



*Life is messy, but Jesus gives hope
to all who need to be set free
behind bars of steel
and walls of bitterness.*

March Newsletter 2014

Do You Have Beautiful Feet?

And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls. — Joel 2:32 (ESV)

Amid the wreckage of this world, broken lives and families, those who call on the name of the Lord shall be saved! But we are given the joyful task of searching out the survivors, those who need to hear the Lord's call!



How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." ... Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. — Isaiah 52:7-9 (ESV)

Are you willing to get your feet dirty? Are you bringing the Good News to those who are waiting so desperately to hear it? Are you publishing peace, and happiness, and salvation, in your community? Are we demonstrating that our God reigns in our hearts, in our circumstances, in our priorities, and in our actions? Are we singing God's comfort and redemption to the wasted places in Butte County, to the lost, the broken, the orphan, the homeless, the prisoner? In Romans 10, Paul cites both these prophetic scriptures as he calls the Church of Jesus Christ in the first century, and in the twenty-first century, to fulfill God's great commission:



For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they

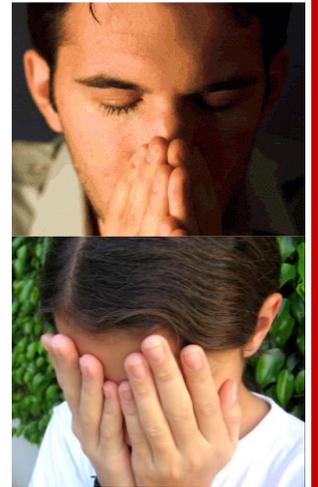
to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

Are we going? Are we sending? I pray every day for the Church in Butte County, to rise up and fulfill God's call to His people, to rescue those who are perishing, to find those who are searching, yearning for that way of escape that Jesus provided for us. I know where they can be found – the Butte County Jail has about 600 of them!

Ministry to the Butte County Jail - inmates & families Ian Carlisle, Chaplain
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Questions (unedited) from Juvenile Hall

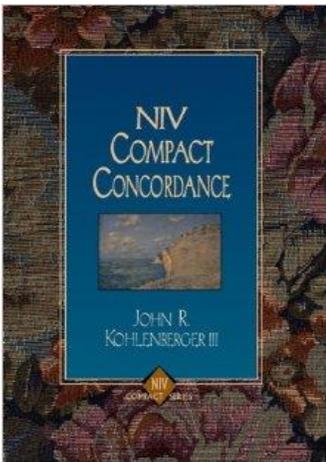
*What if I would have just chose to stay home that tragic day?
What if I get shot too and my daughter has to grow up without her daddy
because her father was a gang banger?
What if I never chose to live that "fast life?"
What if seems to be a pretty good question right now.
Not a day goes by that I don't think about how things could have been -
how things should have been.
But everything happens for a reason right?
We reap what we sow, but it's time I reap my past and sew up my future.*



God yearns to answer their questions, to show them His love, to call them His own, His children, to “sew up” a future they can’t, a future with hope and a purpose. Many are ready, prepared by God to finally listen to His voice. Some of them know a father figure, others never have, but our heavenly Father wants to show them they do have a Father who cares about them, no matter how many mistakes they’ve made. And He has a plan for them, “a plan to prosper them, and not to harm them, a plan to give them a hope and a future!” (Jeremiah 29:11)

But who will go? We want to say with Isaiah, “Here am I; send me!” Please pray with us that God would call His people, prepare our lips and hearts as we make plans to reach out to the youth in Butte County Juvenile Hall.

Concordances



Last month I told you that, as I visit in the jail, I am always looking for inmates who have started leading Bible studies among their peers. When I find a natural leader like this, I meet with them one-on-one to find out how I can help equip them to fulfill their calling. To date, we have distributed about twenty donated study Bibles, fifteen Bible handbooks, hundreds of study guides, and now probably the most important tool (outside of the Bible itself), about ten real concordances (bigger than the one in the back of a study Bible). This equips them to research almost any question that starts with “What does the Bible say about...?” We purchased some used copies of the NIV Compact Concordance for about \$4 each, but we need more. The NIV is the translation the jail visitors distribute to the inmates. Please pray and ask God if He would have you partner with us in equipping these leaders, to consider a one-time gift to help us to buy fifty of these concordances, providing these God-gifted leaders with discipling tools they will put to use right now. Any increment of \$4 will help!

Prayer Requests:

- Praise God for more disciplers who are stepping forward each month, as Certified Jail Ministers, meeting inmates weekly to work through a Navigators curriculum. Pray that relationships would grow, and pray for the inmate leaders, visitors, mentors, pray-ers, and givers, whose *beautiful feet* are bringing the gospel to prisoners. Pray that whole churches in Butte County would rise to Jesus’ call.
- Please pray for wisdom and workers as we explore how we can expand to meet the needs in Butte County’s Juvenile Hall.

May God encourage your walk with Jesus, and use you, too, for His glory!

Ian and Roxanne Carlisle

