



## October Newsletter 2014

### I am paralyzed!

I was paralyzed, unable to come to Jesus on my own. I was living a lie – I let on that I had everything under control, but God knew the truth, and so did some of my friends. They brought me to Jesus, just like in the Bible:



So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, digging through it, lowered the mat the paralytic was lying on. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, **“Son, your sins are forgiven.”**

Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, **“Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins....”** He said to the paralytic, **“I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.”** He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!” Mark 2:2–12

Now, get the picture; it’s already chaotic enough, with Jesus crammed in a room with ‘way over the legal limit for fire code occupancy. It was hot, sweaty, and smelled like “the great unwashed” had assembled from far and wide. Jesus didn’t seem to mind, but the whole scene was much to the distaste of the Pharisees and teachers, who were there, not to hang on Jesus’ words for hope, but to find a chink in His armor, a misstep in his teaching that they could use against Him. Unsavory task, but necessary. But, as bad as it was, it was about to get worse.

Someone was on the roof! What would anyone be doing up there on a hot day like this? Suddenly, without warning, dirt and roofing debris, including a few heavy tiles, came raining on their heads. Cursing and coughing as bright beams of sunlight illuminated clouds of dust in the dark room, the scholars tried to get away from the worst of it. A figure appeared in the hole, limp and contorted, supported in a cloth sling with ropes, lowered down by men with faces alive with anxious exertion, loving concern, and tentative hope, right in front of an unperturbed Jesus. Compassion shone in His face as He reached up to help guide the man to the floor.



I was this man, and so are many at the jail! And his words were for me, too; **“Son, your sins are forgiven!”** I thank God for His love and compassion for me, and I thank Him for my friends, who carried me to my Savior by their prayers and encouragement. It was messy work! So today, I want to ask you, who are you carrying to Jesus? For whom are you tearing up roofs, removing obstacles, breaking through barriers? When we do, Jesus reaches out and heals our deepest hurts, and everyone who sees it stands amazed; “We’ve never seen anything like this!” Join us as we bring in His glory amid the mess at the jail!

## Food & Clothing Closet at DRC

The **Day Reporting Center**, remodeled from a wing of the old Juvenile Hall, is where inmates released on ankle bracelet monitoring come together for mandatory classes, meet with officers to schedule their weeks (every location and time must be approved ahead of time), utilize computer resources for resumes & job search, and meet new mentors. There is also a food & clothing closet to meet needs and provide clothing they are likely to be hired in! Think about it; doesn't the clothing you wear to a job interview affect whether you are likely to be hired? If you would like to help someone struggling to make it work on the outside with food or clothes, especially if you have some interview-quality clothes to spare, you can bring them by the DRC at 41 County Center Dr. in Oroville, or just give me a call or an email, and I'll arrange to pick them up. Thanks for caring!

## Safe Families

I met recently with Larry Dunn, who is heading up the Safe Families program for the Oroville and Butte County area. Safe Families is a program that recruits and trains volunteers to provide care for children of parents who find themselves unable to meet their children's needs for a time. This may be due to illness (cancer, surgery, etc.), homelessness (loss of job, foreclosure), or incarceration. These are situations where there has been no neglect or abuse mandating CPS to remove the children and involve them in the foster care system. Volunteers are screened and trained, and supported by others who provide help as respite providers, mentors, and social workers. If you know someone who needs help in this area, or would like to provide help to children in need, please contact me, or call Larry at 534-7120 ext. 237. Please pray for children who often fall through the cracks!

*"Let's offer an alternative to tolerance: transformation. Jesus wants to be a real Person in our lives, not just a religious option. He is more than an idea, a dogma, or even a savior. He is living and active in our world today. If our culture saw more of him in our lives, they would want more of him in their lives. Every time I fail morally, it's because I have ignored or rejected the Christ living in me. Every time I choose to be holy, it's because I have chosen to be empowered by the Holy Spirit in me."* Jim Denison, in Denison Forum

## New Address

Please notice that ARM has a new address. We are no longer in Biggs, we've moved to Oroville. Closer to the jail, closer to the action! Our new contact is **PO Box 5651, Oroville, CA 95966**.

## AmazonSmile

For those of you who like to shop on-line, Amazon has made available AmazonSmile, which works the same as regular Amazon, except that Amazon donates .5% of your purchase amount to the charity of your choice. I would love to see all of our supporters making use of this to help fund your favorite ministry, and we at ARM would be honored if you chose us as a vehicle to bless your neighbors at the Butte County Jail. [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com)

## Prayer Requests:

- Praise God for new disciplers (CJM's) stepping forward, and for God's transformation in their lives and in the inmates they serve. Praise Him for expressions of gratitude and thankfulness.
- Please pray for donations of Christian books, concordances, and study Bibles for inmates who lead in their pods. Pray also for wisdom and workers to expand into the Juvenile Hall, and for Roxanne's surgery Oct. 14.

May God use you, too, for His glory!

Ian and Roxanne Carlisle

