

Beloved friends, I extend to you warm greetings. Bathe yourselves in HIS LOVE today & every day, KNOWING HE is ALWAYS with you (Matt. 28:20 & Heb. 13:5). This is very encouraging & also KNOWING HE is the GOD of ALL comfort, who comforts us in our tribulations, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort which we ourselves are comforted by GOD (II Cor. 1:2-4).

Well last month the computer demons struck. I had perfectly proofed the update, but somehow the printers computer left out 10 apostrophes & also LOD instead of LORD. What a bummer!!!

July was another busy month of ministry with 21 services & started off with Donovan Penitentiary. For 13 years there would be 3 services in 3 different yards (1200 inmates in each yard), but yard one was locked down. Yard 2 & 3 had many in the services that I've known for a long time & they are WALKING a walk of FAITH. I'm always BLESSED when I leave knowing GOD'S WORD made an impact in their lives. Again this month brought in another large harvest of souls at the Long Beach Rescue Mission. All the services at the L.A.

Mission, Union Rescue Mission & Fred Jordan Mission were well attended & the harvest of souls brought in over 275 (John 6:44). I was also blessed to give my testimony & minister to Pastor Ron's youth group from Oklahoma. They were on a mission trip here in the Skid Row. Had a really good time as a guest speaker for Pastor William Mims Jr. men's prayer group. After the breakfast, we all walked & sang worship songs for several blocks. Some carried signs ≥JESUS SAVES≤ etc. What a powerful witness this was & scores of cars honked their horns.

I still leave the Union Rescue Mission women's service with a heavy heart because of all the children & their mothers that are homeless. You, who are reading this newsletter, PLEASE PRAY for those whose struggles in life brought them to Skid Row. Dr. Tellie Miller, who runs the S.T.A.R. recovery program for parolees, asked me to be the guest speaker at the graduation ceremonies. The service at the Veterans Hospital Chapel service is always a good time in the Lord. So many of our defenders of our country have been forgotten. That is SAD! And we still need to PRAY for ALL our armed forces that are in Iraq. They need our prayers. We celebrated the 4th of July, our Declaration of Independence Day, PRAISE GOD we are AMERICAN. Brother Jim Lewis of the L.A. Mission & I talked about a ≥Declaration of Dependence≤ on the LORD. REST IN HIM, TRUST IN HIM, & LEAN ON HIM. That kind of DEPENDENCE sets us free (John 8:32, 36). There's NO freedom when adversities arise & fear, worry & fretting set in. We need to go to GOD in PRAYER & WORSHIP, asking HIM to show us what HE desires for us to learn in this difficult situation. If anybody finds themselves overwhelmed by worry (Phil. 4:6) & fretting, MEDITATE on Psalm 37. Keep in mind that WORRY is born out of UNBELIEF, as is DOUBT, but FRETTING is born out of ANGER. Too many who call me for prayer

want something very badly & get angry because the prayer isn't answered NOW. GOD IS NOT A BELLHOP! The devil likes to encourage fretting because it gives him a foothold in our lives. GOD really does have a plan for our lives & also the circumstances that we are facing (Jer. 29:11-13).

The first step to victory comes when we acknowledge our NEED for GOD. During his ministry, Paul faced tremendous physical & emotional challenges. However he NEVER lost sight of the GOAL that GOD had set for Him. SO when difficulties arose, Paul pressed on & NEVER gave up (Luke 18:1). God blessed Paul's efforts while teaching him how to live an effective FAITH-FILLED life. Paul's secret to handling life's circumstances was not found in human strength or ability. It was in acknowledging his weakness to God & looking to the Lord to provide all that he needed. Paul writes, "and GOD has said to me, 'MY GRACE is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.' Therefore, I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for CHRIST'S sake, for when I am weak, then I am strong" (II Cor. 12:9,10). The same is TRUE for US. Each difficulty we face contains tremendous potential for our GOOD & GOD'S GLORY. The problems we face prepare us for future BLESSING. As we set the focus of our hearts on JESUS CHRIST, we find that we are no longer listening to the murmuring DOUBTS of this world. Instead, we begin to see our circumstances from GOD'S perspective, which ALWAYS leads to HOPE & great BLESSING.

When facing life's challenges, be sure you:

PLACE YOUR COMPLETE TRUST IN CHRIST. HE'S the ONE who LOVES you with an eternal LOVE. HE saved you & HE has a plan for your FUTURE. HE is SOVEREIGN & will use even the most difficult of situations to bring blessings to your life. (Romans 8:28)

RECALL THE TIMES IN THE PAST WHEN GOD HAS DELIVERED YOU. King David learned the secret of ENCOURAGEMENT at a very early age. A large part of the book of Psalms is his personal journal dedicated to GOD'S ABILITY to deliver him from the hands of his enemies. It also reveals the DEPTH of his LOVE for the LORD & the INTIMACY he enjoyed with GOD.

REMAIN FOCUSED ON JESUS CHRIST. Success in any area depends on our ability to "Stay focused"! When a problem arises it is essential for us to turn to GOD in PRAYER and seek HIS WISDOM & GUIDANCE thru HIS WORD (Ps. 32:8). My PRAYER for you is that no matter what you face, to TRUST GOD & know that HE is with you (Deu. 31:6), keeping watch over your life & providing ALL you need to live triumphantly.

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

In His Majesty's Service,  
Mel Novak