



MASTERING LIFE IN CHRIST

MASTERLIFE NEWSLETTER

September 2018

Greetings MasterLife Family

**Bro. Tim, MasterLife Group leader,
Caledonia**

From the front line of the battles here at Caledonia, we are happy to report that we stand in victory having just completed the thirteen weeks, with over sixty men that completed the thirteen weeks, with over forty of those men being year one (Disciple's Cross) students. Of course, with every success story comes also the many challenges that had to be overcome by our team to assure victory, and as I am sure all of us have been affected by new policy changes, tighter security, staff shortages, and the overall approach by administration that birthed delays for us in getting things done. But to God be the glory! We were empowered by the Holy Spirit to face all opposition, and to be very resilient, standing on the Word of God that says, "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose", and "No weapon formed against me shall prosper". We stood knowing that if God be for us then who could be against us, and we learned how to rejoice

in the midst of every situation. Because of the faithfulness of the Lord and our trust in him to keep all that we have committed to him, MasterLife 2018 Caledonia has proven to be a great success. To see men come that had for the previous five years of the MasterLife program decline the invitation to participate, really brought great joy to our team, and gave us even more excitement in teaching and presenting the Word of God. We thank the entire MasterLife family spread across the country for their prayers and encouragement sent up on our behalf and extended our way. We rejoice in the knowledge that the seeds of true discipleship has been sown in the lives of the 2018 MasterLife participants, and after sharing a bountiful meal and Trivia game, with prizes awarded to the winners, I am sure everyone was blessed beyond their expectations. We look ahead with joy to see how the Lord gives increase to what he has ordained through the MasterLife program in the coming months.

We would also like to report that we were blessed this year with two additional team members from our outside volunteers, so in addition to Bro. Gene, Bro. Farmer, Sister Roberta, Bro. Warren, we welcome Bro. John, and Bro. Brock to our MasterLife Group leader team. We are all committed to being used of the Lord to disciple as many men and women as he sends our way through the MasterLife program, as well as in any place the need is found.

May the Lord bless us to remain focused on presenting the path of discipleship to those not knowing "what comes next" in the Christian walk, as well to those still undecided, that they may know what to do when they do decide to become disciples of Jesus.

To the entire MasterLife family from coast to coast and throughout the world, may you abound always in the work of the Lord.



CALEDONIA TESTIMONIES

From the Front Lines of Caledonia CI Ministry

As a longtime believer of Jesus Christ and a longtime prison inmate I have been involved in numerous Christian programs. The MasterLife program stands out by its basic approach, using the Disciple's Cross, as a road map for introducing new believers in the next step to a Christian's walk with Jesus. I have personally been blessed by finally having a clearer understanding of a Christ centered life and being able to explain to others how prayer, study of the Word, fellowship and witnessing, along with an established quiet time are the backbone of Christian living. I thank God for the new brothers I've met through the program and my experience with MasterLife. I would recommend MasterLife to all believers.

Larry Higgins, Caledonia

I learned of MasterLife back in 2013 from James Benoy. (Hello friend, you are missed), He had been on the yard a week or so when we were introduced. The two men that introduced us immediately walked away leaving us alone. That made it a little awkward, but we ended up talking for a while. He brought the Lord into our conversation and I felt comfortable enough to share some of what I was going through. Our friendship started that day. It took me awhile to realize that meeting him was not a coincidence (neither was the two men walking away after introducing us). I would not have opened up about what I was going through if those men didn't walk away. God made a way for James to bring MasterLife to Caledonia. Only God knows how many men MasterLife has helped here over the last five years. I know I needed it. I was not in a good place when I met James, mentally, emotionally or spiritually. I had been incarcerated for close to four years and I was still struggling to come to terms with having to serve a life sentence and being away from my family for the rest of my life. I didn't have a relationship with God, I didn't read His Word or pray. I couldn't bear it anymore and for the first time in my life, I cried to God and asked for help and relief. The first man I went to after swallowing my pride was Chaplin Johnson. He was patient, listened well and empathized with me. He recommended I go to church. I knew before I left his office that church couldn't help. For years I had doubts

and questions about church and Christianity. How do you pray? To who and how often? Why the different versions of the Bible? Some say start in the New Testament; why not start in the Old Testament? Why are there different sects of Christians? When I cried to God for help, it wasn't long after that I met James. I'm confident he was the answer to my plea for help. He taught me that I had to spend time with the Lord, quiet time. I had to work at building my part in the relationship and keep working at it. There wasn't a right or wrong way. Talk to Him, pray to Him. After a while I wanted to go to church and Bible Study. James started a MasterLife study in our block. Fourteen of us participated (out of 24-man dorm). James would talk about 100 men coming to the gym for MasterLife. He said he was going to talk to the administration here. I thought no way, but God made the way. Here it is six years later, James is no longer here and MasterLife is still going. In 2015, I fell away from our Father. I allowed others to put doubt in my mind. Worldly things became the center of my life instead of Christ. I stopped fellowshiping, reading His Word and rarely prayed. I found out that the misery I left behind when I asked God into my life was still there. I allowed the enemy to keep me there until the end of 2017. I'm still struggling with things, but God is in my life again. I never again want to be separated from our Father. Thank you, Father, for what you have done for me, especially the gift of salvation. Thank you, Father, for MasterLife, it made it easier for someone like me who didn't know the way and "what to do next". Thank you to the Caledonia staff who help and allow MasterLife to go on. Thank you volunteers and group leaders, you put us ahead of yourselves. To all the brothers and sisters outside the walls and fences that give in any way to MasterLife, thank you so much. It still baffles me sometimes that there are people who want to help prisoners. Jeff Mullis and Charles Batchelor, you have both helped me in my walk with the Lord. Travis, a big thanks to you for all you do. James, love ya brother.

Anthony Bimbo, Caledonia

My name is Alexander Joyner. I gave my life to Christ back in Jr. High school. As time passed, I found myself backsliding and eventually stopped going to church all together. Which, then, led me to a life of crime, in and out of prison.

All my other times in prison were spent like the streets – without God! But this trip to prison is different. Someone talked to me about God and invited me to MasterLife, to

learn about His son, Jesus. I agreed to go and am glad I did. I've had fun and really have learned a lot over these past twelve weeks. I thank God for having a program like MasterLife in prison, and for giving me the opportunity to fellowship with other believers wanting to grow in Christ. I recommend friends and all inmates who have never been, attend the first year of MasterLife. They will want to come back for the second year. I know I am! Thank you,

Alexander Joyner, Caledonia

Please allow me to introduce myself; my name is Arthur Litke, incarcerated at the Caledonia Correctional Institution in North Carolina. Serving an eight-year sentence comes in light of the fact that I have already spent 25 of the last 31 years incarcerated in six other states. And all this in the name of a criminal lifestyle fueled by a drug and alcohol addiction that has like a tornado, tore through the lives of those who loved me, leaving casualty after casualty along it's destructive path. In those crisis hours of my life, I launched numerous frontal attacks on my addiction, only to suffer defeat, a time we are all too familiar with. But as I look into the rear-view mirror of my life, I clearly see from the very first act of disobedience against God and men, that God has allowed the slippery slope of addition to become the avalanche that was needed to send this lost soul to his knees, and finally bringing me to the end of myself. It is at this juncture; I believe that God has guided me to MasterLife, a step-by-step discipleship study program, teaching me how to develop a personal, lifelong, and obedient relationship with Jesus Christ, discovering what I deeply wanted all along. My inward journey began with the importance of denying all of self for Christ. It does, as Henry Varley stated, "remain to be seen what God will do with a man who gives himself up wholly to Him," and I, along with D.L. Moody, "will be that man." So, in obedience as Christ at the center of my life, I experienced His leading as I devoted parts of each day by spending quality quiet time with the Master of my soul. This proved exciting and challenging as I committed each day in reading, studying, memorizing, meditating, and applying His Word, receiving the direction and guidance needed for daily decisions. By remaining in Christ and His Word, my relationship with Him has been highlighted through the power of prayer. As I stayed in touch with, and heard from Him through prayer, my faith has taken on a new meaning, as I witnessed request after request answered, understanding that it was nothing less than the hand of God in what He had already purposed according to His will. What

a confidence and strength this has sparked in a faith that was weakened by doubt in times past. A doubt that has been replaced with lips of thanksgiving, praise, and confession as I say with all of my heart, your will, not mine Lord! As I continue to experience the fullness of life in Christ, this has led me to an even deeper, harmonious fellowship with other believers as I demonstrate the love that Christ modeled for us. And I want to find, when I am living an obedient life to God, and practicing the six disciplines around the disciples cross, that I can bear the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, kindness, goodness, faith, and self-control to an addict who is lost, a mentally disabled person nobody wants to know, or even my enemy; fruit that would compel me to tell anyone what Christ has done for a sinner like me. I am now ready to pursue the Great Commission Christ gave me, with the responsibility to share with others the knowledge of His love, and help others become His disciples.

In conclusion, I send a heartfelt thank you to Avery T. Willis, Jr, author and developer of MasterLife, and to co-author, Kay Moore, for allowing me to take this MasterLife experience that has helped me to grow spiritually and has better prepared me for the Master's use. Again, thank you!

Arthur Litke, Caledonia

My name is Brandon Sharpe. I am currently serving a 6-8-year sentence. The MasterLife program has shown me that there is more to following Christ than just going to a service. Being a disciple is not a part time thing. You must let Jesus be the main thing in your life, which is something that I struggle with. MasterLife has at least started to open the door for me. Before my arrest, I was in a Bonnie and Clyde relationship. I loved her more than anything and I still love her a lot but MasterLife has shown me that I need to love Christ more.

Brandon Sharpe, Caledonia

I was born 8/14/73 and adopted 8/17/73 by my parents who were told they could not have kids. Two years after they adopted me they started having kids and, I now have three sisters. My dad always felt he had to show me more love and attention because I was adopted, which caused a lot of friction between the rest of the family. When I was really young, we went to a Lutheran church but stopped before I was ten, so I had no religion in my life until I was thirty when I started reading the Bible. My parents got

divorced in 1988 and I went to live with my dad and his new wife at the time. We moved to North Carolina in 1990. I have always had a sense of God but didn't understand the full extent of what He (Jesus) did for me until I started reading the Bible in 2003. I am now a third-year student in the MasterLife program. This was the hardest year for me, they stressed quiet time more and where I am located, it's really hard to get. By me not giving up, it helped me with working on Satan's strongholds in my life and there are many for me to work on because I have always been hard headed and thought I could fight off Satan by myself. I now know without God it's impossible. I need God and the spiritual armor He has provided for me to beat Satan.

Andrew Beck, Caledonia

Twelve awesome weeks with week thirteen being graduation. During those weeks, I've listened to young men have deep discussions about God and God alone. They earnestly wanted to know how to overcome the lies, strongholds, and perceptions. They wanted to be doers of the Word. Most of all, there were men who wanted an intimate relationship with Christ. To God be the glory that men of God were there to give these men, MasterLife participants, a plan of salvation.

I am extremely grateful that I was able to serve as a group leader. Shouts go out to Craig Williams and Timothy Jones because it was these two men who I watched, and they gave the 1 Timothy 3 model on how to lead. And let's not forget James Benoy, if it wasn't for him, MasterLife wouldn't have been thought of in my life. It is my prayer that all is well with him at Nash Correctional Institute

Congratulations to the 2018 graduates of MasterLife. Stay strong in the Word of God, study to show yourselves approved, and always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you the reason for your hope.

Brother Anthony T. Smith, Caledonia

Like many African American youth, I came from a Christian home. We would go to Tuesday night Bible study, PWW on Friday night, choir rehearsal on Saturday, and two services on Sunday. I actually believe my parents pushed us away from church because they made my sister and me go so much. My parents really didn't attend with us; they sent us with my grandmother. I told myself that once I got older I wouldn't step foot in a church. Once I got old enough to really make

my own decisions I turned to the streets. The ways of the streets seemed to me more fun than the Christian way. I would party, get drunk, and sleep with as many different women as possible. I even would be disrespectful to adults (I would talk back). My motto was "Life is short, live it up".

During all of this, God was speaking to me through many different events. It took my grandmother talking to me about the different things God was doing in her life, my cousin getting hit and killed by a car while walking home drunk, and me getting in a car accident in which I had to be airlifted to Pitt Memorial Hospital for me to realize that God was speaking to me.

Not long after I realized that God was speaking to me, did I try to change my life. We had this community basketball league that we would have to attend Sunday School classes in order to play. I also started liking my basketball coach's daughter; she and her mother were active members of their church. I even joined the church choir to be around my girlfriend, (my coach's daughter) more. I learned a lot of things about God that helped me see the only way to receive eternal life was through Jesus Christ. My grandmother continued to minister to me, and with that and all the other good things going on in my life, I accepted Christ as my Savior.

Being a Christian does not mean that your life has to be dull and boring. It means that you have been filled with the love of Jesus Christ, and that love should be shared with every individual that you encounter. As the Bible says in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life". I'm still not quite where I need to be, but I'm a work in progress.

Anthony White, Caledonia

Hello! My name is Barnabas Ennis and I am a first year MasterLife Discipleship program participant. I grew up in the seventies in a Christian home with my Mom, Aunt, Grandma, and my brother and three cousins. My Mom and Aunt used to send me and my cousins to church every Sunday and other church programs such as Vacation Bible School during the summers. Throughout my youth and adulthood, I attended church off and on and considered myself a Christian until I came to prison and was told about MasterLife by my brother in Christ, Walter Finley. I had never really been taught how to live a Christian life. MasterLife is a really great and profound experience that teaches you how to be a disciple of Christ and live the way

the Master would have you to live. I have been really touched by this first-year experience and would recommend the MasterLife discipleship program to anybody who did not know about it and have not experienced it yet.

Barnabas Ennis, Caledonia

I thank my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for another year of MasterLife. This is my fourth year and my second time being a group leader. Bro Jeff Mullis took the lead in our third-year group, and I helped when I could. Our focal points were the spiritual armor and the outward change. Bro. Benoy told me a long time ago that you will go through the trials as you are studying and teaching. Our lessons started out dealing with strongholds in workbook 3. We all have strongholds in our lives we need to deal with. Satan knows them better than we do. That's why we need to put on the spiritual armor God has provided for us. Read Ephesians, chapter 6 if you are a new believer and put it into practice. Like James says, faith without works is dead. The Lord has called us out of the world to live for him. We are at war. The only way to win this battle is to obey the Master – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. It's a walk of faith. Hebrews 11:1-40 gives us examples of how to win the war. I want to encourage everyone who has started the MasterLife program in book one, the Disciple's Cross to continue going through the other 3 work books. There are godly men in here who know how to lead a small group. Get with them, come to church and learn God's Word. He will change your life. May God bless every disciple and their families. In Jesus precious Name, Amen

Charles A. Batchelor "Chuck", Caledonia

I am David Benjamin Turner, and this year's MasterLife program has been a turning point for me. It has messed up my life! A life full of hate and bitterness. A life on the edge. A life of disobedience to the God that chose me before the creation of the world.

I would have been in my 3rd year of MasterLife, but I chose the enemy's disillusionment. Great men of God like James Weston Benoy, Brian (Fish), and Tim Jones planted the seeds that are now putting forth much fruit. I have given up all of my strongholds for good. I thought it would be harder, but anything is possible with God. I am constantly transformed by the renewing of my mind. I have a relationship with Jesus Christ that gets better and better the more I read the living

Word of God. I love to wake up every morning and deny my flesh while picking up the cross. With Christ at the center of my life, I step out into the battlefield for the Lord. I love to talk junk to Satan and tell him how his back was broke at Calvary, and that the blood of Jesus Christ washes away all of my sins. Satan is the father of all lies!

Being widely known as a very talented radio man/ barber/ storyteller, I already have a great platform to share the goodness of Christ Jesus. I enjoy memorizing scripture, and I look forward to using the MasterLife model in order to witness to anyone who will listen to a 10-time loser.

It has been my pleasure to be a part of Craig William's group. I thank him for showing me that it is possible to love in an environment where hate rules. Most of all I thank the Holy Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, for loving me so much that He paid the debts of my sins in full on the cross!

I am, David Benjamin Turner, Caledonia

Book 1 of the MasterLife program has really put me closer to God. It showed me the meaning of what to do after you have given your life to the Lord. I've never memorized a Bible verse, nor did I know about spending time with the Master until I joined the MasterLife program. Quiet time is really important when you have given your life to the Lord. That's one of the main things in Book 1 of the MasterLife program. Now I have a relationship with God because of my quiet time. I know that God is working in my life through the MasterLife program. Another step in Book 1 of the MasterLife program is loving everyone as the Lord has loved you. At one time I couldn't do that, now with me attending the MasterLife program, I love everyone, even my enemies. If you will apply yourself to the MasterLife program, you can't go wrong. Blessing comes out the MasterLife program. I've received a lot of blessing and still is receiving blessing.

Gary White, Caledonia

During the course of my life, I've had my ups and downs. I've understood through my downfalls, that this journey called "life" was harder than I thought. So, I came to the conclusion that life has to be more than what I see. I grew up in church and did the things I was told, to be qualified as a Christian. Growing into a desire to know the Lord, I tried to understand why I go through so much at a young age. From mother and father being

divorced to my oldest brother being taken out of my life, to my closest family being distant in love, and me being in and out of jail so young. As life got older, I realized at the age of 18 what it meant to really give your life, your heart, mind, body and soul to Jesus. In a small room called the Wayne County jail, God used a man so powerfully to impact my life and change it forever. Through this journey, Christ has kept me and preserved me until now, to learn to be a better disciple through MasterLife, and a great steward through His Word. Once we learn to put Christ in our lives, stay in the Word, pray to the Father, stay in fellowship, become great witnesses to witness to the world. We begin to learn where the journey is taking us.

Jonathan Brooks, Caledonia

To start with, MasterLife class has shown me new ways of becoming closer to God and allows me to share the miracles God has done in my life, like the two letters from a sitting United States President, and the gift of music for which I continue to use to help people and show God's love through!

MasterLife is a never-ending road, which leads to God and heaven. It's not easy to be on this road but look what Jesus did for each of us. He went to the cross for all of our sins. I can at least stay on the road to God and spend time each day with Him through prayers and His Word. I pray for everyone to be truly free and by the grace of God, He has truly set me free.

Thank you all in MasterLife for showing me the way. A special thanks to all the group leaders and the volunteers, which continue to give of their time. God bless you all.

James Ronquest, Caledonia

Hi! My name is Claude Elliott. I'm from Johnston County. I came from a Christian family, but I have not always followed Christ. I have been in and out of prison. I have had good jobs and bad jobs. I partied on Friday nights except one Friday night. I was at home relaxing when my cousin came over and we started drinking and smoking pot and crack. My aunt came to the door and said to me that she wanted a Pepsi. So, I went down to the end of the road where the soda machine was. While I was getting her the soda, I hear gospel music playing next door, so I stuck my head inside the door. The pastor asked if she could help me. I told her that I just wanted to see what was going on. As we were talking, I could feel a force pulling me inside and a force

pulling me back out. So, I went inside and went straight to the alter and fell down on my knees and asked God to come into my life. I know when I left I wasn't the same. I know that God is real cause I have trusted Him, and I know what He can do if you just trust and believe. Since I have been here at Caledonia, I have heard a lot about MasterLife. I asked to attend the next one. I signed up for the MasterLife program. While listening to the speaker explain what MasterLife was all about, I thought to myself I want to know more about it. So, I attended, and I have learned more about Christ than I have ever learned before. I learned that I have got to deny myself and take up my cross daily and follow Him. I learned that apart from Jesus I can do nothing. I see that MasterLife is a program that helps you to get to know where you are supposed to be in the Christian life and how to help you communicate with the Lord. I like the quiet time and I would like to take the MasterLife again so that I can grow more into the Word and in Christ.

Claude Elliott, Caledonia

I just wanted to give credit where credit is due, to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for pouring His blood on me to cover my many sins. Too many to list and too much hurt to fill this page - not mine, but mostly others! Thank you Jesus! I also thank all others involved, about God's work with this program. I am seeing men let go of hurt that has been holding them back from living a life of liberty in this world and the world to come. Jesus Christ is working in many men's lives this year, men letting go of guilt and brokenness of the things that have been done to put us in a place of loneliness and emptiness without the Lord God the Father. Confession of sin and repentance of these sins along with asking Jesus Christ to come into our lives, to heal the brokenness and to fill the vessel with His anointing oil of the Holy Spirit, changing hearts with a soft tender heart with a soft tender heart of love and mercy, just as we need to be forgiven. Let go and forgive, not only others but ourselves!

Thank you Father, of all for your love, nailed once upon the cross, for everyone and every sin to those that will confess Him before men as the Son of the Living God, Jesus Christ.

Jeffery Mullis, Caledonia, MasterLife Victory 3rd year

MasterLife has inspired me to become closer to my Lord by having quiet time, spending more time in His word, and praying more and

more. In the fall of 2013 my daughter died and came back right before my eyes in a car accident. That day I found Christ. MasterLife has helped me understand the love of Christ through fellowship and witnessing with others.

Jonathan Dixon, Caledonia

My life had been good, but I knew it could get better. Little did I know sometimes things get worse before they get better. Being diagnosed with Crohn's disease at the age of 18 left me taking pain medication, which only masked the pain. This left me dealing with the pains of life by masking them with abusing drugs. I felt as though I could escape reality by getting high. But with every high, there's a low. I could never seem to get high enough or it would only last for so long. Searching for ways to fit in, I would try to make people laugh, always telling the dirtiest jokes or willing to flunk in school trying to be the class clown. Again, the high of making people laugh only lasted so long. People bore easily, and I was no exception. Instead of graduating high school, I graduated the school of hard knocks, running the streets getting high; I learned ways to support my growing habit, none of them were honest. When security beefed up in stores, I decided that hitting houses seemed more promising. When I finally got caught, I realized my death wish had not been answered. Some higher power had to be keeping me from doing fatal harm to myself. I had been exposed to Christian influences at an early age, but only felt the peace and protection God can give after my close encounter with my self-destruct mode. I found myself thanking God I had lived through all the drugs and burglaries. Maybe I was destined for something better. So, I started reading a Bible and praying. I acknowledged what God had done for me, but I still hadn't dedicated my life to serving Him. It wasn't long before I was down the road of addiction again, only this time it was behind prison fences. I would make dates that I would quit and get my life together, but I would be challenged by temptation and fold to my desire to escape reality again and again. I can now see where God set certain circumstances in my path to cause me to grow tired of the drama involved with the lifestyle. God had given me the desire to stop using drugs. Phil.2:13 Now I have made a commitment to getting to know Jesus, live the Word, and apply it to my everyday life. I am nowhere near perfect, it is only by the grace of God that I have found the reality of who Jesus was and is in my life. I understand that this new reality is one I do not wish to escape. Being high on Christ' love is euphoric.

I don't ever have regrets the next morning or have to hustle to get the next fix. Jesus fixes it just because He loves me that much. I know if He can deliver me from a life of slavery to drugs, He can bring you to a reality you don't wish to escape either.

Jason Parker, Caledonia

This third year of MasterLife has taught me to trust God more. When I'm in my quiet time, He always answers any questions. My children have forgiven me of things, just not being there. We talk all the time. My daughter Chris, we talk about how the devil put things in our path to lead us the wrong way. He showed me how to be able to speak to and have a conversation with my children. God is good. I thank God for Bro. Tim Jones who God put in my life. Someone to talk to who understands. God knew that he would be a good leader. God didn't make no mistake. I ask all the brothers in MasterLife, who knows a word of prayer, to pray for my strength in the Lord. I'm sending a shout out to Bro. Swan Jones, Bro. Jesse T. Bracey, Bro. Isaac Timmons, Bro. Luke Haney, Bro. Kenny Morris, Bro. Jeffery Mullis and anybody else. Your brother in Christ;

Joseph E. Knight, Caledonia

My testimony is this, my first year as a group leader in MasterLife was last year. It was truly a wonderful experience for me. I took MasterLife and now I am teaching MasterLife, by the grace of God. It has been good, though there were times I did not know how I was going to do it, I've learned to leave that up to God. This year has truly been wonderful. Seeing God work in others' lives and do the miraculous. God is awesome, no doubt. To me, MasterLife is a great program and I am glad that I am a part of it. I hope to continue to be a part of it, no matter where the Lord leads me.

Kenneth Morris, Caledonia

My name is Lorenzo Perry. The enlightenment that I received through these studies has enriched my belief in the Word of Jesus. Through MasterLife I've enriched my belief and filled my soul with inner peace. Before I struggled with many things inside myself. Through these studies the turmoil has been dissolved into peaceful knowledge of the Word and I know there will be peace and strength in His love, as well as strength I've gained from others that I have studied with in

the Word. Being able to fellowship with others in my group has given me the hope I needed even after all my struggles. I found joy and so much peace. The love and support has brought me so much needed happiness. I thank God for all that He has done for me, and everything that He will do in time to come. My life is great now that Christ is a part of it. Thank you, God, blessed everyone.

Lorenzo Perry, Caledonia

My name is Joe Goodman, this is my first time attending MasterLife, and I must say that it has been wonderful. I've gotten a chance to hear things explained that I need answered. It makes you feel good when you attend service and see how brothers talked about the Lord. To be able to be a part of something that provides spiritual food is great.

Also, being a part of MasterLife taught me that quiet time is a very important part of your life, and also putting the Lord first. These were just two important things that I learned, and I'm truly thankful for our group leader.

I ask that everyone continue to pray for me and I'll truly do the same for you.

Joe Goodman, Caledonia

My name is Danny "Smokey" Foreman. I came from a family of Christians, but I was not one of them because of the person I was. I remember one Sunday morning my mother came in the room and said, "You are going to Sunday School". I was so mad but there was not anything I could do about it. So, I went and as I listened to the Sunday School teacher talk, I liked what she was talking about. But as I continued on going to Sunday School, I liked what she was saying but I could not fully understand what she was talking about.

Now, after I got locked up, I came to know all about God. So, this preacher asks if anyone wants to be saved, so I was saved on September 25, 1991. But I still did not understand what I am to do. Now, when I went to MasterLife, I begin to learn about my salvation. There are a lot of things I did not know that I understand now. I'm glad I came to this class. MasterLife has been a blessing to me. Now I know how to help someone come to Christ Jesus. I learned how to pray, about quiet time, and why you should have a quiet time.

I thank God for this time to be a part of this class and hope to learn more about discipleship. PS, I know I left a lot out about

my life, but all I could say is God has done a lot for me, and I thank God.

Danny "Smokey" Foreman, Caledonia

MasterLife was a great experience for me. Before MasterLife, my attention was focused on negative things. My desire wasn't praising the Lord; instead I was running away from Him. I let the devil destroy what God had planned for me. So, accomplishing and experiencing MasterLife was the best thing I ever did. It taught me how to fellowship with other believers and quiet time showed me how to speak and pray and fellowship with God. I've learned peace, love, joy, patience and self-control in MasterLife. MasterLife helped me become a better person in life. If you have not taken MasterLife, I advise you to start. Thank you and may God bless.

Phillip Mackey, Caledonia

Grace and Peace be unto you!

My name is Rodney K. Boothe, Caledonia, and this is my first time attending the MasterLife discipleship study program. I have been here at Caledonia for 3 years and have heard so much about the course, so I decided to sign up, and I am so glad I did! My faith has been strengthened, and my faith has also been renewed in God.

I have been connected with mighty men of God, who are on fire for God and have a passion for lost souls. Often times we feel alone and that we have no one to talk to. But MasterLife has helped me open up and to go forth in ministry and draw closer to the Father.

MasterLife gives you all the tools you need to live in the Word of God, develop a strong prayer life and be a witness for Christ. I encourage everyone to join the "MasterLife family". It will do you good. May God's choice blessing be yours!

Rodney K. Boothe, Caledonia

MasterLife Brothers,

In 2012, I stepped off the bus onto the yard of Avery Mitchell. That next Thursday night, I went to the upstairs chapel to hear Brandon Young, a preacher from over in Tennessee. I had never in all my life heard the Word of God or felt the presence of the Holy Spirit, like I did that night, and still haven't! That was the closest to being in the "Upper Room" with

Peter on the Day of Pentecost I could ever experience! A few days later, I met a man on fire for Jesus, Brother Benoy (Benwa). He was always smiling and didn't know a single stranger. Through church, retreats and revivals, our friendship grew. Benwa stayed busy for the Lord, but his heart was set on MasterLife and getting it to grow into something that would benefit us in here. To see the love and dedication he had for the Lord and MasterLife really inspired me to join.

There were 75-80 men attending MasterLife every week. Every week there would be more coming upstairs trying to get in to join. But they had to be turned away because the chapel capacity was maxed out, and it stayed that way. We always started MasterLife with a prayer. Then we'd sing, "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder", loud and proud! The officers, Administrative Personnel, and Teachers from that floor would come to see where all that joy was coming from. They would stand around the door a few minutes then walk away with a smile.

Back then there weren't enough MasterLife workbooks to go around. If you were really serious about the class, and there were two or more together in a block, you could get all four MasterLife Disciple workbooks. Since there weren't enough books, Benwa would write everything from his notes on a dry-eraser board, and then we'd copy it all in our composition books.

Another thing MasterLife didn't have was volunteers willing to devote their time, thirteen to fourteen weeks, to be with us. On the last day everyone didn't get a plate full of Chicken and pizza, but we had a lot of fun! MasterLife has come a long way since my first year. There's plenty of room now, and nobody has to be turned away. There are enough books for everybody and we have a group of volunteers that really care and enjoy spending their time with us.

In our beat down broken lives, we need love, support and lifting up. We all go to the Lord damaged and in need of repair. We can be strong in some areas and struggle in others. Through MasterLife, God has opened some pretty tough doors to give us an opportunity to repair all those damages. All it takes is to be willing and show up. Volunteers are there for support. Brothers are there to teach, and Jesus is there in the center! Making Christ the center of our life is what MasterLife is all about; the rest will fall right into place.

This has been a great experience that I'll always be grateful for and will never forget. I've had good, and I've had my share of bad days. But praise God! Cause through all the

bad days, I thought it would never happen, my M.A.R. was finally filed. I still have strongholds that I struggle with, but I know God will make those repairs in His time, not mine! For you brothers who know me, that were always praying for me, but always staying on me. Thank You!

Tim Strickland, Caledonia

This MasterLife program has been a very blessed eye-opening time for me. The studies and group sessions have given me more knowledge to move forward in my relationship with God. I'm more confident in my faith and I'm thankful for the brotherly love that comes from the building of relationships with the brethren. I look forward to continuing to go through the next phases in the future because I believe there's more to gain from it. I encourage any and everyone who desires to know more to take advantage of this program. It really is a great help!! God bless.

Theon Joe, Caledonia

To all my brothers at MasterLife, I'm still in the Lord our Jesus Christ hands and I am still praying the Lord our God will help free me one day. Every day is a step closer to freedom. I have been working on my case and with everyone's prayers, I will get out of here one day as an innocent man in prison for a crime I did not do. As for me, I will be praying for everyone.

Aaron Pretty, Caledonia

My name is Jami Salisbury and I have been locked up since February of 2014. When I was in jail, I became closer to God because I knew I was in hot water. One night after I read the Bible and I prayed, I fell asleep and God showed me a vision that I was very sure could come to be. The vision was of me getting some time and coming to prison and then the vision showed me going back to the county jail back in front of a judge. When I got in front of the judge and he did what he did. I left out the courtroom feeling relieved and a little happier. God had showed me that He will make a way for me to get back in court and give some time back, which I am believing and waiting patiently for now. For all who read this, if you sincerely give it all to God and seek Him, He will work miraculously in your life plus more. The God we serve is God Almighty and it's nothing in this world that's impossible for

Him. So, walk by faith and not by sight. God bless you!!

Jami Salisbury, Pamlico (MasterLife at Caledonia)

I have been getting the newsletters, thank you for that. I went to the MasterLife program at Caledonia in 2016, and I must say that was one to the best times I have had in prison. But since then, I have hit a little bump in the road and I'll be spending a little time in the hole, maybe a year or so, but I will be fine. That will give me plenty of time to be with God. God Bless,

David Conner, Caledonia

NASH TESTIMONIES

From the Front Lines of Nash CI Ministry

I want to start this off by thanking Brother Travis Mileur; cause the program would not be here without his help. Thanks again. I got to tell the truth, old Satan had hold of my life most of it. I was raised up in church when I was growing up, but still went down some bad roads. But today, my Father God is a winner to the fullest, because He is my rock. Today, I'm a full time Christian living for Him and my family and trying to learn more about Him. This program, MasterLife, is teaching and learning me how to grow in a Christ like way, to learn how to deal with people like myself. Being able to share in groups with others teaching each other the way to live in the Word. When I started this program with Brother Benoy I enjoyed working with him. He shared with us till he had to move next door. He told me and Kenny Nichols we were on our own. Well, we started together our own little group. It's going well. The new guys like MasterLife so well that when we finish this 4th book we are working in now, they want to start book 1 to learn it all. So that's what our plans are to keep the Disciple's MasterLife going to help others in the world. Thank you and please pray for me as I pray for us and the world.

Amen. Brother in Christ;

Anthony Hill, Nash

To: Bro. Travis and all the MasterLife brothers across the world, bringing disciples into the grace and knowledge of our great Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, may the Lord bless you all.

My name is Phillip Hairston Sr., and I'm currently incarcerated at Nash Correctional Facility in Nashville NC. I have been blessed by the Almighty God to be placed into a unit and dorm filled with believers of Christ. Praise God! I was living in the world when I was transferred here from the notorious, and dangerous Lanesboro prison 8 months ago. The first thing I noticed was, every day a large group of guys would come together in a circle and pray, then study some kind of work books. I would later find out that those books were MasterLife books. The environment here is so peaceful and God filled. I have never seen anything like this in my 15 years in prison. Then at Christmas, the brothers came together and had a wonderful Christian filled Christmas party. It was so unbelievable. For prison standards, and even on the outside as well. I was blessed to meet a man of God named James Benoy, who has been a major motivation in my life, and has blessed me with the MasterLife study. This entire program has showed me how to be more Christ like in a simple but powerful illustration, step by step. The most impactful section for me so far has been the lesson on putting on the armor of God. This breakdown of our spiritual weapons has helped me enormously to defeat the enemy's daily attacks.

To all my brothers and sisters in Christ who are physically behind bars, always remember: Jesus has already paid for our sins. God is faithful to keep His promises, *for whosoever endures to the end, shall be saved*". This is just the storm that you're going through, which is just temporary. The sunshine is on the way. Keep yall's head up.

In Jesus Name, Phillip Hairston Sr., Nash

Greetings, my name is Kenneth Lacy. I've been a disciple of Jesus Christ for many years now. Prior to enrolling in the MasterLife (The Disciple's Cross) program, I've taken several self-improvement Bible study courses, which was great. But being able to sit together and discuss the Word of God and each one teaching each other, iron-sharpening iron, was such a better experience. Through the group discussion and the lesson in MasterLife (The Disciple's Cross) workbook, I am more assured I'm saved, but I learned how to be more efficient while witnessing to others about the love of God. The weeks in MasterLife (The Disciple's Cross) class have

been a blessing to me. I recommend that all believers and especially non-believers enroll in the class.

To God be the Glory, Love,

Kenneth Lacy, Nash

Hey, I'm in the MasterLife program. It has been great to help me with my quiet time with God. Also helps me get my mind off of prison for a little while. Take care. Thanks to Glenn!

James Stout, Nash

"A Fool for a Father"

Like the title states, that is what I had become, "a fool". I got so caught up in this world that I didn't seek out the knowledge of God and His instructions on how to live and be the father the way He wanted me to be.

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected Knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to Me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God. I will also forget thy children. (Hosea 4:6)

There is so much power in the truth of this one verse, I could write a hundred different sermons about it. What I'm going to stay focused on is: *"I will also forget thy children"*. Fathers, Grandfathers, and soon to be Fathers, this is the hardest letter I have ever in my life written so far. When I "woke up" and realized how bad I had failed God and my own kids, all I wanted to do was die, and I asked God to just let me die. I was broken. My eyes were wide open to who and what I had become, and how far I had fallen away from the truth.

It was my responsibility to share the knowledge of God with my Kids, and to be the priest of my home. Not the mother, or the church, but as the Father it was mine!! Lord, I take responsibility for the lives of my girls to the point, if it comes to it, of spending eternity in hell for them. I give my life Lord for theirs. Lord Jesus, I'm not putting them before You, I'm putting them before me.

God has shown me that there is no greater gift to give to my children, than the gift of allowing His Holy Spirit to live through me in front of them, or the gift that Christ Jesus has already given to all of us. There is nothing in all the bloody world to give to them that will ever keep them from eternity spent in hell! Only the knowledge of God and the "right

understanding of that knowledge" will be able to lead them to salvation.

My God, oh my God, what was I thinking, what was I doing? How could I have allowed myself to become so blind, and to have forgotten your laws, forgotten Your truth? Dear Lord Jesus, please forgive me, for not seeking out Your knowledge, for not studying Your Word, not leading my kids, the ones You have given to me and entrusted to me, to show them Your ways. Dear Lord Jesus, I bow myself before You right now! I lift up my girls to You Lord right now, wherever they are. Lord, please hear my cry! God, most High God, the Living God, please bring your truth to their hearts. My Father God, Dad, show them right now Your love; show them the love that I or this world cannot give them. A love that is eternal, that will never stop. Lord Jesus, those that are reading this letter, I lift up all their children to You Lord Jesus. Not just my own children, also my sisters and brothers, and throughout my family. Dear Lord, this is not a one-time prayer, but a continual prayer of my heart. You, O Lord, are a "Delivering, and Saving" God. Amen and Amen.

Fathers, I am calling you, no I believe God is calling all of us to this fight, the fight for our kids. Who will join me at this Alter? This isn't the alter to rejoice, this is the alter of Blood, the blood of our children. I don't know about you, but I'm tired of seeing satan spilling out kid's blood all over the ground. I'm not leaving this alter until all our kids are delivered. I take this alter with me wherever I go. I hope we haven't become to civilized or sophisticated and proud to get on our knees and cry out and wail for the souls of our own sons and daughters. Don't be a fool! We are in a war for these souls!

"Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; prepare a war, "Wake Up" the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up". (Joel 3:9) I believe with all my heart, it's time, IT'S TIME! "WAKE UP".

May the love of Christ our Lord, and my love be with our children and all you who have read this letter, a father and brother in the Lord.

Kenneth Nichols, Nash

"And he will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the land with a curse" (Malachi 4:6)

Grace blessings and peace be upon you. To the many brothers in Christ that I have had the privilege of laboring alongside of fruitful

service in the Lord – I love you guys and thank God for the wonderful impact you have had on my life. Through the shared experiences of our highs and lows; good and bad; joys and sorrows, as well as our patient endurance in affliction. As you know that is all part of our ministry in serving the Lord – taking up our cross daily. So, be not weary in your well doing for as God has promised "in due season, you will reap if you faint not Amen?" so to all my fellow MasterLife alumni, know that your presence has helped broaden my spiritual horizons in so many ways and has served as inspiration to me. I now continue to run on for the Lord, in pursuit of His purpose and plan for my life, and I encourage everyone reading this to do the same. Hold fast to your faith and let's continue to love Jesus Christ and others. The lord has great things for you just over the horizon. A special thanks to every support, facilitator, and participant. God bless all of us in Jesus name, amen.

In Christ's service, Craig Williams, Nash

Larry Doyle, Nash

What happens when a group of dedicated men enlist in the army? Battles are won, and ground is recovered from the enemy. At Nash Correctional, that is exactly what has happened. MasterLife starting with one small group in C-block on Unit 2 – has spread to every unit in the institution. As a new group leader, I am excited about the future; a future in which Nash is sold out for Jesus. I have watched the Disciple's Cross transform ordinary con's you know the type, into men that reach out to others in the block, sharing Jesus and inviting them to MasterLife. Yet do not think they were the only ones transformed, I too experienced transformation. God has worked in my own life, calling me to a deeper commitment. As a matter of fact, seven weeks ago I would not have imagined in being a group leader, nor did others see me as doing such. However, we must remember that He chose us, we did not choose Him. Likewise, He has called us into a vocation, a vocation not of our own choosing but according to His good pleasure. I leave you with "Follow God's Will", and if His will is unclear, follow as if you are driving at night, at night we can only see what is revealed by the headlights, so too walk by faith.

Maranatha (Come Lord Jesus come) Larry Doyle.

Saved by Grace

By Lonnie H. Cassell, Alexander

My testimony is that I have been saved by the grace of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ from the pangs of alcohol and drug abuse. I came from a good family background, raised in a church environment, good school, the norm for a child growing up. Trouble started early in my life, running the street, drinking wine, simply things teen-age children do. I finished high school, landed a very good job, but my drinking was getting worse day by day. However, I was always able to keep a good job. My alcohol drinking led me to do drugs which I seem not to have any control over.

In my lifetime I have been to six rehabilitation centers but as soon as I was dismissed from one I would go right back to drinking. My alcohol and drug abuse led me to start doing petty crimes, which grew into some big ones. On May 5, 2015 while under the influence of alcohol and drugs, I robbed a store by gunpoint. I was later convicted of robbery with a dangerous weapon and kidnapping. I did not realize how much trouble I was in until I got my head together. I knew at that point I had to get my life together. I started thinking back into my past how I had fallen victim to alcohol and drug abuse. I know from the twelve step programs I had attended that said I could not do it alone (quit). I had to have the help of a higher power (Jesus Christ). On May 15, 2015, I asked my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to remove the taste and want of those substances from me and from that day I have given my all to Jesus Christ by doing Bible Studies, reading the Word. Because without Jesus in my life I would have been a lost cause.

My favorite scripture is Galatians 5:1. It reads, *"Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made me free and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage"*. So, you see, it was by the grace of Jesus I have been saved and set free.

The MasterLife program is a program that helps us remember what Jesus has done for us. I would like to thank the group leaders, the volunteers, the administration, and a very special thanks to my group leader, Craig Williams. I am already looking forward to next year. May our Lord and Savior keep us all as we seek His blessings, mercy and grace.

Dear MasterLife Brothers,

Well there is so much to tell but let me start by thanking my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This past semester has been grueling;

however, it was not my own strength that sustained me during those times of need, but God who "gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength.... But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint" (Is. 40:29, 31). So whenever one is feeling faint, rely not on your own strength; yet trust in the Lord who strengthens (Jer. 9:23). This is one of the many things one will encounter in daily life. There was a time in my life where I thought I had it rough; though when I started walking with the Lord and relying on Him, only then did I come to the realization "I have it made compared to the lost." I beseech you all who have taken part in MasterLife, find someone to invest in; someone who is not saved or has never been discipled and befriend them. We as Christians are called to be disciples for Christ and are commanded to "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen" (Matt 28:19-10). Remember that disciples are called to proclaim Jesus to all, for Jesus himself declared "For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance" (Matt. 9:13). So, the next time you sit down to eat, heed Jesus' advice and witness to someone. Yeah, you will suffer persecution by sitting with the sinner and not the so called "saints," but we are called to suffer for the sake of the Gospel. For Peter professes that "if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter" (1 Pet. 4:16). So, let this be an encouragement to all to stand firm for Christ, and you can expect Him to do the same for you. Jesus told his disciples that "...whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 10:32-33). Brothers, may God bless you all and may His grace be with you forevermore. Amen!

In Christ, Kyle Triplett, Nash

First off, thank you for the countless hours you spend keeping the MasterLife brothers up to speed on what's going on with each other through this newsletter. I enjoy reading about how the Lord, our great God is working in my brother's lives. I pray for you and your family; may you enjoy prosperous healthy lives. Thank you! Brothers, I have seen wonders only a true believer could believe. In my time as a MasterLife brother, I have had many ups

and downs. My health has been bad, my pride has been stomped on, and yet I feel no hate or anger. I have had terrible skin problems that at times have caused me to feel like a person with leprosy out of the Bible. I know firsthand what it feels like to be shunned, and I am so ashamed at myself for being one of those who at one time did the shunning. But our loving Lord has smiled down on me. He is putting me in a position to get healthy, mind, body, and spirit. He has given me a place of safety and refuge. He has blessed me with a loving healthy family to rely on, and brothers, I know I can always talk to that will always listen. Your brother,

Dennis Pekala, Mountain View

Dear Travis, Weston Benoy and MasterLife family;

Hello, I haven't written in a while, so I thought it would be good to update you all.

I am now in minimum custody and at Tyrrell work farm. I am adjusting to my new environment and looking forward to new experiences. God has surely been good to me over the years and as I look back on some, I see the people He put in my path along the way. Weston Benoy and Brian "Fish" just being two of the brothers who have walked a portion of the road with me. Each person that has walked with me, and I with them, has made an impact upon my life. Sometimes the impact I see as either good or bad, but I have also learned that I cannot judge the impact solely on how I perceive it. What I might see as bad, God has ordained for my good and far be it for me to try to judge what God does. I feel a loss every time a brother moves on or if I do so because we are separating from one another, but I also know God has someone waiting for me wherever I go. My road is shorter than some, but longer than others. I know I will always have fond memories of the mile markers of Brother Benoy (Benwa) and Fish. Remember that the road we walk is one that must be traveled to get to our appointed destination, the people we meet for our benefit, and the bumps for our learning. I am thankful for the bumps as well as the smooth spots. In all of this, God gets the glory.

Be Blessed;

Kenneth "Ray" Lawson, Samson

Greetings, in the name of Jesus Christ. My name is Dereck Moore. I'm currently at Wake Corrections. MasterLife was one of my breakthrough seasons on my way to the

Cross. James Benoy, Tim Jones, Jesse Bracey, Bro. Cherry, Walter Finely, and all the other Brothers and Sisters that I did not name. Stay encouraged in this season of the Lord. The Lord is pouring out a fresh anointing over the land and we as children of God must walk in it. Ecclesiastes 12:13 says "Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." This is the season where soldiers are raised and will respond to God's calling. I declare and decree, "Who is on the Lord's side?"

Isaiah 40:3-5 says; "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, "prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God". Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low, the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

My heart, my mind says yes, my spirit still says yes, yes to your will, yes to your way, yes to your word Father. I pray that the brothers will grow stronger in the Lord and be mighty in battle. Exceedingly, abundantly above all that you ask or think, according to the power that worketh in you. **God is Able!**

God Bless You,

Bro. Dereck Moore, Wake

This year has been a very big struggle for a lot of us in the program. From deaths in our families, to heart attacks, and sickness. All the while doing the very best to study and keep up the assignments in school. I know it has not been an easy task, especially for myself included. However, through the hardships and trials, God has provided growth, spiritual maturity, and a togetherness unlike anything I have ever experienced. The closer I've come to God these past eight months have been birthed by the most difficult period of my life. My life has been turned upside-down. As I struggled with the pain of hearing all my mother is enduring, I sought solace in the word of God. I know how to pray kneeling and out loud, but I didn't know what it was to pray in the night and see my tears falling on the concrete floor inches from my face. God met me there in ways so powerful and personal I never dreamed were possible. I turned to faithful prayer warriors in Benoy, Johnston, Rash, Kelliher, and Angell.

These men prayed with me and it was like God was moving mountains in my life. Thank God for men faithful like these, who heed the call. During the Christmas holiday God gave me a special present that ignited a lot of men in the

program to the power of prayer when two or more are gathered together believing and trusting in his promises. My mother was given a free bill of health from the doctors. My experience is when we take care of what's on God's heart, he will take care of what's in ours. I mention all this to give you some further ideas that you may in part introduce how God ultimately had a hand in everything to get us all where we are now, especially the trials. And in doing so we as a whole collectively grow more in the Lord for all of our lives.

Sin will always cost more than we want to pay. The true church of Jesus Christ is filled with loving people who have been in the place of darkness. I've been there, I could take you to the place in my Bible where a date is written: a day; a month; a year when I knew the right but found myself far from it. The truth transforms us. Spiritual growth is the process of replacing lies with truth. Jesus prayed, "Sanctify them by the truth; your Word is truth." To become more like Jesus, we must fill our lives with his Word. The Bible says, "Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has set for us." God's word is alive. When God speaks, things change. What does all of this mean? Take twenty-eight ordinary men who are in prison, who think they've got it all together, and desire to help others. So, they sign up for seminary school. However, soon they realize it is no easy task, no not at all. They find out that their life was not as well put together as one thought.

The Word of God taught, and the information soaked in by the teaching of the Professors started doing something in the lives of each of these men. The Word had shaken them to the very essence of their core. In the process, they questioned all they had ever been taught about God, the testing of their faith, and to fully rely on God in the midst of it all to get them through. They themselves found they were being transformed by God inside and out. While preparing them to be His disciples and to live for his purposes. To the extent of what Jesus did for the disciples, he helped them to know and love God (worship), taught them to love each other (fellowship), gave them the word so they could grow to maturity (discipleship), showed them how to serve (ministry), and sent them out to tell others (mission).

Today God calls each of us to do the same work. Not only does he want us to live out his goal, he also wants us to help others do the same. For us twenty-eight men in seminary, this is the calling, the very foundational lessons being instilled in each of us to introduce others to Christ, bring them into His fellowship, help them grow into

maturity, and discover their place of service, and then send them out to reach others, too. It's such an inspiration to see the growth in each of my fellow brothers lives. We are not the same men we once were months ago when we all started out this journey together in college.

I look forward to the day when we all graduate and are sent out to do God's work and disciple the lost and help set the captives free. We are simply His stewards, and He expects us to invest every part of our lives in terms of His will for us. What a tremendous privilege of presenting Jesus Christ to those in need. We are His representatives in a lost world that yearns for change. For anyone who is reading this, the question is always there before each of us. Are you going to "Go" like the disciples went? They went, and the world was forever changed. Do we step up to the challenge? Are you ready? May we all be like Isaiah who said, Here I am Lord send me" (Isa. 6:8).

Loren Hammonds, Nash

Dear Mr. Travis,

I am writing to first let you know how encouraging the newsletter is to me. The testimonies and seeing how God is moving in other facilities blesses me to hear. Secondly, I wanted to let you know how you and Benoy blessed me and I don't even know you.

I was at a very low place, in a very trying facility. I was the chaplain's clerk, which is the only joy and peace I had during this particular time in my life. Well, one day they call me to the office and when I get there they hand me a Bible, "Jesus Calling" devotional Bible and all I knew was what you wrote on that note, that "you were forwarding the Bible to me at Benoy's request, that a mutual friend of you both wanted me to have it." I still don't know who that mutual friend was, but I would appreciate it if you let that person know how grateful I am for it and how encouraged I was to know that someone was thinking about me. (God knew!) It was a few days later I lost my dad and I've held on to the encouragement I got from receiving that Bible more times than I can tell you.

I can't wait to receive my next newsletter, they too encourage me greatly. Thanks for being the Light in a dark place.

Regina Bridges, Swannanoa

LIFE AFTER PRISON

Mr. Travis,

Here is a small good-bye letter. My time has come and in just 4 months I'll be released from prison, maybe sent back to my country. But, I hate to leave without saying "Adios Hermanos". I am very thankful that through MasterLife I met "Benoy" and others, who will always be in my heart. I thank God for "Fish" and "DJ", Quinn and "Shon". I am not sure how to spell his name, but if you are reading this, you know who you are.

My journey began in 2007, when really drunk and high, I had my first conviction of sin. Even if it wasn't a very honest prayer, I ask God for help, because I saw the damage I was doing to my wife and son. Little that I knew, that within weeks, my life would make a big change. It went from making good money to almost minimum wages, from being married to being separated and on top of that, a warrant for my arrest. Sadly, I was so hardheaded and foolish that I didn't see God's grace, and so, instead of doing things right when I had a chance, I end up getting locked up for 10-13 years. It took me almost a year to fully surrender to God. I thank God that I went to Seg. that December 2008. It was there by myself that God opened my eyes to see that my life was full of sin, not only for being in prison, but because all my life I had lied, cheated, fornicated and most of all, ignored God's gift of forgiveness that His Son, Jesus Christ, had bought for me with His own blood. I was afraid to be honest with my family, friends and anyone, but God reminded me that my sin had brought bad stuff to others, and if I didn't repent, I will never be with Him in eternity. And so, my new journey began. I was a new creature, (2 Cor. 5:17) and for the first time in a long time, I had peace. Has my life been perfect? No, but I'm not the guy that came in to prison 10 years ago. My family is waiting to see this new man that God made, and my brothers and sisters have much hope that God has something for me to do in Mexico. I'm telling you brothers, I'm trusting God with my life. So, Benoy, Fish, Shon, DJ and anyone who I'm forgetting, Mrs. Travis, my grand mom in Christ, Diane, all those who have put up with me all this time:

Thank You so much. I'm sorry if I offended anyone in any way, (this includes from my bad breath. My dentist told me I have gum disease from smoking Meth so, not much they

wanted to do for my crime). I will always remember you all, and who knows, maybe I will stay in touch through face book, with MasterLife, if not, I hope to see you all in heaven. Please keep me in your prayers and never give up. God is able, He knows what's best for us, trust Him.

Love in Him, **Sergio Vasquez, released**

PS, I almost forgot, if anyone sees Tyron or Kiki, tell them good-bye and give them my love!

{Sergio is now in Mexico with his mother, he is doing well and sends all his love to the brothers, you will hear from him from time to time as he Master's Life through Jesus Christ on the Mexico mission field.}

Bringing It Back

Hello. Some of you reading this know me, others I've yet to meet. I'm Jon Daniel formerly 1247010 and used to occupy a place where many of you reading this are now. Greetings to all of you housed in prisons around North Carolina and those attending any form of MasterLife. The principles of this program are essential to having a productive peaceful, Christ centered life.

I'm writing you today from Sarasota Florida where from all observations God has allowed me to reside, provided for my needs and given to me above my dreams more than I feel at times I deserve. That's why I'm writing this, for you to know God's always aware and is concerned with you.

I'd love to say my sentence ended on post release and I never failed. That's not how I finished. I came back to finish the remainder and released. Not God's failure because He doesn't fail. What I want to express to you is God always has a plan. No matter where you find yourself in life, God's pulling for you, carefully attending to the direction He desires for your life. God, is never thru with you, tired of your stuff, or wishes He'd never seen you. He's just one step away from another miracle, event, accomplishment or barrier being torn down. All He wants is obedience.

Today God blesses me with many things. Some are within my God given capabilities, others fell from the sky and are not of my skill; but, true gifts from God. Point is, God's involved and concerned. He's equally concerned with my job as He is with your job. He cares about your finances as much as mine. Being incarcerated doesn't change his love towards you. So today I pray

for each person reading this, that God protects you, leads you to His place for you and continues to provide His will in your life. Thanks,

Jon Daniel, Sarasota, FL

{Jon was released to a shelter and within 6 months, by God's grace, he has been blessed with a well-paying position, a home, a BMW, a great church family, and a beautiful Christian girlfriend. He is currently involved and supporting MasterLife ministry and missions.}

OUT OF THE BELLY OF THE WHALE BEHIND ENEMY LINES

BY WALTER FINLEY JR.

Let me get right to the meat of the situation. I am going to tell all of you right now that if you are reading this newsletter and have never went through the Master Life program even once, you need to go. I am also telling those who have been through several phases of the program that you need to keep going. Whether you have not gotten your release date yet or whether you have a close date or one further away, keep going to Master Life. It is a fact that whether you have a release date or not that the majority of incarcerated inmates end up out here at some point. That's a fact! Even if you don't, you can see what is coming into the system from out here and you need to be prepared to lead them to our Lord by example and to know what to tell them when they have questions or need guidance.

I kept a day to day diary of my last year in prison. I didn't hold back on the daily entries I wrote. I called as it was. I was released January 1st, 2018. Yes, about 7 months ago as I write this letter. When I look back at all the struggles and temptations I wrote about in that dairy and all the things that I witnessed happening that I wrote about, I am here to tell you that it is nothing compared to what I have faced out here in these short 7 months. But I will tell you that God used prison time to prepare me just like he is preparing you, for this world out here. God is also using these experiences to build up those of you who are going to remain His army of believers behind the walls and fences. To some of you I know this sounds like a bunch of junk and to others like the same stuff they have heard before. I thought some of the same things when I was inside for those long years. But I am here to tell you that it is true. You need the Lord Jesus Christ and the thing is that MasterLife teaches

you what to do after you are saved. Oh my God, that is so important.

My Parole Officer picked me up from prison that morning and I did not know what to expect. I arrived to an empty, cold, 3-bedroom house that a cousin of mine from out of state owned and let me live in temporarily. It was more like a storage bin than a house and stuff was everywhere. It was a blessing to have a place to go. God had prepared that for me in advance because I had no intentions of living in Goldsboro. As I walked to the store that first day I felt like a caged animal who just suddenly had been let out of a cage. I didn't know how to deal with what I was seeing, and people seemed intimidated by me for some reason. It was winter, but the woman was dressed in clothes that left nothing to the imagination inside the stores. They were aggressive too. Like men. That's the only way I can describe them even now. Aggressive on their approach like a man toward a woman only switched around. I was caught off guard. The men in the stores all seemed soft and timid even those dressed like gangsters. They seemed like posers compared to what I had been exposed to inside. Everyone had smartphones. All of them, even the kids. I had never even touched one before. I found myself scared of my lack of knowledge of technology. Terrified.

From that first day, I began looking for work. Walking everywhere all across the city. But guess what? I was contacted by Brother Warren one of the MasterLife and Alpha Program Volunteers and then by Reverend Farmer his partner in the programs. They both gave me advice and reinforced my need to stay in the word and having that quiet time with Jesus. Brother Warren came to see me. He even came to meet my manager when the Lord opened the door for me to get a job at KFC. I had gone to KFC after leaving Texas from my mom's funeral in January. I was hungry, and I don't ordinarily eat at KFC but that day I felt the urge to go there. The cashier smelled the bus fuel smell on me from my 36 trip. She said her dad had passed away and that he was a mechanic and that smell reminded her of him. I worked as a jet engine mechanic for a short time. So, the cashier who was now emotional and excited continued to talk. When my food was ready she said that I was different from people she knew. She said something like she wished I worked there. I said that I was actually in need of a job. She said, "well I am the manager". I almost passed out. She said, "darn right I am going to hire you." I hadn't even asked anything! That was God. Brother Warren came down again soon after that to meet her and to tell her about me. He also made sure I had things that I needed. He and his lovely wife (don't hit me

Brother Warren) even made sure I had the tools I needed to succeed like a laptop.

You see, God had arranged all of this before I walked this earth. There is so much more to this testimony, but I would be writing a novel to tell it all. The Lord has kept me safe even though I have stumbled so many times out here. My God! I had been too ashamed to even speak to our Lord about it sometimes. But he has pulled me through time and time again. He rescued me just yesterday.

I have been placed with a great car, two jobs (I just recently gave up one) and a great new apartment. Two great Christian brothers heard of my need for a car and sent me \$3,000 to buy it! One of them is in prison and the other I have never met! Now that is God! I hope to be able to help some of you by allowing God to bless you through me whether you are in or out of prison. One day I will be in a strong position to do that. Don't let anyone tell you that you can't make it out here. You can thrive out here as long as you keep your relationship with the Lord intact, even when you mess up. I am telling you right now that even those of you that are preaching and teaching in prison are going to get out and stumble hard at times. But you just need to call on the Lord, repent and ask forgiveness and keep going.

I must mention something. My first week out I went to church. The second week my mom died in Texas. When I got back from Texas I entered a class at that church. A woman entered one day. I was immediately drawn to her. I was shy. I have to admit I did a "Jacob". I suggested that everyone in the class exchange numbers in case we need prayer or anything else. Yes, I did that! LOL! That's how I got her number! LOL!! I called her soon after that and we talked like we knew each other. She told me that first time on the phone that she knew that I was trying to get her number and that she had already noticed me too. We laugh about that even today. She came to see me and gave the keys to her car and told me to take her to the store. I had not drove in almost 9 years. That was my first time and she told me she was terrified. She never showed it. That woman is my very best friend.

I am praying for all of you that are behind the fences and concrete. I know what you are all feeling because everything I just told you happened within the last seven months. Remember I just got out January 1st, 2018. Go to the MasterLife program and keep your quiet time with the Lord. Read your bible. Go to church and recharge. God be with you all. I love you!

Sanctification

By: **Brian Crouch, "Fish", Pamlico CI**

Greetings to all my brothers in Christ throughout the state. In previous newsletters I have written about our "union with Christ" that took place in salvation, which is this living, loving and lasting union the believer now shares with Christ. (Gal.2: 20, John 14:21, 17:21-25, and Rom. 6:3-5). In Christ we are one with Him and the Father through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. As members of His "body", we are now one "just as" they are one. Picture that. Our salvation is that real and that intimate. Amazing.

After this I wrote about "Justification". This is where the believer is declared legally righteous in God's eyes. All of the debt, guilt, and condemnation of our sins has been removed by the perfect, redeeming finished work of Christ. (Rom. 8:1, John 19:30, Col. 2:13-14). This is where "*He who knew no sin, became sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God*". Here our sin and all its mess were fully imputed (transferred) to Jesus on the cross, while His own perfect righteousness is then imputed to the believer. In the act of salvation, (2 Cor. 5:21, Rom. 4:23-24, 5:1,9; 8:29-30). And so, when a lost, blind, spiritually dead sinner is "made alive" in Christ, (Eph.2:1-10, Col. 2;12-13) by God's will and Sovereign grace (John 3:6-8, 6:63, Eph. 1:3-14) making us "new creation" in Him (2 Cor. 5:17, we are "born again" and are now a true child of God, co-heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:15-16, Gal. 3:26, 4:6). Therefore, we received an eternal and personal "union with Christ", received His very own righteousness in "Justification: and are also "sanctified" by God in salvation.

We were "positionally sanctified" in that very moment (Heb. 10: 10, 1 Cor. 6: 11, 1 Thess. 5: 23) and we are then "progressively sanctified" from now until we go on to be with the Lord. What is Sanctification? It means, 1) to be set apart for a sacred use or purpose; 2) to purify or make holy. In other words, the Holy Spirit develops the work of strengthening this "new creation" where we inwardly begin to match our righteous standing before God. In salvation we are made alive, righteous, holy, and God set us apart from the world for His service. We are now His. And so, the Holy Spirit progressively cleans us up. He begins to work. The dross is slowly removed, and fruit of the Spirit develops. At times, there is conflict here between the "good dog" (Spirit) and the "bad dog" (flesh), which are opposed to one another. Remember, we must feed one as we starve the other. We are also to protect our "eye gates" and "ear gates", and

not do things that grieve the Holy Spirit inside of us (Eph. 4:30). We no longer run to sin, we are now to run from it.

Paul tells us to "put off the old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness. (Eph. 4:22-24). We are to "put off" our old habits, desires and sins like we would a filthy garment. Instead, we now "put on" this new, consecrated, set apart self that is to obey God, serve Him, and bear lasting fruit for Him out of gratitude for who He is and everything He has done. We are to "walk" differently now. (Eph. 4:1, 17; 5:1, 8, 15)

So, we need to be active in avoiding the pitfalls of sin (1Timothy 6:9-10,

1 Thess. 4: 3-8, 1 Cor. 6:6-19). As God's children, "do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, He who called you is Holy, you also be holy in all you conduct" (1Peter 1:14-15). God has graciously redeemed sinners like you and me "to be conformed to the image of His Son" (Romans 8:29). Sanctification makes us more and more Christ like. It molds us and it shapes us into His image as we grow. He uses all of our struggles, afflictions and suffering for "good", (Romans 8:28) as He works to bring forth our maturity and development of our faith and this new spiritual life he's given us. We learn how to trust Him, follow Him and obey him as we carry our cross down this narrow path that leads straight to Him.

And so, sanctification is a blessing and privilege of every child of God. We contribute to this work through repentance, self-denial, Bible study, fellowship, endurance, and obedience. Present yourself as a living sacrifice to God, for His use, and to His glory. Be patient, be faithful, be willing to obey, reflect, and serve Him. He is worthy of this and infinitely more. AMEN

(Fish is now in a HST program, learning about Group and Family Counseling, Substance Abuse, Co-Dependency, Psychology, Stress Management, Child Abuse and Neglect, among others. This is toward a 2-year Associative Degree. Way to go Fish, and good study! Editor)

The Exchange

By James Benoy, Nash

"For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if one died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who

live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again" (2 Cor. 5:13-15).

Let's pretend for a moment that a new law has just been passed that will allow inmates with life sentences to be pardoned from their crime and their punishment. There are some requirements for this pardon; someone must take your place. The person must not have ever been convicted of a crime and it cannot be anyone you know or love. — one day someone comes to visit you who meets the requirements and informs you that they are willing to make the exchange. Now all you have to do is accept this free act of sacrifice. There are no strings attached to this agreement and no requirements on your part, just a simple yes. Of course, you agree. The day comes for the exchange; they are putting on your garments and you put on theirs (2 Cor. 5:21), what do you say? From personal experience of being in prison myself, I can tell you that most inmates would gladly promise to send commissary money, magazine subscriptions, letters, visits and we'd even let them write our sister or daughter, right? So, the promises are made and you ask, "what can I do to thank you or repay you?" and then the reply comes, "I'm so glad you asked, there is something you can do for me: go and live my life for me, you cannot go back to your own family, your own desires or your own life; I need you to live my life for me." —So, this story is to help one better understand the actual exchange that is made when we put on Christ's righteousness and He takes our unrighteousness upon Himself. A person who is really broken by one's sin and receives Christ's free payment for those sins, immediately has a desire to do something for the one who took his punishment (just as Peter's mother-in-law immediately began serving and one of the lepers came back to thank Jesus, Zacchaeus gave half his goods to the poor, the disciple's immediately left all to follow Jesus;) when Jesus truly touches our lives and we receive the free exchange, there is a lasting change that takes place, a desire to do something for Him, and a love for what He loves. He loves the lost, He loves the church, and He loves to display the father's attributes in action.

If you had the opportunity to go free, but you couldn't go back to your life, would you make the exchange?

When you get the time, read: Luke 14:26-33; 2 Cor. 5:17-21; Galatians 2:20.

WORD, PRAYER, WITNESSING,
FELLOWSHIP, SERVICE

A Courageous Disciple – part 1 by John Reese, Nash

"And He said to them all, if any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose life for my sake, the same shall save it." Luke 9:23-24

And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after Me, cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:27

The church is a living reproductive organism. Life doesn't come out of the church; the church comes out of life. The business of the church is not to produce converts, but disciples. We are dealing with discipleship and the marks of a disciple, understanding that as the church goes, so goes the world. To heal society, you have to heal the church. This is a fact of history; no society or civilization has ever failed until the church failed. God has placed His people, His church at the center of society, and when that church ceases to represent God, then the whole of that civilization fails.

Every evangelist from Paul until the present, who has affected his generation for God, has dealt with this thing we call church. Fourteen books of the New Testament were written by one man, Paul the apostle. He wrote every one of those fourteen books of the New Testament to correct something that was wrong in the church. Of course, he brought a revelation, but in every epistle, he wrote, there was the correcting of something in the church. This says something of the importance of sound doctrine. To set the church in order you must begin with the basics. Fruit is only known in the second generation. You don't use the scripture "ye shall know them by their fruits", Matthew 7:16 to judge a person on how that person is acting at that moment. That is not what God is saying. The message is that the church will be known by the kind of disciples she produces. So, we look at this person the Bible calls a disciple. We have seen from the Word of God that the major mark of a disciple is faithfulness.

Now let us talk about the mark of courage. Courage marks those who are true disciples of the Lord. In Matthew 10:32-33, Jesus is speaking of those who lack this quality of courage. He says "whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven. But

whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before My Father." In verse 39 he says, *"He that findeth his life shall lose it and he that loseth his life for My sake shall find it."* That is the mark of a disciple. Jesus said *"If any man will be My disciple let him first deny himself, take up his cross, follow Me."* It takes courage to be right. In this age of infidelity, it takes courage to be a faithful person, to walk with God, to speak of those things that are right. Nothing demands more courage on the part of an individual than to live holy in this crooked and perverse generation. The pressure is on the Christian to conform to society. The weakness of the church is seen in her inability to confront this pressure when challenged on her beliefs. She waivers in her steadfastness to avoid the head on collision with the world.

Those early Christians never worried about what the world thought about them, they had a message to preach and they preached it. It did not matter whether public opinion was on their side or not. They knew they were right, and the conviction of being right gave them the courage to stand. They never placed Jesus in the arena of competition with other gods. They came out of that upper room proclaiming to all other religions *"that there is no other name under Heaven given among men whereby we must be saved"*, Acts 4:12. They simply said to those who would listen, this is the way, you either walk in it, or you are lost. It did not matter if the world called them bigots, they knew what they believed was true, and it was to this message they dedicated themselves. In their lives and actions, those early Christians were the personification of faith. They fought the beasts of Ephesus, turned whipping post into pulpits, and prisons into churches. They were beaten, tortured, driven from their homes, and yet they proclaimed a gospel that toppled an empire. The lack of courage in this generation is a sad commentary of the times. Ours is an age of conformity.

We passed through what was called the Jesus movement which was made up of youth who claimed to be striking out against the conformity of society, yet every single one of them were carbon copies of the other. They talked the same, dressed the same, and ran with the same crowd. We serve a non-conforming God who has called us to be different. He has called us to proclaim a truth that will make people different. He who is afraid to die has no right to live. Until we as Christians come to believe that the cause we serve is greater than ourselves, we will continue to lack the courage to face life as it really is. No one will ever know anything about living until there is something in that life worth giving it for. It was said of those first

Christians, they loved not their lives unto death. Jesus must be our Lord to the point that He is more important to us than life itself. It is in that sense of the Word that a person who is afraid to die has no right to live. Life is a miserable thing to the coward.

To be continued...

At Night

By James Kelliher

I dream of a place
far from my small prison bunk
Where soft grass awakes
my feet,
dreaming.



Personal Story

By Elder James Gardner, Caledonia

My first encounter with the Living God was at 8 years old. I was at home with my sister and we kept going into this room, which was always empty except for a long chair, a long table, and a large Bible. I was drawn to this book, and as I repeatedly flipped through this large book, I kept noticing the same strange words, God is Jehovah.

I asked my mom about the large book, and she said it was the Bible. So, I questioned her about who God Jehovah was. Even though she didn't have a relationship with God, she tried to answer my questions. This drew me to search for God, and at 9 years old, after watching a Sunday morning service, I followed the preacher's words, and was led to Christ. I rededicated my life to God in October 2006, because I turned away from God, not fully understanding our relationship. I knew

God was married to the backslider, so I trust God to do just what His Word declared.

I entered prison on August 21, 2007, but I still believed the Lord was on my side. Prior to this sentence, I preached 6 trial sermons in 3 different churches. I also have preached over 50 sermons, while in jail and 6 different prisons. I also became an Elder in October 2007. MasterLife has been key to my maturity, especially mastering my emotions. I am a very emotional guy, and I would allow what people say about me, push me into a place where I would fall back or become separated from everybody who was a Christian because I was hurt or offended by a brother in Christ. But, that's not so today, I use it today as a fuel to come up higher in the Lord!

Hey guys!

You are missed dearly by your brothers. Many of you guys have been moved all around the state and you might feel forgotten but you are not. In fact, men write and ask about several of you specifically. What do we tell them?

The purpose of this newsletter is not only to bring glory to the Lord Jesus through the MasterLife program but also to bring encouragement to your brothers and friends by hearing from you. – the apostle Paul was a great example of this while he sent letters to the churches and to the men close to him – there are men who fellowship with you and took sweet counsel in the House of the Lord with you, men who broke bread with you, prayed with you and labored with you; yet, now you neglect the avenue by which God provides to send an encouraging word. Surely you guys know what it feels like not hearing from a loved one, for this is no different when you do not write the ones who love you.

Our prayer is that you will be convicted by this mild rebuke and correct this negligent attitude for the brothers who are still out on the hostile mission field of prison ministry. We will have a Christmas newsletter again this year, we urge you to send in a story, testimony, message, praise report, prayer request, or just a merry Christmas to encourage your brothers. I know what brother Benoy will be doing after the Christmas party; he will be kicked back with a cup of coffee, listening to Christmas music, and reading the newsletter, thinking about all his brothers

😊 . Send your testimonies NOW!

God bless you, MasterLife editor.

Field Minister Program

Dear brothers,

I pray that you are all being blessed and growing strong in your faith, that you are being built up in your spiritual gifts and ministries. Most of all that you are coming to Know Him in the most personal way.

Remember my brothers, if you find yourself drifting away or being burdened down by the cares of this world, the problem is prayerlessness usually. Return to prayer. Separate. Clear your plate and take a vacation with Jesus! QUIET TIME!!! Brother Reggie Smith once told me: "Never spend more time with man than you spend with God." WOW! That statement has stuck with me and helped me through some trying times.

This letter is to encourage you, stir up your gift and remind you that you are the Salt of the Earth ... The Light of the world. You are an Epistle written by Jesus Christ Himself. The 67th book of the Bible is Your Testimony, the 5th Gospel! Is this a fair statement? What are the implications of this statement?

I ask myself "Are you still in prison or are you on the mission field?" I am convinced that I have been delivered from prison and God our Father has strategically placed me on the Mission Field in the Prison Ministry. HALLELUJAH!

It has been an amazing year at Bible College!!! I am overwhelmed with joy as I write this letter of encouragement to my brothers who are out there on the mission field. I pray that you are all boldly contending for the faith, sharing the hope that is in you all, and continuing to Master life through the power of Jesus Christ. I am excited to give testimony to the awesome things the Lord has done in my life since my departure from Caledonia to the North Carolina Field Minister Program at Nash. We are excited to be finishing up our first year of classes. There has been so much information filtered through our brains that I'm wondering how we will have room for more! lol! Nevertheless, there is more to come, and I love it!

I have an answered prayer for you guys who have been praying for reconciliation of my father and myself!!! We are now communicating, and he has emphasized how proud of me he is and affirmed his love. Although this is 'personal moment in my life, I feel obligated to share it with you all because

God's mercy and grace have been poured out on me once again and it would be foolish of me not to give Him glory for it. God is writing every chapter of our lives and He has amazing things in store for those who are fully committed to Him. He knows the perfect timing to give us the desires of our hearts, just as He knows when to allow us to suffer for His name sake. Everything is designed to make us stronger and bring great glory to His name. Thank you, brothers, for your prayers.

The seminary men are putting feet to their faith. We have a small MasterLife group in the dorm. A few guys get together each afternoon and build as we go through the workbooks. On Sundays, we have a mini-service and share with the dorm what we have learned, or someone will give a testimony. There is an awesome verse-by-verse expository Bible study conducted by a seminary student every night. Four of our top English students assist the rest of us with writing assignments as well as assisting the college by lighting their workload. There are artists who have started donating artwork for fund raising purposes; fund raising that will help supply the seminary library books. The most fun was watching three of the men do a video rap of the Old Testament story. It was a really great performance full of sound doctrine. We also had one of our very own brothers and co-laborers, Jesse Bracey, who was selected to give testimony for the NC Field Ministry Program Convocation Service; a testimony that touched our hearts and brought a standing ovation from everyone in attendance. God shined forth through our brother in the presence of some powerful and influential men and women from all over the country. It was a proud moment for all of us.

The college came in to film a documentary for the promotion of the program; a documentary that is like the Angola Documentary video shown at the Master life class at Caledonia. I was chosen as one of the men to be featured in the documentary. It was a humbling experience to be chosen for such an honor. I think back when I used to show that video and ask guys to pray that we could get this program in North Carolina. God foreknew way back then that He was going to have me interviewed in the same kind of video for this program (you can view this video on You-Tube by going to Field Minister Program, select Game Plan for Life). Furthermore, I was doubly blessed, to be able to meet Burl Cain, the Warden of Angola Prison, along with Joe Gibbs; two men that God used to spearhead this amazing turn in church mission as well as church history. As I look back, I ask myself, "how did you get here?" What makes me deserving to be picked for such an honor. I can honestly confess, it has been a journey that

only the Lord Jesus Christ could have brought me to and through. He reminds me in the words of the Apostle Paul, "I thank the Lord Jesus Christ who enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, although formerly... the worst sinner of all" (1 Tim. 1:12-15). I never believed in jailhouse religion; yet, God in His mercy did what He does and here I am—living the Christian life in prison!

No, I'm not perfect, some of the perfect people might say that I don't even have a testimony; however, I am still here—faithful to what God has called me to do. The Lord reminds me that I didn't choose Him; He chose me and ordained me to bear fruit (J11.15:16). He tells me that He didn't chose the wise, the noble, or those who are important; but He chose the foolish things of the world, the people that the world counts as nothing, and He uses them to shame the wise (1 Cor. 1:25-27), and to show what He can do for anyone who will trust in Jesus and be faithful. Therefore, let us determine that we will be faithful to the Lord and remember two things: First, a failure is not a person, it is an event. Second, the only defeated Christian is the one who quits." In the words of the psalmist, "A good man's steps are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way. Though he falls, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with His hand" (Ps. 37: 23-24).

Bro Benoy (Benwah), Acts 20:24

P.S. We are hoping to hear from you guys soon. It's been too long for some of you!

On the Lighter Side

Jokes by Jason Parker

A pastor was holding a bottle of holy water, when a boy asked him what it was. The pastor told him, "It's holy water". The boy asked, "What's so special about that?" The pastor told him, "You can take and rub this on a pregnant woman's belly and she'll pass a beautiful, healthy baby". The boy held up a bottle to which the pastor asked him what it was. The boy exclaimed, "Turpentine". "What's so special about that?" the pastor asked. The boy said, "Rub this on a cat's rear end and he'll pass a motorcycle".

A psychologist visits an asylum; two inmates are in the first cell. One is sitting in the floor moving one arm back and forth in a sawing

motion. The other is hanging upside down from the ceiling. The doctor asked the man on the floor, "What are you doing?" The man replies, "I'm sawing a piece of wood in half." Then the doctor asked, "What about him?" and points to the ceiling. The man says, "That's my friend. He's a little crazy, he thinks he's a light bulb". Well, the doctor says, "Tell him to get down before he hurts himself". The man exclaims, "What, then work in the dark?"

A snail was robbed by two slugs. When detectives arrived and asked him for a description of his assailants, the snail calmly replied, "Gee, I don't know, it all happened so fast".

Bro. Travis,

Just wanted to take time to say thank-you for your faithfulness and for all you do to make the MasterLife program successful. We've come through another year and many more have been blessed and introduced to true discipleship through the teachings of the Holy Spirit using the MasterLife program, and I just want to say thank-you for the role you play in all of this. As I have said many times I've learned a lot just from witnessing the life you live before God and I just want you to know it means a lot to me. As we look ahead to where the Lord will lead us next, I say be blessed and stay prayerful.

Always your brother in Christ,

With Love Bro. Jim

Jesse and Zeke said hello. They are loaded down with school work. God bless you and we will update in the Christmas newsletter.

Special Thanks to **Lakeview Fellowship Church in Ft Worth, TX** for printing, collating and stapling the newsletter and a huge thanks to **Ken and Rachel Morris** in working the copying machine, stuffing envelopes and mailing out the newsletter 😊

Thank you to First Baptist Church, Rocky Mount, for their dedicated service in the MasterLife and Alpha programs at Caledonia.

SPECIAL THANKS

"To the First Baptist Church, Rocky Mount, and to all who helped from FBC in facilitating the MasterLife Program here at Caledonia Correctional. We have successfully completed another year of disciplining men here at Caledonia through the MasterLife program, and we want to thank you for all your do to help make this possible. God has allowed the Body of Christ to reach out to many men through this program...making a difference that has brought a wonderful excitement about Jesus here at Caledonia. So, we want to let you know that your efforts, time and funding is not in vain. Thank you again for your faithfulness. And, as we look to the next opportunity to be led of the Spirit, we say bless you and to stay prayerful.

Sincerely, with the love of the Lord, Timothy Jones."

To the Caledonia CI Administration support, Superintendent Mr. Vaughn and Assistant Superintendents Mr. Duke and Mr. Green. Without you, there would be no program.

To Tim Jones and Zeke in accepting a leadership role in this year's MasterLife program.

Make Christmas special for someone by giving them a shout out in the Christmas newsletter. I need your articles, testimonies, and mailbag by Nov 26, thanks.

Adopt-A Life is designed to help support a "lifer" (someone doing a 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.

Mastering life in all areas of bible study, scripture memory, fellowship, witnessing, serving, behavior, relationships, the church, the community, the world.

For Diane for the prayer cloths and many other people working to make this a successful time

PRAYERS FOR NC, SC, GA, VA COAST DUE TO HURRICANE

FLORENCE 🙏🙏🙏🙏

Prayer Requests

- North Carolina Field Minister Program: first year students, second year students, professors, overseers, and all involved.
- Joe Gibbs and Game Plan for Life Ministries.
- The College at Southeastern and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.
- DPS administration
- MasterLife: every volunteer and group leader involved at various locations.
- Chaplains and volunteers throughout the prison system.
- The many ideas and ministries that God has birthed in the hearts of these field ministers at Nash.

Thanks to:

- All of you guys who wrote testimonies and Regina 😊
- The group leaders awesome job.
- The Administration at Caledonia and Nash for your support and encouragement.
- Volunteers' time and faithfulness (without you this program would not be).
- The family and friends who support this effort from behind the scenes.

Thanks and Praise to the one who makes all things possible—Jesus Christ!

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