

Warm greetings in the name of our **BLESSED** & soon coming **KING, JESUS CHRIST**. It is well with my soul & I **PRAY** that in the midst of a world that has gone crazy, & our beloved America which has, with meteoric speed, descended into the pit of perversion, wickedness & **GODLESSNESS**, it is nonetheless well with your soul. **REST** in **HIM**, **TRUST** in **HIM**, & **PRAISE HIM** who is **WORTHY** of our **PRAISE**.

November was another tremendous month of ministry with 34 services along with 12 hours of counseling at the L.A. Co. Jail. The services at the Skid Row Mission Chapels, L.A. Co. Jail(3), Wayside Max., Chino Women's Prison were all well attended. Some 450 gave their hearts to **JESUS** or rededicated. For the 3rd year in a row, I was a guest speaker for Javier Rodriguez's Works of Power men's retreat at Angelus Oaks (near Big Bear). Hidden Treasures was this year's theme (Matt. 13:44). Jacob's Well was another blessed evening of ministry in Long Beach. For the first time in 4 years, I was able to minister at the North Maximum Security facility at Wayside. A dedicated, anointed brother, Chaplain Frank invited me & about 80 inmates attended. My home Bible study has flourished, **PTL**.

The 3rd weekend this month was very powerful. The Bill Glass Weekend of Champions Prison Outreach asked me to be a platform speaker at the Inland Empire ñ San Bernardino 10 facility (prisons & jails) weekend. Over 13,000 inmates were ministered to by some 800 men, women & bikers. The first day, I preached twelve 20-minute messages in different modules & the next day at another prison, four 50-minute sermons. Each service had 40 men attend & 140 out of 160 received **JESUS** as **SAVIOR** or rededicated. It was a blessed time of ministry & half of the inmates made a first time decision for **JESUS** as their **LORD**.

This is a most wonderful time of year, **THANKSGIVING** & next month we celebrate the birth of our **LORD & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**, who was the only one born for the sole purpose of dying for us **ALL**. If someone says to you, "Happy Holiday," let them know it's **MERRY CHRIST-MAS**. It's **JESUS'** birth, the **ONE** who saves **HIS** people from their sins. Because of Matt. 1:21, we can shout, "PRAISE THE LORD." I not only **PRAISE HIM** at Thanksgiving, but scores of times during the day of **EVERY DAY**.

I believe **PRAISING GOD** has to be a cornerstone of our lives. Actually, **PRAISE** is a theme, which runs throughout Scripture. I preach some 270 sermons a year & **ALWAYS** start out with, "PRAISE THE LORD." In Ps. 18:3, **GOD** is **WORTHY** of our **PRAISE**. It is **GOD'S** will that we **PRAISE HIM** (Ps. 50:23), & this **PRAISE** should be continuous (Ps. 34:1). **PRAISING GOD** is intended to be part of every Christian's life, as well as **PRAYER** & spending quality time in **GOD'S WORD**. The devil cannot stand up in front of **PRAISE**. He has to flee!!! We are to **PRAISE GOD** for **HIS HOLINESS** (II Chron. 20:21); for **HIS GRACE** (Eph. 1:6); for **HIS GOODNESS** (Ps. 135:3); for **HIS KINDNESS, PRAISING HIS NAME** (Ps. 138:2). **PRAISING** the **LORD** energizes us & is something **GOD** has ordained us to do. **PRAISE** is the occupation of heaven & a mighty weapon against the forces of darkness. All creation is to **PRAISE** the **LORD**. More is said about **PRAISE** in the **BIBLE** than about **PRAYER**, so **PRAISE** is more important than **PETITION**. In Ps. 150:6 it says, "Let everything that has breath PRAISE THE LORD." I know you are breathing because you're reading this. Just say, "PRAISE THE LORD" now. God desires for us to

**PRAISE HIM** because **PRAISE** is good for us. **GOD** repeatedly exhorts us to **PRAISE HIM** in **HIS WORD**. **GOD** also inhabits the **PRAISE** of **HIS** people (Ps. 22:3). Heb. 13:15 says, "Thru **HIM** (Jesus) then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of **PRAISE** to **GOD**, that is the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to **HIS NAME**."â

What is a sacrifice of **PRAISE**? I believe that is the **PRAISE** we offer to **HIM** when we cannot humanly see any reason for **PRAISING HIM**. When all of our feelings & emotions are **NOT PRAISING GOD**, but our lips are offering up **PRAISE**. When pain won't go away & circumstances are dark & bleak, we are to **PRAISE** the **LORD** anyway. That's what I'm doing now as the M.D.s want to perform surgery on 5 parts of my body, but I decline. I clearly heard the **LORD** whisper, "just trust **ME** Mel, just trust **ME**. (Ps. 91:2) When I am ministering & say, "PRAISE the **LORD**" church, **ALL** the pain goes away until after the alter call. I shall **PRAISE HIM** until I cannot breath, no matter what, & that's what I did the last 2 times that I almost died. **PRAISE is POWERFUL!!!**

**PRAISE** dispels doubt, the devil's tool, that is a killer to **FAITH**. **PRAISE** brings healing ó spiritually, mentally & emotionally. **PRAISE** takes my eyes off my circumstances & on the **ONE** who can deliver me. **PRAISE** will bring strength & maturity in us. Rev. 19:5 says, "PRAISE our **GOD** all you **HIS** servants & those who fear **HIM**, both small & great." I also praise **GOD** for the downtown missions who fed over 12,000 homeless on Thanksgiving. **GOD IS GOOD!!!**

Have a **BLESSED & JOYFUL CHRIST-MAS** & a **PRAYERFUL, HEALTHY** New Year. I pray that your **CHRIST-MAS** will be filled with the presence & power of the **LIVING JESUS**.

Until next month, **LORD BLESS** you & to you who sent **LOVE** offerings, a 100-fold return.

In His Majesty's Service,

**Mel Novak**