

Greetings in the **MIGHTY** name of the **BLESSED SAVIOR**, our **LORD JESUS CHRIST**. **HE** is the **LORD** of **GLORY** who is praying for each believer 24/7 & is preparing a home for us in heaven. With pure **JOY**, let us bow our knee in **PRAISE & WORSHIP**, humbling our hearts before **HIM**. **ONLY** through **JESUS** (Acts. 4:12) can we have the blessed **HOPE** of **ETERNAL LIFE** (Rom. 10:9, 10).

HAPPY RESURRECTION DAY!!! I pray you all had a most **JOYFUL** day of celebration with family & friends rejoicing that **JESUS IS RISEN!** INDEED HE IS RISEN! **JESUS**, the **LAMB** of **GOD** who died for us **ALL** & rose again on the **3rd** day is **PROOF** that the perfect plan of salvation has been provided. I was scheduled to preach the Easter Sunday services at Donovan Penitentiary but Chaplain Brown e-mailed me that there will be **NO** services. As always, I am disappointed when there is a lockdown or whatever causes me not to be able to minister. This time I changed the **ÌDÌ** in disappointment to an **ÌHÌ** & made it **HIS** appointment & went to Church on the Way, my home church, attending 2 anointed services. Sr. Pastor Jim Tolle preached in the first service & Pastor Jack Hayford, the second service.

□ April, like March, was extremely busy & fruitful with 24 services, & over 300 received the **LORD** or rededicated. Easter week is my 24-year anniversary of preaching **CHRIST CRUCIFIED** in the Skid Row Missions of Los Angeles. I thank **GOD** & praise **HIM** for the ministry that **HE**ís called me to **ìgo & win souls!** April 1st & nd had services in Pahrump, Nevada, & it was a wonderful time of ministry. All the services at the Skid Row Missions were well attended as was the L.A. Co. Jail services. Some amazing things have happened in counseling there & I led an inmate who was in the Arian Brotherhood to **CHRIST**. **GOD** has a trophy, P.T.L. Jacobís Well, as always, was a blessing. On April 27th, Iím flying to Pasco, WA. where I will preach that night at Walla Walla Penitentiary. Iíll be

staying with Bob & Helen Hagen again. They are such a blessing to me. I'll be there for 12 days ministering at 4 different penitentiaries in Washington & Oregon. I'll also be a guest speaker at 2 churches & a Christian T.V. show. I return on the 8th of May & fly to Crescent City (via San Francisco) to minister at Pelican Bay Penitentiary on May 12th, 13th, & 14th, with 9 services. I'm excited about both trips. **PRAY FOR ME.** Chino Women's service was extra special this month & the Holy Spirit gathered a huge harvest. Several of my 24 sermons this month had an Easter theme. (Jesus' last Hours, Resurrection, 6 Miracles of Calvary & Gethsemane, one of my favorites.)

On the night of **CHRIST'S** arrest, the disciples did not know how to think correctly. **JESUS** asked several of **HIS** followers to wait for **HIM** by the garden gate of Gethsemane. They were given instructions to pray. Three others — Peter, James & John took a few steps further into the darkness with **HIM**. At the time, they did not know it, but **JESUS** was preparing them for what was ahead. During the 3 years that **HE** had been with them, they were seldom away from **HIS** presence. Now, they were being divided into groups & left alone to **PRAY**. **JESUS** knew **PRAYER** was the **ONLY** thing that would feed their souls into the **TRUTH & POWER** needed to face what was to come. A stark sense of quietness settled over the garden that night. Difficult as it was, the disciples tried to **PRAY**, but weariness overwhelmed them. In Matthew 26:41, **CHRIST** admonished them to **WATCH & PRAY**. The **LORD** was telling them that **PRAYER** held the secret to **HOPE** in times of deep despair. **JESUS** was admonishing them to **PRAY** so that they might have **GOD'S ENCOURAGEMENT, DISCERNMENT & HOPE.**

One of the most intimate yet desperate moments in **CHRIST'S** life on earth was spent in the Garden of Gethsemane. In times of deep travail, we have someone who hears our **EVERY** prayer (Prov. 15:29). **JESUS** understands our struggles. Times of intense stress, pressure, & adversity provide a great opportunity for intimacy with **GOD**. While this may not seem possible, it is true. **JESUS** knows what it feels like to face hardship. Therefore, **JESUS** comforts us in

times of tremendous heartache & hardship. **HE VICTORIOUSLY** faced the cross. Human betrayal, rejection, & the darkness of sin could **NOT** keep **JESUS** from doing the Father's will. The disciples were never alone in Gethsemane, as we are **NEVER** alone (Heb. 13:5; Matt. 28:20). **JESUS** was never out of touch with their needs or ours. Through intense trial, **CHRIST** taught **HIS** followers to **TRUST HIM**. (Ps. 91:2; Prov. 3:5, 6). **NOTHING** we face is too difficult for **GOD** (Jer. 32:17, 27), no sorrow is too intense, no fear too foreboding. **JESUS** has conquered our greatest fear. When **HE** arose & stepped away from the grave, **HE** said in John 14:18, "I will **NOT** leave you & I will come to you." This is an **ETERNAL PROMISE** (II Cor. 1:20). Because of **JESUS CHRIST'S** finished work at Calvary, it was a message of **ETERNAL HOPE & NOT DESPAIR**, of **ETERNAL LIGHT, & NOT DARKNESS**.

Until next month, may **GOD RICHLY BLESS YOU**. To you who sent **LOVE** offerings, a 100-fold blessing.

In His Majesty's Service,

Mel Novak