

Ol' Nate's
 Corner

I don't know how you all feel about starting each day, but I like to have something to do. You know, some goal to achieve; something real to believe in (especially if I think it's going to glorify the Lord or His kingdom)...a purpose in life that fulfills that hunger deep inside of each of us. I'm saying all of this just to say that I am very pleased to be still contributing to the Stone Tablet. I thank the staff and especially Don & Sandra for their support. May our Lord continue to bless them and this ministry. It is my prayer that we are all a blessing to our readers and their families.

Not too long ago a friend asked me to contribute to his project of creating another "Daily Bread" type of book. Naturally, I agreed to help and I suppose I have satisfied his needs 'cause he hasn't asked for anything else. I'm going to share one of these daily inspirations with you all, hoping to inspire you in your daily walk with the Lord. Here goes:

Hebrews 11:6 "But without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."

This verse tells us exactly how to please the Lord—"BY FAITH IN HIM." Sounds easy, doesn't it? Apparently it's not. Just look at all the wonders the Lord showed the Israelites when he brought them out of Egypt and while they traveled in the wilderness. Even after seeing all those miracles we have read about, their faith was so weak it kept them from the promised land. I wonder who they thought was supplying their every need? Do you know who's supplying your needs?

I can answer that last question for you - the LORD, that's who. He's the one who's made it possible for you to survive on this glorious planet earth. It's only because of His everlasting mercy that any of us are still here, alive and well. Knowing this should strengthen YOUR FAITH IN HIM and make you want to seek Him and come to know the Lord as your Father.

Let me take this a step farther for you and hopefully help you draw closer to the Lord. He is our Father and He is the very best Father one can have. When you can believe this and can learn to talk to Him as a child to a father, then you will surely see His ever-loving hands in your life. He'll show up and show out in your behalf. Seek Him with your whole heart and be rewarded. He loves all His children. His children know "HE IS."
 HAVE FAITH - BELIEVE - BE BLESSED...

† † †

A True Story (Part 2 of 2)

The young man was not at all happy with his life and suffered from severe chronic depression and every day wished his life to end. But it was not to be, for no matter what he tried, he could not die.

So one day, he decided to rob a bank and hopefully, when he did, the security guard or even the police outside would shoot him and kill him! At the worst he would go to prison and there be killed or at best be rehabilitated. What a grand plan - "the plans of mice and men!" Ha!

The heist went down. No guard was around, no cops outside, no chance to die! Later the cops came, but the opportunity had passed. So the man went to prison expecting the best: treatment and a cure for his depression or death. No cure came and treatment was slow, so the man remembered God and prayed for deliverance. The man tried to do right and live for God, but it was beyond him to accomplish. He decided one day that if there was a God who loved him, that God would love him enough to cure his depression. But, since there was no cure forthcoming, there must not be a God!!

The man then went on a quest - a search to prove there was no God. On this quest, he proved to himself, without a doubt, that there was no God. The man became a very militant atheist and made it his mission to prove to "Christian" inmates at the prison he was at that there was no God. He was a success at this and presented his case to many and even convinced a few to throw away their Bibles and quit wasting their lives chasing after a God that didn't even exist!

When the man got out of prison, he tried to be an ethical atheist. He worked hard every day, didn't do drugs or drink, did nothing to harm anyone, and yet he was still depressed and wished for life to be over.

Then he met a lovely seductress that could meet all his sexually immoral desires. The man thought that maybe she would make his life more complete. The woman claimed to be a "Christian" and acted with acceptable morals outside the bedroom and as long as she didn't try to convert the atheist, he saw the depraved good he could get from the relationship.

And still the mother prayed day and night for God to save her son from the pits of hell. And still God kept working...

Unbeknownst to the man, one day while he was laboring at work, his seductress had called a local pastor that she knew and asked if his church had any food for the poor that she could get to feed her family and the pastor came over and brought food.

While the pastor was there, the woman asked him if he would pray with her for her atheist mate to find God. So the pastor, who had known the atheist from before he went to prison, agreed and they prayed for him.

At that very moment, working at one of his machines, a thought came into the Atheist's mind. He thought to himself, "Man, wouldn't it really be cool if there really was God who could save me from all this?" He decided it was just wishful thinking, but...the seed was planted.

Then, one day while he was working, he sensed that something was wrong with his mate, whom he loved very, very much. He called her on his cell phone and she didn't sound quite right and he knew she needed him. So, without telling her what he was doing, he kept her on the phone, clocked out from work, drove all the way home--talking to her the whole time. Only when he came in the front door of the house they shared did she realize what he had done.

He found her sitting up in bed looking horrible and he asked her what was wrong. She said she was having visions of herself in the bathtub slitting her wrists and letting the blood drain from her body, ending it all.

Well, the man told her that it was an attack from the evil one and that she should pray to her God and that He would fix it for her. But she refused, saying that she just couldn't. So, because the man loved the woman so much and could not stand to see her suffer, he lowered his head, confessed his sin of unbelief to the God of his childhood, rededicated his life to this God, and prayed for his God to relieve the woman's suffering and stop this attack from Satan. And God did! And the man was happy!

But, confessing to know right from wrong, the man still lived with this seductress and continued to commit all kinds of sexual immorality with her. He still went to church on Sunday and claimed to be a Christian.

It didn't take long for the depression to rear its ugly head again and make life too unbearable. So, once again, he decided to end it all. This time his attempt would undoubtedly kill anyone who attempted it! As his soul left his body and was rising upward through the clouds, he couldn't believe he had actually succeeded! Finally, it was over!

And then, in seconds, he found himself in a place of unbearable pain! More pain and agony that he had felt in his entire life all at once!! And he knew he had screwed up! That this was forever! That he had gambled and lost!

Fortunately for him, God was not through with him and sent him back to his body. The man knew that his body had died while he was gone and that his heart had quit and his blood was still. How he could come to life again could only be from God! As his heart beat again and his blood began to flow once more, he burned all over from the pins and needles of an arm or leg where the circulation had been cut off and he could not move a single muscle nor even open his eyes. But, his eyelids were the first to obey his command and the first thing he saw when he opened them was his clock. He had been gone for one hour and forty five minutes! A body dead for that long could only be restored to life by a living God!!! (continued on back)

(cont. from front)

When the man could move again, he was completely cured of his depression! Now he didn't want to ever die, but to live forever.

But he did still love his seductress. So, he continued to live in his sins but claimed that God understands. After all, he was only human and humans sin. It's their nature! That's why God forgives and so on and so on.

And still the mother prayed day and night for her son to do right. And God kept working...in His own way and in His own time.

Then one day the man found himself sitting in a jail cell waiting to see what all the charges were going to be against him. Afraid that some of them would be for crimes he never committed, not even in his heart and others that he had. He was reading his Bible one day and read Romans 2:29-32 which says: They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant, and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them."

Now the man did not practice all of the things listed therein, most of them did apply to him and he knew then that he deserved death.

It was obvious though, that God had a purpose for keeping this man alive all this time. Once the man discerned the reality of his life and the life God wanted him to live, his life was changed forever! The man started praying and reading the Bible every day - every chance he got. He started becoming more aware of his actions, his thoughts and his words. He wanted to know God on a more personal level and so he began a new quest.

The man got sentenced to prison and he knew that he would have to travel back to where he came from to face a charge by his country's highest government. The authorities picked him up and started the transportation process that amazingly took him to 14 different jails in 6 months. At each place, he sat on his bunk and read God's word. He didn't preach it to anyone to try to convert the jails, but at each place, a person would approach him and ask for prayer or guidance or an answer to a question about God, the Bible or right & wrong. And as the person got their answer and would be walking away, a bell would sound in his head and he would know "that was the one" - the one God sent him there for. Then, within 2 days, he would be on a bus headed for the next jail and the one God would put there for a reason.

Now the man, still in prison, devotes every day to learning more about God and to telling others about Jesus as God directs him. He learns every day what God wants him to know and gives him a spirit of discernment when studying - what's from God and what's from man.

The man's journey is far from over, but he is exactly where he is supposed to be, doing exactly what he is supposed to be doing in the big scheme of things. And in God's own ways, the lifelong prayers of an old woman have finally been answered. Just not the way she expected.

The End?...Not! ~Submitted by John

CHILDREN AND THE CHURCH

First Wedding:

A little boy was attending his first wedding. After the service, his cousin asked him, "How many women can a man marry?"

"Sixteen," the boy responded.

His cousin was amazed that he had an answer so quickly. "How do you know that?"

"Easy," the little boy said. "All you have to do is add it up, like the pastor said, 4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer."

Becoming a Minister:

After a church service on Sunday morning, a young boy suddenly announced to his mother, "Mom, I've decided to become a minister when I grow up."

"That's okay with us, but what made you decide that?" "Well," said the little boy, "I have to go to church on Sunday anyway, and I figure it will be more fun to stand up and yell, than to sit and listen"

Prayer:

A 6-year-old was overheard reciting the Lord's Prayer at a church service, "And forgive us our trash passes, as we forgive those who passed trash against us."

Church Service:

A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, "Mommy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?"

Sunday School Class:

Ms. Terri asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favorite Bible stories. She was puzzled by Kyle's picture, which showed four people on an airplane, so she asked him which story it was meant to represent. "The Flight to Egypt," was his reply. Pointing at each figure, Ms. Terri said, "That must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. But who's the fourth person?"

"Oh, that's Pontius - the pilot!"

This is the best one:

A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then

his again. Finally she spoke up, "Grandpa, did God make you?" "Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago." "Oh," she paused, "Grandpa, did God make me too?"

"Yes, indeed, honey," he said, "God made you just a little while ago."

Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?" ~Internet

Answers to February cryptogram: You will walk in the ways of good men and keep to the paths of righteous. For the upright will live in the land. Prov. 20:20-21 (NIV)

How wonderful it is that God calls the seemingly unqualified to serve Him. Few of us are the eldest, the brightest, the most beautiful, or the most gifted. But God does not judge us by our outward appearance.

God places His hand upon the urban and rural; simple and sophisticated; trendy and traditional; country and country club; hip and hick; talented and, well, not so talented; structured and spontaneous; eloquent and excited; spunky and solemn; emotional and analytical; high-tech and antique.

No one could ever accuse Him of being narrow!

Unlike us, God is not distracted by style, personality, appearance, or achievement. His gaze pierces flesh and weighs heart.

Then He places His hand upon sincere souls and turns shepherds into kings. ~abc

Answers to FEBRUARY trivia questions:

1. C
2. C
3. B
4. A
5. A
6. A
7. B
8. C
9. A
10. A
11. D
12. A
13. D
14. C
15. D
16. A
17. B
18. D
19. B



2010 PRISON MINISTRY SCHEDULE FEBRUARY/MARCH

FELLOWSHIP RIDERS

MARCH

5 TULIA UNIT - TULIA

APRIL

30 TULIA UNIT - TULIA

UNCHAINED LIFE MINISTRIES

MARCH

27-28 SANCHES UNIT - EL PASO

APRIL

4 SMITH UNIT - LAMESA

10-11 ROACH UNIT - CHILDRESS

17-18 DALHART UNIT - DALHART

25 MURRAY UNIT - GATESVILLE

UNCHAINED PRISON MINISTRIES

MARCH

14 WALLS UNIT - HUNTSVILLE

21 HALBERT UNIT - BURNET

27 BOYD UNIT - TEAGUE

APRIL

10-11 GOODMAN UNIT - JASPER

18 GLOSSBRENNER UNIT - SAN DIEGO

25 POWLEDGE UNIT - PALESTINE



ODDS & ENDS

Hey Brothers and Sisters,

It's good to be writing you again. We are very encouraged around here because we received our non profit postage approval and will be able to save over half the regular postage costs. That was a real blessing and one that I can believe was generated from your daily prayers. We have seen a surge in the subscribers and this addition of the ST was sent out to over 400 of you. That is really amazing. For those of you who do not know, we are taking a minute every day to stop and pray for each other. We pray at 8am and 8pm, so join us if you haven't already.

The Primaries are under way and as I said before you need to be getting your families and friends involved so that they know who is representing them in Austin next year. This is the time to begin a new letter writing campaign to all of those that are running for office. I know that in my instance there will be a runoff between the incumbent and another person. I feel it is time for change and I tell everyone that. Hopefully more about those things in the future.

Thanks again for all the letters and the encouraging words. I read every letter that comes in and every timesheet that I receive I review and add them to my arsenal for the parole board fight. I had a lot of questions sent in again and since I had some good feedback on ODDS & ENDS last month I'm doing it again.

I have had several good newspaper articles sent about the parole process and how messed up and unfair that it is and I agree. TM sent me a good one from the Houston Chronicle about the lack of transparency in the parole process. This is extremely unjust and needs correcting. We continue to speak of this when we have the opportunity. This is where a change of heart and mind in the legislative level will help. I guess that change can come upon one of those already in office but it appears to me it will probably take whole new bodies to get that done .Get busy guys!

TM also asked if his family could get the ST so they can keep up with what is going on. We do not send out the newsletter to folks outside of the TDCJ at this time. We make it available online at www.refugeoutreachcenter.org .

Thanks to SG for writing and sharing her testimony. If I get a chance I will stop in and see JC. SG shared also that she hopes to come to Lubbock when she gets out. Come on sister and give us a visit at The ROC. Keep praying for us!

MS wrote letting us know that KS missed parole again. Our prayers go out to you and all the sisters and brothers struggling to reach a good parole date. KS, tell her thanks for writing us!

Thanks to RP for letting us know that his wife will be donating a kidney to his cousin. I ask all of you to keep that in prayer!

PP and several others have sent their bible quizzes back to us after they have been filled out. You need to hang on to those and get the answers from the next ST.

We are having a lot of requests for transitional housing here in Lubbock. We hope to get more info but right now the only thing I can report is that the Billy Meeks Center accepts men and women from SAFP units only. We are checking on other options right now.

DC and others have written requesting the names and addresses of the state legislators. Many of you have written Senator Whitemire and others. I have been in his office with a very nice portfolio of my brother's case and was not allowed to talk to him face to face. For that matter one of his staff members looked at the portfolio and handed it back to me and said they receive hundreds of them like it and I might as well take it to some one else. No amount of coaxing would get her to take it from me. Whitemire has tried to help in the past I guess but maybe they have given up. I don't know. All I know is WE cannot give up! Also there are so many representatives and precincts that I do not think I could find everyone requested. Once again you need to get someone from your home to help out on these things. You can find all of this info about your Representatives and Senators at www.house.state.tx.us/members/welcome.php or www.senate.state.tx.us/75r/senate/Members.htm

We received a letter from an unnamed brother letting us know that he had gotten his first case in 17 years. I really appreciate his attitude. I encourage all of you to continue striving to be good examples in all things. Even when we mess up we should not give up. We should get our eyes back on the prize and continue looking forward even in adversity. The system might beat you but you don't have to let it beat you down!

JA requested that the ST be put in Spanish. I wish that we could JA but alas I'm not smart enough to do so and we do not have the resources to do this. Maybe in the future!

WJ, JR and others asked what we do and how we help. We do not have housing. We do have an open fellowship here at the ROC in Lubbock and encourage all to visit. I try to keep up with parole info to give you when I see it. We do not work on an individual basis as we just don't have time. We try to help the whole group as much as we can. We kind of look upon all of you as part of the ROC! We hope the ST and the info we send in it encourages and helps answer your questions. That is why I try to answer each of your letters in the ST instead of on a one on one basis. If you come to Lubbock we hope to see you.

RL, I am considering the articles and info about RM you sent to us and how to best get them out to others. They are very compelling but there is too much there for the ST in our current format. Please know we appreciate your efforts and we will hang on to the info until we can figure a time best suited to place it into print. Sorry I cannot advise on the internet deal as I do not even do ours. If you get it placed on the internet by your friend please let me know!

Ok, I really think that I have caught up on questions and such that everyone has been sending in. I hope to stay ahead of that curve from now on using this format. I hope that this has been somewhat helpful this month. I do have some requests that have come in for some previous info or previous Stone Tablets that I am trying to get out shortly, so if you requested something please be patient. If you do not receive the previous ST articles in March please rewrite and request it again. I am also hoping that I can spend more time on other matters, spiritual and otherwise in the next issue. If I receive any new parole stuff I will get it out to ya'll as soon as I can.

Last month I left you to ponder the new creature in Christ from 2 Corinthians 5:17. Concluding from that scripture that you ARE a new creature IN Christ, then you must be IN CHRIST, correct. Get this thought and chew on it for a while--from Ephesians 1:18-22

¹⁸I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, ²⁰which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²²And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way."

If we are in Christ and He is seated at the right hand of the Father in heavenly places, where are we seated? Maybe at the right hand of the Father, in heavenly places, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given? Does it give you a different perspective of who you are in Christ?

Hang with me as I have more to bring you on this interesting subject in the next issue of the Stone Tablet.

Love you guys and gals!

Brother Don