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“Cast your burden upon the Lord and He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.” Psalm 55:22

It's hard to believe it is already the first week of May. We're thankful the weather has calmed down compared to the last two weeks of April. Our prayers go out to the people who lost loved ones and property during the recent tornados and flooding in the south. Some of the photos we have seen of the funnel clouds and damage is just unbelievable. A young man we write to at the Federal prison in Marianna, FL has family in Cullman, AL. We were glad to hear they were not injured in the storms.

Larry spent three days ministering at the prison in Malvern during April. He also took some books, Bibles and Bible studies to Texarkana Work Release and Dept. of Community Correction in Texarkana. He spent one day at the Tucker Unit in Tucker, AR and made a trip to the prison in Brickeys, AR to finalize details of our rodeo/revival. He was looking forward to attending a three-day chaplain's conference in Eureka Springs, AR. The day before he was supposed to leave he found some problems with my car so he cancelled the trip. The next day, we had problems with our plumbing in our half-bath. Believe me, he would have much rather been in Eureka Springs than working on a car and plumbing fixtures. Larry and Darryl rode up to Hot Springs on April 9 for a Scripture run. They were the only two bikers who showed up other than the bikers from the church who were sponsoring it. It was a beautiful day, perfect for a ride and they had a good meal at the end of the ride. After the ride, they discussed ways they could draw more bikers to the next run. Larry and Darryl both thought that calling it a “Scripture Run” might have kept some of the secular bikers from coming.

Larry, Darryl and I rode up to Jacksonville, AR on Sunday April 10 to go to church at Hardrider's. Our friend Tattoo Jim is the pastor of the church, which is held at a biker bar. The service was outside the bar on a patio area. They had a guest speaker that morning and we stayed for a potluck lunch after the service. The Gospel Outlaws were in charge of the praise and worship during the service. They will be coming to a revival and fellowship we are having at Teen Challenge in Hot Springs on July 16.

We had a great time at the rodeo/revival at East Arkansas Unit in Brickeys, AR the last weekend in April. We were determined to go even if the rain and flooding kept us from being out on the yard on Saturday morning. We did make one change to the schedule and decided against having a service on Sunday morning. There was another storm coming in late Saturday or early Sunday and we thought it would be best not to be traveling in the heavy rains they were forecasting. As it turned out, we got into a storm on the way home in North Little Rock. Danny and Morrie got into some heavy rain past Little Rock on I-40, but everyone made it home safely praise the Lord.

Our group got to the prison on Friday afternoon and visited barracks 1-8. These men would be the ones who would be attending our Friday night service. I'm not sure how many men came to the service but there was a good crowd. Several of our team members shared short testimonies before Danny brought the message. This was Hillbilly's first time with us. He told the men he had done time at Brickeys back in 1995 and actually helped build the prison. After his fifth time in prison, he took Jesus with him when he left and hasn't been back other than to minister.

Saturday morning we were at the prison at 7AM to take the bikes on the yard. The men enjoyed looking at the bikes and visiting with us. Some of the team members shared testimonies and Melinda and Morrie sang. The captain mentioned they are building a new bigger yard area so we're hoping next year we can use the new yard and do some bike games while we are there. Around lunchtime, we went back in the prison and visited the men who would be coming to the Saturday night service. We had a bigger crowd that night and another good service. Evidently satan didn't want Melinda to sing. She had trouble with her accompaniment CDs both nights but praise God she sang anyway and did a great job. Danny brought the message again and stressed how important it is to know who we are in Christ Jesus. He told the men they needed to be the men of God that He has called them to be. If we are in Christ, we are new creations and the old has passed away. If the men would just get plugged in to Jesus and stay plugged in, they wouldn't have to worry about going back to their old ways and eventually going back to prison. We met several men who were being released soon. We stressed how important it is to find a church where the Bible is preached and to get involved in that church.

It would be hard to say how many men we talked to that weekend. In the short time we were there, we visited a total of twenty barracks. By the end of the day on Saturday, we were tired but I think our team members would agree that it was well worth it. Some of the men we met told us right away that they wouldn't come to service. They gave us their reasons and excuses. Those are the ones we try to minister to right there in the barracks while we have the opportunity. We talked to a young man we used to write to who was released from another Arkansas prison last summer. He is back in on a new charge. I jokingly asked when he wanted his whipping and he said he deserved one. He had trouble finding a job, quit going to church and now he is suffering the consequences. Many of these men just want someone to listen. We never ask why they are in prison but one young man whose artwork I admired told me he was in for murder and described how he killed his stepfather. According to him, his stepfather had abused him for years but when he found out he physically abused his mother he took matters into his own hands. Another man who was just a few years older than Larry and I asked for prayer that he could go home soon. He has been in for over twenty years for a non-violent crime and just wants to go home and be with his family. Some of their stories break your heart, especially the ones who are so young or ones whose families have turned their backs on them.

Bikers IV Jesus will be going to the Delta Unit in Dermott, AR the weekend of May 14 for a rodeo/revival. We usually hold a spring and fall revival at this unit but we couldn't go last fall because there had been some fights out on the yard. The men have written to tell us they look forward to our visit and are praying for a peaceful weekend. There are a couple rallies in May and June that we plan to attend as well. Larry will be officiating at a wedding on June 17. We're making plans to have the rodeo/revival at the Ouachita Unit in Malvern, AR in early June. We will be celebrating our thirty-sixth wedding anniversary on June 27. It doesn't seem like we should be that old! We'll be taking a group to Teen Challenge in Hot Springs, AR on July 16 and will also be going to the women's prison in Pine Bluff, AR the last weekend in July. This will be our first time at this unit and we're really looking forward to the opportunity.

We're counting on your help to pay for the gasoline we need along with the rally entry fees and motel expenses on the weekend prison runs. We don't eat at five-star restaurants or stay at expensive hotels when we travel. We find the best deal possible on the motels and eat off the dollar menu at fast food restaurants. Your prayers are also important. If you can't give, pray that those who can give will be obedient and give what the Lord lays on their hearts.

In Christ's Love,

Larry & Kathy