

Warm greetings in the name of our blessed & soon coming KING, JESUS CHRIST, our risen LORD & SAVIOR. Let us THANK & PRAISE GOD for HIS FAITHFULNESS. The first quarter of this year had scores of people calling me in their trials, adversities & testingÖ sometimes so intense there were loud cries to GOD, "hold us LORD, keep us from fainting.â

Multitudes have or are facing crushing burdens on all sides with problems that seem unsolvable. BUT, the LORD will see us through (Ps. 34:19) & gives us PEACE through it all. (Isa. 26:3) HE never fails (Heb. 10:23, 35, 36) & all through the trials, tribulations & afflictions, the LORD draws us closer to HIS LOVING ARMS (Jer. 31:3) & reveals the awesome wonders of HIS GRACE, MERCY & COMPASSION. HE is WORTHY OF PRAISE, HONOR & WORSHIP.

By the time you receive this newsletter, I will be ministering & preaching in Ireland (Belfast & Dublin). Ím excited & looking forward to another door that the LORD opened. After all, I did say years ago, "Lord, Íll go & preach Your Word wherever you want to send me.â Later this year Ím going to Korea at Dr. Samuel S. Kimís invitation, & I canít wait to go back to my hometown near Pittsburgh May 31st through June 7<sup>th</sup>. There will be many relatives & friends that are coming to hear me minister, which is a blessing. My brother Robert is also coming in from Detroit.

There were 21 services in April plus 16 hours of counseling inmates at L.A. Cty. Jail, who requested to see a chaplain. This is a great opportunity as almost all of those that I see & pray for invite Jesus into their hearts or rededicate. As always, I ministered at the L.A. Mission, Fred Jordan Mission & Long Beach Rescue Mission chapel services. (My team did the Union Rescue Mission services as I was out of town). The harvest at the L. A. Cty. Jail was huge, as was Chino Womenís Prison. Itís always a good time in the LORD at Jacobís Well in Long Beach & Sister Luzís Philippino Church.

April started out at Donovan Penitentiary, a level III maximum security facility & I ministered & preached three services in three different yards. Yard three had been locked down three of the past four times I was there. It was good to fellowship & minister to the brethren there, as Íve known

many for the 15 years of ministering at Donovan. Brother Foster said to me, "Mel, these brothers really love you & how you preach the Word. You are a real blessing to us all." That touched my heart. It was a blessed day that started at 6a.m. & I got home at 11:15p.m. ( 5 hour drive )

At the Long Beach Rescue Mission services on April 6<sup>th</sup>, there were 137 at the chapel service & half of them said the sinner's prayer, inviting JESUS into their hearts. There were over 300 this month that said that prayer. I'm always encouraging all who hear me to spend more time praising & thanking GOD for all the blessings that they have & will receive. The concept of thanksgiving & gratitude is from the very heart of God. (Ps. 18:3, Ps. 50:23, Ps. 34:1, Ps.22:3 ) A THANK or PEACE offering was part of the Hebrew sacrificial offering system (Leviticus 3). The Feast of Tabernacles (Exodus 23:16) was a Hebrew festival celebrating the harvest & rejoicing over the past deliverance of the nation. I too rejoice when the multitudes I minister to come to CHRIST. (John 6:44). This Old Testament Feast pointed to JOY, GRATITUDE, & HOPE. Ps. 100:4 is a classic admonition to "Enter into HIS courts with PRAISE: & be THANKFUL unto HIM & BLESS HIS NAME."

Ephesians 5:18-21 instructs us to be THANKFUL. Thanksgiving is NOT seasonal. "Always give thanks." Ps. 92:1, 2 tells us that "it is a good thing to give THANKS to the LORD to show forth HIS loving kindness in the morning, & HIS faithfulness every night." Ps. 119:62 states, "at midnight I will rise & give thanks to YOU." Thanksgiving is NOT situational. Those that I minister to on Skid Row, in prisons & wherever I go, all have situations in their lives that test, try & shape their character. Nobody is immune to afflictions or adversity, but a sense of gratitude & thanksgiving to GOD must NOT be based on any situation or circumstance we find ourselves in, or how we feel at a given time.

I Thessalonians 5:16-18 instructs us to give thanks IN everything. This means that we are able to PRAISE & THANK the LORD in the MIDST of the situation, even FOR the situation itself as we TRUST GOD to work it for good in our lives. (Rom. 8:28) There are three binding COMMANDS given to EVERY Christian, reflected in these verses in I Thessalonians: "REJOICE ALWAYS, PRAY WITHOUT CEASING; IN EVERYTHING, GIVE THANKS."

PLEASE pray for me while I am in Ireland!!! I do appreciate your prayers, love, encouraging notes & blessings. Until next month, may GOD

**BLESS YOU ABUNDANTLY, & to you who sent LOVE offerings, a 100-fold return. LOVE YA!**

**In His Majesty's Service,**

**Mel Novak**