

His Love Ministries

NURSING HOME, JAIL, AND PRISON MINISTRY

A Ministry Dedicated to Reaching out to those the World has forgotten

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Ministry Update From Marty

Dear Friends of the Ministry,

I want to thank each and every one of you who have given of your time, money, and resources to His Love Ministries. We could not have accomplished all the wonderful things this past year without your giving. We have truly been blessed by all you have done to make this past year possible. With your help we hope to make this year even better.

In 2009 we have already started stepping out in faith and expanding as we have an open door to minister to more Youth and Children at the Youth Detention Center and Coastal Harbor Treatment Center. We hope we can prevent them from ending up in Jail or Prison because they have heard about Jesus Christ and their life has been changed. Canas Blackston will be helping us by being one of our part-time ministers doing 3 services a week. As of February we will be providing 92 services a month at 30 facilities (Nursing Homes/Assisted Living, Correctional Facilities, Greenbriar Children's Home, the Youth Detention Center, and Coastal Harbor Treatment Center, over 1,100 a year). It is a privilege to minister each week to the forgotten, and we don't take that responsibility lightly. We intend to get as much ministry done each week as is possible. Last year through your help we adopted 36 Nursing Home Residents for Christmas who did not have family and would not receive a gift for Christmas. One of our volunteers adopted a man and when she went to visit him, she said he jabbered for about 45 minutes straight. I say jabbered because he could not speak so that she could understand him, but apparently really needed to speak to someone so badly that he just kept on jabbering. She said it was worth it for just that. I know most of the folks at the Nursing Homes are super lonely. Canas and I went by to see someone at the very first of the year and I thought they were going to pass out from the excitement of seeing us and having visitors to talk to. This dear lady has a hard time hearing, but she didn't stop talking to us the whole time we were there. Last year, thanks to you, we had the best year ever in terms of the amount of ministry done, people ministered to and even with our finances. We were still a little behind at the end of the year, but overall, even though we didn't know whether we were going to be able to pay the bills each week by the end of the summer, we made it by God's grace and your generosity. We stepped out in faith early last year and asked Greg Quarterman to help us part-time and he has been a blessing to the ministry and the people he has ministered to. We know this year that Canas Blackston is going to be (and has already been) a tremendous asset to us also as we move more into ministering to youth and expanding our other ministries. As Canas says, (and I agree) if people knew how much fun we have ministering to those the World Has Forgotten, we would have a bus load of folks wanting

2008 Ministry Accomplishments



I would like to give praise to our wonderful Lord and Savior who has allowed this Ministry to be the instrument used in at least 734 professions of faith, conduct over 800 Church services/Bible studies, and minister to over 22,000 people in 2008.

FROM CANAS BLACKSTON

I have had the honor of volunteering with His Love Ministries since July 2008 and have recently been blessed to have the opportunity to be involved with the ministry as staff beginning in January 2009. There are many things that have stood out to me during this period of time. First, is the tireless dedication of the staff and volunteers, not to a ministry philosophy, or the latest trends in "effective" ministry, or even the bottom line but to the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is commitment to Jesus that drives those who are involved with His Love Ministries coupled with the sincere belief that, in Christ alone lies the hope of those who are forgotten by the world. That in Him there is forgiveness, redemption, and endless optimism and possibility when ones' life is yielded uncompromisingly to Jesus. Second, I have been impressed with the focus of the ministry. Regardless of venue or audience, whether it is residents of an area nursing home or the inmates incarcerated at one of the areas prisons or jails, the focus of the ministry is on the Word of God alone. It is a firm and uncompromising commitment to the Scriptures that runs through every opportunity to minister to those who come. His Love Ministries preaches the same Jesus that those involved love and serve so faithfully, They preach Jesus alone, Christ crucified and risen from the dead, and coming again. It is a blessing to be a laborer in HIS harvest field, with such as these. I go to my task each week filled with joy and the wonder and excitement that comes from knowing that He has placed us where we are to do what we are doing and HE WILL DO THE WORK! HE WILL BUILD HIS CHURCH! Working with His Love Ministries is an honor and a privilege.....

For His Glory Alone, Canas Blackston

From Tom Keller

The most enlightening thing I've learned in 2008 concerning ministry with His Love Ministries is the profound reality that we all need to love and we all need to be loved. I began this ministry with an incredible burden on my shoulders because of all the people and their problems I was encountering. As time went on it first became too heavy of a burden to carry... the number one wrinkle in my understanding of God was the problem of pain and suffering.

I felt like a hypocrite as I sang "God Will Take Care of You" but as I sang I was thinking all along, God how is this lonely life in this lonely room God taking care of them? How can I, being one finite man, meet all the needs that I see set before me? It is one thing to sing "God Will Take Care of You" in a church where everyone looks pretty well taken care of but it is quite another thing to sing that song in a Nursing Home. It definitely refined some of the "glitches" in my understanding of God.

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Ministry Update Continued

to help us. It really is a blessing to have the privilege of ministering to others. And we do have a lot of fun. I often feel more blessed than the people I minister to when I get through with a service. You can be feeling down, stressed, or just out of sorts and when you go minister to others, it helps you feel better too. Now that is not why we do it, but hey it is a great side benefit. Guess what? You also have been called to minister to others by Jesus (cf. Mt 28:20 – Go and make disciples) and can get in on the blessing too if you want. We always need more help, especially right now in the area of life skills/substance abuse. We could really use some backup help for our program. If you know of any solid Christians, they don't have to be super saints and you don't either. We just need folks who have been saved, that want to grow in their walk with Christ, and have a desire to serve Christ with the abilities and spiritual gifts God has given them.

I know things are tough all over, but we don't have to give into the fear and let the might be's stop us from serving and giving to God. God is still on the throne. I believe that we as Christians are being tested to see if we are going to give in to the world's life style and worry. I know last year I came to the place where I was letting the stress of whether we were going to be able to keep ministering at the same level and seeing lives changed get to me, then I came back to my senses and realized that this is God's Ministry and He can do whatever He wants to do with it. If He wants it to grow, it will, if He wants it to shrink or shut down, He will do it. I think we need to have the same perspective in all of our daily living. I know a few years ago when I was laid off from my job and had no prospects, God gave me these verses. Deuteronomy 8:2 "And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. 3 "So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD. Ps 50:10 For every beast of the forest is Mine, And the cattle on a thousand hills. AMEN! AMEN!!!!!!

The Statistics for 2008

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| Decisions for Christ..... | 734 |
| Preaching Services..... | 624 |
| Bible Studies..... | 136 |
| Individual Counseling..... | 356 |
| Substance Abuse Programs..... | 50 |
| Special Programs..... | 21 |
| Bibles Given Out..... | 41 |
| People Attending Services..... | 22,438 |
| Number of Times Volunteering..... | 539 |
| Churches Preached At..... | 3 |
| Correctional/Homeless Facilities Ministered To.... | 8 |
| NH/Assisted Living Facilities Ministered To..... | 19 |
| Youth Facilities Ministered To..... | 3 |
| Total Facilities/Areas Ministered To..... | 30 |

"Letter From Tom Keller Continued"

It was through this struggle that I began to see the real purpose for me being there... they wanted to be loved AND they wanted to have somebody to love. I am there to love them but perhaps just as important to me loving them is the reality I am also there to give them somebody to love. It is rather humbling to say to you I am unable to love and give to everyone that needs my love but it is a blessing to say to you that I am loved by many, many elderly people. In fact I guarantee you that I am getting way more out of this ministry than I am putting into it. I just can't seem to out give God.

Between the frustration of trying to understand God within my pea brain capabilities and the microscopic attempts of mine to give the Glory Jesus Christ deserves I found myself feeling like I was lost at sea in the waters of the Lord's Glory. I not only saw my own small attempts but I saw everyone else as well. For none of us is righteous not even one.

I began to see that I was but a faint indication of the inestimable glories of our incomparable Savior. My attempts were and are but small brush strokes compared to the Supreme Artist the Holy Spirit who inspired the Holy Canvass of Scripture by painting the grandest of all masterpieces; THE SON OF GOD.

I began to understand and through that understanding see that most of our preaching these days is more man-centered than they are Jesus Christ centered. We are more about our own character than we are about Christ and we fail to understand that the indwelling Christ can create, mold, and make worthwhile character. My heart is motivated to lead all people to the One who is altogether lovely, the King amongst ten thousand, the Bright and Morning Star, for it is Him and Him alone who is worthy of worldwide homage. He alone is deserving of all Glory, and all Honor, and He alone holds within His hands all the power of all the universe combined.

He alone is worthy. He alone is righteous. And every effort I make to give to Christ the worship He deserves falls short and misses the mark. Even the best of letters and sermons require that I repent for not magnifying God as accurately as I should have for my heart is prone to wonder from the one I love. My letter falls apart in illustrating Jesus Christ because where I am not able to love all people and fulfill all the needs of all people... He is! But on the other side of the illustration God receives all of the love we give to Him. He fulfills our need of love and He fulfills our need to have somebody to love. We are all but a shadow of the true love of Christ. All of us together loving as Christ's love brings the magnitude of the Glory of Jesus Christ to earth. LOOK FOR SOMEBODY TO LOVE AND BE THERE FOR SOMEBODY TO LOVE YOU IN 2009!!

Clinging to the Cross, Tom Keller

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