

GRACE to you & **PEACE** from **HIM** who is & who was & who is to come, from **JESUS CHRIST**, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead & the ruler over all. To **HIM** who loved us & washed us from our sins in **HIS** own blood, to **HIM** be the **HONOR, WORSHIP, GLORY & DOMINION**... forever & ever. Look to & at the **SAVIOR** & listen to the **HOLY SPIRIT**.

What a blessed & incredible month of ministry I had in September. There were 28 services & the Holy Spirit (John 6:44) had well over 600 pray the sinner's prayer. I marvel at what **GOD** is doing to & for those who are broken & downcast. Last month, where I ministered at San Luis Obispo Men's Colony, before one service, there were 5 inmates who were baptized. There was wonderful praise & worship music by the inmates. One service had over 200 attend. All 5 services were packed & I knew many from other state prison services. I'm always encouraging those I minister to about the **POWER of PRAYER**, that **GOD** is a **GOD** of miracles. (Micah 3:6; Heb. 13:8) My friend of 16 years, Elias, who works at the Fred Jordan Mission, had 2 strokes last month. He could not see out of his right eye nor hear out of his right ear. He couldn't talk & was paralyzed on his right side. Only by **GOD'S** miraculous power, Elias can now talk, hear, see & walk. **HE** is back at the mission.

All of the services at the L.A. Co. Jail were extra special, **EXCEPT** the one where a fight broke out moments before I started to preach. After the deputies' pepper sprayed them, the service was cancelled. There were over 100 in the service. I was ticked. There were wonderful harvests at all the other services. **GOD & HIS WORD** are making an impact there. At the Wayside service for Chaplain Dennis, 40 came to the service, which was good considering that it was at the same time as Monday night football. As always, the Chino Women's Prison had a packed chapel & a large harvest. There were scores of 18–21yr. olds & some were pregnant. I know **GOD'S** Word touched them. Many wept (Ps. 56:8) at the alter call. The 10 services in the Skid Row Missions had solid harvests & an unusual number who requested prayer. So many are really hurting & struggling with the strongholds of addictions.

I spent Friday, Saturday & Sunday at Pelican Bay Penitentiary, a hard core level 4 facility with mostly lifers. I was well received as I've been there 3 other times. I had to pray hard because there was a lock down — stabbings. Even there you have inmates' hungry for **GOD'S WORD** & are dedicated Christians, though they will never get out. It was a most blessed weekend.

Another blessing this month was going to Portland, Oregon on Thursday evening & returning Monday AM. My lovely daughter, Lea, had her birthday on Friday, the 26th. My grandchild, Elijah turned 8 on the 5th. It was soooo good to spend time with Lea, Doug and Elijah. I am so blessed to have 2 precious daughters,

Nikol and Lea. As I'm writing this, Nikol called to turn the radio on in 5 minutes. She dedicated a song to me & called me her hero... "The Wind Beneath My Wings."

I think about what the world calls success, but success in **GOD'S** eyes is different. In **GOD'S** view, it's **NOT** how we look (I Sam. 16:7); it's **NOT** what we have (Mark 8:36, 37); or how many people work under us (Mark 10:42-45). However **GOD** desires for us to be successful. Some Christians feel that godly people should **NOT** be concerned with success. After all, achieving success means setting goals & doesn't the Bible tell us not to worry about tomorrow, but to be content in all things? This is improper thinking! Nowhere does **GOD'S WORD** tell us to stop growing & keep things exactly the way they are. Goals that are **CHRIST-oriented** are very good. (Matt. 6:33).

Success in the eyes of **GOD** has 2 factors: **CHARACTER & CAUSE** (commit, submit & serve). My goal is to serve according to **GOD'S** will & **HIS** calling in my life. Like Paul, the apostle, "I'm to fight the good fight; finish the race & keep the faith." (2 Tim. 4:7) We must develop the kind of **CHARACTER** **GOD** desires & discover a **CAUSE** worthy of total commitment. What about you? See Mark 10:45 & Matt. 20:28. Consider David. When he stepped up to face Goliath, the reward included marriage to the king's daughter, tax exemption & great wealth (I Sam. 17:25), so some people assume David entered the contest for personal gain. However, his words reveal that his ultimate motivation & goal was to **GLORIFY Almighty GOD** (I Sam 17:46-47). **GOD** honored David's devotion by giving him the victory & by helping him succeed. Look at Noah. He put all his energies into achieving a goal. **GOD** instructed him to build a seaworthy vessel, provided all the building instructions, & Noah's obedience saved the human race from extinction (I Sam. 15:22).

Success will come to you when:

- The goals you set are God's goals.
- You rely on **GOD** to give you the resources to achieve **HIS** goals. (**TRUST HIM**).
- Your deepest motivation is to glorify **GOD** & know **HIM** better. Paul was absolutely committed — at all costs — to knowing **JESUS CHRIST** (Phil. 3:8; 11; 12).

Beloved, the **LORD** has a purpose for your life (Jer. 29:11-13) & **HE** has planned the best for you. He desires for you to be a success, (Joshua 1:8). I pray that you will have the wisdom to set goals that fit **GOD'S** purpose & plan for you (Jas. 1:5).

Until next month, may **GOD** richly **BLESS** you & to you who sent love offerings, **I PRAISE HIM & THANK YOU**.

In His Majesty's Service,

Scriptures to embrace: Col. 1:9-18; John 15:5; 8-13; Ps. 40:45; Ps. 28:7; Phil. 2:12-16