



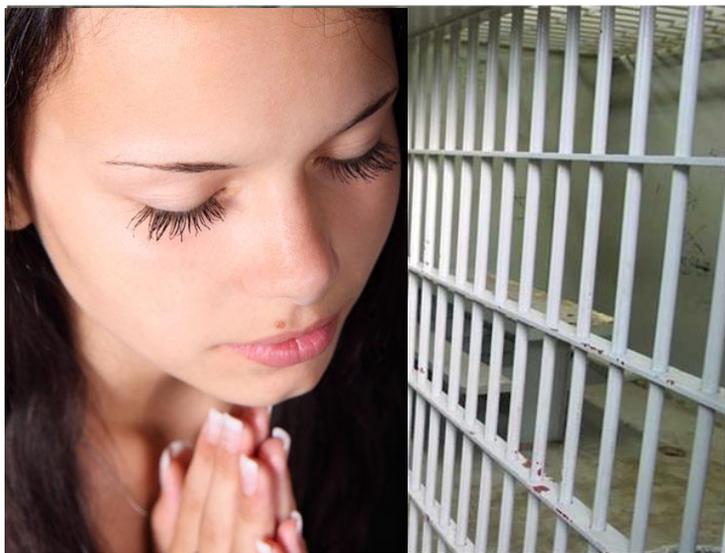
February Newsletter 2013

Titus 3:3-8 (The Message) — ³ It wasn't so long ago that we ourselves were stupid and stubborn, dupes of sin, ordered every which way by our glands, going around with a chip on our shoulder, hated and hating back. ⁴ But when God, our kind and loving Savior God, stepped in, ⁵ he saved us from all that. It was all his doing; we had nothing to do with it. He gave us a good bath, and we came out of it new people, washed inside and out by the Holy Spirit. ⁶ Our Savior Jesus poured out new life so generously. ⁷ God's gift has restored our relationship with him and given us back our lives. And there's more life to come—an eternity of life! ⁸ You can count on this.

New Life in the Jail

Praise God for His grace and power to work in “the least of these,” and for allowing us as His servants the opportunity to watch Him at work!

I have been discipling a young man in the jail who has been dramatically saved as a result of “hitting bottom” in his cell. He has been reading his Bible, praying, and writing to his girlfriend, who is also in jail. He told me she doesn't know the Lord, and asked me to visit her. When I did, I meet a quiet, pretty young woman who shyly asked why I had asked to see her. I told her that her boyfriend had asked me to visit her, and her eyes brightened. She was from a family where God has no place, so her boyfriend's letters speaking of his new-found faith were mystifying to her. She had no context for what he was describing. She had received a Bible, and tried reading a few passages, but really couldn't make any sense out of it.



As I explained who God has revealed Himself to be, and the Biblical story of our creation, fall, redemption, and hope of glory (a lot to cover in just an hour!), she listened carefully and asked a few questions as a whole new vista on reality opened up before her eyes. She said it made sense to her now. I explained how we each needed to invite Jesus to come into our lives as Savior and rightful King, and asked if she wanted to do that. After a few more questions, she said she did, and we prayed together as a new soul was born into eternal life! Yes! Go, Jesus! I gave her some guidance on how to begin reading the Bible (start in the gospel of John) and praying (just sharing her heart with her Father who loves her) and our hour was up. I told her to write her boyfriend and tell him what she had done, and I'd be back to see her again.

Pray for her, that she would spend her time in solitary confinement learning and growing in her newfound faith, and that Jesus would continue to move in her and her boyfriend's hearts and lives.

Mentoring. The response to my article in *PastorTalk*, in the Chico Enterprise Record and Oroville Mercury Register, has been great! If you missed it, it's on our web site, <http://www.armbutteco.org>, on the "What We Do" page under "About." Our web site is still under construction, so if you can't get the article easily, just email me.

If you're interested in being used of God to help an ankle bracelet releasee (a person on flexible house arrest) make life on the outside a success, email me or call me to get on the list for the February 23rd Mentor Academy. As I attend the committee meetings and meet weekly with my ankle bracelet releasee, I see and hear the difference that a caring mentor makes in the life of someone struggling to figure out how to make life work. Yet, there are so many more men and women who need that one-on-one support. So far we have about 25 new mentor trainees signed up. Jesus can help these releasees, and change our community – and He can use you! Pray for the releasees, as they learn to walk in freedom. Pray that Jesus will show you, and many others, how you might be called to help.

Greater Oroville Youth and Family Coalition.

I have had the pleasure of meeting Dr. John Rivers (left), who chairs the GOYFC, and joining one of their meetings. They are a group of citizens, students, church and civic leaders from many ethnic communities, who are committed to combating violence and gangs in the greater Oroville area. We discussed strategies and practical steps to bring healing to families who have had young members killed or injured in recent violence, and tactics for reaching kids early to keep them out of gangs. The Coalition's desire is to see churches, parents, student leaders, school and government officials all cooperate to save the next generation from the kind of tragedy that gangs and drugs are causing now. On March 22nd at 6 pm, they have scheduled a free movie on gangs and anti-gang strategies at the State Theater (1489 Myers Street). City council members will be present for questions afterward.



Praises and Prayer Requests:

- Our biggest need is for partners to join us. The fields are white, ready for harvest. Nowhere else have I seen such eagerness for the gospel, or such potential to transform our community's life and health. Pray that the Lord of the harvest will raise up workers, teachers, mentors, pray-ers, helpers, and givers. Pray for churches and Christians in Butte County to hear of the need, and rise to the call of our Savior.
- Please pray that God will raise up prayer warriors and a Prayer Coordinator, someone who would take the initiative to get our specific prayer requests out to those who have committed to hold ARM's ministry to inmates and their families up before our Lord.
- Pray for Roxanne and me as we undergo several days of Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) training in Rocklin in mid-March. May God use these skills to help us work with people going through crisis.

I'm excited to watch what God is doing, and going to do!

Thank you for your prayers, your help, and your encouragement. May our God work in your life and among us together in a mighty way in 2013!

Ian and Roxanne Carlisle

