.
- 2. Over at the Savannah Baptist Center** the other day I ran into two guys who have recently been released from the jail. I saw one guy who was in the back with someone trying to get clothes and food. I told him I had an office there and if he ever needed someone to talk to, just come by. Well, that was all I needed to say, he said could we talk right now? I had someone working on something in my office, so we went out into the open fellowship area and started talking. Here was this grown man (fairly big with tears in his eyes) who was telling me how he had made some bad choices in his life and was still paying for them, that he could not seem to get away from those things in the past. He said God would bless him, then things would fall apart again. He told me he was living out on the street and had been sleeping on concrete for the last two weeks. He had been working with a guy who was pretty shady and into all kinds of drugs and alcohol. He told me he had not gone to work that day because he was sick, the sickness was because he had gotten drunk the night before. We got to talk about him and his relationship with God. Apparently he was trusting in God only for needed things, and not as his personal Lord and Savior. I say this because every time things got tough he turned back to the drugs and alcohol, not God. I asked him what he wanted to do about that, did he want to really get right with God and have a relationship, not religion. He said that he did. Right there in the middle of the room we prayed and he confessed Christ as his Lord and Savior, all the while with tears in his eyes. It is amazing how many people think they know God, but are only trusting Him for the things of life and not trusting Him with their whole being.



3. **One day at John Wesley** Mr. H came to our Monday services. He came into the service and immediately you could tell something was happening to him. God started stirring in his spirit and preparing him for the message that was to come. We sang a few songs, then I gave the message. I was going to preach on something else that day, but at the last minute God impressed me to preach on Galatians 1:6-12, where Paul says he cannot believe they are turning so soon from the Gospel that was preached to them to another gospel which is false. I preached about the false ways people think they are going to heaven as a part of this passage, then I laid out the True Gospel. At the end of the message I prayed with them and led them in a prayer of salvation and Mr. H. told me at the end that he had prayed to receive Christ as his Lord and Savior. This man is in his 80's and had religion all his life, not a relationship with the living God. You could see the change in this man as the service ended and we started to leave. He was thanking me profusely and you could see he was all smiles and very cheerful. He had God's love radiating from his whole being. Can you imagine how someone could go to church all their life and not really get saved? It happened to this man, and if we had not been there he would have gone straight to hell. I rejoice that we were there, thanks to your support and prayers.

4. **Let me tell you about JW.** I met him one day as I was leaving the jail and he asked me if I could give him a ride downtown, I said yes and we headed that way. He told me he had been locked up for 30 days and probably did not have a place to stay, that he had probably been evicted. I gave him a couple of quarters for the phone and told him to call me in the morning on my cell phone and I would meet him at the Baptist Center. I told him they could give him some clothes and something to eat. Early the next morning he called me and asked me if I was going to the Baptist Center, I said I would meet him at 8:30. When I pulled up he was waiting on me and we went inside to my office. I started talking to him and found out his puppy had been taken to the pound when he and his wife were locked up. We proceeded to try and find out where he was and if the dog was still alive. We finally found out the dog was alive and we could pick him up later in the day. We got JW some food and we started talking about his salvation. It turned out he said he was an alcoholic and he said he didn't know any other life than that one. I asked him didn't he want something better? I got to talking about sin and he got mad with me and started to head out the building. I followed him to the door and finally said something to him that stopped him in his tracks (I don't know what it was); God gave me the right words. We talked some more and I got him to understand that I was not putting him down, that we all have done wrong and need a Savior. As we stood outside the Baptist Center, we got down to the serious stuff of his relationship with Christ. I finally asked him did he want to trust Christ and He would change his life, he said yes. Well, I prayed with him just outside the doors of the Center and then he left. I did not know if he was praying with me just to get away from me, or what. I told him earlier that I would take him to get his dog, if he would come back at 1:00pm. I did not know if he was coming back, but when I got back at one, he was there waiting on me. We got back in the car and as we headed over to the pound he started apologizing for the way he had acted earlier. He told me while he was gone, he had heard someone was out to kill him. Then he told me his story, he said he had been lost in a poker game by his father at four years old, he had been into drugs and alcohol (an alcoholic) all his life and had done a prison term in



another state. He told me that he really meant it when he trusted Christ and that he had decided not to run from his problems, but to try to stay in Savannah and get his life straight. I haven't seen JW since, but I do know that we got the opportunity that day to show the love of Christ and talk about eternal things. God is using us to share the life changing power of Jesus Christ with those who need it, those that the world has forgotten. Amen. This is what it is all about.

5. **I would like to tell you about Susie;** she was over at one of the Assisted Living Facilities. She was about 96 at the time. She used to come in and sing with us, but when it came time to hear the message she would always leave. She was pretty mean to me and others who tried to talk to her, or be nice to her. Her room was close to the area where we conduct the services, so she could hear everything that went on. One day I noticed she stayed for the services and did not leave the whole time. It seemed to me there was something different about her. As time went on I realized that she must have received Christ as her Savior. Her whole demeanor changed. Yes, occasionally she was still mean, but overall her whole attitude and facial expressions had changed. She began to complement me on the services and the Word that was taught and how she understood everything I had said. She was a totally different person. Unfortunately she being older now (98), her health went downhill, but when we would go into her room, she had a positive attitude and asked us to pray for her. She said she would just listen from her bed since she could hear the whole service. Recently she passed out of this world into eternity, and I have no doubt that she is in Heaven right now because she heard the Word of God and it changed her life. I did not know until recently that she came out of a church background that does not preach the Gospel and was headed to hell until we came along. Thank God we got the opportunity to get her under the Word of God and she was saved from an eternity in Hell.

6. **I was holding church services** awhile back at Effingham Prison and when I started preaching I noticed an inmate staring at me really hard. Now this is not unusual for this to happen. Sometimes when you are teaching or preaching some of these guys will stare at you very intensely. Sometimes you have no idea what they are thinking and others you can tell that they are just hoping against hope that there is forgiveness, love, and someone or something that can help them while they are in this situation. You do not want to get into a staring contest with these guys, but you do want to look them in the eye and tell them the truth. You cannot be fake or wishy washy with them because they will spot that and lose respect for you. Well, this particular guy was staring at me really intensely and I was starting to wonder what he was thinking as I was preaching. About 90% of the way through my message this guy gets up and starts walking toward me all the while he is staring at me. I kind of thought to myself Oh, Oh, what is this guy going to do. I have no idea if he was trying to fake me out and scare me by doing that or what he was doing, but I did not back up, as I continued to preach while looking directly at him. But, I kept on preaching and looking him in the eye as he approached me. He got a few feet in front of me (still staring at me) and slowly curves around towards the bathroom. I thought to myself I guess I lost that one, he will not be back till the message is over. I guess I did not notice when he came back, but I finished my message and gave the invitation to receive Christ. At the end when the guys are coming forward to let me know of their decision and thank us for coming, I noticed this guy coming towards me. I had no idea what he was up to as he came towards me. Right as he reached me he opened his

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arms wide open and wrapped them around me as he hugged me and said thank you, thank you. That is the last thing I had expected, but I was blown away as I realized that once again, one of these guys was wanting someone to look them in the eye and tell the truth about Jesus and how they could be forgiven and saved. Had I backed up, watered down the truth or acted intimidated, he would have known that what I had would not help him. But I spoke the truth in love and he came to know forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

7. Marty,

I want to thank you for coming and seeing me. I heard my sister called you two hours after you came to see me. You coming to see me just confirmed what God has been telling me. I have been wanting to talk to you for a long time now. God has been chasing me for awhile now. That's why I needed to talk to you. I needed a brother in Christ to talk to; not just anyone will understand what I am going through. I don't know what God has planned for me, but whatever it is I am ready. I guess it took letting me come to jail to slow me down so I would listen to what He was trying to tell me. I have been running for a long time and not only pushing God away but also everyone I loved and who loved me. God has let me hit bottom so I would look up to Him. I have really hit bottom. I have lost everything, but I have God in my life and now I will live and work for Him. I know this is all true. I have joy and peace in my heart even in jail. So, I know when I get out I don't worry about a place to live or a job. I have that much peace in my heart. I hope we can get together cause I will need a brother in Christ to help me in my walk. I know I will have to change all the people, places, and things that I used to do. You know what I mean. God will be first in my life and then my children are next. I have lost so much time with them. I have a lot to make up to them. I have let them down so much, but with God in my life I am sure I will be the best father to them I can be. I have a lot to do and make up for, because all of all the bad I have done. So, I will either write or call you soon. You can tell others about how God sent you to see me. I know God did it. Thanks again for coming, and I thank God for sending you. Please pray for me.

God Bless,
Your Friend
B

1. **My name is Kerry Thompson** and I am a recent recruit to His Love Ministries. Shortly after joining Southside Baptist Church, I asked the Lord for help on what he wanted me to do to serve Him. After a lot of praying and listening, I received the answer. Help prison inmates to seek Jesus. Fortunately, I was introduced to Marty, who already had an active Prison ministry going.

After a lot of fruitless effort to get me in at the Chatham County jail, Marty finally got the OK for me to visit with him at Effingham Prison. I've been visiting the prison now for about seven months. And it has been a truly fabulous experience, a real blessing from the Lord. The entire session from greeting the inmates, the singing (these men know how to sing praises to the Lord!), the message and saying "goodbye until next month" is something I look forward to now.

A lot of people might think that prisoners are so unreachable that it's a hopeless waste of time trying to minister to them, this is not so. God made these men just like He made all men.

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They have strong spiritual needs and many are very receptive to Jesus in their hearts. God has a plan for each of these men just like He does for you and me. Fortunately, part of God's plan for me includes working with these inmates.

Marty is now trying to get me ready to prepare and deliver messages, to expand my involvement. I gave my first message, on prayer, to the folks at the Savannah Specialty Care nursing facility. That was an interesting experience because I got a lesson on time management. It's easy to say a lot about God! I also got to meet Arlette Wright, a super dedicated dynamo-non-stop in getting patients into the room for the service, passing out the hymnals and leading the singing. I just gave my second message at Tara and got to meet her grandson, a wonderful young man, whom I'm sure will have a great career in the Lord's service in some way.

To conclude, my service to the Lord with Marty has been a richly rewarding experience. May God bless you all.

Kerry

Note: Kerry has been preaching at Effingham Prison for over 3 years now. Early in 2004 he took over the services for me and has been doing a great job ever since that time.