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‘If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and heal their land’. 2 Chronicles 7:14

I am writing this on May 24, the day before Memorial Day. The Scripture above is one that I used for our 2019 May newsletter, but I feel it is even more appropriate in the times we are living in today. We have some government officials who are trying their best to turn our country into something that God never intended it to be. This weekend we remember those brave men and women who died to protect our country and our freedom. It is time for us as believers to stand up for Biblical values and our God given freedom.

The prisons in Arkansas still won’t allow volunteers to come in. There were some prisoners and staff at a few prisons who tested positive for the virus and some prisoners passed away. The last time Larry checked, there had not been any confirmed cases of the virus at the Tucker Unit praise God. We aren’t sure at this time when they will allow volunteers to go back in. I started working from home on March 25 and continued to do that until May 1. As of last week, we were back to work with full staff on our regular schedule. That is a blessing considering how many people have been laid off or lost their jobs.

We got a letter from a Christian brother at the Varner Unit in Gardy, AR. We have known Dale for twenty years now. He sent us a card that was made by one of the prisoners. He asked if we would like them to make cards of encouragement that we could mail with the ‘Cancer Be Gone in Jesus Name’ books that Richard Headrick wrote. We wrote back and told him we would love to do that. Dale said they also have a prayer group that would pray for those we sent books to.

Several of the prisons were letting the men make free phone calls during the virus outbreak. We talked to David Brown who is in Abilene, TX one afternoon. We write regularly but we had not talked to him in several years so that was a blessing. We also got calls from Rodney Utley who is in California and Mark Wright who was in a Federal prison in Illinois. Mark has since been released to a half-way house in the Dallas area. Mark was the first prisoner Larry ministered to. They met when Mark was in the Hempstead County Jail in 1999. He was found not guilty by the State of Arkansas but was sentenced to Federal prison and has been locked up for over twenty years. He left Illinois by train and the train came through Hope and Texarkana on the way to Dallas. The train stopped briefly in Texarkana and he saw the Bi-State Jail where he spent several months. He told us he felt like God was telling him that he had come full circle and it was time to start a new chapter in his life. Praise God for new beginnings!

Larry also performed a wedding at our house on April 14 for Chuck and Terri Ferrell. We met Chuck when we first started doing prison ministry in 1999. He has been home since September of 2015. He asked Larry if he would do the honors of marrying him and his fiancée Terri. It was a small, simple ceremony but we were glad to be a part of it and pray God will bless their marriage.

Larry mailed several postcards to prisoners one afternoon just to let them know we were thinking about them. One of them wrote back and thanked him for writing to him. Since we were home more than usual the last couple of months, I decided it was a good time to clean out and organize several boxes of ministry papers. I started reading old letters and cards we had received over the years. There is one man who always remembers our birthdays, our anniversary and sends us cards for Mother's Day and Father's Day. He even remembered the date I finished chemo treatment and sent me a card this year. I found a file that had information on Hepatitis C drugs that I had researched for a brother in Christ who passed away in 2018. I found several Christmas cards from men who passed away in prison or after they were released. I found some thank you notes for donating equipment to a chapel or baking brownies for the chapel workers. Going through these things brought back a lot of good memories.

We pray that Larry can get back in the prisons soon. And we hope that some of the local rallies and events will go on as planned since most states are opening back up. Bike Week in Myrtle Beach, SC is usually held in May but has been rescheduled for July. We have always wanted to go and are considering going in July. The Motor Maid Convention has been moved from July to August and will be held in Rapid City, SD. We are planning to go. The City of Sturgis, SD will meet on June 15 to decide whether to hold the rally in August this year. We are waiting on their decision before we make our plans.

We are thankful for all of you that continue to support us with your prayers and finances. God certainly didn't cause the virus outbreak, but we pray it has opened the eyes of people to see the truth and to realize what is truly important. Keep praying for each other and our leaders. As James 5:16 says 'Therefore, confess your sins to one another (your false steps, your offenses), and pray for one another, that you may be healed and restored. The heartfelt and persistent prayer of a righteous man (believer) can accomplish much (when put into action and made effective by God—it is dynamic and can have tremendous power).'

Blessings and Peace,

Larry & Kathy