



MASTERING LIFE IN CHRIST

# MASTERLIFE NEWSLETTER

## DECEMBER 2018

## Get out of the Boat

By James Benoy 😊

"Merry Christmas to all my brothers and sisters in the Lord. A special Merry Christmas to the convicts who are still going hard on the yard."

Glory to God in the highest! Peace in the prisons and good will to all inmates & Administration! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Pray for the place where you are held captive; for if it has peace, you will have peace and if it prospers, then you will prosper. While you are there, disciple men within your area of influence. These things are reasonable enough, Right?

Christmas is the most dreaded and depressing time of the year for most of the prison population. Even many Christians have heavy hearts and downcast attitudes during this time of year. A lot of men spend their time trying to sleep the holidays away, while others drown out the season with football and news. Some get so depressed that they cannot even bring themselves to go to the dining hall and eat. Nevertheless, the season comes, and it goes just like bad weather or a common cold. The question this poses is what can a disciple of Christ do to change the atmosphere and share the message of Jesus during this depressing season? The answer is simple: Do something or do nothing!

The first thing a "do something" Christian can do is recognize that we are called to represent Jesus which means we should do something that represents His name. Wherever God has placed a Christian, he has a purpose; a purpose that will show His love and bring glory to his name. A disciple of Christ should constantly be thinking of ways to make a difference—"what would you have me do, Lord?" A bag of coffee and some cookies can do wonders behind these fences. We must be like David and ask, "is there not a cause?" A Christian should be on a mission; a mission to tell everybody about Jesus—compelled to tell. This compulsion comes from the love of God that has been shed in our hearts. Therefore, if we love Him we will keep His commandments and "go, and make disciples of all nations, teaching them". It ain't "go" to the canteen and feed my face, or "go" to the TV and tune everybody out, or "go" get in my little comfort zone and do my time; we have been bought with a price and we are not our own. There is a cause; Christ wants to use us to represent His name and change the prison system.

Many Christians in prison do nothing because of three reasons: they think they don't have anything to offer, or they are afraid of the persecution, or they just do not care. We will leave the "just don't care guys out of the equation." —You may think "I do not have anything, what can I do?" There is a story of a widow who was in a dilemma. The prophet Elisha did not fix her problem for her, but simply asked

her, "what do you have in your house?" Initially she said, "I have nothing... but a jar of oil" (2 Kings 4:1-6). You may not think that you do not have anything to offer; however, when a Christian takes what he does have and dedicates it to the Lord, then God will make more than enough to accomplish His mission. The disciple's started out with two fish and five loaves of bread; yet, after Jesus blessed it they had twelve baskets left over. Therefore, do not look at what you do not have, but what you do have in your house. Sometimes you might just have an idea to do something for the dorm on Christmas. GO to your brothers and ask them for some help in developing and executing that idea, that's what the gifts of the Spirit and the body of Christ is for.

Other Christians do nothing because they have gotten themselves into a routine/comfort zone that avoids all persecution and problems. They are paralyzed by fear of persecution and just kind of blend in with everybody else. It's hard to distinguish them from the guys on the yard. Everybody is their brother—amen. Of course, nobody wants the problems that come within this environment; but scripture is crystal clear on this matter. Just as soon as Peter stepped out of the boat, the storms came! Joseph had a dream and wanted to share it with his brothers, they tried to kill him! Poor old David just came to bring his brothers some supplies and wanted in on the battle, his brothers scorned him. Look at our Lord Jesus; a perfect man with a perfect plan and even He could not avoid persecution. How much

more will happen to us. The bottom line is there is no perfect way to minister; you either get in and get busy or you live in disobedience. Peter tells us, "to this you were called.... [do good and suffer for it]" (1 Pt. 2:20-21).

There are men in the prison where you are who are depressed, hurting, lonely; many are mean, hard, and have nasty attitudes; some are handicap, suffering mental illness, and even dying. They should not have to spend their lives in a prison just to die and go to an eternal prison. Christian, you have their answer and their freedom (the gospel). You may not feel qualified to go to them; but, if not you, then who? However, if you determine to get out of the boat and be a doer of the word, I promise you will look back and see that you can walk on the water, kill the giant, and lead people to salvation in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ; and Christmas in prison will never be the same again for you—GO! And may the Lord go with you!

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## Jesus Christ: King, Priest, Savior

In Christ, Brian Crouch, "Fish", Pamlico C.I

Greetings to all my MasterLife brothers across the state. I pray God will bless you and draw you into even closer relationship with Him this Christmas season as we celebrate the willing, loving, and sacrificial incarnation of Jesus Christ our Lord. The eternal Son of God, never ceasing to be God, descended from glory in heaven to be born in human flesh in this supreme and gracious display of love and eternal redemption. (John 1:1, 14, 8:58, 17:5, Phil. 2:5-8, 1Pet. 1:20, Eph. 1:4-9). Not that we deserved this by any means or could ever merit this glorious act – but only through the willful and voluntary expression of God’s grace did He send forth His only Son to die for sinners like you and me. Paul writes in Romans, “For while we were still weak, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly”. In our fallen and corrupt human nature we could never reach God or please Him in our flesh, (8:7-8), and yet Paul continues: “God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (5:6-8). Jesus Christ, conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin, lived to suffer and die in our place for the multitude of sins we have committed against God and to remove the chasm of separation, which existed because of this. “For God so loved the world” He sent, He gave, and He provided for us what we could never earn or produce on our own – a perfect atoning sacrifice that would forever erase our sin debt before Him while also ushering eternal peace and lasting union between us, (John 1:29, 3:16, Romans 5:1, 6:5, 8). Amazing.

So, in light of this Christmas season, there are three distinct characteristics of Jesus Christ that I would like to share with you, coming from Matthew 2:10-11. “When they saw the star, they (the wise men) rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary His mother and fell down and worshiped Him. Then opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.” Notice here it is Jesus alone who is worshiped. Mary, though blessed among women, is not exalted in Scripture as deity. Christ alone is the focal point of our prayer, trust, affection, and eternal salvation. He is the only true mediator between God and mankind (1Tim. 2:5, Heb. 9:15, 12:24). Not Mary, and not Mohammed. Notice the gifts here, gold and frankincense and myrrh. Interestingly, gold was a gift typically reserved for royalty, in other words, a KING. In addition, frankincense during those times was a scent used to honor God and this was used exclusively by the PRIEST. Finally, myrrh was a spice they commonly used in burial, this pointing forward to our Lord’s eventual sacrificial death as our SAVIOR. The wise men traveled from far away and brought these gifts as they bowed in humble adoration of Him. Can I ask you; did you give anything to Jesus when you bowed down before Him in genuine faith and repentance? Paul encourages us, “present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service” (Romans 12:1) Jesus died as our sacrifice that we would no longer live for ourselves but for Him (Gal. 2:20, Rom. 14:8). Let’s give Him wholehearted submission, loving obedience, and passionate worship. Jesus is our eternal King. Saul, David, and Solomon are just a few quick examples of human kings who wrestled with imperfection and sin. They clearly, naturally, struggled with their fallen humanity; but also pointed to the One who would reign forever and never fail – Jesus Christ. He has a Sovereign and eternal reign that has no end, therefore, no one shall ever remove or surpass Christ on His throne (Hebrews 1:8-12, Matthew 25:31-32) God has so graciously delivered the believer “from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins” (Col. 1:13-14). Is Jesus Christ your king? Have you submitted to His authority and have been made part of His eternal kingdom? We must step down from our own “throne”. Secondly, Jesus is our Great High Priest. In the Old Testament, the priest served as a mediator between sinful people and this Holy God. A sacrificial system was in place to deal with and atone for sin, including those of the priest. In other words, something perfectly innocent had to die in the place of someone who was guilty. This of course pointing to the perfect, sinless, and spotless Lamb of God who would forever remove the stain, debt, guilt, and condemnation of our sin (Ps. 103:10-12, Col. 2:14, Rom. 8:1) Though the Old Testament priest were many in number, they were

prevented from continuing due to their eventual death (Hebrews 7:22-27, Rom. 6:23), whereas Jesus’ priesthood continues perfectly and eternally in heaven. He is seated at the right hand of the Father. His work of sacrifice and atonement is finished (Heb. 8:1, John 19:30). As our Great High Priest, Jesus is able to perfectly cleanse us and He saves us “to the uttermost and lives forever to make intercession for His People” (Heb. 7:25, Rom. 8:34). Is Jesus Christ your priest? (No mere man or denomination can assume this role and position). Have your sins been washed away and atoned for by the spotless Lamb of God? Only Jesus can cleanse, purify, and make us new again. It is the finished work of Christ that gives us our righteous standing before God. Jesus clothes us in His own righteousness (2 Cor.5: 21). Finally, Jesus is our glorious, humble, and sacrificial Savior. He said that all the Scripture point to Him (John 5:39-40, 46-47, Luke 24:27, 44-45). Therefore, consider the obvious connection between Isaiah 40:3 and Matt 3:3, or Isaiah 45:21 and Titus 2:13, for two quick examples. We could easily add the Passover in Exodus, the manna from heaven, and the water from the rock, or Gen. 3:15, Isaiah 53, and Psalm 22 along with countless others if time and space allowed. But in light of context, note the prophetic significance of the myrrh cited in Matt 2:11 finding its fulfillment in John 19:38-40. Jesus’ birth, life, and ministry were like arrows that pointed forward to the cross at Calvary. It is here that God’s glorious plan of redemption finds its fulfillment. Jesus came from heaven to be born in a manger to die at the hands of sinners, and on a tree that Jesus came and did for us what we could never do for ourselves – and instead of receiving God’s justice, He has chosen to extend His mercy and grace to those whom believe in His Son. This perfect child wrapped in swaddling clothes would be for us, all we would ever need. This Christmas as we honor our Lord’s arrival to this earth, May our lives reflect humility, gratitude, and thankfulness for such a costly, loving, and eternal sacrifice. In close, we can still turn to Jesus as our Priest in confession (to Him) and repentance of sin. We can bow our knee before His throne and live in a way that reflects His authority and His eternal kingdom. Because oh what a joy and a privilege it is to embrace Him as Savior. Amen. Merry Christmas to all of God’s redeemed, both in and out of prison. Thank you, Travis, and everyone who helps with and contributes to this MasterLife newsletter. God bless all of you, and my many brothers in Christ behind these walls.

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## Stand Up for Jesus

By Bro. Tim Jones, MasterLife Caledonia

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers having itching ears;

and they shall turn away their ears from the truth and shall be turned aside unto fables. (2 Timothy 4:3-4)

Behold, the times that Paul declares would come in his letter to Timothy can clearly be witnessed by the world right now. We are truly living in a time where more and more people are rejecting the Word of God, are offended by the very thought of anyone speaking out against immorality and sin. Those of us that sincerely proclaim the Bible to be the Word of God, are obligated to establish the truth based upon what God says in His Word, is or isn't right or wrong, or what He says is or isn't acceptable. As Bible believing Christians we should never compromise the truth of God's Word and should not be afraid to stand up for truth despite the opposition we will face, or no matter who we must stand before, to proclaim God's Word. We are to be witnesses to the world that there is only one way to the Father and that is through His Son Jesus, boldly proclaim the Bible to be the true Word of God. As Paul declares, there will be many that will not endure sound doctrine and choose rather to believe lies that allows them the freedom to hold on to their "stuff". But as true disciples of Jesus, we are required to not only hear the Word, but to be doers of the Word, to teach and preach the Word, and to stand firm with the power of the Word. So regardless of how the world views things, or how the world thinks Christians should be, or what they think that we should accept, let us keep in mind the words of Peter and the other apostles in Acts 5:29, when told not to teach in the name of Jesus, or His doctrine. They answered, "We ought to obey God rather than man". There is urgency for the true disciples of Jesus today to take a bold stand in the same manner as the disciples did then, when we are being pushed in the direction of compromising the Word of God. Remember that Jesus was legally crucified and killed, but just because it was legal according to the law of the land, it didn't make it right in the eyes of God. We live in a world filled with the same kind of approaches to judge what is right or wrong, but as Christians we must say "let God be true and every man a liar" (Romans 3:4)

I encourage everyone during the Christmas season to keep the Christ in Christmas by reminding the world that "Jesus is the reason for the season" and living every day as Proverb 3:5-6 says "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy path". Live like Jesus is Lord of your life! He is, isn't He?

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## Word for Thought

By Kenneth Nichols, Nash

You are what you live to be!  
For me, I can live to be a child of the Living God of Israel, or I can live to be a child of the world. So,

the question I'm presented with, in the choice before me is this:

Is what I live to be worth dying for? If it is not worth dying for, it's not worth living for. The promises given to me as a child of the most High God are well worth dying for.

Something to ponder on

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## TESTIMONIES

by Victor Vasquez, Bertie

While I was raised Catholic, I didn't know God, nor did I know that he loved me. Love was misconstrued in the atmosphere of domestic violence inside my household. I sought out love and loyalty in a gang, feeling as dead as the Santa Muerte I prayed to. I used drugs and alcohol to numb the pain that burned inside. In preparing to go to war with another gang, I was arrested and sentenced to more than 20 years for a crime I didn't commit; tell me, how could God love me? Inside of prison, I continued to bang and get high, praying to Santa Muerte to grant me protection as I sought the opposite. When my father died in 2008, I felt guilty and responsible, but nothing changed in my heart. During 2013, I spent 6 months on segregation. There, the isolation and the absence of drugs made me start to think about my life, that there has to be something more to life than this. I started hanging with a Christian brother and praying to God. Before I knew it, years past by and made medium custody. On May 28, 2018, I accepted Jesus Christ and I am learning how to become a disciple through MasterLife here at Nash. Jonathan Ramirez's testimony spoke to my heart. If I hadn't got locked up, I would have been dead like Santa Muerte; instead I am alive in Jesus whose love broke death and sin's hold on me.

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By Johnny Ray Bullins, Nash

Years ago, I was living a lie. The lie was a life of salvation. Yes, I was living like a devil and professing a life of Christ. I would use God as a spare tire. This is my eighth time in prison and each time I would open my trunk to pull God back out. I knew I could use Him with this flat. This time something different came about as a result of my prayers. I was placed in A Block (a section in the housing unit) with guys that loved Christ. I spoke with James Benoy about my situation and I felt a connection because of the similarity of our crime. He began to share with me his love for Jesus and inquired about my place in Christ. Again, I thought I was saved, so Benoy led me to one of the brothers; Charles Young, and while listening to him share and explain the gospel story, I realized that I was not saved. On August 29, 2018 around 7:30 pm, I gave my life to Christ! From that

moment the Holy Spirit took hold of me and it is amazing the change that has taken place in my life. Instead of looking for drugs to get high on, I read the Bible in the peace of Christ. Instead of conning the staff, I greet them in the love of Christ. These are just a few changes that the Lord has made evident on the outside, but this is only a small thing compared to the joy that fills my soul. Now I am able to understand how these men with life sentences can smile each day. My name is Johnny Ray Bullins and I am a son of the most high God! I thank God for having me cross paths with James Benoy and the MasterLife program, as well as these N.C. field ministers.

To God be the glory!

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By Justin Moore, Nash

I have really enjoyed the MasterLife: The Disciple's Cross study. The concepts in the book have really made me reevaluate my walk with the Savior as well as my work for His kingdom. It lays the foundation for a true life-long, obedient life in Christ and is teaching me how to prioritize my time for the work that God has called every believer to do. Whether you are a new believer or just looking for something to strengthen your relationship, the MasterLife series is a great study no matter how long you have been walking with Jesus.

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By Your brother in Christ and friend, Keith D. Robinson, Caledonia

To our beloved family of Christ at MasterLife ministries;

Hey, Hey! Many times, during a human life span, (especially when you're young, naive, immature, and/or irresponsible), we don't appreciate the true value of the ones closest to us and the life-changing impact they had and are having in our lives. From experience I can attest to the authenticity of someone living the reality...with time and maturity intervening on his or her behalf, we begin to see beyond self and experience a growing sense of gratitude for the blessings that were there all along

I realize it took years after reaching adulthood for my will to let heavenly maturation consume me and for me to recognize of all the living God's gifts, the very best kind come in the form of caring people with whom we get to share the everyday moments and miracles of life...

After participating in the MasterLife ministries here at Caledonia, for the first time earlier this year 2018, where I am still residing, the experience produced evidence you are truly a heavenly gift from the loving God to this ever-changing world

for people like me!! I pray in the name of JESUS, you know how grateful to the loving God I am for you and Christ's ministry through the MasterLife...AMEN. Hoping when this letter reaches your possession, it finds you in heavenly good spirits and the loving God showing you often how special you are to Him and to His purpose...

At the moment despite the continual elevation each day in the many reasons why I dislike residing incarcerated, I'm in heavenly good spirit, and still letting Christ enable me doing my part for Him. Keeping my mental functioning heavenly sane and receiving from Him the sufficient amount of internal strength needed to fight off the unholy things that are external...

Recently I learned about the service "Adopt-A-Life" in your MasterLife ministries and desire to be a participant in it... please forward the information you need from me to participate, and I hope you're able to find someone with the willingness to be a co-laborer to me and an encourager through letters...

The need has risen for me to fulfill this letter's ending and will conclude it by reminding us of the most important thing about being physically alive in human form. It is our relationship with the living God and the surrounding influence produced by that relationship...that is all the living God asks us to give our attention to in the present, and it is the one thing that is continually under attack throughout a twenty-four-hour period!! Hoping to hear from you soon.

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**By In Christ, Kyle Triplett, Nash**

Dear MasterLife Brothers,

This semester has been grueling as always; however, it was not my own strength that sustained me during those times of need, but God who "gives power to the weak" (Is. 40:29). Were it not for God strengthening me, I doubt I could have made it through. However, let me start by thanking my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Some twelve weeks ago, the Lord called me to step out in faith and start discipling others. When the Lord called me to step out in faith, I was reminded of Samuel's answer, "Here I am" Lord (1 Sam. 3:4). Then the Lord truly blessed me with four faithful individuals to start with, then saw fit to add two others at the start of workbook two. However, I want to thank all the brothers that are participating such as: Richard Dowless (Dallas), Barry Mintz, Jeffery Garner, Johnny Bullins, Victor Velasquez, and George Clowers. What a pleasure it has been getting to know and grow alongside you guys. Being able to fellowship with ya'll is the highlight of my day. Remember that we as Christians are called to be disciples for Christ and are commanded to "Go therefore and make

disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen" (Matt. 28:19-20). Gentleman it is important as believers to shine the light that is found in Christ to all. Remember that disciples are called to proclaim Jesus to all, for Jesus declared "For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance" (Matt. 9:13). Over the holiday season remember to exercise the fruit of the spirit among your neighbor. The fruit of the spirit is "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance, against such there is no law" (Gal. 5:22-23). Who exactly is your neighbor? Everyone! Merry Christmas to all my MasterLife family, but let's not forget the true meaning of Christmas. Remember that Jesus died for you and me on that ole' rugged cross at Calvary, rose on the third day so that we could be saved. Jesus told his disciples, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning... [in prison and throughout the whole world] (Luke 24:46-47). Give thanks for "having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 6:22-23). Brothers, may God bless you all and may His grace be with you forevermore. Amen!

P.S. I want to say a special thanks to Bro. Benoy for all his support, guidance and for discipling a country boy like me. None of this would have been possible without you brother. Also, I want to thank Travis for his never-ending support, the Benoy family, Jeff Talbot, Southeastern, and all the staff here at Nash. May God truly bless you and your families this Christmas.

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**Anthony Dawson, Boosie, Probation**

This is my story when I was coming up I never believe in God because I did not know Him, to this very night I was robbing people. I went into this house and shot two people and took their money. Then as I was walking home a car pulled up to me and I see a shotgun come out of the window, I took off running and I felt something hot hit me in the chest. I hit the ground, and somebody told me to get up and run, not knowing that somebody was God talking to me. So, a few days later, I'm laid up and He came to me once more and start telling me a story of about a friend I know that got shot with a shotgun, just like I did but he never made it, he was a lot bigger than me. So, He said, who do you think save your life, me or the doctors? I did not know what to say because I didn't believe in no God because my friend said to me, that if there was

a God He shouldn't be letting babies get killed, so I was lost but after that night I put my faith in God. I went to church a few times but I still out there smoking, living the young boy's life, you know the girls, cars, money. I had my son, so I slowed down a little, but I was still out there sinning, smoking, shooting people for no reason at all, then I thought you can't try to serve the Lord and be in the street full time and put God in the back of my head. A few months goes by and I have my little girl by this time I'm in and out of jail, I just could not stop smoking weed, I love weed more than anything in the world.

Then in 2012, my brother gets killed, now I hate everybody, even God. I'm sitting in jail thinking if there was a God, how He let a young boy that was trying to make something out of his life get killed. Now I made up my mind when I get out, I was going to kill the boy. So, April 15, 2012, my grandma birthday, I asked God if He would do one thing for me and that was to help me find the boy who shot my brother. So now I'm out walking around looking for him, just so happens, something says to me to look up and it's the boy, I said thank you God. Then I shot him 7 times. Just my luck I run off and I run into the police. So now I'm a dead man, so they take me to jail. I'm sitting in there thinking there must be a God now. So, the first thing I see in my cell is a bible. I'm thinking I can't pick this up after I almost killed a man. So, after some hours pass by I pick it up and started to pray, Lord if you get me out of this I would not do nothing else.

So, I come down to my 9 months when I came back to jail, it's time for me to go to court, now they got me on a firearm by a felon B&E and they tell me they have a plea deal for 10-12 years. I'm thinking to myself that I can't do that time so before I went to bed I prayed and prayed. So, months go by, I still sitting, something tell me to call home, so I call home and my sister tell me that Roach got locked up for having 500 grams coming to his house in the mail. I'm like, why is she telling me this, so that night went to bed, someone came to me in a dream and started talking to me, telling me "you going to be ok, that he was going to save me one last time and He was God Almighty and don't never think there is something He can't do and I won't do a day over 3 years". So, the next morning I hear my name called for court, as I'm walking to court I ask God to reveal Himself to me. Now it's my turn to go up there, he is reading my charges and asks me if there is anything I would like to say. I look up to the sky and said Lord help me, then back to him and said, no it's in the Almighty's hand now. When it was time to hear how much time I was going to get, I was deaf, then I heard this same voice I keep hearing in my sleep, saying, "my son you are in God's hand now" the judge said 22-36 months in DOC. I was happiest man in the world, I said thank you Lord, if you hear me, can you please send me to Maury and my wish came true and from that day on I knew there was a God.

So, in 15 months go by, I'm at Maury, my case manager I got my merit, where I would like to go, I said Nash and now I'm here I started out on the wrong foot then I met Benoy, he started talking to me about MasterLife that he wanted me to start coming to at night. I went, and I like it, really, I fell in love with it. I changed a lot, learning about the Disciple's Cross, I learn how to walk with the Master also live in the Word and pray in Faith. Then on 9-2-18, I was in church and the Lord spoke to me and told me it's time for you to really get saved so that is what I did, now I'm happy living in the word, I fill better than ever.

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**By Richard Constantineau, Nash**

I woke the day after Christmas, 2015, in the UNC Burn/Trauma Center more alone than I could ever imagine. I had lost my memory due to a traumatic brain injury, and sub-dermal hematoma. The staff kept telling me I shouldn't be alive, that I had been in a head-on collision four days earlier. Ronald Larson, the other driver was killed on impact, God rest his soul. His wife was also crippled badly but did survive. My truck burst into flames I'm told. I've only seen pictures. My memory wiped. One can't imagine the dread, the horrific sorrow I felt. More profound than words can tell. I wish I had died. The darkness was swallowing me up.

There were no witnesses and first responders could not explain how I got out of my truck. I firmly believe that an angel of the Lord was sent to extract me from my crushed and burning vehicle. It took about a year for me to recover from my injuries which included a concussion/brain bleeding, a torn aorta, 7 broken ribs, shattered left foot/ankle, ruptured spleen, and third degree burns on my right leg and foot which required skin graft surgery. I didn't walk for a year after reconstruction orthopedic surgery to my foot and ankle. I'm so blessed to be alive today, much less able to walk again. The deep pit of darkness that swallowed me up was overwhelming. I struggled in the hospital at Central Prison for six months, alone in a cell on the fourth floor. The depression the enemy attacked me with was pure dread and misery. The prison chaplain wandered by one day and gave me a Bible and a few words of encouragement. I was reading Psalms and came to 94:17, "If the Lord had not rescued me I would soon have dwelt in the silence of death". It was at that moment that I decided to battle my way out of that misery. Only with the power of Jesus Christ have I been able to recover physically, mentally, emotionally and most importantly, spiritually. "The Lord is the strength of my life, My God in whom I trust".

I accepted Jesus into my heart at 19 years if age. I was married, bought a home, raised two beautiful sons, joined the local church – everything I was told to do, except for one of course, it was the most

important. I must - we must, put Jesus Christ first and foremost in our lives. This after all, is the first and greatest commandment. For 49 years of my life, I knew of God and loved Jesus, but I had no personal relationship with Him. For God to rescue me from my crushed and burning vehicle, give me the strength and courage to recover and bless me as He has, it is obvious that He has a plan for me. I am working hard, studying His Word daily and drawing closer to Jesus than ever. He has forgiven me of the horror, death and destruction, misery and pain that I have wrought upon this earth. The enemy had tricked me, seduced me and bound me into prescription drug addiction of which I was captive and a slave to for eighteen years. My Father rescued me from much more than a burning truck. That night, the Lord reached down from Heaven and pulled me, one of His precious children from the dreaded death-bound spiral of addiction. I shall forever do my part in furthering the advancement of the Kingdom of God. May His blessings and mercies be compounded and abundant on everyone who has suffered because of my actions, especially my sons – Brandon and Nick, the Heath family and the Larson family.

My studies in MasterLife for the past six weeks through the Disciple's Cross in book one has helped me greatly. First and foremost, it has taught me how to better manage my personal quiet time with God. Doing this alone is strengthening my lifelong, obedient relationship with Jesus Christ. The personal, intimate relationship I have with my Savior is wonderful. The principles of the Disciple's Cross are fairly simple but requires dedication and determination on our part to always have Jesus Christ at the center of your life, to stay rooted in the Word daily, communicate with God continuously, to fellowship with believers and witness to others. The Spirit of the Lord is working in my life very profoundly and I'm very eager to see what the Lord has planned next.

Thank You and God Bless

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# The Bookworm



**By Bro. Rudy Neumann, C.P. Hospital, (MasterLife at Caledonia)**

You all know what a Bookworm is, well... when your parent's name you Webster and there is a big book with the same name, oh well... I was born in May of 1953, in Anchorage, Alaska. Most of my brothers in Christ, in Alpha, MasterLife and Church (at Caledonia) know me as the one who kept the attendance roster. Our Lord Jesus Christ has richly blessed me! I was in 4-A block at Caledonia when James Benoy moved in. I was always proud of "my book learning", to have "earned" 3 college

degrees, in prison no less; but, being book smart is not everything! Thank you Benoy! Coming up as a child, to have the interest (and desire) to attend Sunday School, Church, VBS, etc.... was just what seemed natural to me. My parents gave me a desire to learn and enjoy what the LORD has blessed us with, it did not drive me away. I got saved on my 13th birthday, now I can't say it's all been a rose garden, I've had some bumps to get over and I caused most of them. But, Jesus was there for me when I least expected HIM. I came to prison in 1990. I was 36 years old and when the Judge said, "Life", I thought my life was over! Crash! Boom! Finished! Not so, Jesus was there for me and guess what... I know how the story ends! I have the Victory!!! I win! I've been blessed to have sung in our choirs at C.P., Harnett, Brown Creek and Morrison, and I haven't given up on my faith in Jesus Christ. I was extremely blessed to be able to attend the initial MasterLife class at Caledonia in 2013 and I've been a participant, helper or assisted a Group leader up through 2016. You see, when you have Quiet Time and get rid of your strongholds and not only let Jesus into your heart, but let Him lead you, then you have the Victory! I thank the Lord for brothers like Benoy, Tim and the many others at Caledonia, for J.R. and his God given gift for music, for our volunteers, local and distant, for all my brothers who keep me in their prayers as I fight Leukemia here at C.P. To my brothers at Nash, I pray to see you soon and thank you for your prayers.

I love you all! 😊 Acts 4:12!

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**By Thomas Johnson, Nash**

My testimony is short right now, but I am sure it will grow. The MasterLife study has really touched me; it has opened my eyes to what a real disciple is. It is also helping me to memorize Bible verses. It's really touching my life so far, and I've only been in it for four weeks. I'm sure I've got a lot more to learn.

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## The Prohibitive Cost of Love: Emotional and Psychological Separation within the Prison Context

by Christopher Jacobs, Nash

One more day. One more time. One more sunset, maybe I'd be satisfied. But then again, I know what that would do—leave me wishing still for one more day with you.

-Diamond Rio, *One More Day*

I am a huge fan of the country band Diamond Rio, but I only know one song from their catalogue. Is this a cultural paradox? If it is, then it is one born of existential necessity. I am incarcerated and have been so for so long that when people ask me where I am from, my inclination is to tell them, "prison." When I was 16 years old, I made the type of mistake that you only get to make once. I spent the next three years of my life in a county jail facility as I awaited the ominous "day in court." Finally, my day arrived, and I was summarily tried, convicted, and sentenced to a life sentence. I was 19. As is typical of the state prison mill system, I was transferred to a juvenile facility. That is where I met Khalil. Khalil is the best friend I have ever had. What we shared was a true "bromance." For nearly two years after my arrival, he and I spent the greater portion of every day together. We ate together, exercised together, hustled, matured, laughed, and eventually cried together. One night they transferred Khalil to an adult facility. The separation was catastrophic for both of us. We were mutually best friends. We have never seen each other again since that night.

I was pretty messed up for about a month. I would stay in my cell and listen to music because I had no one to spend time with. That is how I heard the song *One More Day*, by Diamond Rio. The very first time that I heard it, it was about Khalil and me. Every time that I would hear it, I hurt, and I cried. And then I started thinking. I started thinking about my thinking and my behavior. I did not know what metacognitive thought was at the time, but that is what I began to do. As I thought, I began to make personal declarations:

1. I will stop crying,
2. I will never listen to *One More Day* again because it makes me cry, and
3. I will never let anyone else into my heart.

I had concluded that a loving relationship with another human being in here was something that I could not afford to enjoy. I know that sounds crazy, but it is the only way to survive. None of the relationships within a prison are immune to the effects of separation, a separation that is not volitional. Every time you say good bye to someone who walks through a gate or locks down

## The Idiot

by James Kelliher, Nash

I get mad at You for the mess I've made with my hands and my plans. I cry out for guidance after taking my own directions. I ask for Your wisdom only to make my own decisions. And still, You love me.

I bleat in fear of finding myself alone, only to wander further away. I pray for answers but I don't take them when they're given. I seek Your protection before diving off the cliff. And yet, You love me.

I am an idiot, one of Your sheep. My only hope is You, there is no greater Shepherd. My life is not my own, You are the reason for living. You love me

Despite this,

for the evening, it could be the last time that you see them. The case is not particular to myself; rather, it is typical of the development and maintenance of relationships in the prison context. Imagine a world where everyone believes that they cannot afford to love or be loved by another. That is prison.

People say that time heals all wounds...that isn't true. I still hurt when I think about him. In seventeen years, that wound has not healed at all; in fact, it has grown. Now, I often choose to exercise metacognition, and I have found that the wound affects not only the way I approach relationships in the prison context, but also relationships with people outside of prison. The more that I have thought about it, the more I realize that I have maintained fidelity to those three declarations:

1. I don't cry anymore,
2. I don't entertain anything related to someone that I care about in such a way that it makes me vulnerable, and
3. There is a line between my heart and the world, and I cannot afford to let anyone cross it.

I have always expected that elements of prison would become inextricably part of myself, and I will carry those things for all of my life. Ironically,

some of these things constitute the better part of me, but I never imagined that I may have to live the rest of my life in a prison of emotional isolation. I am left with this sobering thought: At some point along the way, I chose to set aside a part of my humanity as a means of self-preservation, but in setting it aside I may have inadvertently killed it. Sadly, though this is my story, it is the truth of many tens of thousands of incarcerated people.

Friend's reply: Though you may have inadvertently killed part of your humanity, it can be resurrected by the love found in Jesus Christ. Nothing or no one can separate you from His love, nor is there anywhere you can go to escape His presence. He cannot lie to you, He cannot die on you; He won't divorce you, neither will He disappoint you. If you go to the hole, He is there; if you get transferred, He is there. He knew you before you were born and called you by name. He has a purpose and a plan for your life; and He has prepared a place for you and all of your brothers to meet up again. I assure you, He won't leave you wishing for "one more day"!

### Psalms 139:1-14 NASBS

[1] O LORD, You have searched me and known me. [2] You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. [3] You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways. [4] Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all. [5] You have enclosed me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. [6] Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is too high, I cannot attain to it. [7] Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? [8] If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. [9] If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, [10] Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me. [11] If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, And the light around me will be night," [12] Even the darkness is not dark to You, And the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to You. [13] For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. [14] I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.

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## A Courageous Disciple – part 2

By John Reese, Nash

We live in an age of fear, with bars on the doors and windows of business places, making them look like fortresses. I never believed our society would reach the point that it has. It is the day of mass murders, almost a totally demon-possessed world. This has produced a fear that has driven men behind barred doors. It's better to die than to live in such a way. It is better to live one year free, than to live a thousand years barricaded, hiding from the devil your entire life, hounded by fear. Those persons who are too weak to live by what they believe are misfits and failures. Sad to say, but you see more fear in the church than anywhere else. People go to church, talk about how wonderful Jesus is, then get on a job and are afraid to mention His name. The world will blow its beer breath in our faces, try to force their filthy jokes on us, and yet we try to hide what God has done for us. We are disciples of the Lord. We need to stand up, proclaim what we are, and say to them, "I am a Christian. I belong to God". It takes more courage to do that, than it does to ball up your fist and hit somebody. Jesus said, "Whoever shall smite thee on my right cheek, turn to him the other also," Matthew 5:39. That takes more courage than it does to hit him back. The person who is afraid to live by what he believes is a misfit. God is looking for quality, not quantity. It is a fact of life that the closer you get to Calvary, the less people there are. When Jesus was out on the hillside of Galilee breaking bread and feeding the multitudes, there were thousands there to watch the religious show. But as Jesus moved toward Calvary and said to that multitude, "except you eat of my flesh and drink my blood, you have no part of me." John 6:53. They left Him in droves. They were saying in effect, "we didn't come out here to be told this kind of stuff. We are not here for you to tell us we are going to have to suffer, we are here to watch the miracles". Then they walked off and left Him. Pentecost didn't come out of a full-page ad in the Jerusalem Post or three hundred television stations. It came out of God's terrible dealings with twelve men. He squeezed every emotion, every ambition, until He broke them. They said, "Let me sit on thy right hand". Jesus said, "It isn't for Me to give". He pulled them from the tax office, doctor's office and fishing boats and moved them out. When He left them, they were empty, broken, and bruised, and it was into that broken vessel that Pentecost came the first time. It will be to that same kind of vessel He will come the second time. God looks for quality, not quantity. He changed the world with a handful of people. It isn't that big, soft underbelly religious crowd that will make a difference today. It is that quality of believer that when he has done all to stand, he stands. The only thing necessary is to know you are right, then to stand for that which is right. God will stand with such people. God never uses the undecided. They have no place in

the kingdom of God. It is those that cut every shoreline and say, "It is Jesus or nothing". This gospel is worth everything, or it is worth nothing. God wants us to come to the place where all shorelines are cut, and we rest our case in the fact that this gospel is the answer. We not only have the Truth, we have become the Truth. We stand in the mist of this crooked and perverse generation that is going in the wrong direction and say to it, "this is the way, walk ye in it". God is calling for disciples of courage. He can never use the undecided. God wants soldiers; you must make up your mind. "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways". (James 1:8)

You must come to the place of conviction where there is no detraction. God wants your life, and for Him to have it, you must lose it. God isn't looking for Sunday only saints. He does not need people who only pray through when they are in trouble. He wants you to talk to Him. In 2 Chronicles 7:14, God says "If My people which are called by My Name, will humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin, and heal their land". When He says to pray and seek my face, He is not being redundant. Heathens pray, Muslims pray, Hindus pray, but to seek the face of God is to seek the presence of the Almighty, not just to get something out of Him, but also to have fellowship with God. God is not a God of convenience. His desire is not toward a people who patronize Him on Sunday and on Monday live like the devil. He wants a people who every moment of every day is occupied with Him. A people who are not excited about what God did for them, but a people who are excited about God Himself. God does not have to have you, but you have to have God. Sin is a mark of weakness. When we speak of worldliness, we are not referring to the way someone dresses or the places they go. Someone who is worldly is someone who is influenced by the wrong system.

We are on this earth to do the will of God. Whatever else we do is only a means to do what God has called us to do. God's will is for us to be a vessel through which God can live. We are here to be filled with the Holy Ghost, and then wherever we go, God is there. You must have the courage of conviction to manifest God. Now whether men want God or not is immaterial. You must let them know about God. If we are afraid to be different, then we are of no value to God. If you are a Christian, you are different. The world has nothing like God, and if you are a real Christian, they are going to know that you are different. If you are afraid to be different, you will die with the crowd. God will leave you. Stand up and proclaim Christ wherever you are.

All sin is a manifestation of weakness. Lying is an attempt to hide the defects of your character. Cursing demonstrates your lack of ability to express yourself. It is true; a drunk man's action is a sober

man's thought. The drinking man doesn't have courage without liquor to do what he wants to do. Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me". (Philippians 4:13) I can love, I can believe, I can stand, and I can be faithful through Christ Jesus.

No matter how wicked the times, God has never needed anything but militant, courageous disciples. In Noah's day, when the world had gotten so rotten that God had to destroy it by a flood, all God needed was a militant preacher. Noah was one of the most effective preachers that ever lived. He stood in the midst of that crooked, perverse generation and proclaimed the gospel of deliverance to all who would hear. When Nineveh was so rotten that a turkey buzzard had to hold its nose to fly over, all God needed was a man of courage. Jonah hit the streets of Nineveh proclaiming, "Within forty days, God is going to destroy this city" (Jonah 3:4). Six hundred twenty thousand souls repented. All God needed to change that situation was a militant man who would stand up and preach what he believed. The preacher's place is not marching in the streets or lobbying with politicians, it is in the pulpit, dealing with the church. There is enough sin in the church to make grown men vomit. Clean up the church. Let her stand up as the righteousness of God, and she will rebuke the darkness. Let her have the courage to be different in this society and God will change things. All God ever needed was a people who would stand. Let the church represent God and He will spare the nation. But if we continue in the tragic mixture of true and false, flesh and spirit, God will allow the same judgment to come on us. The church must be right, or God will judge the land. If God, in any age or society, can find a people who will stand up with Him and for Him, then before that society reaches a point of no return, He can and will redeem that society. True disciples know that what God has placed at the center of civilization, His church, affects the whole. Knowing this, they are not afraid to strike at the heart of the matter. That is, the cheap grace that is being sold in the market place! The sacraments, forgiveness of sin, baptism, and the consolations of faith, are being thrown away at cut-rate prices. The modern church preaches a Heaven without a Hell, communion without discipline, and church membership without fruits of righteousness. Caught up in this tide of cheap grace, the church refuses to proclaim the whole counsel of God for fear of offending those worldly souls who will grade the church on a Sunday morning and claim to be disciples of God yet will live like the devil on Monday. The church must say to such people, you cannot live like the devil and have God working within you. The disciples were not afraid to lift their voices against such mockery. Their dedication wasn't to success, it was to Jesus Christ. Grace is represented as the church's inexhaustible treasure, from which she showers blessings without asking questions of fixing limits. We print books that only contain the promises of God and

dare to call them the Word of God. No one has the right to claim a promise of God that is taken out of context. We must know that God is looking for quality, not quantity. It takes great courage to be a disciple of the Lord in this wicked and perverse generation. It is into this work that God has called us.

To be continued,

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### MAILBAG

Peace and blessings to all my brothers in the faith. I pray that all is well; I wanted to send my love to thank you guys for your prayers as I have begun this journey through seminary. I am praying for all of you guys as well. Remember no matter what we face in life, we can make it because our Father is on the throne. I ask you guys to continually pray for my family.

**Love, Bro. Zeke, Nash**

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I want to give a shout out wishing the following Brothers in Christ a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

To Brother Brian Crouch who was my leader in MasterLife at Avery-Mitchell, To Brother Danny Brook, To Brother J. Shoemaker, To Brother Slade Hicks Jr

Who were all 3 in my group that studied MasterLife together. To Brother Douglas Lipford, Marcus Keys and Paul Newly who had studied MasterLife before me and was at Avery-Mitchell with me. To Brother Lonnie Carrell who is at Alexander Correctional Inst. with me.

May God continue to bless each and every one of these guys throughout their lives.

**With love in Christ, Brother Cecil Saunders, Alexander**

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Merry Christmas Brothers and Sisters! You know it's a funny thing how the Lord works. This journey of mine all started with a gift (chicken) Someone, James Benoy and Anthony Bimbo, (Love ya Guys, thank you) told me they had this great feast. All the chicken a man could eat. Well, that's all I needed to hear, I was all in for that. Thank God for that gift. The whole time I just thought the gift was chicken. But now I know it was much, much more than that. It's the gift that just keeps on giving. So, Brothers and Sisters, remember this Christmas season, the season of giving, how a small gift to someone can change their lives. If it can happen to me, it can happen to anybody. Take a chance MasterLife brothers and sisters. Pick that one

person you don't really like for whatever reason and give them a gift and a kind word. Because you never know, you might just change their life. Tis better to give than receive

**Merry Christmas, Brother Dennis Pekala, Mountain View**

To all the people it takes to put this newsletter out, God bless you. Thank you and may you and your family have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year

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Greetings to all fellow MasterLife alumni, brothers in Christ, and my church family at Caledonia. This is none other than Bro. Jesse T. Bracey coming to you from Nash Correctional. Bro. Benoy and I are glad to be a part of the Field Minister Program representing the kingdom of God and doing His will. We ask that you all continue to keep us in your prayers along with our fellow cohorts to succeed. Brothers Craig William and Isaac "Zeek" Timmons are doing well also.

We all send our love to you and pray for the upcoming MasterLife and Christmas party. I pray to have some of you brothers join in the Seminary Program next summer. Bro. Rodney Williams, Bro. Darnell Cherry, Bro. Thomas Wheeler, Bro. James Gardner among others. Bro. Tim Jones, Kenny, Luke, Gizmo, Derrick "D-Nice" Moore, K-Jolly, Bimbo, Mr. Lee, Jon Berry, and Mike Benoy hold it down. Remember this, "The unexamined life is not worth living". Socrates

**God Bless and Love; Bro. Jesse T. Bracey, Nash**

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Greetings, in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Just want to give a shout out to all of my Christian brothers at Caledonia and throughout the system. A very special shout out and thank you to Zeke (Isaac Timmons) and Craig Williams. I am holding it in the road.

**Lonnie Cassell, Brother in Christ,**

PS Bro Travis, you are a blessing to all of us. May God continue to bestow His blessings upon you.

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**By Samuel Calvert, Nash**

Even though I have been saved for twenty-eight years, the MasterLife course is refreshing due to it helping to refocus our walk with Christ. It brings anew our priorities in how we should apply ourselves in this journey called life. I had been through the course several years ago, but because it is God's Word, it never gets old. The more we read and practice it, the better it gets. I would

encourage anyone, no matter how long you have been saved, to think about refreshing their daily walk with Christ. The MasterLife course is just as wonderful and deep as you want to make it.

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**Prayer Request; Rudy Neumann**

For my brothers at Nash and Caledonia, keep me in your prayers as I battle the leukemia I was diagnosed with 02/05/18

Thanks to:

- My brothers in Christ who are cancer survivors
- The NCFMP students at Nash
- All my brothers in MasterLife

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Dear Travis,

I want to wish you and all the Brothers in the MasterLife Program a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May God continue to bless each and every one throughout this New Year.

**Your Brother in Christ', Cecil, Alexander**

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My name is **Rashad Pridgen** and I am locked at **Caledonia** Correctional in North Carolina. I was sentenced to serve 6 years and 2 months to 8 years for a car accident, DWI, breaking and entering, larceny of motor vehicle, and fleeing to elude arrest. I am down to the last year now. I was raised in church and stopped going at around the age of 16. I am 29 now. When I stopped church, things went downhill. I only wanted to do what I wanted to do. After I complete this sentence, I will have done 10 years altogether. Since arriving at Caledonia, I have gotten back into church. Since I started going to MasterLife, I really stepped up and took a 360 and have really buckled down and really have gotten closer to God. I've started going to church every service and really got into studying the Word. I would really like to have additional guidance. I was reading the MasterLife newsletter and saw "Adopt-A-Life and I want to know if that could be a possibility. I hope to hear back from you soon. Please keep me in your prayers to keep my faith strong and to build a stronger relationship with God.

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**Bulletin \* Notices\* Acknowledgements\* News**

- Frances Bryant (Memaw), one of our #1 prayer warriors and supporters went to be with the Lord on September 24, 2018. She has been involved with various forms of prison ministry since the early 1970s and has impacted many lives. She will be missed. She died at 90 years of age.
- Gene Jackson, overseer of the MasterLife program at Caledonia and planter of the Nash MasterLife, will be retiring from the ministry at the end of the year. Gene has been involved with the prison ministry for more than 55 years. He has been a true model of the faith and his faithfulness is a quality that one rarely sees anymore. We wish to extend our gratitude towards him and let him know that we will miss him dearly.
- Thanks for all of the letters we have received from you guys, it is encouraging to hear from you all.
- Thanks to the men who have faithfully witnessed, lead groups, and helped with the program at Caledonia.
- Thanks to the men who have started groups in the dorms at Nash: Kyle, Larry, Justin Moore, John Williams, John Brant, Jonathan Ramirez, James Benoy, Michael Kollman, and John Reese.
- Thanks to Caledonia and Nash Administrations! It is obvious that you genuinely desire to see a positive environment and lives changed; and you are willing to give the inmates a chance to prove themselves.
- Thanks to the MasterLife members who have been released from the prison system and are giving back to the program: J.D., Walter, Ron, and Gary.
- Special thanks to the volunteers who give of their time to come in and assist with the program; without you we would not be able to do this effectively.
- Thanks be to our Lord Jesus Christ from whom all blessings flow—
- Happy Birthday! •MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYBODY!!!SPECIAL THANKS

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

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

Thank you to **Rocky Mount Baptist Church** for their dedicated service in the MasterLife and Alpha programs at Caledonia and Nash. To the **Caledonia CI Administration** support, **Superintendent Vaughn and Mr. Duke**. Without you, there would be no program. Please forgive any miss-spellings, the typist is old, but it was inspiring to read these many testimonies. Thank You!

In January 2019, we hope to start a new MasterLife program at Nash. First Baptist Church of Rocky Mount is praying and looking at the leaders needed, the potential amount of people, facilities, aligning with the Administration and a few other details.

Your part, pray about your attendance, pray for FBC Rocky Mount volunteers, pray for the Administration, and pray for your fellow brothers and their participation. It takes a lot of prayer to start a new program, you can pray for this program.

If you have never heard of MasterLife, it helps you Master Life. It is blocking and tackling for the Christian in the game of Life. Please consider if you want to be a part of this new program. Let the Administration know your interest.

**MASTERLIFE MINISTRY**

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**Getting Out Soon?**

I wanted to share the good news that God has graciously provided access to NC Re-Entry services for those who will be re-integrating back into society upon release.

There is a network of services available for those who might need some help making the transition from being in prison to becoming a productive member of society and a positive asset within our communities. Services that include housing, employment, food, clothing, child care assistance, vocational training, transportation, substance abuse treatment, mental health services, mentoring, plus other supportive services that are community-based or faith-based providers which are available to those who need them, praise God. For more information, please contact the following:

**Home Transitional Network**

**"Resource Guide"**

**PO Box 12274**

**New Bern, NC 28561**

[1homeplan@gmail.com](mailto:1homeplan@gmail.com)

Re-entry is a relatively new but developing area of interest that focuses on assisting returning residents successfully reintegrate back into society. I pray the above information will be a blessing to those who have concerns or lack of support and resources upon getting out. God bless.

**In Christ, Brian Crouch "Fish", Pamlico CI**

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

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