



MASTERLIFE MINISTRY, INC. NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2019

MASTERING LIFE IN CHRIST

Why MasterLife Ministry, Inc.?

I am Travis Mileur, President of *MasterLife Ministry, Inc.*, God Bless all of you, we give all praise and glory to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, without Him we can do nothing.

This is our first newsletter since being officially recognized as a non-profit organization. We would like to thank all of the people that have supported this ministry: present administration, family, friends, incarcerated disciples and disciple makers, and the men who have been released that have supported *MasterLife Ministry*.

What is the purpose in *MasterLife Ministry* becoming a non-profit? The goal is for us to become equipped with the finances to assist more of you to do what James Benoy has been doing for the past 14 years – learning how to *Master Life In Prison* by discipling other Christians, evangelizing the general prison population, creating a positive environment in the dorm, and connecting Christian inmates with mentors on the outside. There is more involved in this process than having a Bible study in the day room. So, how has Benoy been successful in his efforts? By utilizing what is now *MasterLife Ministry* resources to build community, make burritos in the dorm, have a Christmas party and talent shows, and creates small group studies. Eventually, the local church volunteers join in and corporately hold a 13-week discipleship program in the chapel or gym, a 13-week program especially designed for general

population.

I share this with you, not to exalt Benoy but show you the heart of *MasterLife Ministry* and what prison ministry looks like from the inside and recognize that there are other faithful men (like Tim, Fish, Craig, and many others) inside who give it all for the cause of Christ. They have ministry ideas and spiritual gifts and no platform of support. *MasterLife Ministry, Inc.* is incorporated in the hopes that we can become equipped to help more faithful men on the mission field inside, *Mastering Life Through the Power of Jesus Christ in Prison*.

Are You Really Listening?

Listen to me! Listen to me. *Listennnnnnn to meeeee!!!!*

I NEED YOU TO LISTEN TO ME.

I need you to care about what I care about for a moment* *So please listen 2 me*

"I'm not in Prison— I'm on the mission field!"

James Benoy

During my childhood, my family moved all over North Carolina. Lake Lure, Chimney Rock, Apex, White Lake, Southern Pines, Fayetteville, Carolina Beach, Shelby, and Gastonia have all been my hometowns at

INSIDE THIS ISSUE TESTIMONIES AND ARTICLES

Tabor.....4
 Caledonia.....6
 Nash.....12
 Avery Mitchell.....13
 Pender14
 Piedmont, Alexander, Pamlico.15
 Wake, SCCW.....16
 Prayer Requests.....17

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Why *MasterLife Ministry, Inc.?*.....1
- James Benoy Testimony1
- History of MasterLife.....2
- Purpose of MasterLife4
- A New Beginning10
- Chronical12
- Jesus Christ: God’s Provision for Sin15
- How Can YOU Help?18
- Other Resources18

some point. I've lived in the projects, the trailer parks, the mountains, the city, and the country. My father's side of the family was military, law enforcement, state government. and politics; while my mother's side of family were preachers, farmers, millworkers, convicts, and drug dealers. My brother Michael and I were not deprived or neglected as children. We never had to wonder if we would have a safe home, if the bills would be paid, or if food would be on the table; Dad always provided. He also taught us right from wrong. We were just stubborn and strong-willed children who were determined to do what we wanted.

At eighteen years old I got on crack cocaine. This led me into a life of crime. I started getting locked up in 1989, and it has been in and out of prison ever since. In prison, I was the super-tough convict (legend in my own mind), but, when I'd get out, I was a lying thieving crackhead who ruined my family name. I went from being a normal kid from a good family, to career criminal travelling across the United States robbing drug dealers, not caring if I lived or died. The local newspaper quoted the district attorney saying that had the "worst criminal records that he has ever seen" (Shelby Star, 2010). I spent years hurting the people who loved me until eventually they all disappeared from my life, after five trips to prison, in four different states, ruining three marriages, and abandoning two children, I finally broke down to the one true Savior of the world—Jesus Christ.

I got saved on October 2005. I woke up in jail in Dallas, Texas and for the first time in my life, I was broken, broken to the point of suicide. I began to cry out to God and tell Him that I was tired of my life, tired of hurting my family, tired of lying, stealing, and cheating hard-working law-abiding citizens; tired of being a no-good piece of dung! I told Him that I have been wrong for so long and I was sorry for sinning against Him. I told Him that He could have my life if He would just fix me, save me, and give me peace. At that moment, something happened to me and in my sobs, a peace came over me, that flooded my soul and after what seemed like hours I got up from the floor and went into the day room of the jail where a man gave me a Bible; inside the Bible was a track and the first words read in bold print was: **"If any man is in Christ, he is a new creature, old things have passed away, behold all things have become new"** (2 Cor. 5:17). I believed that God spoke to me at that moment, the peace that I had longed for was now a reality, I did not know what had just happened to me, but my life hasn't been the same since.

Well, I went to prison in Texas not really understanding that I had just given my life to Jesus in that jail. I knew that something had happened to me but did not know what to do with this new change I felt in my heart. Nevertheless, God knew what He was doing; while I was there God provided me with a mentor, an older black gentleman, Lynn. He began to disciple me, explaining the gospel, helping me break through years of shame, guilt, warped ideologies, and faulty worldviews. Lynn quickly gained my respect because he accepted me where I was at and let me grow on my own. He just lived the Christian life in front of me. The greatest impact he made on me was by following up after he got out of prison by continuing to write, encourage, and support me, this is unheard of in the prison system. God was definitely at work in my life. I spent that two years reading the Bible, attending church, and going to **MasterLife**.

If you are thinking of ways to fix my problem, you are not listening to me*

The History of MasterLife

Travis Mileur, president of *MasterLife Ministry, Inc.*, came into Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) and taught a 24-week MasterLife Discipleship workbook study written by Avery T. Willis. I attended the program and memorized the tools that were assigned. Later, after leaving Texas, Travis reached out to me and continued to disciple me. His follow-up in my discipleship has been a key element in my personal growth as a Christian and in the success of this ministry. *Mastering Life in Prison* began, in a small-town jail in Georgia, as a Bible study for five inmates who could not read or write. Since then, it has grown into an effective life-changing prison program.

After I was released from TDCJ. I went to Georgia where I was incarcerated for two years. While in the county jail, I was approached by a man who asked me if I would help him read the Bible. Without hesitation I agreed not knowing what God was about to do in my life. After our first meeting, others began to join in. They began to ask if I would teach them more about the Bible. I was nervous and didn't know where to start, however, I remembered the **MasterLife** tools that had memorized in Texas. So, I sat in my cell and began to write out those tools, using the Bible, and my own experiences to disciple the men in my cell block. As I continued to teach, I began to develop a group study that involved: scripture memory verses, memorizing the books of the Bible, prayer, reading the Word, fellowshiping, and

witnessing. God gave me a simple illustration explaining the war between the flesh and the Spirit with practical tools to overcome the flesh; putting on the armor of God before the battles of life come at us; finally, how to reach out to others and disciple them. For one year in that jail, God began to develop my abilities and give me the confidence to do His work.

I began to realize that a major problem in society was not the message of Christ, but, that people have faulty ideas about the Christian walk because they have never been taught "what to do next!" Men and women get saved, but no one comes alongside them and disciples them, teaching them how to have a personal relationship with the Lord. They do not know what quiet time, "how to" hear God's voice, pray or put on the armor of God. Furthermore, many people do not realize that God has a very practical plan to involve them in His work here on Earth, a plan that coincides with their normal daily life. Since I have spent most of my life in the prison environment and understand the mentality of the people, I have been able to develop *Mastering Life in Prison* into a program that reaches the inmates in their context & lingo. After finishing the teachings, I would have a completion party with food, trivia game, Bible drills and memory verses. Prizes and certificates were rewarded.

Men were learning how easy it is for them to have a relationship with the Lord, their lives began to change and the entire dorm began to transform into a peaceful atmosphere, an atmosphere that was noticed by the jail staff. Eventually the captain of the jail began to allow the block to be called the faith-based dorm. Many people would request to be moved in the dorm. We would watch preaching on TV all morning, turn the TV off all afternoon, and have our group study, and guys spent hours in private devotion and Bible study most evenings. They loved it and I was having the time of my life! Men's families would write to me and visit me expressing their gratitude for helping their son, brother, or father. This was a very humbling experience and I give glory to Jesus Christ for all that He has done for them and revealed to me during all of this. I have so many stories I could share from that time: it was truly an awesome time in my life.

After my transition from jail to prison in Georgia, I continued to teach discipleship groups, build relationships, reaching out to men and held small groups in the dorms. The groups began to grow to the point where more space was needed. Being the staff barber, I had the ear of the warden, I prayed the prayer of Nehemiah. The next time the warden came for a haircut, I told him my problem. God heard me and the warden

granted me permission to hold the group in the gym. The turnout was unbelievable and was now speaking to a crowd for the first time my life!

Shortly after, I was transferred to jail in North Carolina for charges that I had pending on me. While awaiting trial, I began to do what I've been doing—Mastering Life through the power of Jesus Christ. Once again, I was given a cellblock to teach the program in this jail. I repeated what I was doing in Georgia and the jail staff was amazed at the transformation of the entire jail. For the next six months I

Poem by 11-year-old girl (anonymous)

Today was the absolute worst day ever

And don't try to convince me that

There's something good in every day

Because when you take a closer look,

This world is a pretty evil place.

Even if

Some goodness does shine through once in awhile

Satisfaction and happiness don't last.

And it's not true that

It's all in the mind and heart

Because

True happiness can be obtained

Only if one's surroundings are good

It's not true that good exists

I'm sure that you can agree that

The reality

Creates

My attitude

It's all beyond my control

And you'll never in a million years hear me say that

Today was a good day

"Now read from bottom to top"



preached to the lost, counseled the broken, nursed the sick, and disciplined everyone who came into my cellblock. The power and presence of the Lord was with me in everything that I did.

I was sentenced to twenty-five years for habitual offender and transferred to Central Prison for processing. At first, I was so staggered by the amount of time I was given, that I struggled to pick up the Bible for a couple of days. However, I soon realized that there is nowhere else to turn, once a person partakes of the goodness of the Lord there is no other life to go back to! I began to place my focus back on Jesus and this new mission field that He had entrusted to me. At that point, I was truly freed from prison forever; I was now on the mission field for Christ.

Alexander Correctional is where I began to reach out again. After a chain of adventurous events, God gave me favor with the superintendent. He granted official permission for MasterLife to be taught in the dorm and allowed workbooks and supplies to be mailed into the chaplain's office. This is when I began to teach Avery Willis' workbook study to the more dedicated men while still teaching my *Mastering Life in Prison* Program to everyone in dorm who wanted to be involved. Not everyone who participated became a follower of Christ; but, they memorized key scriptures verses and the books of the Bible, they heard a clear presentation of the gospel, and they know how to start a relationship with the Lord if they ever turn their life over to Him. This made it all worthwhile.

Back in the day, there were two prisons that a didn't want to be transferred to—Avery Mitchell Correctional and Caledonia Correctional. Well, Avery Mitchell and Caledonia here I come and *Mastering Life in Prison* is coming with me!

The next stop on the mission field was Avery Mitchell Correctional. While I was on the transfer bus, I began to pray for the favor of the administration. Three weeks later I found myself sitting in the superintendent's office telling him all about my adventures and how God's plan for my life was unfolding. He approved for me to use the chapel to hold a *Mastering Life in Prison* Program. The Chapel was packed with over 100 men interested in learning how Jesus had changed my life. I found that I already knew about one-third of the population from my past, a past in which was living "hard on the yard" (living in sin). These men were shocked to see the changes that God had to my life and my worldview. Some persecuted me, others got bored with the whole idea of Jesus; but many men are

faithfully serving Jesus as a result of this program. I am in touch with several guys who are now free and living for the Lord outside of the confines of these walls.

Caledonia was my next stop on this great adventure. At Caledonia, I was assigned to the worst dorm that one could be housed. So, I began to pray that God would give me a job where I could bear fruit and a dorm where I could study. I wanted access to the men all over the population, so I prayed for a gym job, dog trainer job, or barber job because these job placements would give me access to most of the general population. I told God that I would use the job as a platform to build relationships in hopes that I would be able to disciple them through **MasterLife**. I also prayed that God would open up an opportunity for a *Mastering Life in Prison* Program at Caledonia. What happened next was of course God's strategic plan. Not only did I get offered a gym job, dog job, and barber job all in the same day, but I was called to the chaplain's office and found that my brother had worked with him years ago. Once again God was giving me favor and opening doors. I accepted the barber job and was approved by the Superintendent to pilot a *Mastering Life in Prison* Program. The first class had twenty-two on the role; the second had approximately seventy men attending—causing it to be moved to the gym for more space; the third had over one-hundred men. Men were being saved, families restored, the prison environment was changing, the superintendents were pleased, and the Lord Jesus Christ was being glorified.

At Caledonia, God gave me the vision for the **MasterLife** newsletter and the *Adopt-A-Life* ministry. The newsletter is a way for the brothers to encourage one another, be encouraged, and have a purpose in ministry while incarcerated. It also provides a way for the families and churches to witness the changes that are taking place behind these fences. *Adopt-A-Life* is designed to connect faithful disciple-making inmates with faithful co-laborers on the outside. The goal of this is to have a mentor and ministry partner who will encourage and support the man on the front lines. Though *Adopt-A-Life* ministry doesn't bring much recognition, the fruit it bears is plentiful and rewarding, the relationship I have with Travis and my family have the catalyst from which the *Adopt-A-Life* idea birthed.

The next stop in my story is almost unbelievable; however, God makes all things possible—Bible college and the North Carolina Field Minister Program. During every **MasterLife** program, we show a documentary of the Louisiana Angola Seminary Program. We prayed that God

would bring this program to the North Carolina Department of Public Safety. Once again God answered a prayer that has changed my life and added another chapter to my life testimony. I was honored to be selected as one of the first class out of one-thousand eligible inmates. But I was even more humbled that my superintendents, program director, and case managers would all write me recommendations. God has truly changed me from the person I used to be. At Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, I learned a tremendous amount of information, information that has equipped me for maximum effectiveness in future ministry. Had it not been for Travis, **MasterLife**, The College at Southeastern, Joe Gibbs' Game Plan for Life, and DPS I would not have been equipped to write this program. Glory be to our Lord Jesus Christ in whom I can do all things.

My vision and life mission is to develop "**MasterLife** dorms" in every prison, open "Master Houses" for assisting inmates transition back into society, connect Christian mentors with Christian inmates, and to give a copy of *Mastering Life In Prison* to every inmate behind these fences in hopes that they will learn to Master Life through the power of Jesus Christ. This cannot be done without the help of faithful men and women of God—you!

The Purpose of Mastering Life in Prison

Mastering Life in Prison is a discipleship program sponsored by *MasterLife Ministry, Inc.* and written by inmate and student of the College at Southeastern James Benoy. In the United States, there are currently more than 6.9 million adults under correctional supervision, with 2.23 million behind bars (Colley 20 13, 7). Some of them will be released back into society one day, while others will never return to the free world again. Many of these men and women are trapped in a revolving door cycle, a cycle that they do not know how to escape.

The church commissions faithful volunteers to come into the prisons, holding church services and Bible studies in an attempt to help these men and women make the changes needed to become productive members of society, however, volunteers are limited in what they can do, For instance, they cannot get involved personally or invest quality time in the lives of individual inmates, therefore, there is a serious lack of mentoring and discipleship within the prison system. This brings forth an important question: who is evangelizing and discipling the men and women behind these fences? And what are they being indoctrinated with? Be assured,

they are being disciple/indoctrinated by someone. The codes, creeds, ideologies, and worldviews that are taught within the prison system are creating more problems than solutions and many inmates are returning to society, in worse condition than when they left. How can policy makers remedy these problems? They have never lived in the prison context nor do they understand the ideological belief systems held by the criminal element of society. Maybe the solution lies within the advice of the incarcerated. Well, I have found a solution, a solution that has proven successful—prison discipleship. Avery Willis describes Christian discipleship as "the process in which the Lord Jesus Christ changes our character into Christ-like character, change our values into kingdom values, and involve us in His mission in the home, the church and the world and I would add, "and the prisons."

After investing more than twenty-five years of my life behind bars, I have developed an understanding of the kinds of ideologies and issues that plague the prison systems. I have written *Mastering Life in Prison* in an attempt to expose faulty worldviews that are created behind bars and teach others how to Master Life through the power of Jesus Christ. This is accomplished by discussing various ideological belief systems, presenting the gospel to the lost population, teaching Christians how to begin the Christian walk, discovering purpose as one uses their spiritual gifts serving within the body of Christ, creating a positive community within the prison system, and connecting them with members of society who wish to mentor and co-labor by *Adopting-A-Life*.

Until the incarcerated are disciplined by Christian mentors and given a purpose by God there is not much hope for a positive transition back into society. Most incarcerated persons have never been properly parented, much less disciplined. Therefore, the missing link is getting them connected with true Christians who are willing to get involved, Christians like Ananias who took on the task of discipling Paul (Acts 9).

If you are trying to console me with the **"THAT'S NOT SO BAD"** method or **"LET'S BE GRATEFUL"** pitch **YOU ARE NOT LISTENING TO ME.**

History shows that by indoctrination great societies have been built, however, the other side of that coin is that indoctrination has developed some terrible societies as well. Who's indoctrinating our incarcerated people? *MasterLife Ministry, Inc.* would like to

step into the ring and make a difference. We hope you decide to join us.

This material and information can be used to disciple others in the dorm, on the yard, in visitation or on the phone. Whether it's a one-to-one discipleship, small scale group or one goes somewhere and has a large program, one will know how to organize and execute their own discipleship program. Whatever area of Spiritual growth one might need, **MasterLife** offers help. We believe these are some key components in doing the 'great commission' and in preparing inmates to become positive and productive members of society. In doing so, we are able to glorify the Lord as we learn to master life through the power of Jesus Christ.

You may be reading this and think this sounds great but I can't do this, or I'm not qualified to do something like this. Maybe you think that only preachers, pastors, and evangelist who have been to college can do this kind of work for the Lord. Let me encourage you that Jesus said that He "chose you and ordained you that you should go and bring forth fruit" (Jn. 15:16). Ask yourself: Do I have a testimony? Do I pray to the Father on a daily basis? Do I read the Word daily? Do I hear Him communicate to me personally when I read the Word? Do I obey Him to the best of my ability? Do I attend church and involve myself with Christian fellowship? Does my life testify that I am a Christian by my lifestyle and my communication with others? Brother, if you can honestly answer these questions in the affirmative then you are qualified to teach others to **MasterLife** through the power of Jesus Christ in Prison. Oh! And ask yourself one more question: Who else is going to do it? The government? The schools? The self-help programs? Nah, I don't think so. Yeah, if it's gonna get done, it's gonna have to be YOU!

Tabor The Harvest Truly is Plenteous

Seeing it the way God sees it makes all the difference; I doubt anyone has ever said anything good about Tabor Correctional Institute, and if they did, I've certainly never heard it. A place known for its super strict policies and zero tolerance of violations of the rules, makes it a very unpopular prison to be assigned to. With almost 2000 men assigned here ranging from I-CON to Minimum Custody levels, one can imagine the structure it must take to prevent complete chaos controlling. Yes, it's a tough place to be, and your ability to cope and to adapt will be

pushed to the limit. It's also true that most men here do find themselves frustrated and angry, and negative attitudes prevail as everyone hopes and longs for change. It is because of this desire for change that makes the hope of the gospel of light in a dark place. Of course, the change that most men seek here is a change in location away from this prison, (and that is understandable). But their desire for change creates the opportunity for the presentation of the good news and the path to real change that comes only through Jesus Christ. The harvest is plenteous, and I see dry bones being made alive, and Tabor Correctional becoming a testament of God's ability to do the impossible! Some people may say that Bro. Tim has gone to Tabor City and lost his mind, and to that I guess I would have to somewhat agree, because who in their natural state of mind could face such overwhelming circumstances, endure such hardship, and be placed in such a negative environment and still find hope. I was uprooted without warning from a place I thrived in, where I was being used to bring a message of hope to many people, and I was brought to this place with a still grieving heart after the news of my mother's death only two weeks prior. Upon arriving here, I was stripped of many personal possessions and made to destroy a great deal of photos that were irreplaceable (many of my mother), told to destroy hundreds of dollars' worth of books and canteen items, and then placed in a cell block with almost one hundred men of mostly gang members. How could I possibly be in a natural state of mind after all these circumstances, and still have the conviction to say that this is a land of great opportunity for the Lord. Surely, I must be out of my mind when saying this, and I boldly confess that I am out of my mind (thank God). For I have taken on the mind of Christ and I look beyond the natural and see it the way God sees it!

From the natural view, Tabor Correctional would be seen as a valley of spiritually dead men but looking at it through God's eyes it is seen as a place of living souls ready to be instructed in the ways of the Lord. It is undeniable that I am having a Joseph kind of experience being transferred here from Caledonia, as I choose spiritual correctness over political correctness. However, I do take comfort knowing the end of Joseph's story as he makes the claim: "ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass as it is this day, to save much people alive". The Lord is going to do some mighty things here at Tabor Correctional, and I am just blessed to be a part of this great movement. I've learned that there is nothing or no one that can stop the movement of God and when He begins a work, He will surely complete it. I am committed to sharing and

spreading the message of hope only in Jesus Christ, and **MasterLife** has given us all a platform to do this. So, if I have to disciple one man at a time until I've reached all who will listen, I'll do it. I've only been here a few weeks and have already shared the Disciple's Cross with three or four men who were eager to learn, and I believe that God will send many more. My natural view of Tabor Correctional is based upon the natural things that are; seen, but the view that God reveals is spiritually based and will be manifested in the natural. To put it plainly, "what is impossible to man is possible to God" and seeing it the way God sees it makes all the difference. So, you hear it today if you never hear it again, that there is something good happening here at Tabor, and I (Bro. Tim) am excited about what the Lord has in store. I am already being considered for a custody promotion to minimum and the administration seems to think my chances are good to be given favor in this matter. I will keep the **MasterLife** family posted on what happens.

To my brothers at Caledonia and Nash, I encourage you to keep up the fight and never give up or turn back. I consider it a pleasure to have co-labored in this ministry with you and know that the Lord will keep you. Thanks to the entire **MasterLife** family for you love and support.

Hello to Bro. Ben, Zek, Jessie, Craig W., Richard Dowless and Michael Benoy at Nash. Hello to Craig Neal, Kenny, Luke, Dave, Mr. Lee, Thomas, Gizzmo, Kenny White, Joe and the rest of the **MasterLife** team at Caledonia.

Until the next edition, this is Bro. Tim saying always remember that "Seeing it the way God sees it, makes all the difference".

Bro. Tim Jones, Tabor

If you are interjecting one of your "me too" isms in an attempt to relate, **YOU ARE NOT LISTENING TO ME.**

Dear bros and sis of Christ, my name is Cory Thompson. I give thanks to God for the **MasterLife** program. While incarcerated here at Tabor CI, I met a good friend, Bro. Timothy Jones whom I observed as being a humble man of God, who has been through many trials and tribulations. The Lord led me to him one day and I began to share my testimony of how the Lord had brought me through some things. Bro. Tim introduced and explained to me about the **MasterLife** program, its members and the wonderful testimonies people who been through the program had. I was interested in learning more about what it

takes to be a disciple of Christ. Up until this point, at this facility nothing of the sort was administered and I was hungry for fellowship. Thanks to God that Bro. Tim was obedient to the cause of making disciples so he started a small study group to share the program with us. I had no idea how much I would get throughout this 6-week course. I had some knowledge in my walk as a born-again believer in Christ as to what my daily walk should consist of but not to this extent. This program expounded to me that there are 6 disciplines I could follow to allow me to have a visual of what my life should be on a day-to-day basis, namely the Disciple's Cross. Before being a part of **MasterLife** it was hit and miss my living the Word, fellowshiping, and witnessing. This program helped me get back in focus as to where God is trying to lead me and through me. I also learned valuable lessons through others throughout the course and how to deal with others in a loving Christ-like manner. I'm journaling everyday now in my quiet time, something I had neglected to do. God is pouring so much out to me and it's so exciting. I give glory to God for His forever goodness, because He knows exactly what is needed in our lives to jump start us and keep us on track. I pray that this program and the people involved will bring glory to God by discipling more persons world-wide. I look forward to sharing my testimony to the world as I continue to live a Christ centered life. Pray for me and I will do the same for you with a heart full of love.

Cory Thompson, Tabor

My name is Douglas Spearman, but everyone calls me Bear. I've been at Tabor CI for almost 4 years and I have been a born-again Christian now for a number of years. I can say that I've had my ups and downs, disappointments, I've been lied on and talked about, and there are times I have just wanted to throw in the towel. But I get on my knees and ask in Jesus name to give me strength to keep going. Every day is a challenge of our faith in Christ and to be able to withstand the wiles of the devil, you have to stay prayed up and always on the alert, because one incident can throw your whole day of or get you out of your character. The **MasterLife** program has been a blessing and has helped me to memorize scripture and to stay focused on the things that matter instead of things the world offers. I hope to share the things I learned in this **MasterLife** program with others to help them understand what true discipleship really is and to let my life be a light to anyone walking in darkness. I am still building on a spiritual level but the things I've been through, I hope will steer others clear from going down the wrong path. **MasterLife** has helped me see things clearer.

And here at Tabor it takes God directing your steps to be able to make it through. I must stay in my daily quiet time and focus on the Disciples Disciplines that **MasterLife** has taught me. Keep Tabor Correctional in prayer that **MasterLife** will continue to grow.

Douglas Spearman, Tabor

My name is Malcolm. I am 25 years old. I was born in Burlington, NC. I have been incarcerated only a few months, but I should be going home soon. This situation has been a blessing for me even though its prison because I have recently come to truly know the Lord. I thought that I was saved before I came to prison because I was baptized and repeated some words that a preacher told me to say. I really didn't know a thing about Jesus or the salvation story. I came here to Tabor City three weeks ago and met Bro. Tim and Bro. Cory who were studying the **MasterLife** Disciples' Cross. I was asked the question "Are you saved", in which I told Bro. Tim all I knew about salvation, which was only about being baptized and repeating some word that I really couldn't remember. Bro. Tim told me how to commit my life to the Lord, and I did! I was shown the way to true discipleship through the **MasterLife** Disciple's Cross and learned the disciplines it teaches. Through it I can see the changes that is being made in my life and I can feel the Lord moving inside me already. I have had to face a real challenge soon after I gave my life to the Lord and really had to learn to trust God to protect and work things out on my behalf, I was confronted by members of a gang that I once had ties with when I was a very young teenage boy. There is normally a violent act that comes with walking away from this, but I prayed about it and the brothers here prayed with me. God worked it out to where now I am able to worship God with the blessing of those that would have normally hurt me. Praise the Lord! I've been able to get in school and trying to make my life better for myself and my son, who I can't wait to see in a few months. I thank God for the **MasterLife** program and the small group that we have here at Tabor.

It blessed me to truly get the one on one time of instruction that I have never had. God bless all the **MasterLife** families across the country. Keep me in your prayers as I go home soon.

Malcom Garner, Tabor

Hello, my name is Mark Dudley aka "Yank". I am currently in Tabor City, aka "The Rock" LOL. I grew up in New York on a 2000-acre dairy farm, left home at 17 and fell into the

drug trap. My choice drug was crack/cocaine for 20 years. Although I did many more drugs than just that along the way. I sold and did crystal meth for a little over 6 years and didn't miss a day. Now, at 42 years old, I caught a felony charge and am doing a 6-8-year bid for trafficking meth. I can safely say prison saved my life, and I met an individual named Timothy Jones who was offering a Bible study course called "**MasterLife**". I've always had God in my heart but didn't know how deep His touch really went until now. We recently finished the course and I seriously feel like a brand-new man. My wonderful wife even told me I changed for the better and then started crying. Thank God for that woman, for real. Thanks to Mr. Tim, this course, and our Father in heaven, I have a new beginning in life, sober, and seeking spiritual treasures we are promised to have when we leave this earth. Thank you **MasterLife** for my second chance at a new and wonderful life with the woman I love so dearly.

Mark Dudley, Tabor

My name is Michael K. Jarrett. I had gotten saved several years back, but I was never told or showed what to do next. So, I finished the 80 to 105 months sentence I had. I made several vows/promises to God, I had the best intentions of keeping them. I did well while I was on that sentence, I obtained work-release, and was released. I took my work release money and spent the vast majority on my son and my mom's house when I got out. I wanted to stay off drugs, but I had laid my Bible down, and soon I was breaking my vows to God. Four months later, someone who had been on work-release with me came to the house and it only took 3 shots of dope and I was back in jail trying to figure out what had happened. It was that same month in April of 2018 that I decided I was going to make a real lasting commitment to Christ. Since that moment I did my very best to stay in the Word and do what's **Right, Good** and **Pleasing** in my Lord God and Savior's eyes! But I could not understand why I seemed to be spinning my wheels with no lasting peace and joy. I always seemed to have this emptiness inside me. Then my prayers were answered when God sent Tim Jones to my aid. GLORY TO GOD. The moment Tim Jones walked into the cell; I felt a sense of peace. I am at a prison I'm sure everyone has heard of. I'm quite sure none of what you've heard has been good. I would be one of the 1st to affirm that, that is until Tim's arrival. Tim introduced me to **MasterLife** and The Disciple's Cross. Just in these few weeks of my exposure to the program, I cannot convey not put into words the purpose, structure and real meaning my life has gotten. I know nor what I am

supposed to do next. I know WHO belongs in that empty place inside us all. The ONE who created us is the same ONE who created that empty place inside of us. And that same ONE who created that empty space is the only ONE who can fill it. Let me tell you my life has changed and is continuing to change and grow. That is Spiritually, growing in the Knowledge and the Truth that is in CHRIST JESUS.

You see, the problem lies in the fact that CHRISTians are not being taught/instructed in not only what comes next, but also what to do next. I knew when I met Mr. Tim Jones, that whatever he had gotten from God, well that is what my life was lacking. From the moment I decided to take the next step and place Christ where He belongs in the center of my life, God's presence is now even more noticed, felt, experienced in, on, and through my life. Learning the 6 disciplines, and putting them into practice each day, gives me hope, purpose, structure and a real desire and hunger for more of God in my life. I've always stayed in the Word. But I can assure you, God wants us to focus our lives on Him. Once we get self, others and other things out of the center of our lives, and put Christ at the center of our lives, we can start structuring our days around the Master and let Him guide us, lead us and help us through our days. My prayer life is stronger now, I am deepening my love and concern for others and really love helping others. I look forward to my time with God, and I've started adding more and more time to be alone with the Master. You just want to thank God for His Son and for the **MasterLife** Disciples Cross. I pray that God will bless all of you that are a part of **MasterLife**, and may it only continue to grow. I pray that all its members can be a blessing to others for God's glory as Tim Jones has been for me. May God shower him with His mercy and grace. I pray this for all the disciples and the future ones. AMEN

Michael Jarrett, Tabor

Caledonia

Greetings from the church at Caledonia Farm! The first thing I want to say is all the glory be to our Great God, and His Son Jesus Christ. I praise Him for unfailing love, His faithfulness, His grace and mercy. All that He has done, and is doing, and is going to do. He is worthy of all praise. He is always showing up and showing out down here at Caledonia Farm. That's who He is and what He does. The God of Wonders. **MasterLife** was a blast this year and I really enjoyed it. just being able to be a part of what

God is doing is exciting. Knowing that He is preparing us for our eternal dwelling. The Word of God declares that we His children will reign with Christ for 1000 years (Rev. 20:6). And I'm really looking forward to that. So, I want to encourage all my brothers and sisters to look up. The coming of the Lord draweth nigh (James 5:8). The redemption of our souls is soon at hand, and I encourage you all not to focus on your present circumstances. This is only for a little while for I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us (Romans 8:18). Our tough circumstances are where we need to be sometimes. God can really work some things in our life that way. Not only can He work some things in our life, but He can work some stuff out of our lives that way. All glory be to God. He knows just what it takes to get the best out of us. He allowed the apostle Paul to keep the thorn in his flesh (2 Corinthians 12:7-10) and it set him up to experience God's grace. And God's strength makes us perfect in our weaknesses. So, therefore brothers and sisters, let's take pleasure in our infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake; for when I am

weak, then I am strong 😊. One of the questions I always ask people, if you knew you were on your way to hell, would you want God to intervene, even if it cost you 50 years in prison? You don't have to answer that, just think about it. That's really the case with a lot of us. And I praise Him greatly for that. Without this prison I can truly say that I would not have made it. What some people mean for our bad, God means for our good. Oh, what a great and Mighty God we serve. I want to give a shout out to Brother Tim Jones. We miss you and love you. See when we get home. Brother David Turner, little Bro is still hanging on. And Gaylon Crittenden, my heart is with you, oh yeah, get ready for the rapture. It's going to happen in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye

😊. I give a shout out to Brother James Weston Benoy. Although we have not met, you're in my heart brother and our spirits are one. Keep on keeping on. And I miss you too Craig and Zeek. All is well down on the old farm. Oh yeah, I heard the lottery jackpot was up to like \$500 million and some, WOW. I have to laugh at that now because I don't know about ya'll but I'd rather stay in prison and have Jesus Christ. He is the big Jackpot. When you truly know what He saved you from, everything else is small in comparison. I am truly free today. I want to thank all those that have been a part of **MasterLife**. It truly works if you work it. I want to thank all of those that served with me and it was a pleasure to serve as well. I love you Brothers Brock, John, Guldry and Sister Roberta, Pastor Luke, Brother Travis. Thank you so much for

believing in us in here. A lot of people have counted us out, but God hasn't. I heard that a diamond jeweler keeps his most precious diamonds locked away in a safe. I also heard that God keeps some of His most precious people locked away. We are mighty men of valor. God's love and mine.

Craig Neal, Caledonia

My name is Alexander Joyner. I gave my life to Christ back in Jr. High, 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. In prison, my time was spent like all my other times – without God! 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 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 giving me the opportunity to fellowship with other believers wanting to grow in Christ. I recommend this to friends and all inmates who have never been attending the first year of **MasterLife**. They will want to come back for the second year. I know I am! Thank You!

Alexander Joyner, Caledonia

Greetings **MasterLife** Family from Caledonia; The 2019 **MasterLife** has been exciting. Once again, I had the privilege of being a group leader of a 1st year group, "The Disciple's Cross". The Lord did not disappoint, men's lives were changed for eternity. What a blessing it is to be a part of the Lord's work. I want to thank everyone involved in this program. A special thanks to Rocky Mt. Baptist Church and the volunteers, Ms. Roberta, Bro. Brock and Bro. John. May the Lord continue to bless this program, in Jesus Name!

Sincerely, Bro. Charles A. Batchelor "Chuck", Caledonia

Greetings to all the brethren, and to all who live godly in Jesus Christ, my name is Clarence Gillis Sr., an inmate currently at Caledonia Correctional Institution here in Tillery, N.C. I'm a born-again believer, a new creation in Jesus Christ, and I'm honored and privileged, and so graciously thankful to say that I am a child of the most-high God, God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto

good works (Ephesians 2:10). God's Word through much studying has been written upon the tabernacle of my heart, and my name has been written in the Lambs Book of Life. I as a child of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords have been given the victory through Jesus Christ's death, burial and resurrection over the sting of death. My whole Armor is on, I've been redeemed and bought with a blood bought price, breathed on by the Holy Ghost power of God and have been empowered and prepared unto every good work of God. There's nothing that can stop the power of the greater one than He, that is in the world, which liveth, moveth and have His being within me, as I'm led by His Holy Spirit to faithfully press on toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14). God has provided us with His blessed assurance in our forward Christian journey declaring, "if God be for us, who can be against us" (Romans 8:31). Truly, what an awesome God that we serve. I learn more as I die daily, applying my quiet time, living in the Word, praying in faith, fellowshipping with believers, ministering to others making a difference, and above all, abiding in Christ Jesus, which is my reasonable service in my faith walk with the Lord. There were many tests and trials I've encountered in my Christian journey that were not at all pleasant, nor joyful, yet however every unpleasant situation or circumstance I've faced in my new life as a new creation in Christ Jesus, are present only to make me stronger in the Lord, and in the power of His might, in which God who promises to never leave us, nor forsake us, will never fail to lead us to a brighter side of our trials and tribulations. However, God's Word enlightens all believers who know His truth, and those that aren't in His Word, saying "many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivered him out of them all". (Psalm 34:19). The Lord makes our feet like hinds feet, and setteth us upon our high places (Psalm 18:33) and there we shall not be moved, but we shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper (Psalm 1:1). I'm here and still alive to say, that if it were not for the Lord who is on my side, what would I do, where would I be and how could I stand, yet His never ending love and compassion upholds me with His almighty hand of righteousness (Isaiah 41:10) and orders my steps in His Word (Psalm 119:133). God's Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path (Psalm 119:105). Through my many life experiences, I have found his promises to be true in life, as I walk through the valley of the shadow of death. God's promising Word provided. We all need of God's creatures, guidance in our lifetime of a

perfect sense of direction. I'm a living witness that God will provide us with the assurance of a perfect, promising sense of direction that will lead the souls of man to himself and gives eternal life through Jesus Christ our Savior. I'm a living testimony, how the Lord carried me through several miraculous situations, where doctor's expertise was no longer of any avail in my situation, where I lie paralyzed from my waist. Nevertheless, God's Word gave me all the hope I needed, saying unto me, "if thou can believe, all things are possible to him that believes (Mark 9:23). So, I stepped out on faith in the promising Word of God, and believed it, and I was healed from my paralyzed state. I stepped out on faith, and prayed for my mother's sickness that was far gone, yet through the power of praying in faith, God showed up and showed out, as the miraculous power of God intervened, took its course through the power of prayer, and the impossible with man became possible with God. My mother was miraculously, completely, healed of her sickness. My only son was diagnosed with sickle cell anemia disease with no cure, and doctors could no further provide any hope of success of survival of life for my son, declaring that he would not live to see the age of five. On the other hand, when the saints of God began to pray, the miraculous took its course through the power of prayer. God answered prayer and saw my son through the impossible; he's now thirty-one years of age and loves the Lord. Even I, who have continuously persevered through much trial and tribulation are now face-to-face with a twenty-one yearlong wrongful conviction in which God has shown up in the midst of to deliver me out of my troubles. The North Carolina Center for Actual Innocence are carefully at work evaluating the case to be overturned, all because faith in prayer to God works for all believers. God will stand by our side and fight our battles, if we will stand still, and know that He is God (Psalm 46:10). He wants to receive all the glory for the great things He will, can, and shall do for His own which are called by His Name. I've been empowered and delivered to bring Him glory in and through my life. He is adding a new thing in my life so that I can bear more fruit for the Kingdom of God. I see clearly as He opened the eyes of my understanding in the knowledge this **MasterLife** offers. The Lord has even given me a vision to help

My testimony by Jamie
(James Clark)

Intro: I thought I could handle this on my own;

I was very prideful; I just knew I was going home.

I seriously felt like the jury would rule in my favor

Next thing you know, the verdict came back with a guilty.

Tears trickle down these cheeks in disbelief, I tuned

Out after the verdict was made.

Chorus: Convicted and wrongly accused

These prison walls feel like they're closing in on me.

A trillion thoughts and feelings were flying through me.

My feelings and reputation was seriously bruised

He made me lie down in green pastures,

He had to humble me for me to finally realize that

I wasn't living right.

I prayed to God and asked Him to give me a miracle

And bring me home.

Psalm 109 when I read, the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart,

This is my testimony.

Bridge: Your Word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path.

God knows I didn't commit this crime.

God knows who did, He knows my heart.

Thy will be done, your will I hope will be done

In the mean time while you're moving mountains, I will be still.

Chorus: Satan thought I was his possession because first

Three digits in my opus were 666.

Two weeks later that number was number was nothing but temporary

I'll always be God's child permanently.

My accuser, the one who did the crime, I forgive you.

Psalm 109, the Holy Spirit confirmed Satan's shackles are gone

And he lost.

A small still voice speaks to my heart; I know my Shepard's voice

I refuse to believe the devil's lies.

Now faith is confidence in what we hoped for and

Assurance about what we don't see.

For my faith made the devil livid, that's good.

I had the whole world and it almost cost my soul,

Without my knowledge at the time.

make more disciples for the Kingdom of God. Through the power of the Holy Spirit of God, which He has invested in me, God's will shall be done through my life unto the Glory of God, to spread this knowledge, which I've learned from this **MasterLife** class to new depths and heights in the Lord God with me. I as a child of the true and living most high God, challenge all believers who know that God has invested the power of the Holy Spirit of God in you, to do great and mighty things in you, you know not (Jeremiah 33:3). To deny yourselves, take up you cross daily and follow the Lord (Luke 9:23). Taking seriously the things of God, what you have learned, and heard from the Word of God and use this God-Given opportunity when the power is in you to do so (1 John: 4:4) and reach out into the deep, making an effective difference in your homes, in your church, in your community and especially being pleasing in the presence of your Holy God. Joyfully hearing Him say "this is my beloved Son whom I am well pleased, which is our faithful, reasonable service unto the Lord. God said unto us in His Word, saying "A new commandment I give you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye love one another (v 34). By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another (v 35) (John 13:34-35).

**Sincerely, with Brotherly Love,
Brother Clarence Gillis Sr.,
Caledonia**

Shape Up or Ship Out

Just because we are children of God doesn't exempt us from discipline, it guarantees it. We know the story of Jonah, how the Word of the Lord came to him to go to the great city of Nineveh. The Lord ask Jonah to go and preach to Nineveh because they were wicked. Jonah did not want to do it, he bucked and got on a ship headed for Tarshish. Little did he know he would only make it to the belly of a huge fish.

After being discipled by James Benoy, Timothy Jones, Craig Williams, and Craig Allen Neal, I had all the tools to start discipling

men myself. The whole idea of MasterLife is to go through it and then start doing it. When you know the truth and it sets you free, you want to tell people. Right? In Matthew 28, the Lord Jesus Christ ask us to go and make disciples of all nations. In **MasterLife**, we learn how to do that.

A few weeks before **MasterLife** 2019 (Caledonia), I backed out of leadership. I did not want to do it. I was bucking just like Jonah. I had got caught up; I was doing too much. Little did I know I could end up in the FISHBOWL at Pasquotank. In my distress, I called to the Lord, and He answered me. You, Lord, brought my life up from the pit. In my suffering, God is at work. I am on fire for the Lord. *"Therefore, since Christ suffered in His body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin. As a result, they do not live their earthly lives for evil desires, but rather for the will of God".* (1 Peter 4:1-2)

Without all the tomfoolery, I have plenty of time to spend with the Master. I miss all my brothers at Caledonia, especially Craig Allen Neal and Gizmo. I encourage you to keep your eyes on Jesus. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life!

I am David Benjamin Turner, Formerly Caledonia, Pasquotank
(How about you to start a MasterLife group?)

MasterLife Family. First, I give honor, praise and glory unto Jesus, the Christ of our Living God, for all He's done, including His completed work on Calvary's cross!!!

I've noticed a lot of people, who wear the cross; and they may have knowledge of its redemption power, but there is a flip side to the cross of Christ. "It's a picture of death", the Roman crucifixion is a method of torture and execution. It is their most severe form of capital punishment, reserved for criminals and slaves! As the victim hung by nails through the wrist, and nails through his feet; blood couldn't circulate to his vital organs, so he died of suffocation and/or exhaustion after a long period of agonizing pain. So, do people who wear the cross really understand the cross; really understand the totality of the cost to wear it?

I'm elder James Gardner and I was humbled by my experience of being able to help Bro. Kenny Morris lead one of Group #1 this year. God has birthed in my heart a call to re-visit His heart – which is "His People"; so I asked God to give or re-new in me a love for His people, because after going through ministry, and all that goes with the church, it is very

easy to forget or neglect the love for people the way God intended it to be. Some of you may know me as being a very sensitive man of God; but I can say "I've grown up in Christ" and I'm thankful to God for every person that He used to help me to receive all that He has or wants to remove from my life. Reading the section in year #2 of the MasterLife book a year ago helped a lot. It's called "Mastering Your Emotions", and it helped me. If you're a little sensitive like I was, it will give you a little more backbone in ministry, I look forward now to Alpha.

Thanks for letting me share. My prayers are that if you're reading this, then somehow you caught on and want to walk farther on in this journey with Christ!

Elder J. Gardner, Caledonia

The Door

My brothers in Christ, to be a leader, one must first be a servant. The poor in spirit, the mourners, the meek, the pure in heart, they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, the persecuted and reviled for righteousness... these are those that Jesus called blessed. The world calls these weak, undesirable, even unattainable. Our Savior embodied each, the very Son of God modeled humility, made Himself a servant among men. He washed our feet, bound and healed our wounds, our sicknesses, touched the very face of an unclean leper. He, there from the beginning, submitted to the will of the Father and died violently under the weight of our sins. To be a disciple, one must follow Jesus. To follow Jesus, we follow not just His teaching, but His example. This is not theology, not religion, certainly not philosophy. To be a disciple one must be a servant in humility and meekness, that is submission to God.

When I was locked up, I served myself. I raged that evening like a beast. I broke the light, beat the walls, the door until my hand bruised, until they chained me to the bench in the next cell. I screamed, I cussed, I wanted my phone, my lawyer, my bail bondsman. More than anything, I wanted more alcohol... just one more shot to make it stop.

I was not looking for God when I was locked up, but, like Paul heading down the road to another destination, I headed straight toward Him. And like Paul, He struck me from my horse, blinding me not with scales, but with concrete, iron and steel gray fences. Desperate, abandoned, hopeless, helpless and suicidal, thinking God Himself had

forsaken me, with nothing but a battered Bible and a veil of tears, He drove me to my knees on a cold concrete floor. In a world of 23 and 1 lock-down, bloody beatings with breakfast trays, hunger, cold and withdrawals, sobbing and screaming, I found repentance. I found salvation and faith. God forged a relationship with me. It has not been an easy path. At one point, nearly giving up, I hung myself in the Durham County Jail. But for God, I am arrogant, stubborn, impatient and insecure. But He is not done with me!

When I started **MasterLife**, I did not know what to expect. Often in the church, in prison or out, one finds legalism or those that use Christ's liberty as a license for immorality as Paul warned, neither extreme understanding the true balance of God's grace. What I found was truly amazing, as God revealed the power of His Holy Spirit working between and among believers. I watched as "hardened" men stepped up to positions unexpectedly, men stepped down from positions in humility and submission. I witnessed men speak who'd never spoken before a crowd, men reconcile and ask forgiveness of one another. I saw grace extended and the love of Christ administered. Whatever the enemy used to create division and distraction from beginning to end, God used His glory and for our promotion and illustration.

As I walk this path, I sometimes get tired. I get lonely, I miss my son, Matthew, and my family. Sometimes I get discouraged or impatient. I don't always understand why God chooses one path over another; I can't see the whole picture like He can. But I have to rely by faith on His strength, His sight, His vision for my life. It is my job to submit meekly to His will in humility, to be a servant to my God and my neighbor, to display the fruit of the Spirit. If I cannot be a servant, then it is impossible for me to be a disciple. If I cannot learn to follow, then I cannot lead. I thank God for this time at Caledonia and everything He is doing in my life and the lives of my brothers. I encourage you all to seek the Lord with all of your heart. We must be willing to touch the face of the leper.

Your brother in Christ, One of the least among these

Jarrod M. Kiper, Caledonia

My name is Jerome Moyer, I was born June 4, 1963 in PH County Hospital. Life wasn't that easy on me growing up. I didn't have what you call the finer things in life. My Mom and Daddy worked hard for what we got. My mother was a firm believer in God. She has been saved and serving the Lord for over 30 years. She took us

to church; I knew about God but wasn't serving Him. As I got older I began to get into trouble with the law, in and out of prison. My longest time I've been incarcerated was 9 years, during the course of my 9 years, I found Jesus. I got saved but as time progressed and I got out of prison I backslid, started doing the things I thought I was big enough to do, biggest mistake of my life. By me not being faithful to God it caused me to end up back in prison. This time with 6 1/2 years. So, I rededicated my life back to God. It's been nearly 2 years since I rededicated my life. It was June 9, 2017 to be exact. Since I've rededicated my life, I haven't regretted it. I'm not trying to use God as an escape route. God knows our heart. I've been here at Caledonia almost 2 years. God has been good to me. I've learned to love Jesus more and more every day. Putting my trust in Him, praying and seeking direction from God. I've met some good brothers. Church has been great, even though I don't go as often as I should but that's not stopping me from serving God. I thank God for blessing me to get the job I have at this camp, a lot of people would say it's not much, but the Bible tells me in all things give God thanks. It's a struggle but God said in His word, the battle don't belong to us it's the Lord's. I most definitely thank God for the **MasterLife** program. It really has increased my learning, helping me to get closer to God. I thank God for the fellowship and the volunteers. Spending quiet time with God is so important, this is exactly what I needed to be revived, I pray that the other brothers has grown just as I have, to God be the glory, He deserves all the credit. Without God and His Holy Spirit, I wouldn't be who I am today. I just tell everybody, stick with God, learn of Him, and He will show you the way.

Jerome Moye, Caledonia

What Brought Me To My Knees

This was my first time taking **MasterLife**. After a few weeks into **MasterLife**, I was struggling in my group talks, listen, and understanding. My mind was always on other things, like worrying about things going on back home. So, on my 9th week of **MasterLife**, that Thursday afternoon, May 2, 2019, in my group's talk, I was having this strange feeling that I wasn't understanding, like something bad was going to happen. So, on Friday, May 3rd, got a phone call here at the prison about 1:30 pm, that nobody wants to hear. It was my brother calling me to tell me the bad news that my Mom had died that morning about

A NEW BEGINNING

By Tony C. Davis, Caledonia

I did the drugs to kill the pain,
Knowing all the time there was no gain.
I've got a new drug, it's called Christ,
For with Him I can have a brand-new life.
I follow Him into the light,
Knowing my future will be bright.
Let it be said, Jesus was raised from the dead,
So our sins will be lifted from our head.
All our sins are dead and gone,
Jesus said I would never be alone.
With His mercy and grace,
I will have a new life at His place.

10:30 am. My Mom was 97 years old; she was a good woman. She didn't have much, but she done the best with what she had, a good life, now I know that she has gone to be with the Lord that afternoon. When I got the bad news, my life took a 360 degree turn and it was really hard on me to take that weekend. So, on May 5th, Sunday afternoon, the Prison let me go to my Mom's wake at my home church to view the body. So, when I walked up to the casket, I laid inside it a picture of me and a note saying "Mom take me to heaven with you". Also, laid in the casket, was my Mom's last Mother's Day card to give her and I said "Mom, here is your Mother's Day card you never had a chance to read it, so Mom take it with you to heaven." Before my Mom's passing away, I used to lay in bed at night saying my prayers. My Mom's death was a wake-up call to me, now this is what "brought me to my knees to pray" more. **MasterLife**, I thank God for taking it, this has brought me closer to God.

Keith Smith, Caledonia

I was thinking about not participating in **MasterLife** at first this year, but after talking to brother Tim, I decided to go ahead and participate. I am glad I did. God gave me some new insight. The Spirit began to open my understanding to some things that I had gone over before. But this time when I went through them it was different. One of the things that I am learning is that it is not about me, but about Jesus. Sometimes we get caught up in our own situation and begin to

focus on that more than Him (Jesus). We sometimes forget that Jesus is bigger than our situation, not the other way around. This is my second time being a group leader at **MasterLife**, and I can say I learn more each time I do it. Discipleship, discipling men unto Christ is what we are supposed to be doing. Just as God saved us, He wants to save others. *God does not wish that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance* (2 Peter 3:9). We have a job to do. Reach the lost. Let's get busy.

Sincerely, Bro. Kenny Morris, Caledonia

As this year's **MasterLife** program comes to a close, I thank the Lord for the privilege of serving as an assistant group leader for year three. Our group explored the disciple's victory through discussions concerning spiritual strongholds, the armor we use to gain victory in spiritual battles with the world. Our flesh and our enemy, the devil. We learned to master our emotions by the renewing of our mind by the power of the Holy Spirit. Most importantly, we renewed our commitment to be disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The more I am involved with the MasterLife Program, the more I am convinced that it is the most effective discipleship program I have encountered. I appreciate everyone involved in the program including those behind the scenes, our local volunteers and the brothers inside the prison who led the program to another successful year. This program exists because of everyone's dedication to the cause of Jesus Christ.

I pray for all those involved, this year's participants and for the continued success of the **MasterLife** program.

Larry Higgins, Caledonia

I was a victim of child abuse at a very early age. I was made to take drugs at 9 years old, so I continued to do drugs the rest of my life. At 23 years of age, I went to a Christian rehab and found God, but along the way, I lost sight of God and went back to the drug life and was in and out of prison. But once I went to **MasterLife** and made God the center of my life, I have seen a great change in my life, making better choices. Thanks to **MasterLife**, I am free again.

Sincerely, Tony Davis, Caledonia

My name is William Allison and I want to thank all my brothers that have been real brothers to me and real friends right here at Caledonia. I go home soon, and I want people to know God can deliver us out of the junk in our lives. I used to see myself as junk or a nobody. I allowed myself to do things in my life to numb the pain and not focus on what was really going on.

I was a sex addict and I didn't care who knew or what people knew about me. I wanted to look at the movies on TV with sex in it or look at girly books, you name it, I did it in my life. Drugs used to be part of my life, in society, drugs almost killed me, but I have been clean now 20 years. God will set you free, He will remove both drug addiction and sex addiction, He will remove the shame and the guilt, He, Jesus Christ, will show you your worth and allow you to see you are a somebody, His child.

Growing up before prison, people abused me, beat me, and I was molested by people in my own family, and by a church member. I hated my life, trusted nobody, I was scared, ashamed, and had no help, nobody cared, it seemed to me. People would say I love you William but the next minute, beat me or molest me and act as if, I did wrong, not them. I committed a crime at 16 years old and got charged at 17 years old, cost me 20 years of my life in prison. I'm serving time for myself and two other people. I've learned nobody will ever love me or care about me like Jesus Christ does.

I am sharing my testimony for you who are in a struggle. My God said I came to set you free from your pain, set you free from shame, guilt and anger, set you free from addiction in your life. Give your heart to God, He will give you the strength to overcome your struggle, I promise.

The devil comes to kill, steal, and destroy, to keep you down, to keep you in your addiction, to bring up your past, to bring up what happen to you, but you are no longer that man. 2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things are passed away behold all things have become new, not some of you, it means all of you.

Don't be ashamed of God, He ain't ashamed of you, He created you and loves you and is with you right now waiting on your open heart to get real with Him so He can become real in you and show out in your life. God said for I know that plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future. Open up to God and give it all to Him and He will change all areas of your life. He changed me I'm not afraid or ashamed to share my God

now with others. God bless all the brothers at Caledonia who stood by me in prayer. Keep y'all's heads up. Love y'all's brother... Jeremiah 29:11

William Allison, Caledonia

What have I learned in MasterLife is the question you ask? Well, I'll be honored to convey what I absorbed into my brain. I have learned to meditate on God's Word, have more patience, and to be more Christ-like with the positive values everybody should have. I also learned the gospel means the Good News and the gospel contains the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Also, I learned everything you do to have quiet time with God and wait on Him to give you an answer whatever is in His will.

Unsigned, Caledonia

Here at Caledonia, the 6th year of **MasterLife** was again a success. Under its third and newest leader, Craig Neal, the light has continued to shine and show the goodness of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

God, again, has shown Himself a faithful steward, by placing a leader in a position that are unerring in the Word of God, and unwilling to compromise His Truth.

It was truly a blessing to attend this session of the program and watch so many men grow in their relationships with our Lord.

My prayers go out to the volunteers, staff, administration and leaders that God chooses to put in place inside this ministry. Father, we ask you blessings on all involved and to see continual growth into your body.

We seek, to keep the Truth of Your Word, living in love, and speaking in truth to each other, admonishing and encouraging in the ways of our Lord. Amen

"And now, go, write it before them on a tablet and inscribe it in a book, that it may be for the time to come as a witness forever. For they are a rebellious people, lying children, children unwilling to hear the instruction of the Lord: who say to the seers, "Do not see" (me). And to the prophets, "Do not prophesy what is right: Speak to us smooth things, prophesy illusions; Leave the way, turn aside from the path, let us hear NO MORE about the Holy One of Israel!" Isaiah 30:8-11

Michael Benoy, Caledonia (now at New Hanover)

MasterLife continues to teach me the importance of our relationship with Jesus. Our relationship with Jesus is the focal point in which the six disciplines of the Disciple's Cross can be completed. This completion starts with obedience and it ends with obedience. The day by day instruction provides the framework as a disciple of Jesus. This is the very life of a Christian and the teaching in **MasterLife** exemplifies it.

The chicken and the pizza are okay and satisfies the physical body, but the true blessing is in the unseen which satisfies the soul, that is, a relationship with Jesus. In this relationship, the knowledge we receive is not accrued as the world receives knowledge through certifications, degrees, and accreditations but our Lord imparts us with a living knowledge. The bearing of fruits through discipleship is the testimony to that knowledge as we continue in the fundamentals of **MasterLife**.

Brother Thomas, Caledonia

If you are critiquing my reasoning, my motives, my words, then you are not listening to me.

Webster "Rudy" Neumann, 2013-2016 ML Alumni-Caledonia, currently in Remission at Central Prison Hospital, testimony

Greetings to my fellow alumni and our many blessed volunteers, the institutions and camp administrators at Nash, Caledonia and the many others here in North Carolina. It was very good to read the Good News from Nash (Feb. 2019 newsletter). I really enjoy reading the newsletter (and re-reading it)! 😊!

While I have been here in the hospital, I've had the opportunity to visit with some of our past **MasterLife** participants (Anthony Hill – Nash), currently housed at Randolph Co. Camp) and (Larry Watson – Caledonia, currently housed at the Lumberton Unit). Even without **MasterLife** notes I have been able to share the Good News with those around me. I've been so greatly blessed by our Savior, Jesus Christ!!

MASTERLIFE MINISTRY, INC.
 C/O TRAVIS MILEUR
 PO BOX 21
 PRYOR, OK 74362-0021
MasterLife.Ministry@gmail.com

Each of us have Miracles in our lives! Webster's says that a miracle is "an extraordinary event manifesting Divine intervention in human affairs"; whereas the AMG/Strong's Annotated Dictionary says that a miracle is "a sign by which Divine power in majesty is made known, a supernatural event or act, a token, wonder or miracle by which the power and presence of God is manifested...". Thank you, Jesus, for answered prayer! 😊!

On June 3rd (when I went out for chemo) I found out that C.P.'s F.C.C. Board elevated me to minimum custody-Level 1!!! I'm now in "Green's"! Praise God! 😊! Which means I will not be returning to Nash, and to top it off ... my Case Manager says I will be going to Johnson Co. which is Southeast of Raleigh.

I will really miss my Brothers in Christ at Caledonia and Nash! All of my brothers that've completed their first year and are in your second year with North Carolina Field Ministry Program, you are in my prayers; the Benoy brothers, Jesse, Zeek, "Black", Washington. All my friends who are veterans (& Ms. Webb). Special prayers go out to GT Goode and Charles Pilgrim, my last chemo treatment will be in July 2020.

May our Lord Jesus Christ be with each of you, keep you firm in His Word and love. May each of you receive many more miracles.

Webster "Rudy" Neumann, Caledonia, Nash, Central

Nash Built Christ Tough

I was raised in a Christian household and brought up in the 'Christian tradition' from childhood. However, I did not come to understand discipleship until I began to study the Word through the Master Life program. As with most 16-year old's, before I came to prison my life was all about me. I went to church on Sunday, even bible study throughout the week, but I still lived a worldly life. I was incarcerated at the age of 16 and sentenced to serve life without the possibility of parole. The godly woman that my mother is, quickly beseeched with me to give myself to God. I refused to call out to God, in fact I ran from Christ, even sought other religions. My

Chronical

- Dust*
 - Construct*
 - Image*
 - Effigy*
 - Deception*
 - Fall*
 - Cascade*
 - Shame*
 - Denial*
 - Inability*
 - Promise*
 - Future*
 - Reparation*
 - Ambivalence*
 - Hope*
 - Desire*
 - Toil*
 - Discipline*
 - Guidance*
 - Faith*
 - Renew*
 - Persevere*
 - Return*
 - Rejoice!*
- Steven Barbour*

excuses were that I did not want to have a jail house faith, and I could not make it to heaven off of the faith of my mother, I had to find my own way. However, no matter the religion that I came to study I still had a void in my life, and no matter how far I ran the Lord Would place disciples in my life to remind me that he was knocking. One day the Lord delivered a message through a volunteer, coming from the book of Habakkuk, the scales were lifted from my eyes and I saw that my faith needed to be in God not the people. When you do not understand discipleship it is so easy to get caught up in the tradition and living in the "Christian way"; but when you trust God and allow the Lord to be the Lord of your life, when you become a doer of the Word, when you nurture your relationship with God through prayer and study of the Word, and when you journey through Christian fellowship while witnessing to others about the glory of God, the spirit will change you. Today leading a MasterLife group in discipleship training is a humbling experience, and I came to understand that my level of accountability is placed to a higher standard. I can not only know what I teach, I must live what I teach. Today I can truly say that I have answered God's knocking, and I no longer live for myself. Through Christ I went from a Buick with trash bags in the windows and three missing hub caps to a sparkling Ford. Built Christ tough! Christ is driving the car of my life and I do not need to wear a seat belt, because I know that my God got me.

Kenneth Meeks Jr., Nash

Quiet Time with the Master

I was a wanderer who strayed from the path of God aimlessly, not thinking about the impact my impression made on others. My name is Loren Hammonds and I am from Whiteville, North Carolina. Before coming to prison, my life was a constant

rollercoaster of ups and downs, in season and out of season. And it didn't stop there, because once I became locked up, my life consisted of the same problems. You see, I was a Christian like most of you who went to church every Sunday and threw the Bible on the table for the rest of the week to collect dust. Nobody taught me any different, for this was all I knew. One day I was led to pick up my Bible and read it, what I found changed the direction of my life forever. Christ teaches in Matthew that "A good tree brings forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree brings forth bad fruit" (Mt. 7:17-20). Showing proof that what our lives produce, points to Christ for the world to see. My life in no way illustrated good fruit and not once did it direct people to know Jesus. This scared me to death and made me think hard about my life and where it was headed, either to heaven or to hell.

So, I began to read God's Word more and go to church. Eventually it led me to Nash Correctional where I was accepted into the College at Southeastern. Day after day, God was nudging me closer to Him, while the teachers were teaching valuable information that stirred my heart strings. Yet, I found myself beginning to fall away from what little relationship I had with God. Why one might ask? Because I cared more about grades than a relationship with God. School became my god and it consumed every area of my life, while destroying the relationships I had with those involved in seminary. The more I ran from God, the more He pursued me. He began speaking to me about MasterLife being taught here in my block at Nash Prison. From the outside looking in, I would start to see dramatic changes in the lives of these men who were involved in the MasterLife groups. I wanted to feel like they felt, but I was unwilling to up my time due to selfishness.

As I grew farther from the Lord, there was a constant battle going on within me. All of a sudden, it's like every emotion I had come down, unraveling and exposing how messed up I was on the inside. I was asked to participate in the MasterLife ministry, and it has helped tremendously in teaching me how to master my emotions by allowing the Holy Spirit to work through my life in gaining victory. As I started conquering these emotions with the help of the Holy Spirit, it was like a weight came off my shoulders and I began to feel a peace wash over me on the inside for the first time. At the heart of the MasterLife ministry is quiet time. Quiet time consist of spending time with God. Many people rush out the door everyday who call themselves Christians yet fail to spend time

If you are offering advice to me, you are not listening to me.

with the Master in a daily quiet time so they can hear what God is saying to them. This is the reason why numerous lives are falling apart. Because they fail to stay connected to the vine and their lives end up breaking away from fellowship with God. (Jn. 15:5)

He is the foundation. It is imperative that as Christians, we stay in tune with what the Lord is saying to us. One might ask, how one might do that? By spending time in the presence of the Lord and drowning out all distractions, in order to hear His voice, speak to you. In the coming and going of life, we all tend to get distracted and eventually fall deeper and deeper away from God. This is what happened in my life. I became spiritually dry in every aspect because everything else became my priority except quiet time with God. **MasterLife** brought my relationship to God on a whole new level. In life we tend to mess up because we are all human. Peter messed up when he denied the Lord three times, yet God showed in His plans, that we like Peter, can still be used. Now that is grace. When Jesus shows up, He assures us that purpose in our lives are possible. It's not too late for you.

Will you join me in prayer? Father my desire is that you stir such a longing for those today who fail in spending time with you to come and basic in your presence. Thank you for this place where this reader finds themselves in this moment. Thank you for the work in our lives. Thank you that you give grace to the humble. Thank you for opening up our minds and eyes to see where we need to be. Thank you for stirring a longing to be close to you and fulfill your will. Thank you for the promise that *"if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has passed away, behold, the new has come"* (2 Cor. 5:17). Knowing Lord these promises help us to be mindful in our walk and the task you have called us to complete and what we came from. In Jesus name. Amen

Loren Hammonds, Nash

Living Proof

For everyone that believes we can lose our Salvation, let me tell ya: You can't even give it back! I was saved in 2005 while on lockup at Marion. Unfortunately for me, I spent most of my Christian life as the only Christian in whatever block I was in, so I was never properly disciplined. Needless to say, my spiritual growth was stunted. I have struggled continuously with doubt and backsliding. Many, many times I have gotten so fed up with the war going on within me that I sought to walk away from the Bible and Christianity. Of course, there was one thing I never could conceive of giving up, and

that was my relationship with Jesus. He has always been with me and I have never been able to turn away from Him, even when I wanted to turn away from the Church and the Bible. Although I often doubted God's word, there was something in me that wanted it to be true. And luckily, I was humble enough to realize I might just need a deeper understanding. When I got the call to come to seminary school, I thought, "Yes, I'm finally gonna get these questions answered and become the man of God I know Christ wants me to be." Imagine my disappointment when I got here and found out that even the Great Theologians and Seminary Professors didn't have the answers. Not only that, imagine the shock of being in Christian Community for the First time and finding out that Christians aren't always the Loving, Virtuous people I expected them to be.

All of this pushed my faith to the edge of extinction. I'm not even sure I had a mustard seed left. And then we had to read Nietzsche, the heathen who polluted my mind 20 years ago. I became unhinged, and completely renounced Christianity for about 2-3 weeks.

BUT GOD had a different plan. He showed me how miserable I was without him. He showed me that without Him I would become the person I used to be, he showed me that without Him my life was meaningless. I don't know if I had ever contemplated suicide as much as I did over those 2-3 weeks. What's the point of living in such a cesspool, why not go see what's on the other side? I gotta go some-time, why not now? But I realized that God gave me a mission and a purpose, and He's given me a reward. My mission involves the Church and the Bible is my combat manual. I can't succeed without them. And without God I know I am nothing. I just had to realize how much I need Him. So, I picked up my cross again and got back in the fight. And now I've got some peace, I've got some love, I've got some joy and I'm being blessed every day.

I tried to give back my salvation, but God wouldn't take it. So, for those of you who like to debate the age-old question of whether or not it's possible to lose your salvation, I am living proof that not only can you not lose it, you can't even give it back! God Bless!

Tim Russell, Nash

If you are thinking about what you are going to say next, **you are not listening to me.**

I read through most of those Nash letters for Christmas. It literally is God: it's one of those things you hear about and have no other explanation.

I pray for my camp, sometimes. Strangely, it is a dark place for me, and God is my light. I'm sure it isn't like that for some here, walking with God takes us ways we may hate sometimes. Look, God is God and He is going to show you some pretty divine things in a dark place, so to anyone struggling like that just try to keep that in mind.

I miss a lot of brothers in Christ. Shout out to Fish! Justin! Cecil! Slade! Lucas Rash! And so many out there I don't know, who gave me some inspiration this past newsletter by your testimony. Jesus says, "Let me teach you". Love ya'll.

Daniel Brook, Lincoln

Wow!!! MasterLife has been one experience that I'll never forget. When you get to the focus point of MasterLife, the blueprint you will receive is a sure way of getting to know and understand who Jesus is, was, and evermore will be. The weeks seem to go so fast, but the excitement I've had me moving to higher ground and craving more.

Ever since I was old enough to learn, I always wondered who is Jesus, and what was His purpose? I also couldn't understand how God could have a son without being born from natural birth. This course through **MasterLife** didn't only set me straight, it also showed me the beauty of God Almighty, and His son Jesus Christ.

After seeing the movie and understanding the lessons, I've found so much love and respect for Jesus and the price He paid for me. It is a deep feeling of pride each week that I'm able to go back to the block and share with my friend Jason the things I've learned and the treasures I've found in the Almighty.

I would like to thank the founder and staff of **MasterLife**, along with the group leaders for a job well done, and for giving up their free time to help me discover the answers to my spiritual growth. I truly feel in my heart that this program saved my life and is the reason why I now have a closer relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Sincerely; David Campbell, Caledonia

Avery Mitchell

Hello, I was able to read your newsletter for February 2019 today. I want to say, I have never been more moved by a newsletter as when I read of the Nash Christmas. I was

wanting to see if you could mail me this newsletter and also sign me up to be able to receive it. I would love to see this program started at all correctional institutes. Here at Avery Mitchell, we cannot hold Bible studies in the blocks. I pray we will be allowed soon and also; I can get in the seminary program there at Nash.

I would be grateful for any information you could send me on this program. I would also be grateful to be added to your mailing list. Thank you for the love and support I saw in the issue I read.

Yours in Christ; **Bruce E. Green, Avery Mitchell**

I hope and pray this letter finds you doing good and blessed by God. I am writing you today to express my thankfulness for your newsletter, **MasterLife!** Your newsletter has brought blessings, tears, hope, and more importantly, change in my views about prison and so forth. In the first of your newsletters, you spoke on prison reform and resentencing. To tell you the truth, I don't think it would do much for people already incarcerated but would do better for the ones coming into the system. God forbid people do! I don't wish prison on anyone! But you spoke of prisoner reform in the prison, I tell you that's great! I am all for that!!! I pray for all their families, all across the world. I pray for their families and for their stay in the system, that through it that person will open their heart to God and walk with Him daily. I pray for each brother and sister in bonds and free that all come to Him!

I myself have to do 16 years before I am able to go to my earthly home. In the start of it all, I had anger for everyone, including God. I had REVENGE on my mind and my heart, but as I accepted Christ in my heart, God started working in my heart. God opened my eyes to His love He has for me! Even I had much hate in my heart for these people. I understand to be forgiven; I have to forgive those that wronged me. I've truly forgiven them, pray for them each day. Waking up each day in prison isn't what it used to mean to me, that's been 6 years ago. As of right now, my whole life is on my God, my family, and putting things right I've done wrong with those I've wronged, I follow God's word. I pray each day for Him to guide me in what I do, not just now but days to come, all the way until I am able to go to my heavenly home. To stand before the loving Lord that saved me, to embrace me in His Fatherly arms and welcome me home forever with unconditional love, that is what I look forward to the most.

I pray for **MasterLife** and all it is doing for inmates and staff at Nash. I only pray that something as the same would happen here. God is working here slowly, not many inmates follow God here. It is a DARK place. I shine but I am lost to being alone in this dark place, I've tried spreading God's word, but it goes on unwanted ears and blind hearts. The stuff here is more about "don't bother the inmates and the inmates won't bother me, the staff!" I see opposition each day! 3 or 4 men could be sitting at a table playing cards gambling, the CO's walk on by, but let 4 people sit at a table with God's word here and they bring so many CO's, you would think there's a riot going on. It looks like the goone squad!

Telling you and others "you can't do this" offend people, but a man with two other men can put a rug on the floor and pray to a god that brings death to Christians, considers us followers of Christ as infidels, and think we should be killed and purged from the earth that came from their mouth, but the CO's don't say a thing to them. I tell you brother in my own words, it ain't right!

I've put in my transfer to Nash, but the backlog is long! 2 years they say! It's okay, I know God ain't done with me here.

I give God the glory for all that's happened: the good and bad in my life. God turns Satan's attacks on me to good. Satan does not win anymore; he tries hard but fails each time. God is good all the time and all the time, God is good! I am thankful to God for you all, God gets the glory for it all. I only pray that prisoner reform spreads like a wildfire, and Satan loses his hold on prisons across the world.

I would say more my brother, but it's getting late and I have to go back to work tomorrow if the Lord is willing. I pray I hear from you all soon. Please pray for me as I walk among this darkness.

Your brother in all prayer, **S. W. H., Avery Mitchell**

Please send in your letters, testimonies, and mailbag for the next edition. By November.

MASTERLIFE MINISTRY, INC.
 C/O TRAVIS MILEUR
 PO BOX 21
 PRYOR, OK 74362-0021
MasterLife.Ministry@gmail.com

I don't need you to, turn my situation into a "life lesson; I don't need you to minimize, justify, or confirm my words; I don't need one of your stories that prove that you've "been there and done that"

I don't need your analysis, solutions, or advise;

*And I don't need you to go and fight my battles for me**

Pender

My name is Deryl W. Odom and I am from Durham N.C. At the age of 15 years old, I start getting into trouble, and I start robbing stores and I got hooked. It made me feel like somebody. I got lock up in training school a few times, but I was still getting out and doing the same thing. So, at the age of 15 years old, I went to the DOC with 12 years. Once I got into prison at a young age, I felt like I had to man up. So, I got into a lot of fights with officers and inmates and always being put into the "hole". First time in the hole, I pick up my Bible and start reading it. I know that I was not real with it, I just felt alone. My mother have always took me to church, but at a very young age, I knew my mother was not living right, but she was doing what mothers do and that's trying to rise her son in the best was she knew how, and that's trying to teach her son the right way to live. As I was going in and out of prison, reading and going to church, I thought that I really knew God. But the whole time I was playing with God. As the years went by, the more I learned about God and how real He is, so on 3-15-18 at Craven Corr., I gave my life to God and ask Him to come into my life. Since that night, I have seen my life change. I read my Bible a lot and study God's Word more, and I also take Bible studies from Rock of Ages Ministries. I pray a lot more, but I have a long way to go. I'm not where I want to be, but I know God is with me. Now by taking **MasterLife**, I am learning more about how much He really loves me and wants to be a part of my life. I feel so much peace in my life since I started walking with the Lord. God is the truth, the way and the light and through **MasterLife**, I'm learning a lot more through His Holy Word. May God Bless You?

Mr. Deryl W. Odom, Johnston

Piedmont

Are You Born Again?

By Greg Ross, Piedmont

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a man be born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God." (John 3:3)

In order to see the Kingdom of God, a person must be born again. This new birth is by the Spirit of the living God. The reason this is the case is because of the first man, Adam. He was placed in the Garden of Eden and told by the Lord God not to eat of the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. When he ate from it, this brought spiritual death and separation between mankind and God. Sin separates people from God because He is holy. "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you..." (Isaiah 59:2). All people have become sinners by Adam's disobedience that day. "For as by one's man's disobedience many were made sinners..." (Romans 5:19). Being that everyone is born into this sinful condition by Adam, the Lord from Heaven came as the "last Adam" to deliver us (1 Corinthians 5:45-47). This is the good news and it's called the Gospel. God is loving, gracious and merciful, and He has made a way to save sinners and reconcile them to Him. It is the way of the cross. The Father has sent His Son Jesus Christ to deliver us from such a fallen condition. God has made Jesus who knew no sin, to be sin for us. Why? So that we might be made righteousness of God in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21). This is the wonderful exchange that has taken place. Our sins were placed on Jesus and He loved us so much that He died upon a cruel cross to pay the debt in full. The Righteous One died for the unrighteous, to bring them to God. What love! "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved" (John 3:16,17). The Lord Jesus Christ has paid the price and now He offers us life. "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

Lord, I acknowledge that I'm a sinner and I need to be born again.
 Be merciful to me and forgive all my sins.
 I now forsake my life of sin and I turn to you with my whole heart.
 I confess with my mouth the Lord Jesus, and I believe in my heart that God raised you from the dead.

Thank you for being Lord and Savior of my life, Amen.

What I need from you right now is to listen to me. Let me feel this, talk through what I am feeling, and know that you care enough to listen to me.

Signed: *broken, sick and tired, frustrated, lonely, hurting, angry, addicted, abandoned, abused, bitter, burdened, burnt-out, divorced, diseased, discouraged, disillusioned, disappointed, misunderstood, mentally challenged, wrongly accused, unappreciated, unloved ... and yes, sinner!*

Alexander

Dear MasterLife Staff;

I just came across your newsletter, and I was told if I write, I could be put on the newsletter list. I have been in for 23 years, and I have been hoping for a program that can keep the light on in my heart. I would love to share my testimony; I'm sure Father God will touch someone's heart. I'm living by the grace of Jesus Christ. I was stabbed 16 times, and the knife was broken off in my lung which had to be surgically removed. I also was stabbed in my right eye, so my eye had to be surgically removed, but the true life I was saved from is the death of sin. I am thankful He saved me from dying on 12/5/2016. Physically I'm blind in my right eye, but through the love and grace of Jesus Christ, I see with both eyes. Please pray for the unity of the brothers here at Alexander and that Father God will send a revival here at Alexander. I will keep praying for you brothers in your place, hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely your brother in Christ Jesus;

James W. Lomick, Alexander

Pamlico

Jesus Christ: God's Provision for Sin

Easter is the glorious celebration of the life, death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We rejoice in His willing sacrifice because as fallen and sinful mankind we had a costly sin debt before God that we could never pay. Not by our works, not by

man's religion, and not by supposed righteousness on our part. Therefore, God graciously and lovingly provided for us a substitute. Though we had a debt we could never pay, God came in the flesh to pay a debt He did not owe. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the one and only provision for sin. Salvation is found in none other. He is our perfect and spotless Lamb of God who rose from the dead on our behalf that glorious third day conquering sin, death, and the grave.

We see glimpses of this provision of sacrifice throughout the Old Testament. We then find its completion in our savior's death, burial and resurrection.

In Genesis you may recall Abraham and Isaac on Mt. Moriah. Abraham was told by God: "take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love ..." to be offered as a faith-testing sacrifice on the mountain. Isaac wisely noted there was both fire and wood, "but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" (Genesis 22:2-8). Here we see God's divine providence in both providing and allowing the substitutionary death of one life in the place of another. Here, a lamb would be a sufficient sacrifice for an individual.

In Exodus we find the first Passover. You know the story. The Israelites were to sacrifice a "lamb without blemish" and then apply the blood over the doorposts, thus sparing them from the angel of death and the judgement God was declaring against Egypt at this time. This event of sovereign redemption and mercy was so significant to God that He changed their calendar (Exodus 12:2) and commanded the Israelites to forever observe this event each year in memory of their salvation from Egyptian bondage, delivered by God's mighty power and outstretched hand. Here, a lamb would be a sufficient sacrifice for a household.

In Leviticus we find extensive detail regarding how Israel was to perform their animal sacrifices. Chapters 16 and 23 explain how the priest would offer atonement for himself and for the people. Blood had to be shed before God's people were considered clean before Him. Hebrews 9:22 states that "under the Law almost everything is purified in blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins." The writer goes on to say that Christ has been offered once to bear the sins of many (9:28); whereas in the Old Testament the sacrificial system was near continuous. During this stage in redemptive history a sacrifice was sufficient for the nation.

In the Gospel of John, we see a long-awaited declaration. In John 1:29, John the Baptist shouts for all to hear: "Behold the Lamb of

God, who takes away the sins of the world!" the Son of God has graciously arrived to live and die as our sacrifice. Jesus himself will pay and then cancel our costly sin debt. He alone will justify fallen mankind before a Holy and Righteous God and thereby usher peace between us. In His brutal crucifixion, death, burial, and glorious resurrection Jesus Christ would die on our behalf so that we may live and reign with Him forever. Think about that. This is what we celebrate. The long-awaited moment came 2000 years ago. We look back to the cross in recognition that what happened to Jesus physically happened to every believer spiritually. Our union with Christ in salvation ensures that He is our sin-bearer through His sacrificial death and glorious resurrection done on our behalf. Paul writes to the Ephesians, "In Him we have our redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace" (1:7).

As Jesus died for sin, so did we. As He rose from the dead, so will we (Romans 6:3-5). He is the beginning and the end, the author and finisher of our salvation who will bring His work to completion (Philippians 1:6), praise God!

And so, we see that in Genesis a sacrifice was sufficient for an individual. In Exodus, it would cover the sins of the household. In Leviticus, the sacrifice would atone for the sins of the nation. And in the Gospel, the Lamb of God takes away the sins of the world. "World" in this sense refers to the vast variety of believers who have come and will continue to come from "every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages" (Revelation 7:9), who will join together in eternal worship before God's throne in a great multitude no one can number. We know this because Jesus' sacrifice is more than adequate and universal in its provision, yet it is not universal in its application. The entire "world" is not saved. His work of atonement and redemption is therefore perfectly applied to God's people whom He calls by name out of spiritual death and into new spiritual life (John 5:21, 10:3-4, 11, 27-28, Colossians 1:13-14, Ephesians 1:3-14, 2:1-10). To God alone be the glory.

So, we see that a sacrifice has always been necessary, and, it had to be perfect without spot or blemish. Interestingly, the sacrifices were inspected by the priest first before being slaughtered. Likewise, the Lamb of God was inspected by Pontius Pilate first before being scourged and crucified. After intense observation and questioning of Jesus, Pilate concluded not once but three separate times: "I find no guilt in Him" (John 18:38, 19:4, 6). The perfectly spotless and innocent Lamb of God was in the end falsely declared "guilty" while guilty mankind was declared "innocent"

– and clothed in his own righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21). Just as Barabbas was guilty yet freed; so was I, and so were you. We were guilty, godless, unrighteous – but Jesus set us free. For what? To go on living for ourselves and our own pleasures? Of course not. Jesus died so that we might live with Him and for Him. Paul writes the Galatians, "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself up for me (Galatians 2:20). Can you say this like Paul did?

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the celebration of victory over bondage to sin, separation from God, and spiritual death. It is the sign that our sin debt has been graciously paid in full by Christ and is accepted by God the Father. We now have peace with God. We are His children forever. We've been called, justified, sanctified, glorified, and fully redeemed. And the cross and His empty tomb are both timeless proof of that.

Thank Him today, thank Him always. And remember, now WE are the sacrifice. As God's people we lay down our lives as "living sacrifices" to Him, for His purposes, and for His eternal glory. This is our reasonable service (Romans 12:1-2).

May this Easter unite believers in celebration of God's amazing and timeless provision for sin. The glimpses God reveals to us throughout the Old Testament have been perfectly revealed in the New Testament. Praise Him today!

"Nothing in my hands I bring, only to thy cross I cling."

In Christ, Brian Crouch "Fish", Pamlico

Wake

Dear Brothers, I pray that your lives have been made beautiful by the Love of Christ. I know I have been gone awhile but, I've had my hands on the gospel plow not looking back! The Lord has been good to me in spite of where I am. He has smiled on His Faithful Servant. I've been blessed to teach the gospel to all who will receive it and also to preach and sing the gospel to all people. The churches in society need to hear the Word of God in total truth. Who better to give it to them than the soldiers that Christ is preparing behind the walls? Our church family outside these gates are excited about us and can't wait until we come home. They need men and women of God who will stand for righteousness. The

Gospel is: I'm accepted – therefore I obey God to, motivation is based on grateful joy. I obey God to get to God – to delight and resemble Him. My prayer life consists of generous stretches of praise and adoration. My main purpose is fellowship with Him. My self-view is not based on a view of myself as a moral achiever. In Christ, I am simultaneously sinful and yet accepted in Christ. I am so bad, He had to die for me, and I am so loved, He was glad to die for me.

This leads me to deeper and deeper humility and confidence at the same time. Neither swaggering nor sniveling. My identity and self-worth are centered on the One who died for His enemies, who was excluded from the city for me. I'm saved by sheer grace. So, I can't look down on those who believe or practice something different from me. Only by grace, I am who I am. I have no inner need to win arguments. Let's love one another and go out in the highways and byways and love God's people and allow God to draw all men unto Him when we lift His name up! Amen!!!

Love always, Bro. Derrick Moore, Wake

SCCW

Travis and all my brothers and sisters;

I sat here thinking about all the current events, and changes happening inside the walls. Feeling the obviously present oppression. Then I picked up the Master's Word!

I turned to Isaiah 41 and begin thinking. He is speaking to His people who are in captivity. That's us, (physically anyway). It is encouraging to know that our God is making rivers where it seems dry and barren, we don't have to fear! The Lord our God is holding us with His right hand! We are being held. Even when it may seem like God has forgotten us, He is holding us, fighting for us. We can rest in this alone if nothing else. That man cannot stop what God has in store for us. Man can only take our peace when we take our eyes off Jesus! Be encouraged and know this too shall pass.

MasterLife newsletter always encourages me, I pray this token encourages you as well.

Regina B., SCCW

(How about starting a MasterLife group?)

Prayer Requests

I have been receiving mail from MasterLife for a few years. I'm not sure how you got my name and opus number, but I receive the newsletter. I would like to receive some Bible studies of possible.

For around 1 1/2 years, I have been dealing with throat cancer and recovery. I spent 3 months last year at Nash Correctional. I was there to go to UNC Chapel Hill for treatments. Since then, I've been back to Avery Mitchell and the hospital with infections.

I've been through a lot. My cancer is believed to be gone, but I have annual CT scans to be sure. I don't think I could have made it without God. I started last year at 260 lbs. and went all the way down to 153 lbs. Now it is climbing back up, but I still have trouble swallowing. I may take a couple years to heal all the way.

I had radiation and chemotherapy. It was rough, but Jesus carried me through it.

Thank you for your time, **John P. Hollander, Avery-Mitchell**

Signed: *broken, sick and tired, frustrated, lonely, hurting, angry, addicted, abandoned, abused, bitter, burdened, burnt-out, divorced, diseased, discouraged, disillusioned, disappointed, misunderstood, mentally challenged, wrongly accused, unappreciated, unloved ... and yes, sinner!*

Dear Travis,

Thanks for the newsletter from Benoy. Please tell the brothers I miss them and thanks for the **MasterLife** group I was in. I'll never forget that night Benoy and I was talking, and I got saved. I'll never forget it because I gave my life to the Lord and I'm still giving Him all I can. It's a life I never thought I'd live and one I'm never going to give up. God is good! I know I'll never be perfect as our Father, but I am going to live as close to Him as I can. I know I'm a sinner because I have to ask for God to forgive me every day of my life and keep going on living in His Word. I know I'm a baby in Christ and proud of it. I'm getting stronger every day I live for Him. One day God and my family will see the kind of man I am. I pray to lead many as I can to Christ. It's a good life to live the way God wants us to be. I can say when that day comes, we all need to be ready for heaven, not hell. Satan is not going to take me. I rebuke him in the name of God. Yes, I miss my brothers from Nash, but I had to

move on. I'm going to try and start a **MasterLife** group when I get out. I'm hoping to maybe start it in my church. If not, I'm going to do it on my own somewhere if I can get enough people to help and raise the money for a place to have it.

Unknown, Nash

Today as I studied how to become a disciple, I look back over my life and see how God has blessed me! As I think back over my life, I was the oldest out of 4, 2 brothers and a sister, but they lost their lives to a house fire. I never really cared much about God, because if He was a great God, why did He let my brothers and sister die? We didn't have much, but I couldn't tell, my mom provided me with everything I needed. My grandpa was my dad, my mom worked all the time, and I got old enough to start hanging in the streets. I began to drink and smoke, and then came the drugs. I began using them and then I ended up selling them. The same drugs I began to sell are the same drugs I got hooked on. I went from having everything to having nothing, and to becoming what I use to call them a crack head. I was working hard and selling a lot of crack, and I was working on the sanitation dept. in Spring Hope N.C. I had been out selling all night, but I was tired of the way I was living because I knew the Feds were coming to get me. I used to pray to God to take this addiction to alcohol and money away from me, and it was like He was listening to me. The next day I was thrown from the back of the truck, and I was air lifted to Pit County from Nash General of Rocky Mount. They said I wasn't going to make it, and if I did, I wouldn't work or be able to, or I had a very slim chance of getting my mind back. The glory goes to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, because I am just as good today as I was then. I've learned to love others as I loved myself. God has blessed me with gifts of writing, drawing, and my best gift, cutting hair. I learned on my own, but the best gift I have is the gift of giving back. I don't judge people for what they have done. Drugs and alcohol have destroyed a lot of lives, because without those in our lives, there are a lot of talents behind these closed doors. I promise God to never sell or drink, or to do any of those things that got me here again. **MasterLife** has gave me a lot of key verses into making my life easier for me. I'm not where I want to be, but where I need to be so God can finish making me the man I need to be for Him. To be a warrior for Jesus takes time, and patience! Only love can guide us to be a great disciple. 1st, learn how to love yourself, and then you can love others. Just pray and study God's Word every day is all I need to do, and it

blesses to my soul. I am thankful for the class, thank you!

Morris Joyner

Please send in your letters, testimonies, and mailbag for the next edition. By November.

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.

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

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

NOW HERE:
www.MasterLife-Ministry.org
 A BIG THANK YOU to Becky K. Lee
 NOW HERE, CERTIFIED, OFFICIAL
 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization
 (Thanks to MDB, WJB, JSS, KM! Your work was invaluable)

MASTERLIFE MINISTRY, INC.
 C/O TRAVIS MILEUR
 PO BOX 21
 PRYOR, OK 74362-0021
MasterLife.Ministry@gmail.com

SPECIAL THANKS

Thanks to Ken & Rachel Morris, Bequita Mileur for typing and assembling the newsletter the testimonies. Pat at First Baptist Church - Pryor, OK on copying.

Shout out to all the many MasterLife groups in the different prisons with their leaders and church sponsors.

How Can YOU Help? We have many needs, you can help.

1. Adopt-A-Life: Christians adopt and mentor inmates
2. Prayer for the inmates, their families, their salvation, and their spiritual growth
3. Financial support either directly or through focused fund raising, to develop and support **MasterLife** groups in prisons
4. Office support in developing the Newsletter, website, etc.
5. Interact with the inmates, keep track of **MasterLife** groups, collect and distribute prayer requests

Would you like to take part in our Newsletter? If you have completed MasterLife and want to be part of our staff, we are seeking persons to provide us with:

1. Christian sports articles or page
2. Prayer needs and information and news concerning Christian issues inside prisons and outside nationally and internationally
3. A few good clean Christian jokes for each issue
4. Comments from family and friends on the outside
5. Any other Christ honoring ideas you may have

Books

Prison Literature Project
PO Box 1253
Berkeley, CA 94701

Prison Book Program
Attn: Lucy Parsons Bookstore
1306 Hancock St., Suite 100
Quincy, MA 02169

Book 'EM
PO Box 71357
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Prison Literature Project Bound
Together Books 1369
Haight St.
San Francisco, CA 94117

Louisiana Books 2 Prisoners
1631 Elysian Fields # 117
New Orleans, LA 70117

Books to Prisoners

Bellingham
92 Pike St. Box A
Seattle, WA 98101

International Prison Ministry
PO Box 1088
Chula Vista, CA 91912

Bethany Fellowship Inter.
11400 Hampshire Ave., South
Bloomington, MN 55438

The Bible Says Ministry
PO Box 99
Lenior City, TN
37771

Bible Studies/ Self-Help

Walking the 12 Steps with Jesus Christ
PO Box 4321
Ocala, FL 34478

Know Your Bible
C/O Northside Church of Christ
4545 N. Meridian
Wichita, KS 67204

Bibles

Pilgrim tract Soc.
PO Box 126
Randleman, NC 27317

Heart of America Prison Ministry
PO Box 1685
Independence, MO 60455

Voice of God Recordings
Attn: Prison Dept.
PO Box 950
Jefferson, IN 47131

Tyndale House Publishers
Attn: Inside Journal Bible
351 Executive Drive
Carol Stream, IL 60188

Peaceful Retreat Ministries, Inc
PO Box 208
Hutchinson, KS 67504

The American Bible Society
101 North Independence Mall
East FL8
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Salvation Army Ministry
1424 N.E. Expressway
Atlanta, GA 30329

Spiritual Success Inter.
210 N. Beacon St.
Greenville, 29609

Lamp Light Pub.
26 Road 5577
Framington, NJ 87401

Source of Light Ministry
1011 Mission Rd.
Madison, GA 30650

Country Wide Ministry
PO Box 1030
Dellslow, WV 26531

Set Free Ministry
1299 Columbia Ave., Suite E-2
Riverside, CA 92507

Mt. Nebo Prison Ministry
PO Box 1848
Gilbert, AZ 85299

The Bible Says Ministry
PO Box 1703
Gray, GA 31032

Emmas Correspondence School
PO Box 1028
Dubuque, IA 52004

Mount Zion Bible Institute
2603 West Wright St.
Pensacola, FL 32505

Devotionals/Tracts/Magazines

In Touch Ministries
PO Box 7900
Atlanta, GA 30357

Our Daily Bread
PO Box 2222
Melbourne, FL 32941

On Wings like a Dove Ministries
PO Box 557
Clemmons, NC 27012

Turning Point
PO Box 3838
San Diego, CA 92163

Hope Aglow Ministries
PO Box 10157
Lynchburg, VA 24506

RZIM—Ravi Zacharias
P.O. Box 921939
Norcross, GA 30010

RBC Ministries
PO Box 2222
Grand Rapids, MI 49501

World Missionary Press
PO Box 120
New Paris, IN 46553

Jesus Christ Prison Ministry
PO Box 770
Lucerne Valley, CA 92356

MasterLife materials is copyrighted by LifeWay Press, Authors Avery T. Willis, Jr. and Kay Moore. Thank You!

Various scripture passages from KJV, NKJV, ESV, NASB, LIVING BIBLE, and others