



December 2016

SHARING HOW YOU ARE MASTERING LIFE THRU CHRIST

Volume 2016, Issue 4

Special points of interest:

- Christmas
- Caledonia MasterLife class
- Greetings from Glenn
- Mail call
- Adopt A Life
- Testimonies

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Christmas

Merry Christmas to all my Brothers! May thee joy of the Lord strengthen you and shine through you, as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Christmas Christmas Christmas, what a wonderful time of the year for us Christians. And we know that it's not really the birth of the Lord Jesus. But, I thank God for the freedom He has given us. The freedom to celebrate the birth of the savior any day we so choose. I remember the day He was born in my heart and it wasn't Dec 25th. When was your rebirth day?

He also gave us freedom to celebrate the resurrection on Easter and even the Sabbath on Sunday. I've heard many men that just will not hear of such a thing as celebrating the birth of the Lord on a pagan holiday. Yes, I said a pagan holiday. If you study a little history, you will find that originally Christmas, Easter and even Sunday were pagan holidays. (I emphasize were.)

I want to take a minute to

Greetings in Jesus Name

I pray that you, and your families are in wonderful spirit, and health. Also I pray that you and your families have a great Thanksgiving and Christmas.

I find joy in saying with all honesty that I am now walking in the fullness of Christ. Satan has had strongholds on me for so many years. Glory to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ I have overcome the enemy.

share with brothers and friends my take on this, first of all, let's look at God's Word on our freedom (Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-22) Paul says that he is willing to live temporarily under the law again as the Jews if he could get an opportunity to win them over to Christ. He'll live according to the customs of the Gentiles temporarily so he can win them to Christ (as long as he doesn't fall outside of Christ's law).

He says he'll become all things to all men if he can get the opportunity to tell them about Jesus. He'll come as a convict, a nerd, a gangsta, a redneck, a religious person, etc. and fit right in (without sinning).

Paul ran into every pagan city he could find and lived among them and built relationships and told them about Jesus. He tells us to imitate him (1 Corinthians 11:1) 😊

You know what I believe? I believe the Christians have infiltrated these pagan holidays and God used them to win people to Christ. OI could tell you a

Through His word, prayer, and fellowship I now have victory in Jesus. Being in the fullness of Christ has made me a faithful witness. Satan cannot stomp out the testimony that I now have; about how I was lost, but now am found. Was blind but now I see!!

As the days go by I and others around me see Christ-like Character taking shape in my life.

story after story of how this has been true in my personal experience.

It's not about us celebrating a pagan holiday. It's about how God brings His people together, loving one another, fellowshiping, sharing meals, and reaching out to a lost and dying broken world and serving them with no judging, no conditions, no limits.

I've been told that more suicides occur during this time of year for many reasons. Imagine how men in prisons feel, we don't know who is suffering from: a death, a disease, having to stand in line every day for insulin shots, a divorce, a life sentence, caught in addictions, lonely, bitter, maybe they're innocent and wrongly convicted, maybe they are in terrible pain for what they did, shame, regret, etc. I can go on and on and on ...

Please don't get caught up in these legalistic peoples ideas about Christmas, go out and become all things and win people to Christ... it will be the best Christmas ever. Bro. Benoy Caledonia

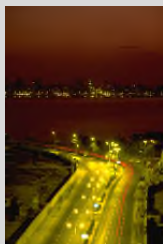
Love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self control are now my character. I must confess that it is no longer I who lives but Christ lives in me. In closing I ask of our Lord to have His way in our lives. "Have your way Lord".

Take care my brothers, with love. Bro Glenn S. Johnson Jr. Caledonia



CHRISTMAS TREE
YOUR DAILY LIFE
WITH GIFTS AND
ORNAMENTS
AND JOYOUS
TIDINGS

To live is
Christ, make
each day count
for the Lord



Which way are
you going? For
broad is the
way to destruc-
tion.

KINGDOM OF GOD .. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Matt. 4:17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, saying "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand."

What is the Kingdom of Heaven? What is the Kingdom of God?

In the beginning, God created man in His own image and His likeness and in Genesis 1:26 He said let them (man) have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of heaven, and the livestock and over all the earth and every creeping thing that creepeth over the earth. The Lord said let man have dominion/rule over the earth and its resources. The Lord lives in a realm that's unseen and because God is love; love creates and love shares. God created man so that He may rule the seen realm from the unseen realm through the Spirit of God which was in man. Through man's rebellion of eating of the forbidden tree in the garden - man lost the Spirit of God and man lost dominion to Satan the prince of the air. Since God said "Let man has dominion" in his word stands forever and cannot change - so what man lost man must regain Jesus Christ; fully God and fully man came with a purpose of reconciling, renewing, restoring, and regaining back to mankind what mankind lost of which was the Spirit of God the relationship with God and the regaining of dominion over the earth and its resources.

The kingdom of God Jesus says is "within you" that's the influence each one of us have as kingdom citizens the kingdom of heaven is the impact of that influence in the earthly realm. This kingdom message "The gospel of the kingdom" was preached by Jesus and the kingdom was his preaching thing from the beginning Jesus taught the way, the door, the spirit, and other subjects but he preached the kingdom and instructed his disciples to do the same. Jesus Christ is our king seated at the right hand of

the Father and the word says that we are his ambassadors the word says in Psalms 115:16 "The heavens or the Lord's heavens, but the earth and he had given to the sons of men". We as ambassadors represent our country the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth and as we carry this influence and bear fruit of love, joy, peace, goodness, faithfulness, kindness, meekness, faith, and righteousness we become the light in a dark place, the salt of the earth and through bearing fruit in the Kingdom of God overcomes the kingdom of darkness. Jesus taught that parable after parable of this kingdom concept as it likens into leaven in the dough, the smallest of seed that grows into the largest of trees, of the treasure found greater than all other treasures yet the message, gospel of the seed of the kingdom is being snatched from the hearts of men by the adversary (Matthew 13:19). Because once we know the purpose we have here on earth, once we know the dominion we carry over all the things that rule over us like plants of marijuana, tobacco, cocoa, poppies, etc. they'll fail to rule over us and we will bear fruit for the kingdom that heaven will come to earth even more by the sons of men/God. The two kingdoms light and darkness. The kingdom of darkness Satan runs "by ignorance" the kingdom of live is "by knowledge". To know your position in Christ makes all the difference for a victorious life - Christ is our king and in a kingdom the citizens have protection, provision and we gain power through Christ, through being transferred from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light. Jesus didn't bring a religion to mankind, Jesus brought back to mankind with man lost in the beginning - a kingdom. So many churches preach heaven and it's true that heaven is a wonderful place and we who are in Christ will one day go but our own focus should be in the here and

now of why we were created in fulfilling our purpose in history. In John 17 Jesus prayed to the Father "I do not pray that you take them out of the world but I pray you protect them from the evil one". So why are we sitting around waiting for the second coming without bearing the fruit needed for the king to spam? In the 24th chapter of Matthew Jesus says that the "Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached to all nations and then the end will come".

The Lord has been merciful and gracious that are in prison bearing fruit for Him; throughout our rebellion he has protected and then has now set apart for his purposes - let us glorify our King and overcome the darkness with the light within us, let us love, forgive, give, help, provide and protect those around us in the realm he has given us especially the household of faith

May God bless you brothers - live for the King!

Love Bret L. Slavey, Caldwell CI



What Grinch are you? The one with a small heart? OR



A changed heart?
JOHN 3:16

Free? Free indeed

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given Isaiah 9:6

At this time of year more gifts are given that and any other time of year. But it started with one given freely, Hosea 14:4 God said "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely".

When is the last time you got something for free? Nothing in life is free right? That's the way I was talking me up. Just the other day a brother and I were at breakfast and he had two pieces of French toast, and I had four pieces, I asked if he would like another piece. He said yes and we ate. After I had finished I said "Man I'd love to have some more of that French toast", he said "If you wanted more French toast why did you give me yours"? I told him, "Because you only had two pieces, and besides it means more when you give something you want instead of something that's left over".

In John 3:16, God gave his most precious gift in His Son. I've heard many people say that salvation is free, but it's only free to the one who is receiving it. I can't imagine what it's like to look on his Son, perfect in every way and watch while the ones you were saving kill the one that was saving them. Free indeed!! It had to be given freely, because no one could have paid that price. This is what God meant when he said "I will love them freely". Romans 3:24 says we are justified freely by his grace. Romans 8:32 says that if He gave up his Son for us, He shall also give us freely all things. In 1 Corinthians 2:12 the word of God says, we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God, that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. In Revelation 21:6 God says it is done, any that thirst, that the water of life is freely given to him. Jesus said in John 3:18 he that believes is not condemned. In John 8:31-32 He said, if you continue in

my word, then you are my disciples indeed, and you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

What is it to be free? To a man locked up in prison, it means getting out, but to someone who is locked up and bound in sin; it's the love of God. We must stay in the word of God or we will stand the chance of forgetting who and who's we are 2 Peter 1:9 and the ESV, for anyone who lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. If we stay in the dark too long we can forget we are saved. Thank God for Hosea 14:4, That if he does heal our backsliding freely. Jesus has made us free, and John 8:36 the word says if the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.

So no matter where you are right now, don't think "I'm not sure I'm not good enough", or "maybe I haven't done enough". There is nothing you can do or God wouldn't love you freely. He's not waiting on you to stop smoking, He's not waiting on you to stop cursing, and He's not waiting on you to go to church every time the doors are open, He's not waiting on you to stop playing with him, and He's not waiting for you to become the man you think he wants. "You" are the man He wants.

Is the Holy Spirit speaking to you? Get up in the name of Jesus, is He speaking to you backslider, get up in the name of Jesus, or is He speaking to you man of God and you want to say Hallelujah to the Glory of the Grace of God given so freely to all who believe. Get up in the name of Jesus. Today is the day to get up and give honor for the Gift given freely so long ago, so after so as to bring us to this day. Revelation 22:17 says, "And the Spirit and the bride say come, and let him that here they come, and "whosoever will", let him take the water of

Life freely. God's not waiting on you to be any more than what you are; He's only waiting on you to open the door. And He will pour out his Spirit freely.

Thank you Father for your Son,

Kevin Jolly, Caledonia CI

TESTIMONY

Brother Travis words cannot express the full magnitude of what your faithfulness has done in the lives of so many men. You are surely a living testimony of what I changed life in Jesus looks like. I do stand in awe of the power of God as I look at your ability to trust God in every situation presented to you and never seem out of touch with humor and peace. I just want to personally say thank you my brother for example you set for us all and for your faithfulness to the Lord. Also I must let you know how much it means to us that you are so supportive of the MasterLife program on every level. Without you, and all you do, we would be in a tough situation to accomplish all that we get done now because of you. I am eternally grateful and I pray the peace and blessings of God upon you and your family forever.

Sincerely with the love of God brother Tim Jones, Caledonia

TESTIMONY

It's been roughly 8 months since I asked Jesus to come into my heart and be my Savior. I don't usually think about how much time has passed for since then except I sometimes wonder what my life could've been had I made this decision when I was a younger man. Yes, God causes in his appointed time according to his purpose, all of us being predestined. Each day is a new adventure walking with God. So much has been revealed to me since that day.

I now attend church weekly and Bible study daily. I continued to have quiet time with the Lord where I read the word and pray. Otherwise, my daily routine and activities have not changed much. The way I look at life, people around me, and even my own self has changed dramatically. I view these things now with a renewed mind. I am learning to have compassion and understanding for other people now whereas before I had only contempt. I look at the difficult situations now not so much as a hardship intended to frustrate me, but instead as God given to inspire a lesson or teaching in my life. I also now realize there's more to being a Christian and just going to church. Christ commands that we teach others what we ourselves have been taught. As we seek to teach others we in turn are taught things about our character. God reveals to us what we need to know through his Divine word in order to accomplish His will. His word trains us to how we should live our lives. We do serve a truly amazing God. I learn each day to rely on God for my peace, for my protection, my strength, my encouragement and my provisions in all situations. Glory to God! 1 Thesalonians 5:18 in everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Amen. I pray God will minister to each of you according to your needs by His will.

Merry Christmas
Jimmie Pennell, Caledonia





**WITH FRIENDS YOU
HAVE MANY GIFTS,

MANY MORE THAN
YOU REALIZE. PRAISE
GOD FOR FRIENDS!

HOW CAN YOU BE A
FRIEND TODAY?**



**CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR
OUR COUNTRY AND
THAT GOD WILL LEAD
US BY HIS WILL

YOUR PRAYERS MAKE A
DIFFERENCE IN PEO-
PLE, FAMILY, AND OUR
COUNTRY**

FORGIVENESS (read Micah 6:8)

I'm glad that everyone has something to share, after all, that's what we are, "The Body of Christ" many members but one body and one purpose (Eph. 4:1-13). Keep up the good work and to God be the glory for all that He has done.

I'm also going to share something about "Forgiveness". We, Christians believe that Jesus has given us through His death on the cross the forgiveness of our sins, that's what scripture says (Mt. 1:21, Luke 24:46-47, Acts 4:11-12). Many other verses will agree, we also know that we are forgiven by grace, because none can ever pay for their sins.

So, my question to all of us is, are we ready to forgive others

just as Jesus forgave us? The reason I bring this up is because in my own life I can see how pride can get in the way when others offended me. But one scripture that comes to mind is: Matt. 18:23-24. in this story. Jesus is trying to make us understand that if we do not forgive others God will not forgive us either. It's important to understand that God wants to make us in the likeness of His Son which will mean that we should be merciful just as He is merciful. I know how hard it is to let go of what others have done to us, but ask yourself one question; has anyone done more sin to us than what we have done to God Himself? I don't think so, I know that with-

out a shadow of doubt I have lie, cheat, and steal from God more than anyone has against me. My point is that if I want God to forgive me for my many sins against a Holy God, why can't I show mercy to those who offended me since I am sinner just like them? The only difference between an unbeliever and me is "God's Grace", because without His grace I have nothing to offer for my forgiveness. So, today, I want to challenge you to go to that person or write that letter or make that phone call and forgive that person who has done harm to you, remember that, that person needs mercy as much as we do. May God bless you all.

Sergio Vasquez, Mountain View

How is it Going?

As I sit here looking out my window, my mind is searching for words to express to my brothers scattered throughout the prison system. I am looking over the attendance sheets and mailing list at every man that has participated in the past ML classes. It warms my heart reminiscing and praying over you guys.

How are you guys doing? What is it that keeps you going these days? What drives you when you wake up each morning? Is it your release date? Wait file? Chasing a roman noodle, coffee or stamp? Is it the spot in front of the TV or your favorite program? What is the center of your life these days? Oh how I pray each day that it is Jesus Jesus Jesus. Seeking Him, imitating Him and sharing Him with everyone in your area of influence. Brothers if you do not share the love of Jesus, who do you think will do it? the government, the schools? No, it is you, Y-O-U! He chose you. You should go and bear much fruit, fruit that will remain... it is you

He said, and anything you ask in His name He will give it to you. John 15:16. Go you therefore and teach all nations... Matthew 28:19

These men in these prisons need the fruit of the Spirit, (list). Until they receive it through salvation, they need to see it in you! You give it to them. Feed it in the way you serve: walk, talk, share, etc. they also need to know how simple it is to have a relationship with Jesus Christ. Most guys don't know. Believe it not; most professed Christians have no idea what it is all about. It is not right for you to keep this information to yourself. In fact, the word is clear that the genuine Christian can-not keep it to themselves. I only know of one of the 12 disciples that went off by himself, the rest went to work. Paul said that he labored more than all of them. It was the love of JC that compelled Him. He was compelled to tell. He said woe to him if he did not. They were disciple makers!

You brothers who hearing me and want to start a ML class, I

will tell you how to start. Pray – pray that God will send you men to disciple. Pray that He will open the doors to start a group (Colossians 4:2-4). Pray for a volunteer who is willing to oversee the class. Pray for the ear and heart of the superintendent and chaplain. Read Nehemiah chapters 1-6. Claim them to God. Nehemiah prayed about everything that he did. God promises that if you abide in Him and His word abides in you, he will give you John 15:7. But in 15:8 it must be about bearing fruit in His glory. Simply put, if it is about His business then "He is all in with you"



Pray, fast, and ask brothers to pray too. ask the HS to lead you to faithful men who can help you (2 Tim 2:1-4). Men who are faithful to the church, teachable, willing to serve, and will share your vision. Have a small group who will be able to a pilot class with you.

Update on ML class

Brothers it was a great year in discipleship in Caledonia, I didn't do an update in the last newsletter, we had plenty of testimonies last spring, I hope you all were encouraged by reading them. Let me take moment and share how God is moving and prayers are answered for the program. First of all we did get moved to a bigger space, gym! This was an impossibility at one time, **but God**



! I praise Him today for answered prayers.

The class started with 125 people signed up. Approximately 100 people showed up, and 70 people finished. We had 7 groups: 5 Disciple Cross for the first year men, 2 Disciple Personality for the second year

guys. We also had a group leader training program.

Oh yea, the party was so cool this year, we actually had separate parties and trivia games going on at once for the different groups. The group leaders did their own party and trivia games for their group.

It has been an awesome thing to be where God is working and be a part of it. Wish you were all



here . You are still all invited to write a testimony about your ML experience or what God is doing in your life right now. I hope all you guys are continuing to press forward to fulfill your ministries which God has ordained you to do. I miss all of you brothers scattered

across the state.

How is everyone enjoying the newsletter? If you have any suggestions, comments or you would like something printed, please send to: address.

You are invited to be a part of this. If you know someone that would like to be added to our mailing list send name, OPUS #, and address (home or church). We will be happy to add them on. Thanks to all you guys for testimonies, articles and pictures. May the Lord bless you for your faithfulness and support. Keep us in your prayers and that Caledonia will have a revival that will turn us upside down. If you ever wonder if you are being prayed for I keep a



prayer journal , rest assured I remember you and pray for you all, merry Christmas my brothers.

Brother Benwa, Caledonia Cl

**To live is
Christ, make
each day count
for the Lord**

MAIL CALL RESPONSES

James McElreath— after serving almost 27 years in prison, I believe that God has aligned me with His People to allow me to be physically free soon. I ask that you keep lifted up in prayer, and the people who are trying to help me that God will guide their every step, open the doors they need to go through, and give them the wisdom and knowledge and words to speak.

Rodney Williams—First, let me say that I thank God for each and everyone of for your word from God, your revelation from God and your encouraging word, thank you, may God continue to bless. I have read in 2 Corinthians 12:7-11, Jesus told Paul that His grace is sufficient for him, for power is perfected in weakness. We all are humbled by our situations, and strengthened with power

through His Spirit within ourselves. So I just want you to know that victory is not an accident, trust God its His fight. Ephesians 3:20.

Stephen Nisbet—it's so nice to hear from you. I truly take your calling as a God sent message to me to pull my act together. At this very point in time I am thankful to be reminded that there are people out there that

do care for us inmates. Even those of whom I have never met face to face.

Brandon Potter—Thanks for the newsletter, I really enjoy hearing people's testimonies. Tell Brother Ben I said hello and thanks for everything. Tell him I am the vine, ye are the branches John 15:5 has stuck with me and made me smile when I see it today, it brings back MasterLife.

How is it Going? (from page 4)

When you have a volunteer or chaplain who will help you start the class, contact us at: tmileur@gmail.com.

We will help you construct the class and assist you wherever possible. If you need a presentation outline to present to superintendent or chaplain, contact us. We will send you a ML outline.

Someone wants to do this but doesn't feel qualified, you are just the man for the job, God is not look-

ing for someone is qualified He is looking for someone who will; will be faithful, will be passionate about His business, will be obedient, and will let Him work through you. Don't wait on someone else to pick up your cross. It won't happen. You follow Christ: follow His example - disciple men!

Who else is going to do it?

Brother Benwa, Caledonia



THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL IS JESUS!

MASTERING LIFE

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MASTERING LIFE IN ALL AREAS OF BIBLE STUDY, SCRIPTURE MEMORY, FELLOWSHIP, WITNESSING, SERVING, BEHAVIOR, RELATIONSHIPS, THE CHURCH, THE COMMUNITY, THE WORLD.

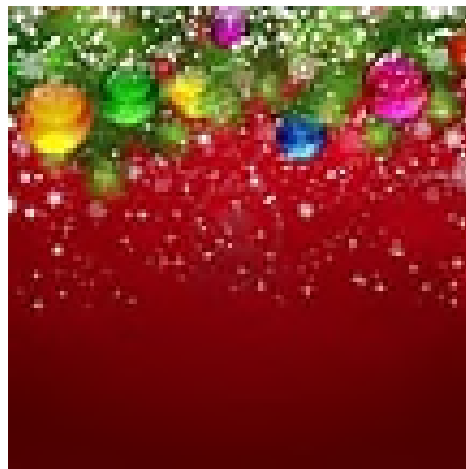
Adopt A Life is designed to help support a "lifer" (someone doing Life sentence or a long sentence) in his ministry, in prison. Basically, you can be a co-laborer to him and an encourager through letters and some financial support. Be a Brother, Sister, Father, Mother to these men.

MasterLife teaches some very important skills for witnessing. It also teaches the lost men to start a relationship with Jesus without religious hang ups; it simplifies Christianity, and it creates an atmosphere that brings the church men and lost men together, thus tearing down barriers.

DONATIONS ACCEPTED TO FURTHER THE
MINISTRY OF MASTERLIFE-ADOPT-A-LIFE
AT: WWW.MYEVENT.COM/ADOPTALIFE

THANKFULNESS IN GOD

This is Travis and Bequita Mileur. We have been deeply blessed by your many encouraging words, your testimonies and your thoughts. I forward our newsletters in our church and widely to other people that have an interest and they are praying for you guys. Be encouraged, God is not dead, He still rules and reigns and even when we do not know what He is doing we can trust Him for He is holy and righteous. You guys heap many praises on me, but allow me to be a conduit and heap it up to God our Father, for He deserves the praise and glory. Thanks again. God bless you.



UPCOMING MASTERLIFE

First Baptist Church, Rocky Mount, NC, is planning to start another MasterLife program beginning in March, 2017, and that it's a two-fold sponsorship with Calvary Baptist Church in Texas. Thank you to both churches for resources and volunteers!