

With great enthusiasm I greet you in the MIGHTY name of JESUS CHRIST. I pray HE shines on you with GRACE & LOVE & that it is **WELL WITH YOUR SOUL.** I rejoice in the fact that JESUS ALONE is the STILL-POINT in a convulsing world. No matter what the wicked currents or evil terrorist atrocities are, we can confidently REST, LEAN ON & TRUST in the LORD. We must PRESS ON for HIS GLORY, showing ourselves as true, dedicated SOLDIERS of the KING of GLORY. My jewel of the month is that our LORD JESUS is STILL the absolute SOVEREIGN ruler of the universe.

April turned into a fruitful month of harvest after a slow start. There were 20 services & over 300 gave their hearts to the LORD or rededicated. Over 200 were rededications from a backslidden state. I received an E-mail from Chaplain Brown on April 3<sup>rd</sup> that yards 2 & 3 at Donovan Penitentiary were locked down due to racial riots. Because it is a 5 hour round trip drive, the devil whispered, "Don't go for just one service." The HOLY SPIRIT said go, & I did. On the way I prayed for GOD to open up yard 2 that was down for a week & a half. As I entered Donovan, an officer told me, "Hey Mel, yard 2 just opened up." So I was able to do services at yards 1 & 2. Unfortunately, both services were sparse in attendance but I preached as though there were 500, giving GOD the glory.

My home Bible study of 24 years has been a healing time for some who have been hurting. It is an intense 2 hour study of GOD'S AWESOME & powerful WORD. The Long Beach Rescue Mission services have been well attended & always with a nice harvest. The weekly services at the Fred Jordan Mission are always a blessing to me. Many come to hear me preach there but don't stay to eat. I have a captive audience at the Skid Row Missions. They have to listen to the message before they eat & I take the whole hour. The L.A. Mission crowds have been very large, as were the harvests. The Union Rescue Mission services had many on the men's service whom I ministered to in prisons. With the large crowd, the harvest of souls were smaller than usual. The women's service is always difficult because of so many children there with their moms. They are always enthusiastic with the message I bring. Along with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday service at the L.A. Cty. Jail, Chaplain Ed gave me the 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month. After the Sunday service, I went to the area where men are locked down. While ministering cell to cell, I thought how sad it was to see so many young

men in their early 20s with 25 to life or life without parole. The Chino Women's Prison service as always was packed & fruitful with a very nice harvest. They were hungry for the WORD.

There was a 9 day period where I did 11 services. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, after the L.A. Cty. Jail, I was the guest speaker at the Sadoc Christian Church, the second time this year for Pastor Millsap. What a blessed time I had & the praise & worship there was awesome & anointed. As always, I enjoyed my time of ministry at Jacob's Well in Long Beach.

Received many calls for prayer & counseling this month. One brother was suicidal & many were hit with cancer. Multitudes are walking wounded. The devil's assaults are increasing. Please download the "Arsenal Prayer" from my website. It's a powerful tool to dress & stand against the wiles of the devil. (Ephesians 6:10-17) This past month while preparing my newsletters for bulk mail (it takes 7 hours as I write notes & give scriptures to 300 of the 400 I mail out), a pinched nerve in my back inflamed to intense pain. As I prayed, the Lord gave me II Cor. 12:7-10, where HIS GRACE is sufficient for me. It lasted 3 weeks.

Imagine that you are a child standing at your father's side, offering your report card, beaming with pride. After all, you received ALL A's & one B. He looks it over & frowns. "One B?" he says. "I'm so disappointed in you!" Many of us behave as if our LOVING, HEAVENLY FATHER is just as insensitive. We set impossible rules for our lives, then feel profound GUILT when we can't live up to them. We live under a cloud of LEGALISM, because we lack confidence that we have pleased GOD.

Now the BIBLE says that you & I have been accepted by HIS GRACE. GOD LOVES us without any consideration of merit on our part. If we really UNDERSTOOD this TRUTH, it would fill our hearts with JOY (Neh, 8:10). It would inspire us to attempt great things for GOD, not in a spirit of obligation, but GRATITUDE. If there ever was a young man with a perfect report card, it was Saul of Tarsus. He was an observant Jew from a family of esteemed lineage; he had zealously kept the law & he even tirelessly persecuted the church, which he saw as an enemy of his faith. Yet, "perfect" as he was, Saul lacked a personal relationship with GOD. In the Old Testament, only the high priest could be in the presence of the Ark of the Covenant, which symbolized GOD'S presence. Think of the millions of people on the outside, unable to get close to HIM personally. Like Saul, their concept of relating to GOD involved achieving acceptance through

performance. The forgiveness of their sin was based on a literal animal sacrifice.

**JESUS** came to die for **OUR** sins & be a permanent substitutionary sacrifice. On the day of **LORD JESUS'** crucifixion, the veil hiding the Ark of the Covenant was split from the top to bottom, symbolizing that **GOD** opened the door to a personal relationship with **HIMSELF** (Eph. 2:14). When the **LORD'S** blinding light struck Saul on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-9), the veil of legalism that clouded his heart was also torn in two. Encountering the living **CHRIST** totally changed Saul, now named Paul & he explains in Phil. 3:7, "Whatever things were given to me, those things I have now counted as loss." He recognized that all his achievements had absolutely **NO** spiritual value ñ yet out of gratitude for **GOD'S GRACE**, Paul went on to become the greatest missionary the world has ever known. There are millions of people who are sincerely incorrect in believing they will be acceptable to **GOD** based on how good they are (Gal. 2:16). It's by **GRACE & GRACE** alone, that we are saved (Eph. 2:8-9). **CHOOSE** to live in the wonderful acceptance that comes by the **CROSS**. The life of **GRACE** is available to **EVERYONE** who will call upon **HIM** (Rom. 10:9-10).

Until next month, may **GOD** abundantly bless you & to you who sent a **LOVE** offering, I **PRAISE HIM & THANK YOU**.

In His Majesty's Service,

Mel Novak