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LILI

MS MARY

MLM
SUPPORTERS

MASTERLIFE MINISTRY, INC NEWSLETTER JULY 2020

MASTERING LIFE IN CHRIST

Answering Questions

Hello and God bless all of you who are serving behind the fences. MasterLife-Ministry continues to keep you all in our prayers. Many of you have written to us inquiring about how you can participate in MasterLife Ministry (MLM) and Adopt-A-Life (AAL). First, we will address the AAL question, then we will discuss MLM. AAL is designed for Christian persons who have completed the MLM program or the NCFMP. Furthermore, not only must one have completed this training, they must be actively discipling other inmates using ML material. finally, one must be modeling the life of a faithful and committed disciple of Jesus Christ. In other words, your attitude and lifestyle should be missional 24/7 (serving, building relationships, and multiplying disciples of Jesus Christ). Through this process, you will be training up other MLM missionaries to carry on the Great Commission.

So, the next question:
How are you going to go through the MLM program?

There are several options:

- 1) have your chaplain or program coordinator contact MLM and we will assist them in starting a MLM program at your facility.
- 2) speak to a local church volunteer who is willing to help start a MLM program.
- 3) find another MLM member who is doing a small group in your dorm, and join them
- 4) if all of the above suggestions are unsuccessful, you may begin your own group under three conditions: a) that you have two to three other Christians who will meet with you one hour per day, five days per week, and go through the material together. b) you must stay in close contact with our ML team in Goldsboro, N.C. (Walt & Lili). c) your group must send MLM a testimony consisting of what they have learned in the group study. this must be completed after each workbook.

WALT AND LILI

Hello, Brothers and Sisters! This is Walter and Liliana and we are the North Carolina Executive Managers of the MasterLife Ministry Nonprofit. If you would like to start a MasterLife group or if you have questions about the Adopt-A-Life Program, then please contact us.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From Our Staff	1
Address Questions	1
Walt and Lili	1
MasterLife Group Testimonies ... 2	
(Nash, Pamlico, Tabor, Catawba, Greene)	
Independent Testimonies	10
(Nash, Anson, Piedmont, Bertie, Gaston, Harnett, Marion, Mountain View, New Hammond, Scotland)	
“FISH” WITH BRIAN	15
TIME WITH TIM	15
Mastering Life in Prison	16
Beatitudes	18
Prayer Requests.....	21
Brochures Enclosed!!	

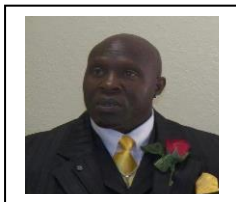
Our address is:
MasterLife Ministry
PO Box 931
Goldsboro NC 27533

God bless You and we look forward to hearing from you!

MASTERLIFE GROUP TESTIMONIES

NASH A CHANGED PERCEPTION

From the beginning of my journey as a believer. I had an idea about the importance of discipleship, but never had the passion for it. However, after participating in MasterLife, I developed a stronger relationship with Jesus Christ, which created within me a desire and willingness to do what Jesus instructs us to do, that is, to be Christ-like and make disciples. It's essential, that we spend time with the Master. Prayer is the source of all things, Jesus showed us by example, with His prayer life that prayer is our lifeline for spending time with our Father. By studying the Bible and going through MasterLife, I have received an undeniable truth about prayer, as I continue to develop my prayer life. I was changed. My way of thinking changed. My desires changed. My priorities changed. As God revealed more of Himself to me, the things that once mattered most were no longer a priority or had any significant relevance. I began to look forward to spending quiet time with God. I learned some valuable lessons from the MasterLife program, and I grew from the MasterLife program. What I learned about discipleship and being Christ like is contagious. I desire to share it with others so that they can catch the Passion of Christ and be more effective witnesses to the gospel. Too many Christians are stagnant, stale, and self-consumed. Please don't continue to miss the mark. The whole purpose of us being saved, is to give our lives to making disciples to reproduce in others what Christ has shown us. We are all links to a chain, branches on a tree and our eternal legacy is developed by investing in the lives of others. MasterLife is a resource you can use to begin your journey, and potentially change your life. I can guarantee your life will be impacted immensely through discipling others. God has radically saved me from myself. I lived a life of alcohol, drugs, cars, clothes, drugs, and you know what I mean. I came



to realize I needed change in my life. I was sick, and needed a doctor, Jesus said, "They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.", (Matthew 9:12). The first step to change is admitting we are hurt, wounded, and afraid to acknowledge we are lonely and crying out for relief from the pain. If you desire to see yourself as bigger than your problems. You need a touch from God. God's provisions provide us with an eternal supply of solutions to life's problems. MasterLife can help you change the spiritual perception of yourself and aid you in into expanding your self-image into the likeness of Christ. Are you still searching for answers? Do you want to know who you are in Christ? MasterLife, we'll help you discover that you're a powerful witness and disciple of Jesus Christ.

Reginald Clinton, Nash

ABIDING IN CHRIST

What does it mean... to have Christ in the center of my life!?!?

In Luke 9:23: Jesus stated plainly, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and come after me." Thoroughly giving up the comfort, I seek in, and with ... Worldly things and Desires reached with it,



or those pleasures subsequently. Clearly Jesus provides the knowledge which fills my heart and eyes with grace and ever running tears of joy. As He states in John 15:5, "I am the vine, you are the branches; he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit; for without Me, you can do nothing." Hallelujah!!

What is "the Word in my life?" John 8:31-32 points out and gives me directions with Jesus' instructions to the "straight gate to heaven". If I continue in His Word, then I would be His disciple in deed. "I should know the truth and the truth will make me free". God speaks to me through His words.

What Does Prayer Give Me?

In John 15:7, Jesus stated, "If you abide in me and my Words abide in you, you shall ask what you will, and it shall be done unto you". I talk to God, I pour out, let the light of the world handle my troubles and pains. Trust and believe in Jesus. For He died and came back alive for me, beat death, and raised from the dead. How can

I not have faith and trust in Jesus, give my whole life to Him!!

Why is Fellowship important to Me??!!?

In John 13:34-35, Jesus says "A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another, as I loved you, that ye love one another." I am striving in love and faith to love my brothers of the spiritual faith, etc.... I am living to follow Jesus' new commandments as a disciple of Jesus.

What Does it Mean to be a Witness?

In John 15:8, Jesus also says, "Here in is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, so shall you be my disciples." Give God the glory, praise Him, keep His commandments, live faithfully. Go among and outward, tell the people of the community what God has done for me.

Conclusion in Spirit

In Psalm 119:73-74, the pure understanding is simple and reads as such, "Thy hands have made me and fashioned me; give me understanding that I may continue to learn thy commandments. They that fear thee will be glad when they see me, because I have hoped in thy Word...."

Psalm 119:147 gives further positive maturity of how I submit to God: "I prevented the dawning of morning and cried: I hope in thy Word."

Conclusion of My Abiding in Christ

As it has been given to me, so I shall share it with love, provided by God's gift.

Pro 8:4 "I appeal to all of you; I call to everyone on earth.

Pro 8:5 Are you immature? Learn to be mature. Are you foolish? Learn to have sense.

Pro 8:6 Listen to my excellent words; all I tell you is right.

Pro 8:7 What I say is the truth; lies are hateful to me.

Pro 8:8 Everything I say is true; nothing is false or misleading.

Pro 8:9 To those with insight, it is all clear; to the well-informed, it is all plain.

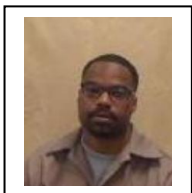
Pro 8:10 Choose my instruction instead of silver; choose knowledge rather than the finest gold. 10: "Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold."

Give honor and glory to God, Amen.

Larry Watson, Nash

DEVELOPING SPIRITUAL DISCIPLES

Luke 9:23 And he said to *them* all, **If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.**



MasterLife has been a solid foundation to me through the process of transformation. The prefix *trans-* means beyond or over. The core *form* means body or structure. The suffix *-ation* means action. In growing to become disciples we have to allow the Word of God to take action to move and live beyond our bodies and structures, and the only way we will be able to do that is to apply the Word of God - Luke 9:23: denying ourselves, taking up our cross daily and following Jesus.

Applying these three principles will help build spiritual development traits, such as an increase within your prayer life (John 15:4), your fellowship to have a closer walk with Christ (John 13:34-35), learning how to become a better witness to the hard hearted around you (John 15:8), and allowing the Word to take and have full control by applying it to your life (John 8:31-32).

MasterLife will help build your spiritual character with six disciplines in developing you to become a disciple. With understanding it is an emotional and spiritual awareness that creates a shift of energy in your mind, body, and spirit. Spiritual development is understanding the revelation of truth, to set beyond the physical manifestations.

Applying these six traits - Lord, relationship, commitment, resources, ministries, and disciplines - will allow Christ to seek deeper into your life. As you continue to put Him first in your life, the six traits will strengthen your spirit to be more than conquerors through him that loved us (Romans 8:37). They will also change you from glory to glory to become more Christlike (Colossians 3:10).

The only thing MasterLife is trying to teach you is what God already has in you. And what is in you is greatness! We all were born with greatness on the inside of us because God is the greatness that created greatness in us, because He is greater than just good. God gave us the choice to choose greatness, but on our way to

greatness we choose to settle for good, when God is greater than good. We allowed good to tempt us not knowing that we had greatness in us! Greater is He that is in us (1 John 4:4).

Never let your limitations limit what God will do through you but let's discover what's in us, which is greatness so God can accomplish his plan for us. Moses only had his staff, but he parted the Red Sea (Ex 14:16). David only had a slingshot and five stones, but he was able to deliver the nation (1 Samuel 17:40). So never look at what is good or what you got because with greatness there's no limitation to the power of God.

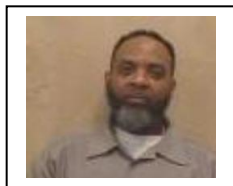
Practicing the principles of the disciple's cross will keep us abiding in Christ and be profitable in MasterLife service to help others' spiritual development traits as disciples.

Truly, **Darnell Cherry, Nash**

MasterLife Series - Book 1- The Disciple's Cross The Dove, then, the Devil

The Lord blessed me, **Marcus Keys**, with this concept in the midst of going through the Disciple's Cross. The Disciple's Cross allows me to take whatever struggles I'm going through to the Cross. Once we deny ourselves, take the cross daily, and follow Jesus, we gain victory over Satan. However, Satan will not give up without a fight!

Once the Lord blesses me with a WORD, it encourages me to press forward, it empowers me to stand on the ROCK (Jesus) of my salvation with boldness, and it teaches me to remain in His WORD, the Holy Bible and to stay focused on the Lord. When the Lord blesses me with His WORD, it is my duty to make sure it's cultivated within good soil and the roots of WORD, the seed, runs deep into my heart, mind, soul, and strengthened by my will to act and to hold on to God's blessing. Therefore, my only task is to exalt, to magnify, and to praise my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, not myself. So, I point to the personal, intimate, relationship that I have with my sweet Jesus - Amen!



The devil is a liar and lying is his native tongue. I cannot fight the devil by myself; if I do, I will lose every time. But when I come in the Power and Authority of my Christ the tables turn! The devil accuses us before the Lord God Almighty (Job 1:6-12, 2:1-8, Zech. 3:1-4) but the Lord God Almighty has blessed us with an Advocate - Jesus Christ to stand in for us.

The devil comes to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10); and he roars like a lion (1 Peter 5:8) - BUT he is a dog without teeth! Our Lord Jesus defeated him at the cross, through His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension; so now He - Jesus - sits on the right hand of the Father, with all power and all authority in heaven and on earth.

Finally, as the Scripture says, **"we overcome Satan, by the Blood of the Lamb and the Word of our testimony" (Rev. 12:10-11);** and the pattern of dealing with temptations, as our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ did in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11). Jesus is the Key to all things - Amen!

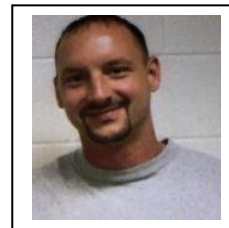
Sincerely, **Marcus Keys, Nash**

PAMLICO ML GROUP LEADER

I just wanted to say thank you to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, these brothers here at Pamlico, and MasterLife for once again making a great combination of spiritual growth, obedience to the Lord, genuine fellowship, and fun.

I have sincerely enjoyed being with these men who have committed themselves to 3 months of MasterLife Discipleship Study as we went over each section with Jesus Christ as the focus and reason for it all. These guys have done a fantastic job memorizing the verses, listening closely to each lesson, and asking insightful questions about the faith, Scripture, and how best to grow as a disciple who bears fruit for the Lord.

We learned a lot about one another, but more importantly, we learned a ton about God, His Son Jesus Christ, and this glorious lifelong relationship we have with them through this gracious gift of salvation.



We continue forward now with our weekly MasterLife Study Group that includes the men from both MasterLife 1 and 2.

A special thanks to everyone who makes MasterLife possible, and especially to Benoy who taught me all of this. I refer to him many, many times throughout these studies in gratitude for the impact he made in my life back in 2009, his first ever MasterLife in N.C. I remember every bit of it, and I am thankful to carry on this responsibility to share with others what I have learned, bearing fruit for God, and making disciples as Jesus had called us to do. MasterLife was a major turning point in my life all those years ago, and I'm grateful to be a part of it. Much love to all my brothers and sisters across the state. D.J. too, I'm proud of you.

In Christ, Brian "Fish" Crouch, Pamlico

DIFFERENT BACKGROUND ONE PURPOSE

First and foremost, I would like to give all thanks, honor, and praise to God especially for His son Jesus Christ who took our sins upon Himself. And because of Christ and through Him I know the opportunity to join and complete this second course of MasterLife here at Pamlico Correctional. While taking different Bible study courses over the past 4 years, I received insight to help with my walk with God by taking this MasterLife study. It gave me a more in-depth understanding that in my solo studies I never came across nor thought about on my own. I was able to fellowship with my brothers and actually learn whether if it was through diagrams, witnessing testimonies, readings and/or scriptures that gave us more of an understanding.

MasterLife gave us the opportunity to come together from different backgrounds to all try to become closer to knowing our creator in all aspects. For me, I felt that when you participate in solo study courses, you can cheat your growth. But by being in a group all with the same purpose, the accountability demanded pushes one another to higher levels of growth and understanding.

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Forever grateful to say I participated while I had the chance. New Christians, those saved for some time, or even the lost, I recommend MasterLife to anyone who whole heartedly wants to know and grow more in depth.

Thank you, Brian "Fish" Crouch, for allowing God to use you to help me in my walk. I want to also thank all who contribute to make MasterLife possible. Thank you, Lord.

Peace and Blessings,
Nicholas Bannerman, Pamlico

WHY SHOULD I CARE?

After successfully completing our MasterLife course, I was invited to the up and starting Bible Study group that would be taught by Dennis Jackson, one of the guys who also took MasterLife; I gladly accepted. God has truly been good to me and I never can get enough of hearing all the things He has done and will do if I keep His Word.



With my sentence I thought all was lost and why should I care - after all, who wants to spend their life in here. It would have been so easy to give up and let evil ruin my life a second time, but I decided I would take control of my own life, so I surrendered to God and good things began to take place. I surrounded myself with like-minded people who want what I wanted and, even in here, I have met some truly good guys. Guys who want to help others, know who Christ is so you can be happy in life, and it all starts with accepting Christ as your Lord and Savior and truly believing He died for our sins, then you will notice a little at a time your circumstances starting to change.

I am very humble and content despite where I am presently. Each Bible study I am reminded how much God loves me and each of you, all you have to do is let the Lord along with prayer in your heart and miracles will happen.

I encourage you to attend a MasterLife or Bible study and see for yourself.

Charles Dickerson, Pamlico

STANDING BOLDLY

I decided to go through the MasterLife Program for the second time not knowing if I would learn anything new but hoping to learn more about God and to get even closer to Him. It's



amazing how He enlightens us and shows us new perspectives of Him through His word. Jesus has given me a heart of flesh from the one that was made of stone and showed me how to love, seemingly for the first time in my life. I didn't know the true meaning of love until Jesus came into my life. Praise Jesus!

I hope to one day teach MasterLife myself. Brian (Fish) Crouch, has mentored me and has guided me to even start another study group for after MasterLife to go even deeper into subjects like saving faith/repentance, justification, and sanctification. I am learning who God is through His word and what I need to do as His disciple. Jesus has done so much for me. So now it's time that I stand boldly for Him and His Kingdom.

I want to thank everyone involved in this program. It truly is great, and I recommend it to everyone that can take it. Even twice if you can. Thank you all and God Bless you,
Dennis Jackson, Pamlico

A SEED HAS BEEN PLANTED

MasterLife has been a challenge and a true blessing for me, when we were presented with scripture to memorize, I stumbled and yes, even thought there was no way. However, Brian (Fish) our teacher didn't give up on me and instead he would encourage me. Now I don't have a struggle with memorization. I have gotten to the point I enjoy learning scripture. MasterLife has also given me encouragement to be a better witness to dig deeper into God's word, to have kingdom minded prayers, and to fellowship with others, all being



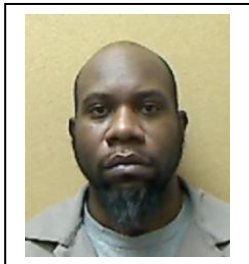
obtained by being Christ centered. I pray that MasterLife continues. I challenge former MasterLife students to be volunteers going back to teach MasterLife to those that remain incarcerated. It can also be taught out on the streets, so many could be led to Christ and grow stronger in Him. Matthew 4:19 Jesus said to the disciples "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." (ESV) I am so grateful for the seed that has been planted. I am so thankful to all of the people who make it possible. MasterLife is and forever will be a life changing experience.

May God bless you always.
Sincerely your brother in Christ

Mitchell Johnson, Pamlico

.....
PASSING IT ON

First of all, I would like to acknowledge God and thank Him for allowing you to provide this study, and for allowing me to have the chance to experience the MasterLife study program.



During this course of study, so many gaps were filled in that other courses and studies left out. I have learned a lot about Christ, the guys doing this study with me, as well as myself.

I would like to give special thanks to Brian "Fish" Crouch for inviting me to take the MasterLife study. God answered my prayer for a bible study group inside the block that is not "personal bias", but lesson structured. I really enjoyed it.

My favorite part in the lesson would have to be the prayer section. We communicate with God through prayer. As long as we do not have things that may hinder our prayers, He hears us. 1 John 5:14 memory verse tells me that I can have confidence in God, and He hears me when I ask according to His will. I know that God hears and answers prayers. He answers mine. The Prayer Covenant List is another helpful resource to allow me to write down, pray for, and document prayers and prayers answered.

I recommend MasterLife to any and everyone who is trying to change their life and live for God. MasterLife taught me true discipleship. So, I must pass it on to everyone I come in contact with. Once again, I would like to thank MasterLife Staff, Group Leaders, Disciples, and others who are involved in the whole MasterLife Program. Glory to God. Keep up the good

work of God. May you all be blessed beyond measure. God loves you and so do I. Your Brother in Christ,
DeMarcus "Polo" Squire, Pamlico

P.S. Reading the newsletter really inspires me to go make disciples. I love the testimonies and how people's lives have been changed. Also, the stories of people released in a new lifestyle with God's blessings. God is truly smiling upon us. ☺

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DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIPS

I am currently incarcerated at Pamlico CI.



I was recently invited to participate in the MasterLife Discipleship Bible Study and cannot tell you how much of a blessing this

experience has been to my life. I have been fortunate in that I ended up being in a block with brother Brian "Fish" Crouch. He has been phenomenal not only in his understanding of the Word, but in his ability to teach the Word in a way that makes our Lord relatable. I can honestly say that since I have undergone this discipleship study I have grown in my faith and in my daily walk with Christ. I am so grateful to all of you at MasterLife, who make it possible for this program to flourish and bless so many of us. I have learned a lot, not only about myself, but also about our Lord Jesus Christ and his abundance of grace and love. We have had several weeks of fellowship and intense study. As a result, we have grown closer to Christ, and developed relationships that I believe will span the test of time. These walls and circumstances cause many of us to succumb to despair. I cannot thank you enough for your spiritual and financial support. All of you at MasterLife have truly been a light in the darkness for all of us and I cannot possibly express with words how grateful I am to you all. May God bless you as you have blessed us.

Sincerely, **Dennis Morrison, Pamlico**

.....
THE THING THAT STANDS OUT

First, I would like to lift up My Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He has done so much for me. This is the second time I have had the privilege to attend MasterLife. It was such a blessing to go through it the first time, and now, I find, as I'm going through it now, that God is continuing to

show me what His will for my life is. I am so thankful to all of you out there who are making this possible; be it through donations or prayer. We could not do this without you. The thing that stands out



to me the most is being able to see the changes in the men at the group. I would recommend MasterLife to anyone who wants to make that first step on the path God has for them.

Love in Christ, **Douglas Morrow, Pamlico**

.....
UNDERSTANDING DISCIPLESHIP

First and foremost, I'd like to give all the honor and praise to Our Lord Jesus Christ, for everything He has done for us, I truly thank Him for His unconditional love and



everlasting grace.

I'm so grateful that I met Brother Brian Crouch here at Pamlico C.I. I was having such a hard time understanding what discipleship means. So, Mr. Crouch told me that he was going to start MasterLife Bible Study and he'd like me to be part of Bible Study. Well, my whole life changed the first week I was there. I've learned so much, the meaning of sacrifice and everything Our Lord has done for us.

During 14 weeks my faith was increased every week. I was struggling with the devil real hard, but I've learned how to rebuke the devil out of my life. Here in our life we are going to face challenges and we have to be ready to fight every second, minute, month, year, etc. We must learn how to trust in Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We must pick up our cross daily before our feet touch the ground every morning. MasterLife changes my view of life. Through MasterLife, I'm a new creation and I feel that I have the whole Armor of God. Brothers and sisters, if you guys are struggling with doubts or the devil I will recommend praying first, ask God for guidance. If you have MasterLife

around the facility, please take it. I'm so blessed that Mr. Crouch has helped me in this journey and I'm more grateful for the MasterLife because without them, I could not learn more about Jesus. May God richly bless ya, love ya.

Pa'adelante muchacitos, Dios esta con nosotros

Los Amo Mucho

Erick Chaico, Pamlico

I'M NOT FIGHTING ALONE

I hope this note reaches the MasterLife family in both high hopes, and high spirits. For myself, I'm blessed in the moment! So far, this year has brought many blessings my way, and this is just the beginning, and I'm looking forward to many more.

The MasterLife program has also led to a weekly Bible Study that has increased our knowledge of the true and living God we have in ourselves. The more that I'm around this group of guys, the more I became aware of our everyday struggle, and that I'm not fighting in the flesh alone. I know through daily time with Him, fervent prayer, and willingness to do His will allows me to be closer in my walk with Him. For me that means more of Him and less of me. I'm still learning and trusting that God will do what He says as I take step after step to seek Him and put him first in my life. I ask that the MasterLife family continue to keep me in your prayers, as I continue to walk this narrow path to righteousness. May God continue to strengthen our faith and spirit, as we learn submission to his will. Be blessed, stay prayed-up.

Sincerely, your brother in Christ,

Lemance Davis, Pamlico

TABOR

WONDERFUL WORK

It is with great pleasure that I announce that the Lord is still doing a wonderful work in the lives of men here at Tabor Correctional. Although we are few in number and are limited in our ability to move from place to place to



gather for fellowship with the majority of the Christian population, we have pressed our way through, and have just completed six weeks of "The Disciple Victory" workbook. It's exciting to see men step out of their cell block in the mornings suited up for battle and having full confidence that the victory is already theirs. You can see these men standing strong against the wiles of the enemy and using their spiritual armor knowing that they can trust the Lord to work everything out for their good. Of course there have been times of heart break witnessing the struggles of some, that personal strongholds have caused them to stumble as they neglect to put on the whole armor of God and stepped out on their own to fight a battle that can only be won through trust in God's ability and the working of the Holy Spirit to guide and direct their paths. But even in that heartbreak, the Lord is teaching men how to minister to those that are struggling and to restore them in a spirit of meekness. I personally just thank the Lord for all He is doing here and for teaching me more and more how to trust Him. I was recently faced with a very, very challenging situation in dealing with a young man that believed in the Lord but was all out angry with God, and was mad about not having his prayers answered, so much so that his emotions had him talking as a reprobate. I was personally at a loss on what more I could say to him that I had not already said that he was rejecting over and over, but as the Holy Spirit led me to stand on "Love covers a multitude of sin", I was assured that God would handle the situation and for me to just keep on leading by example. I am trusting God to work a great work in this young man's life and soon he'll be using his situation as a testimony of how God is able to change the heart and life of even the worst of us. I am requesting that the whole MasterLife family will keep us in prayer here at Tabor. It has been rumored that Tabor City could be changing over to all close custody status which means many of us could be leaving and going to other facilities in the next few months. If this proves to be true, this could possibly be my last letter written from Tabor City. Of course, MasterLife goes with me wherever I am located, and I am hopeful that those who have gone through the Discipleship program here with me will also carry it with them also. As they say, "Each one, teach One" and MasterLife will continue. Well my brothers and sisters, I just wanted to shout out to everyone around the country from here at Tabor City, and to let you know God is still keeping us strong and growing us up as

true disciples of Jesus. Also, keep me in prayer because there is a very real possibility that "freedom" could be close to becoming a reality for me after 42 years. I will keep everyone informed of the decisions.

God bless you all, **Bro. Tim Jones, Tabor (now Anson)**

NEVER STOP PUSHING

Hi, my name is **Derrick Dixon, (AKA "Big's")** and I am here at Tabor CI, better



known as the Rock due to it being thought of as the most undesirable prison in the state to do time. And from what I've seen in the five months that I've been here,

most of the things said about this place is true. I am a survivor and can handle most any situation I am confronted with, so I'll always make the best out of any bad that comes my way. Even though there aren't many things that I have found here that have been positive, I will say that there have been a small group of people that have been encouraging to me, that have made my time here more manageable. There have been several staff members and programmers that I can say have been true to their jobs and actually assisted me, but my biggest encouragement has come from a small group of guys in the block that are involved in the MasterLife study group. I have not personally attended any of their group studies yet, because I'm on a special diet and I am usually eating breakfast when they are having class, but I have been given much of the material of the Disciple Cross MasterLife book by my home boy Tim Jones who leads the study group. Every morning after they finish their study, he stops by my table and drills me on the memory verses and the meaning of these verses in everyday language. I grew up in church and my aunt is a pastor of a church in Durham NC, so I am not a stranger to the Word of God. I even used to hold Bible studies with some guys when I was in the Durham County jail, where many young men actually became exposed to the Bible for the first time in their lives. I am a believer in the Word of God, and I will always agree with God on what is right and wrong no matter where it is found whether with me or with others. I am not all that I

could be in Jesus and I know it, but I will never stop pushing to become all that God desires me to be in Him. Regardless of where life finds me right now, I do want to thank the MasterLife group here at Tabor Correctional for the example they are setting by their faithfulness to God, and for encouraging me and others to keep seeking, to keep hoping, and to keep praying because God is always faithful. I ask that everyone reading this newsletter to pray for Tabor Correctional and for the men here that are willing to follow the Lord like the MasterLife group because they really have been a blessing to me.

Derrick Dixon, Tabor

THE ARMOR; A DAILY ROUTINE

I think that every human being who wakes up in the morning goes his or her way without thinking anything out of the ordinary will happen to them. In other words, we feel we are invincible to the circumstances and troubles we see, but what of the spiritual world? No one thought comes to mind about what goes on that we can't see.

Through my disciple teaching, putting on the whole armor of God should be a daily routine. The devil never stops intimidating a child of God for one minute. Things can turn you around in one second and you lose yourself in the world, forgetting you are an example and an ambassador for God. So, stand victorious knowing you have already won, know how to use your armor in times of trouble, helmet of salvation, knowing you are a child of God and claiming the life of Christ. The breastplate of righteousness, knowing only the truth, in your heart. The belt of truth speaking the Word which comes back not void. Shoes of peace, always ready to stand against anything that comes your way. Shield of faith, protection against darts of foul mouth words thrown to you by the enemy. At last the sword of spirit which will make the devil run and flee from your life. Anchor yourself in the Lord and anything is possible for those who believe.

Brother Douglas Spearman, Tabor

ON TOP OF THE WORLD

What a new year this has been already! 3 months ago, I was given the opportunity to join the sewing plant crew, unfortunately I had to leave the current block I had been dwelling in for the past 6 months. Along



with that came leaving many people behind that I cared deeply for. Two of which were Brother Tim and Brother Bear. I will never forget you two! When I left, Bro. Tim told me to look at it as a new beginning and that's what it has been. After finishing the Disciples Cross course, I celebrated a little too much the wrong way, I'm not gonna lie. But when I got this job, something clicked. God had told me that this was my last chance and I refuse to be like a lot of people who "keep coming back to prison". I no longer have the resources in my current block to continue the Discipleship program (sadly), but I do read and study the Bible faithfully now every day. It started out here and there for a few weeks, then went to every day. I'm now taking classes from the Emmaus Correspondence School (ECS) study courses, receiving a 95% on the first with more to come. Two days ago, my lonely table I reside at for about an hour each morning, received another soul. My buddy Juan joined me, then two others after that. So, I went from God and I to God, me and 3 others in one day. Now I didn't even realize what had just happened until later that evening. Juan came to me and said, "You know you started all that". I said, "no I didn't", then thought about it for a second and said, "I sure did, didn't I", then proceeded to tear up. That's not all that happened that day either. Two other inmates came up to me on separate occasions and said to me that they were going to start hanging out with me because I don't get in trouble. Man let me tell you, I felt like I was on top of the world that day. And of all places to feel like that it was in prison. I want to thank Bro. Tim and MasterLife for planting that seed. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I will never forget you. But we all know this would never have been possible if we didn't have the love of our Father. Thank you, Lord! I love You! Amen

Mark Dudley, Tabor

UPDATE: I recently had a custody review and I'm happy to say that I've been promoted to minimum custody, level 1! Although I have no idea what I'm missing, I've only heard stories, but it's got to be better than Tabor Correctional! Again, I thank God for making this possible, couldn't do it without you! Also, again, thank you MasterLife, Brother Tim, Brother "Bear" Douglas Spearman, and all my other brothers in prison and out for being a part of this life transforming experience. You will always be a special part of my life and in my heart.

CAN I BE DEPRESSED AND SAVED?

I'd like to take the opportunity to talk about one of the most common, yet unspoken realities I have personally experienced. As most of you know, I am here at Tabor Corrections and the environment tends to linger in a bleak, hopeless state constantly; riddled with gang activity and all that comes with that, it is a sad place to be. As a true follower of Christ, I know what His Word promises me, (John 8:31-32) yet with concerns for family, freedom and any legal matters that still hang in the balance I have found myself somewhat downcast at times. My past is like most individuals like us, (loaded with tragedy and sadness).

Recently I've started "The Disciple's Victory" book in the MasterLife Discipleship course and one of the topics deals with "Overcoming the Enemy" with a subtitle being about spiritual warfare and strongholds. I've learned a great deal about how and why the enemy wages his attack on us and I've been empowered by the life applications that have strengthened my resolve. I have noticed though that there are moments throughout the day that I am struggling not to break down and cry. I find myself sleeping as often as I can and reluctant to meet new people. Tim Jones, (our MasterLife group leader) is also my roomie and he often ask, "are you okay?" and I usually say yes, not wanting to sound like a whiner or complaining about my life.

I had to try and pinpoint the reason for my cloudy disposition, I'd have to say it has been a tag team assault on my life by none other than the two most common culprits... fear and doubt. 1 John 4:16-18 speaks of us coming to "know" and "believing" in the love that God has for us. That God is love and that this love is perfected with us so that we can have

confidence, assurance in the day of judgement and that we are as He is in this world. Here is the point I must come to: [verse 18] There is no fear or doubt in love, instead perfect love drives out fear, because fear involves punishment. So, the one who fears (doubts) has not reached perfection in love. (Life Reference Manual – HCSB)

After reading those verses, I heard what the Holy Spirit was saying to me. That God is gracious in that He knows we must "come to" a place of trust and confidence in Him, not because He has wronged us, but due to life experiences in this world we unfortunately judge God's love, faithfulness, trustworthiness based on what people have done. He wants the opportunity to prove/show Himself to be all those things and more. The enemy knows this and by bombarding us with thoughts of past disappointments, creating fear and doubt with our "limited knowledge and experience" with God, he tries to stagnate our spiritual relationship with God. 1 John 2:28 encourages us to "remain in Him" ... and it is also one of the principles I've heard repeated again and again throughout the MasterLife study (Jn 8:31-32, Jn 15:7, Jn 15:5, Luke 9:23).

2 Timothy 1:7 says that God didn't give me the spirit of fear. Once I read this, I realized I am in a spiritual battle with the enemy and he has sent the spirit of fear to torment me with thoughts, past hurts and to create doubt in God's love for me. Satan is a defeated foe and we fight from victory, not to victory, so if I remain in the Word in Christ, I have no reason to fear. Nurturing my relationship with God through fellowshiping with other believers, prayer and quiet time with God will strengthen my heart and fill me with confidence of God's unending, undying love for me.

Truth is I just want to be loved, to belong and know that whatever I am able to contribute that it is valued and appreciated. Isn't that what we all desire? I am desperate to know that sense of fulfillment and to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living, just like David said. Please pray for those who are yet lost among us, that God would send His Spirit to minister to their hearts. For truly Jesus was right to say, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do". It is a blessing to be a child of God.

Your brother, **Demetrius Crumby, Tabor (released)**
.....

CATAWBA POWER TO OVERCOME

My name is **Kevin Lawrence Jolly**. I am



now known by Brother Kevin Jolly. This is an abbreviated testimony. I was born in Whiteville, N.C. in 1971. I was adopted in 1972 by a

man named Johnny Jolly. He passed in 1994. He was an up and coming farmer. He gave me what I would call a good childhood, but I got away with more than I should. Most of the time no one knew what I was doing or where I was at. Somehow, I felt rejected by everyone so in turn I would try to please everyone. That always had the wrong effect. It seemed the more I tried to get others to like me the more I pushed them away. That would make me feel even more awkward. I found out at a young age that I had an unhealthy sex addiction. Although I did not know it was unhealthy, I just thought that I had learned something no one else knew. This drove me further and further away from those I loved.

I started running away from home when I was 12. I started stealing or just taking what I wanted. I stole my first car at 16 after trashing the one my dad helped me buy. I went to jail after a 6 month stretch in prison. I met my mom and tried living with her to no avail. I moved to my father's house where I met my wife. I was 18 when we met. We had a daughter and a son together. They are the best thing in my life outside of Christ. I tried really hard to mess that up too. I have only had about 10 years of their lives that I was not locked up for. I have never really been a dad to them. I have 5 grandchildren, 4 of whom I have never met because I am locked up again. I do not want them to see the inside of a prison.

I will never contradict the bible, but I believe that I would give Paul a run for his money for being the chief of sinners and Solomon for trying everything under the sun. But I will say this for Solomon, he was right because when you meet Christ all else is nothing! He was what I was looking for in everything I did but I never knew it. I went to church when I was young, but I

never heard God speak to me or call out my name. It was not until I was broken and all alone that He made it easy for me to give Him everything. I thought I had lost everything so giving it to Him was all I had left. I had done all I knew how to do and look at me now. In March 2015, I yielded my life and everything that I understood as mine to Him. All my wants have now changed. The things I thought I wanted; I no longer want. Jesus has given me the power to overcome all the things that had me bound. Christ has broken every chain. I no longer live in sin. Now I live for only giving Him glory. I have met so many spiritual brothers and sisters on this new journey that have helped me along the way. They did not see the old me but saw Christ in me.

I have not stopped learning of my Lord from day one. I would like to say we have a close, daily personal relationship that nothing interferes with. Christ is the center of my life. I stand on the foundation of His word. I lift my hand to God in prayer and I reach out my right hand of fellowship to other believers. I witness to the world and I minister to others. All of this to the glory of my Lord and Savior Jesus. These are the 6 disciplines of a disciple of Jesus. I was taught of them by James Benoy using MasterLife.

After first believing in Christ as a young teen, I was never shown how to become a son of God. He had given me the power, but I did not know what was next. Brother Benoy showed me through God's word that even with an 8th grade education, God will put His word in my heart. So, I started to memorize scripture. Jesus reveals Himself and His will to us the more we study His word.

I love my Lord. I thank Him daily for saving me from a life of sin and pain. I thank Him for giving me eternal life and to continue to love, share and to grow in grace.

Brother Kevin Jolly, Catawba **A COMMITMENT TO CHRIST**

I am thankful for all the spiritual help that



God has and continues to send my way since my incarceration. This has not been an easy journey considering all my setbacks and

U-turns. God has kept his hands on me in every situation. When I was sentenced in 2015, I was really at my low. I had gotten locked up two months before my daughter was born. I was back in front of another judge with the same charge that I did 3 1/2 years for just 11 months prior. I was mentally, spiritually, and emotionally distraught but, but God! He was not finished with me.

Now fast forward: God has allowed me to understand the difference in knowing of Him and having a personal relationship with Him. MasterLife so far is helping me to further develop more of a commitment with Christ. It is helping me to be more persistent with Him. I highly recommend MasterLife for anyone who is seeking more from Christ. This is a blessing. Be blessed, from a brother in Christ to another.

Derrick Harris, Catawba

I did not know what to expect when I was arrested in 1994. I was not a Christian-never even thought about Jesus Christ. I was raised in a Roman Catholic Church and attended church faithfully every

Sunday, but I only went through the motions. The day that I processed in the Mecklenburg County Jail felt like the end of the world for me. I knew absolutely no one. The jailors were so hateful and those that were locked up like me were nothing but overnight drunks. I just had no idea what was in store for me. After I was processed in the county jail, I was taken up to Specter Drive in North Charlotte. This would be my new home for the next four months or until I was either sentenced or my charges dropped. When I walked into the pod which held 56 inmates, I noticed 3 inmates sitting at a table praying. It was supper time and they were praying over their food. God spoke to me at that moment and told me to walk over to them and ask them if I could join them. When I did, they embraced me like a long-lost brother. After I checked in with the desk officer and ate with the 3 Christian brothers, they asked me if I was saved. I did not know what that meant but after talking to them I knew I wanted it. So, on that day in July 1994 I got saved. It has been wonderful, but I cannot deny it has been up and down; a roller coaster ride

since 1994. But this I knew; I would not have it any other way. Now I know where my eternal resting place will be, and I will see those there I loved and my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Ralph DI Pietro, Catawba

FOUR REASONS FOR QUIET TIME

My name is **Timothy Greene**. I would like



to thank God for being a rescue for a great sinner like me. I was brought up in the church, saved and baptized at a young age. I did not know what I

was doing but I am happy to say that on May 7, 2015 I gave my life to Christ with the full knowledge of what I was doing and whom I was giving it to. On April 11, 2018 I was baptized with the purpose being saved and believing on our Lord and Savior.

I have learned a lot from Brother Jolly's teaching. The teaching that spoke to my spirit was learning the 4 reasons for having quiet time with God which are: To know God and fellowship with Him, to receive direction and guidance for decisions, bringing your needs before God and to bear fruit. He also taught me how to capture verses to memorize them and to find verses that speak to me.

Timothy Greene, Catawba

**GREENE
GOD IS GOOD!**

My testimony is really simple. God has been good to me all my life. As I look back on my life, and all the things that I have been through I can truly say that I have been blessed. Why

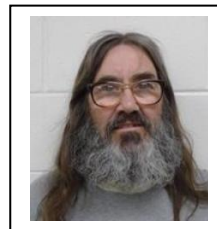
God loves me so, I do not know but I am thankful that he does. I would not have made it this far without the Lord Jesus Christ. I do not believe that He has brought me this far to leave me. God's love is so amazing! Truly I do not deserve his love, but He gives it to me anyway. I am coming to the end of this prison journey. I want to be ready for the next journey wherever it

may lead. I believe God is preparing me and will continue to prepare me all of my days. My hope and trust are in the Lord Jesus Christ. There is none greater! My testimony is this; I am saved by grace through faith, it is the gift of God. To God be the glory! Amen!

Kenneth Morris, Greene

GOD IS SOVEREIGN

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, greetings from Greene CI! I was at Tabor CI for 10 long years. It is a terrible place, but God kept me there long enough to be introduced to the MasterLife program by Tim Jones. (God bless him!)



I would like to send a shout out to Bro. Tim and Brothers Cory and Douglas. I miss you. It is such a blessing to see your names in the newsletter (: Keep up the good work Bear! I was transferred to Warren CI in October. I was only out of work a few weeks when God blessed me with my 3rd position (after Pasquotank and Tabor) as chaplain's clerk (praise the Lord!). Life at Warren CI is not chaotic and stressful as at Tabor CI. I was truly blessed, but my time there was short. In Feb, I was promoted to minimum custody. God is good! He allows bad things to happen to His children, but only in His perfect timing. I had reason to believe I was going to Johnston, closer to my family. When I got out of the car, I was in Greene. Johnston was recently the site of a major COVID 19 outbreak. God bless the people who are there! There are 3 prisons in Greene county. Numerous COVID 19 cases have been confirmed at the other two, but none here.

Unlike other religious and secular humanist programs, religious services have been cancelled until further notice. Instead of turning to God, we are urged to turn our backs on Him. This is madness! Social distancing has its rightful place in society. A millennium and a half ago, the monastic movement helped bring about the decline and fall of the Roman empire. Yet we are instructed to not forsake the gathering of the brethren.

When things get back to normal, perhaps I will be blessed to receive some more MasterLife materials and an opportunity to

share them with my new neighbors. Meanwhile, I am using what I have learned and blessing the Lord at all times.

God Bless You. **Robert Andrew Bartlett Sr., Greene**

PS: Could you please send me some information about the "Adopt-A-Life" program? I have a life sentence. Thank You, God Bless You.

INDEPENDENT TESTIMONIES

GENTLEMAN'S CARE

I grew up in Brooklyn, NY, I was in and out of foster homes most of my young life. I learned to read and write later than most kids but look at God's work, now I am in Seminary with a 3.5 G.P.A. My family was

plagued with drug addiction and drama. Who would have guessed that I would sell drugs from the age of 13 until I was 25. When I got arrested, I was sentenced to 25 to 32 years in prison. Prison being a new environment to me, I figured I would continue living the way I lived on the outside. I continued to try to fit in, hustling and seeing what I could get to work in my favor. I didn't know that God had a better plan for my life. God begin to tug on my heart, I would read the Bible in my cell with another gentlemen but we would both be high on marijuana. I begin again to get so tired of the life I lived. I wanted something different, something better but I did not believe that I could have anything better in prison, boy was I wrong. I remember praying telling God that I needed His help in order to change, I said "God you have to change my environment and get me around someone who can help me". A month after that prayer I was transferred to Caledonia Correctional Institute on June 1, 2010. I had been locked up for 4 years when I was transferred. Upon moving into my dorm and getting situated, I saw two men in a violent exchange. I said "Lord what is going on, you moved me to a worse place"? A couple of hours later I walked out the corridor and began to bump into guys I knew from central prison. I began to feel a little more at ease. I bumped into a guy named Brooks who



invited me to go to church. I said yes and that was the biggest decision I had ever made. That night I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I have had some hard times since then, such as losing my little brother and me having to have two major heart surgeries before I was 35 years old but through it all God has kept me. God has placed great brothers in my life who I have been privileged to co-labor with like Benoy, Jesse, Walter, and Tim Jones. God used these guys and the MasterLife program to help build me up as a Disciple of Christ. I am so grateful to be counted in the number today. I spend my time reading God's word, going to school, and witnessing to other men. I thank God for his Grace and mercy. God Bless!

Brother **Isaac Timmons, Nash**

ANSON Shout Out from Anson

This is **Brother Tim** checking in and saying hello to all the brothers and sisters in Christ around the world that are involved in the MasterLife program, directly or indirectly. Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and may He continue to keep you all safe and full of hope even in the mist of the troubled times the whole world is in now. As we look to Jesus who is the author and finisher of our faith, let us remember that we are the light of the world and the salt of the earth, so as the world looks for hope let us point to Jesus who truly is the only solution.

It would be almost impossible for me to remember every name of every man that I have seen apart of discipleship and fellowship to the MasterLife program. But there isn't one person that the Holy Spirit doesn't remember. So, everyone whose name I may not mention, please know that you are not forgotten in Spirit, 😊

Shout out to all the brothers at Caledonia and all the group leaders of the MasterLife program. Hello to Chuck, Mr. Lee, Luke, Jede. Hello to Gizzmo, Kenny White, Joe, Thomas, and Bimbo. Also hello to the staff at Caledonia, Chaplain Tyson, Mr. Duke, and all others concerned there. Shout out to all the brothers at Nash, Bro. Ben, Jessie, Dowless, Zak, Craig, may you all keep growing, learning, and feeding the

flock wherever you go. Shout to all the brothers at Tabor City, Bro. Bear, Mark, Cory, and the staff concerned, they know who they are. Shout out to Ronald Ricks, David Turner, Kenny Morris, Derrick Moore, Michael Benoy, and Rudy. You all are in my prayers. Many people have truly touched my life, and I thank God for you all, and as I have finally been blessed with minimum custody it is my hopes that it will not be longer until we all can fellowship outside these prison walls. I love you guys and miss you all and I trust that the Lord will bless and keep you and your families safe, (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Love. **Brother Tim, Anson**

To all my brothers in Christ, Greetings, my name is **Brian Weeks**. I'd like to donate this copy of my "Golgotha". I'd also like to send a shout out to my brothers in Christ at Avery/Mitchell, Nash, Pamlico and the

individuals who are not primarily at these facilities.

I'm currently at Anson, formerly known as Brown Creek, with roughly 32 months left on a 36-month M.A.P.P. (mutual agreement parole program). I want to thank everyone for their prayers and support. For those who are still waiting for God to move in their lives – it's coming, be patient. It is not a matter of IF, but rather a matter of WHEN!

There is a new program here at Anson that is specifically for the "old law" guys called ole Survivor Initiative. The Administration is also starting a R-Step (re-entry) program, it is presided over by Mr. McCullers.

To Greg Ross, Benoy, "Fish", Donald "Todd" Guiton: I love you and miss you guys. Just know that I'm thinking of you and praying for you.

In Christ, **Brian Weeks, Anson**

PIEDMONT GOD IS GREAT!

When I first became a chaplain's clerk in 2015, I had been a practicing Buddhist for five years. Initially, I thought it was good to have a non-Christian clerk in order to create balance. The more I sat through

church services, greeted the volunteers, and let the Scripture saturate my thoughts, I began to think there is something to this "God" thing. I came to the

realization that there is too much concrete proof all around not to believe in a grand arch. But still there was one key piece to the puzzle missing.

When given an invitation to work at Piedmont and reunite with my brother, Chaplain Hackett as a clerk, I jumped at the opportunity. With great effort, Chaplain Hackett got approval for Elevation Church to perform twice on December 9, 2019. During the morning service, Elevation Church's band performed "O, Come to the Alter". As I stood there, I felt a part of me being pulled. My flesh tried to hold back, but the pull kept coming from within. It was my very spirit. It was at that moment that I spoke these words to Christ. "Jesus, I am scared, I don't have all the answers that I want. I have doubt, I'm nervous, and I'm scared. But I invite you into my life and heart. I invite you to dine with me". It was then that a burden of exhaustion was lifted. I began to cry tears of joy, tears of relief, tears of Salvation! I had finally come home. I shared with my brothers around me and each one hugged me and cried as well.

God is not good, God is Great! God is the Author, the Rock, a Lighthouse through the darkness. We serve a God of second chances, forgiveness, redemption, and miracles. What a mighty God we serve!

This morning in the chapel, I opened a box full of the February 2020 issue of MasterLife Ministry. Inside, I was warmly greeted by stories from Thomas Wheeler, George Clowers, and Greg Ross, along with many other talented and Spirit driven brothers. I have met these three brothers at different facilities.

If it be God's will, I am hungry to join the Field Ministry program alongside Thomas and George. God has brought me from the brink of destruction. I owe my life to God and each day I love my neighbor as a token of appreciation for God Almighty transforming my spirit and helping to guide the renewing of this mind.

Brothers and Sisters, we have the power to change our environment and to help lift those around us. May we flourish with the Fruit of the Holy Spirit!

Sincerely, **Albert Ramos, Piedmont**

BERTIE

Forgiveness in Action

Romans 12:20, "Therefore if thine enemy hungers, feed him, if he thirsts, give him drink."



Jesus told the multitudes "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." (Mat. 5:44) There are actually four specific steps that we need to take in order to have victory over the resentment, unforgiveness, and bitterness which can easily take root in our heart.

1. Love your enemies: love is both choice and an action and need to be expressed. Loving the unlovely is possible only by God's grace. We must go to Him in order to obtain that grace..
2. Bless them that curse you: Blessing involves a charitable response that issues from concern for the spiritual well-being of the offernder. Works of blessing work directly against attitudes of condemnation or retaliation.
3. Do good to them that hate you: Doing good involves direct contact with the person or group that we probably feel like shunning. The specifics will vary, but the aim is to, "be not overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:21)
4. Pray for them that despitefully use you: Praying for the spirit of the offender brings change to ourselves as well as the one we are praying for.

As we earnestly persist in these actions, we discover that the details of the offense grow ever dimmer in our memory. Our own peace is preserved and increased, and we are far better prepared to deal charitably with the next offense. "Forgive and ye shall be forgiven Luke 6:37" "Blessed is everyone that feareth the Lord that walketh in His ways Psalms 128:1"

Humble submission to God's ways is best, there we find peace, satisfaction, and rest.

Donnie Ashley, Bertie

GASTON

At first you think, well I thought

1. Seminary classes a good thing
2. Bible studies a good thing
3. Honestly, I thought maybe it will help you get out of prison
4. The Interactions among them after a few years around them

Inside out, I saw, I seen their Heart's, Genuine, True, Sincere, a bond, Caring,

Inside out, they rub off on you

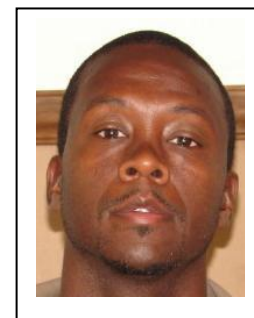
Inside out, it makes you better

In Christ and a person.

Thank you all, **Alex Price, Nash**

HE ALWAYS SHOWS UP

My name is **Aeric Whitehead**. I have



been on the MasterLife Newsletter mailing list for a while now. I'm writing to let you know that I am no longer at Caledonia. I've been

transferred to Gaston Corr. Center. 520 Justice Ct., Dallas, NC 28034. I promised Benoy that I would write something for the newsletter, so here it is... First, I want to thank my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for "being" without Him there would be no reason for there to be a me. I also want to thank Benoy for introducing me to the program. I really learned a lot. Mostly that I didn't know enough.

I've known since a little boy that Christ had my back even when no one should have. I banked on the fact that I had a calling, so He wouldn't allow anything to happen to me. I've learned that, 1) you don't

tempt God because you will not win nor prosper and 2) be careful what you ask for.

Although I've never been stabbed, shot or in any serious way hurt, other than my feelings, I've been incarcerated 26 years. I valued my freedom, so it was taken away. I valued my friends and they have been removed from my life. I realize that had I not had or still have, a praying mother, I wouldn't be here. God granted my wish to experience life on my terms and I allowed Satan to help me crash. However, my God loves me. When I called out cause the pain was too much, while I was lost and couldn't find my way, He heard my cry. Just when I think He has forsaken me because of things that men say, He always shows up, strengthens me, and leads me. My message to all my brothers and sisters is this. We have tried it our way and things didn't and don't work out. Let go and let God. He'll prove that He is THE GREAT I AM. Just trust Him. Love you all. God Bless.

Sincerely, Bro. **Aeric Whitehead, Gaston**

Harnett

I've been putting this off for the longest.



Been wondering how to start off telling the wickedness that I fell into, a lifestyle that is detestable, disobedient, and total disregard for my soul. I

had failed to be mindful of the scriptures calling me to persevere, to guard my heart with all diligence, and keep my eyes on the hope that has given me life ... to look elsewhere is disaster. First looking totally at my circumstances and placing my hope in them, but not seeing it come to pass after much prayer, much expectation, with an attitude that I deserve this, I should get that ... As it said in Genesis in the story of Joseph, expecting the men to remember him ... two years pass, and nothing happens. Unlike Joseph, I failed in persevering, praying less, to not praying at all. Getting mad at God, making it all about me, getting offended because I didn't get what I wanted. Man, I wish I could speak other wise of the lifestyle I led openly in sin, total disregard for God and sad to say, seeing what was truly the priority in my life; me. Devastated when I

Calling Me Out of This World

By **Stephen Taylor, Hanover**

When I look up and see the floor of Heaven

I get lost in the splendor of your creation.

Sending my prayers up to your Throne of Grace

I'm found by the Light of your Son.

Calling me out of this world

Anointing me with your faithful love

Receiving the blessings you allow to fall down on me.

I look to you for answers to all life's questions

Placing all my burdens and worries on you.

Calling me out of this world

Filling me with the Spirit of your love.

Building me through struggles and trials.

My faith in you fills my cup

Overflowing with your Love, I spread the good news.

By the joy on my face in the lost and dying world.

Saving grace falling from above,

Enlightening us all through your sacrificial Love.

Thank you, Jesus, for coming to pull me out from the grip of the evil one.

Build me, Keep me, Mold me, Teach me, Use me, O Lord

As you call me out of this world.

When I look up and see the floor of Heaven

Moving over me from above.

I give thanks to Jesus for your agape Love

And the rays shining down on me from above

finally got to that point, feeling like the prodigal son racked with guilt, depression, insecurities, bad boy attitude and left with a bad reputation. Isolated, nobody wanting to be around alone. I failed to keep my eyes on Him who calls me out of darkness, to look to Him in faith for strength, knowing He already has the way of escape. I failed to persevere in prayer,

everything became even harder to bare. My reading, it spoke too loud, I had other things to worry about, which led me to run from my brothers. I had nothing to talk about, I was hurt, and I didn't want to talk about God.

I saw my utter need for God and total submission and nothing short, and my need to be around brothers, for they are vessels for God. Here I am brothers, running to Him every day. To love Him, to worship Him, praying that He fills me with even more zeal for Him and His Word. To have joy in His people, to preach and teach the Truth, "which accords with godliness" that, "the Word of God may not be reviled", and that I may be an example.

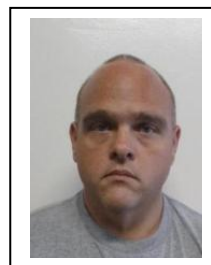
This day we need war-like mentalities, praying with all urgency to our commander - in- chief Jesus Christ, advancing His kingdom, honoring His name in the midst of a culture that seeks to blot Him out. To get everyone's minds on what's in front of us and what may seem impossible. Brothers, our God is Great! Remember the story of Joseph (Genesis 37-50).

Love in Christ, **Dominique Perry, Harnett**

MARION

KERITH RAVINE

In 2015 while I was briefly out of prison for 100 days, I became addicted to "ice" on meth. It was like a plague everyone I knew was on it. By the end of my run, I was out of my mind and I'm told I stole 4 pickup trucks in one night. I woke up in the new Guilford



county jail in Greensboro, cold and hungry. It would not have mattered if my bond had been ten dollars, I still could not have got out, but anyway, it was \$500,000.00, so I for sure couldn't get out. I was halfway glad because I had robbed half of my drug dealers I knew and owed the other half. I was on parole and that was quickly violated and 3 weeks after my arrest, I was sitting in the pumpkin patch at Salisbury high rise. I went through processing and (a new direction) before I caught an (institutional violence class) write up, (A8) for working on a radio. They gave me the max 60 days solitary confinement. Being

in the hole as it called is good for some people. I always get real close to whether I want to or not. I did the 60 days and was shipped to Caledonia. It seems like every prison I go, there are always people that know me, I have only been doping time since 1999. As soon as I got in the door good, Walt told me about MasterLife and invited me. I said I'll think about it. I moved across from what would be my future mentor James W. Benoy.

I took someone who use to be like me to see something in me I couldn't see myself. James went on to disciple me against my will until he went off to Nash. The main thing I received from him was that true brotherly love. I didn't have much love for people, and in that I didn't have much love for God because of what it says in 1 John 4:7-8. It took someone to show me love even in my mess for me to really grasp the concept of our Jesus. Our Master in love.

Mr. Tim Jones who was Benwa's mentor took over when the time was right. What better mentor to have than your mentor's mentor? Tim was patient with me and worked with me for over a year. He believed in me when I didn't believe in myself. MasterLife 2018 was a turning point. I learned what to do after going all in for Jesus. Probably the main thing is quiet time with the Master. True quiet time with no distractions will be our best communication with our King. Memorizing scripture is the next most important thing. The Word of God on our hearts and mind at all times helps when we are faced with opposition. These are the things that were stressed to me by the great Timothy Jones and I love him for it. In 1 Kings 17, God told Elijah to go to the Kerith Ravine and wait. The hardest thing for me to do sometimes is WAIT.

Craig Allen Neal was my dearest friend and mentor, always loving and understanding. My favorite barber! Always living the Christian life, above reproach. Very obedient, in fact, it was obedience and the necessity of it that I learned from Craig. For me obedience is easier said than done and as I start my 5th month in solitary confinement for my 2nd (A 16), I truly believe in the necessity of the obedient Christian life. I have plenty of quiet with the Master. Jesus Christ is with me, that's a fact. I am in the RDV program at Marion. It's 13 months of solitary confinement. Handcuffed and chained for everything outside of the cell. It's not who confines me that defines me. My Savior Jesus Christ is on the throne and as long as He is, I'm ok wherever I am. I hope all my

brothers are well: Craig Neal, G GIZMO, Kitchen Lee, Luke Harvey, Charles Batchelor, Jeff, Larry, Charles William McDade, Alexander Henry Joyner, Chris Cole, Sidney Smith, Kevin Jolly Kipper, "Shady" Grady Smith, Keith "Catfish" Smith, Marvin "Bleek" Walton, Henry Thomas, Tony BIMBO< Tim Strickland, Craig "Big C" Williams, Jesse B. Zeek, Tall Joe, Thumper Gomez, Travis Wade Pagan. Thank you to Pat for her hard work on the newsletter, and also thanks to Travis. Nice pictures in volume 11 issue 2019. A special thank you to James Weston Benoy and Timothy Jones, I love you guys. Please know that I have the whole MasterLife family in my prayers. I'm in my Kerith Ravine waiting on the Lord. We all are.

I AM David Benjamin Turner, Marion

GET UNDERSTANDING

My Christian walk has taken me through many highs and lows. One of the things I've learned throughout this journey is, when I think and act as if I am in charge of my life the result is usually ones of those low moments; however, when I think and act in accordance to the Word of God as though God is the sole controller of my life the results are usually the highs I mentioned before. Believe it or not, some of us have to experience this journey firsthand in order to get a fuller understanding of what we are now a part of: Christianity and the church /body of Christ! It has taken some time but now I understand that my lows are usually associated with me acting and thinking according to Col. 3:8-9. However, my highs are associated with me acting and thinking in accordance with Col. 3:12-17. Also, now that I acknowledge what Paul is saying in 1 Tim 6:6 and have a firm understanding of what Peter is saying in 1 Pet. 2:1-12, I began to see Hebrews 12:6-15 playing out in my life. I now have a fare better understanding of my Christian walk being off course, and I know that I am off course because of something I've done or because of something I am failing to do such as a consistent quiet time. Which is when God steps in to administer discipline to His chosen! Thankfully, I can reflect on Romans 2:12 and know that I can turn it around and get back on course.



In closing, we must stand firm in our faith and know that the Word of God (sword of the Spirit) is a sure way of understanding any circumstance in our lives and if we neglect the Word or our walk or do not take them seriously every day we will stumble and fall. But thank God that His Word is right there to help us get back on track. Please keep me in your prayers as I continue to keep you all in mine!

With the love of Christ, **Justin Walker, Marion**

MOUNTAIN VIEW

LISTEN

Hello to my Christian brothers and sisters. I want to start by saying God bless you. My name is **Kenneth Edwards**. I'm in



Icon right now, I'm 23 years old doing a 96-188-month prison sentence. I have no family support at all, the only family support I had was my Granny and she passed away to

be with the good Lord above, RIP. I grew up in NC, Mount Airy NC, and also have lived in VA. I love the country! I'm Baptist born and raised, but I didn't fully find God till 2018 the day after I lost my grandmother. I had to find peace somewhere and if I hadn't, I wouldn't be writing to you now. Suicide was all on my mind, but God took that thought away, PRAISE GOD. I try to spread the Word to inmates that are on Icon with me. Some listen, some don't, but it doesn't stop me from trying! I would love for you to sign me up for your newsletter and to pray for me! I also would love to see if I'm eligible for the "Adopt - A - Life". I got 15 1/2 years. I would love a mentor to help me on my path of faith through Jesus Christ. And to have someone to write and talk to and that will guide me along my journey. It's my first time in prison and I got to hustle to have canteen. But I do it in good ways, I'm done with my old selfish life. I wish I would had found God sooner, but I got Him now. I've got very bad anxiety and depression, but every time I pray, I get relief, thanks to our Lord and Savior Jesus! If you will please contact me back soon as you can and thank you for all that you do. Love You God. Bless you all!
Kenneth Edwards, Mountain View

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Hello, my name is **Theodore B. Guyette**



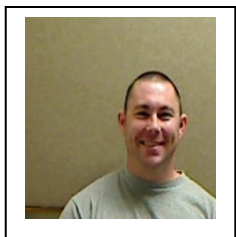
(I'm 60 years). I am doing a life sentence in North Carolina. I have been on it since 1989. I've been recently praying for some help and encouragement as many of my people

have passed away. The ones who haven't feel I made my bed so I should sleep in it. I have been a Christian since 1990. God has touched a lot of men over the years and still does today. I had written to other Christians but could never get it across to them, that we are to encourage each other's as Christ leads us. Anyway, I've been praying that God would show me the path that He desired me to take. I was waiting to go to self-medication call, and I saw your newsletter, and never did call self-meds. I took the newsletter to my cell and began to read it (issue 2020, Feb- vol 12). I read the first two pages and I had a blessed assurance that this newsletter related to me.

I've witnessed to many over the years, Muslims, Buddhist, Jehovah Witness, Moorish, Science Temple and others – planting the seeds and God giving the increase. I did not find anywhere in scripture, where another Christian could not help another Christian. Those that I had written continue to insist that I suffer. I had suffered very deeply; I was only looking for some mercy and compassion. Anyway, I would like to know all I can about your ministry, "Adopt-A-Life". I have weathered many storms and met hundreds of men still suffering addiction etc. Before this corona virus trail, I was a tutor for old prisoners in a class called Geriatrics. Well there has been no school, but I missed the interaction with others my age. Thank you for your time, my prayers go out for your ministry. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you, **Theodore B. Guyette, Mountain View**

NEW HANOVER

Hello, my name is **Stephen Taylor**. I met

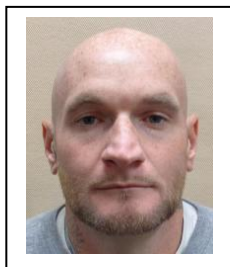


Michael Benoy at New Handover. He introduced me to MasterLife and I'm grateful for his love for Christ and diligence to his calling to teach believers how to be

disciples of Christ. Through MasterLife, I've developed daily quiet time with my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and developed the ability to tune my ears to hear God speak to me, not only through the Word, but through others as well. Thanks, and Glory is given only to Christ for the opportunity to develop and grow as a faithful Disciple of Christ through MasterLife. I would like to see a devotional put out by MasterLife to help others stay on track through daily quiet time, readings, and journaling. I wrote this poem during a time of trial and worry and thought I'd share it with my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. As I hope it will feed someone in need of Faith in Christ during hardships. May God be with you and bless you. Thank You, **Stephen Taylor, New Hanover**
.....

SCOTLAND

Hello, my name is **Christopher Lee Phipps**. And I'm 39 years old, serving a



life without possibility of parole prison sentence. I've been locked up since September 2006, I am a striving Christian, and I've been hearing of MasterLife for a

long time now, and I want to join the fun, I first heard of it from Brian, AKA "Fish", when we were at Pamlico. A couple of years ago, we were blessed to have some deep Bible studies in Fish taught us a lot about his MasterLife program. I'm interested in doing the program you offer, if possible. I'm trying to learn as much as possible about Jesus Christ and following him wholeheartedly. I've grown up in a church environment, but I didn't start really having a true genuine relationship with God, until 2012. When I was blessed to attend a Kairos weekend retreat at Alexander.

Ever since then, I fell in love with Jesus, but it's been a rocky path for me. I say that because I still fall for the trickery and schemes of satan. I'm learning to put on the full armor of God as it says in Ephesians 6:14-17. God is continuously teaching me things and He keeps me on my toes. I know He's got a purpose and a plan for my life when I realized this life, I live isn't mine anymore. It belongs to Jesus, things started falling into place, like a jigsaw puzzle. I'm in search of a few things. First, I want to join the MasterLife family. Second, I want to be added to the

list to receive the newsletter when it's published. Third, I'd love to complete the program and be added to the Adopted-A-Life ministry thing. I don't get a whole lot of money support from family and helping others be taught and led to Christ, my mission, and easiest way to break through to people, is their appetites, and the word free. When I learned of this Adopted-A-Life program, it sounded like an answer to my prayer, so please send me whatever it needs to be complete. Fourth, is I'm in need of reading material literature in novels to Christian novels, like Francine Rivers and Ted Decker, the author of "Courageous" and "Prayer Room" (I forgot their names, but they are brothers)? Anyway, if I could get some books, maybe concordance and dictionary. If it's too much to request, then don't worry about it. I don't know the extent of the help offered here at MasterLife. I am anxious to hear back from you and get to studying under the MasterLife ministry and to see what God has in store for my path journey. I have a few brothers in Christ, I'd like to give a shout out to Brian "Fish", and if he could get a message from me. I'd like to tell him Hey, I send my love, and to let him know. He had a big impact on my life decision to follow Jesus in purity and truth and righteousness. Kristen Angel, Tim Johnson, and to James Benoy, even though we've never actually met, it feels like we have. I heard a lot about him from Fish, I got to know him, more by every newsletter of ever read, and I read one every chance I get my hands on.

Please pray for the chaotic environment. This COVID-19 crisis has caused in prisons, pray for my strength and courage in the Lord Jesus. Thanks, and write back soon.

Your fellow brother and soldier in Christ Jesus, **Chris Phipps, Scotland**
.....

I recently was blessed with a copy of your newsletter for February 2020. As I began to read it, it became extremely clear that I was not going to be able to put it down. The praises that I read throughout the



newsletter for the support given to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ was incredible. It drew me deeper into the testimonies and right on through the articles. At which point I felt a tug on my heart.

I am greatly interested in enrolling in your MasterLife Discipleship program. I have another fifteen years left on my sentence. I am encouraged by the praises for your program and would like to learn more, through your guidance, about sharing my faith with others. I am requesting to learn more about your Discipleship program and how to enroll! My address is as follows:

Daniel Sullivan, Scotland

"FISH" with Brian



Quiet Time With God

Before refrigerators, people used icehouses to preserve their food. Icehouses

had thick walls, no windows, and a tightly fitted door. In the winter, when streams and lakes were frozen, large blocks of ice were cut, hauled to the icehouses, and covered with sawdust. Usually the ice would last well into summer.

One day, a man lost a very valuable watch while working in an icehouse. He searched all over for it, carefully raking through the sawdust, but he was unable to find it. The other workers joined the search and although everyone worked diligently, no one was able to find the man's watch.

A small boy heard about the search and he slipped into the icehouse during the lunch hour, and soon emerged with the watch. Amazed, the men asked him how he found it. The boy replied, "I closed the door, laid down in the sawdust, and kept very still. Soon I heard the watch ticking."

The moral of the story is this: Often the question is not whether God is speaking, but whether we are being still enough, and quiet enough, to hear Him.

I was encouraged by this story years ago. I use it as a part of MasterLife, and I wanted to share it with you brothers and sisters today. It is a good reminder of what Quiet Time with God is all about - to bask in His presence and His goodness, to dig into His Word, and to thank Him and praise Him for who He is and for all He has done.

In these moments, it is good to "be still, and know that He is God" (Psalm 46:10a). Remember that He is in control of the storm that tests your faith. He is aware of the stress, affliction, and persecution that you face. He knows about the doubts, concerns, sadness, and disappointments that maybe you contend with. The good news is that He has promised to be with us in and through all of it; and that He desires for you to know Him, trust Him, love Him, and settle yourself before Him and listen to His "still small voice" speaking to your heart (1 Kings 18:11-12, John 10:1-5, 17:3). That's what the relationship is all about; to learn from Him and grow as His disciples who bear fruit in His name. Coincidentally, the stormy times in our life are often seasons of growth, deeper faith, and developing a greater and more intimate reliance on Him. By His grace, Quiet Time with God helps achieve all of those things.

Do we obey this perfectly all the time? Certainly not. Unfortunately, sometimes life gets in the way, or maybe we get a little ahead of ourselves. Prayer becomes short, hurried, or one-sided. At times we may view these moments as the opportunity to bombard God with our wants, needs, and long list of requests - yet lack a genuine communion with Him because we're the only ones doing all the talking. Other times it's possible for Q.T. to become rigid, habitual, or ritualistic as we merely go through the motions of it to fulfill a sense of obligation or in the attempt to merit our own righteousness. All of this misses the design and function of a disciple's Quiet Time with God.

In contrast, genuine Q.T. is to willfully bask in His presence. It's to read and then meditate of His eternal Word, His gracious promises, and even His righteous commandments (Psalm 119:9-16, 143:5, 2 Cor. 1:20-22, Heb. 10:23, Matt. 22:37-40, John 14:21, 1 John 5:2-3). It's to believe in God in spite of your circumstances or how things appear. It's to trust that He is working together all things for our good (Rom. 8:28).

Yes, to spend Q.T. with our glorious God and Savior is to intentionally pull ourselves away from life's demands to 'lay in the sawdust' and be still before Him in concentrated focus, attention, and

complete devotion to Him alone. Our gracious Lord who took our place on the cross, and who is the #1 priority in our lives; truly deserves this and more. He desires to hear from His children, but oh how we need to hear from Him even more. As Jesus' disciples, we honor Him with obedience and we develop our growing faith when we seek to spend genuine Quiet Time with God (Psalm 119:10-11, Isaiah 55:6-7, Hebrews 11:6). As you study His Word, 'listen' to Him as He 'speaks' to your heart today.

In Christ, Brian Crouch "Fish", Pamlico (Isaiah 6:8)

SPECIAL NOTICES

Want to Help? Send stamps to:
Walt Finley – MasterLife Ministry
PO Box 931
Goldsboro NC 27533

TIME WITH TIM Legacy or Jesus

I recently heard a gospel song that really made me step back and take a long look at my life and my Christian walk. The chorus of the song went something like this, "I don't need legacy, I don't need you to remember me,

just give me Jesus". Now how many of us can honestly say that being remembered and leaving a positive and purposefully legacy does not rank high in the motivating factors for why we seek to walk as close to the Lord as possible. There is not a better lifestyle that I could embrace that could even come close to the total fulfillment that the Lord makes possible for all that trust Him. So, to seek a closer and closer walk with the Lord is something we should all desire, but if our motives for seeking a closer walk with the Lord is for self-glorification then we have missed the mark. Personally speaking, I will admit that because of me having such a troubled past that hurt so many people and I let so many people down, it became very important to me to leave a legacy that triumphed the troubles of my past and was able to hopefully win back the favor of those that I have let down. But think of it this way, as a Christian Jesus is the star of the show and just because we are in His



entourage shouldn't shift the focus or the priority of our desire as disciples to follow and glorify Him as Lord.

If our best human effort is viewed as filthy rags and we can do nothing apart from God blessing us with the ability to do it, surely our focal point should remain on the only one that makes salvation possible and His name is Jesus! Yes, I very much love being identified as a Christian and that is in itself OK. But the question is, do I love being identified as a Christian more than Christ being identified as the only one that truly matters? Do I preach Christ because of me or do I preach Christ because of Him? Being thought of and viewed as a good person is something that I am sure most of us desire others to think of us and being a strong Christian certainly brings that reaction from others about us. But if our purpose as disciples of Jesus Christ sifts to the desire for self-glorification than we have become distracted and are walking carnally. Let us never be ashamed to being identified as Christian and let us be bold in our stand for the gospel but let us always be more concerned about the legacy of Jesus than building our own. The Bible declares that heaven and earth will pass away but the Word of God will last forever, and we know that Jesus is the Word and His reign will never end. So as we search our hearts and examine our motives let us prayerfully seek glorify God always and seek to join of the chorus that says "I don't need a legacy, I don't need you to remember me, just give me Jesus!"

Brother Tim Jones, Anson
.....

IT JUST LOOKS THAT WAY

Have you ever felt like God's blessings were given to the wrong people? Have there been times in your life when you have really wanted something that you knew only God could provide. You prayed and asked the Lord to please bless you with that desire of your heart, and like a little child with full expectancy you waited for it making sure you displayed your best behavior, hoping it would somehow influence God's decision? If so, you have probably also seen the very things that you prayed for and asked the Lord to bless you with being bestowed on those around you that are the most unrighteous and undeserving people that you would think should receive anything. These people do what they want, and say what they want, and they only seek to please themselves

with no regards for others. Many of them could care less about God or what He requires of those that seek to have a relationship with Him, but from all appearances it looks like they are the very ones that are being blessed. For a child of God and a disciple of Jesus, seeing this can be a very emotional time in our Christian walk, and we can go from confusion to doubt, from envy to anger, from self-pity to self-destruction, and in some cases we have been known to pray for death, all because someone else got blessed that we felt wasn't deserving and we didn't.

Remember the story of Jonah and how he asked God to let him die, because the people of Nineveh repented and were spared the wrath of God despite Jonah personally feeling like they didn't deserve it. I know many of us can identify with Jonah and how he felt especially those of us incarcerated, as we find ourselves doing all that we can to do what's right, to follow the rules, stay out of trouble and to participate in all the positive things that the D.O.P. system offers. But it seems like the guys that's doing all the negative things and breaking all the rules are the people that get the breaks and promotions. It sometimes appears that they are **rewarded** for being bad, and maybe they are, but it's not a reward from the God we serve! Remember God rewarded the people of Nineveh and spared them because they repented, not because they remained in their evil ways, But Jonah was so caught up in raw emotions that he could not see pass his anger, even when the outcome was for God's glory.

As disciples of Jesus we need to learn the lesson of Jonah's emotional episode and not allow ourselves to be overwhelmed with envy and anger when we witness the unrighteous around us receive things that we felt like we deserved more or things we've prayed for, and haven't received, yet! Let me use this opportunity to remind us that God is still in control "and is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all we can ask or think according to the power that worketh in us" (Eph. 3:20). "And we can be confident that if we ask anything according to His will that He hears us, and if He hears us, we know we have petitions we desire of Him" (1 John 5:14-15). Asaph reminded us in Psalm 73 that it is easy for us to be caught up in the prosperity of the wicked and be envious of the carefree ways. He tells that he had almost slipped, and his feet were almost gone when he

envied the foolish and wicked (Ps. 73:2-3), but then he says, "until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood their end". "What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul". (Mark 8:36) So we are not alone in the emotional battles we face at seeing the unrighteous seemingly proper when it appears our blessings are delayed, but I seek to encourage us all not to be dismayed and to keep the faith in the power of God to keep us. Remember that we have read the final chapter and we know how the story ends, so when you see the unrighteous that seem to prosper around you, don't be envious or allow anger to consume you. Just begin to praise the Lord for all He has done, all He is doing, and for all He is going to do concerning you. God is not slack concerning His promises and what He has promised He will perform; of this you can be sure!

The abundant Life is ours so let us give thanks and rejoice instead of being caught up in concerns over what the unrighteous are taking in, because their end paints a different picture, unless like Nineveh, they repent and turn to Jesus for salvation. Let us pray that they turn to Jesus! Stay prayerful my brothers and sisters and know that we serve a wonderful God.

God Bless You, **Bro. Tim Jones, Anson**

MASTERING LIFE IN PRISON

by James Benoy, Nash
.....

Strongholds & Worldview



In chapter one of *Mastering Life in Prison*, which was printed in our February issue, we discussed the idea of "change." That

lesson brought us to the realization that we all desire to have a change of some kind in our lives, amen? Furthermore, we have tried many ways to achieve this change without any lasting success. No amount of money, sex, drugs, food, TV, or even a three-hundred-pound bench press can satisfy or fulfill us—we seem to be left wanting more change. This leaves us frustrated, asking ourselves the question,

"why? " "Why can 't I change!?" The answer is, there is something blocking us from the change we desire—our thinking!

The Barrier is Blocking

Picture this: you place a Barracuda fish in an aquarium, putting some fish-food on one side of the aquarium and the fish on the other side, then place a glass petition separating the fish from the food; the fish can see the food, but he cannot get to it because the path is blocked. The Barracuda will swim back and forth towards that food, over and over again only to bump into the glass petition. The amazing thing about this story is that after a few days you can remove the petition and the fish will never change the pattern that has been set in his mind. The fish is stuck in a habit with no way out. Long after the petition is gone something is still blocking him, the fish is stuck—back and forth, back and forth. Eventually, if someone does not rescue him and retrain his thinking, he will die from starvation.

In this illustration, one can easily see what was blocking the fish from the food; however, our question is, what is blocking us from getting the food we need, the food that will bring change to our lives? The Bible identifies these blockers, as "strongholds." What is a stronghold? A stronghold is a fortress with walls of protection surrounding it. It is a place that people barricade themselves inside, a place that cannot be penetrate by outside forces. The Word of God defines strongholds, "the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy **strongholds**. We destroy **arguments** and every **lofty opinion** raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ" (2 Cor. 10:4-5 ESV). Strongholds are arguments and opinions. Avery Willis defines a stronghold as "an idea, a thought process, a habit, or an addiction through which Satan has set up occupancy in your life—a place where he has the advantage (Willis, Avery T. 1999. Disciples Personality workbook 2. LifeWay Press)".

We will identify two categories of strongholds—personal and ideological—and focus primarily on the ideological. *Personal Strongholds* are areas where one struggles with personal sin in the areas of desires, cravings and habits of the flesh, for instance: cussing, smoking cigarettes, drugs, drinking, pornography, lying, manipulating, gossiping, fighting and so on. These are personal cravings or habits of the flesh. *Ideological strongholds* deal with the area of one's thinking, belief

system, and worldview—how one views the world in which they live.

So, what does this have to do with the fact that I need change in my life? In the prison system, there are strong opinions about Christianity, jailhouse conversion, and when one should seek Christ. Many do not believe in crying to God when they get into trouble, others believe that they need to change first, while still others believe that they must wait until they get out to get saved. These are false belief system—strongholds. As a result of these strongholds, incarcerated men and women are not able to be free from *personal strongholds* like drug addiction or get the change that they need to stay out of prison.

Many persons in prison recognize that they suffer with *personal strongholds*, but do not realize the core of their problems lie in their *ideological* strongholds. They believe that if they could just learn to overcome their personal strongholds they would be rehabilitated and all would be well. These men and women spend a lot of time seeking out programs and treatments in an attempt to medicate the problem, never realizing that without Jesus Christ, they are only putting a Band-Aid on the problem. These men and women need to have their *thinking* corrected, they need to be taught how to overcome their ideological strongholds. But, before this can happen, they need to come to the realization that they are in fact victims of ideological strongholds. Once one is able to recognize that they have faulty belief systems/worldviews, they are able to search for the truth [Jesus Christ] who will make them free; free to change. Tearing down ideological strongholds will bring a natural ability to tear down the personal strongholds that we have sought to be rid of. A change of thinking, will result in a change of behavior (repentance).

Ideological Strongholds

Ideological strongholds deal with the area of one's thinking, belief system, and worldview—how one views the world in which they live. This concerns the idea of what is right and wrong, what is truth, what is real, and so on. When one says or hears statements that begin with, "I think" or "I feel," they are sharing a glimpse of their ideological beliefs. Everyone has an ideological belief system or worldview, whether they know it or not. The incarcerated have different terminology for this, we call them creeds, convict-codes, constitutions, or

knowledge. There are belief systems within the prisons, moral codes that everyone believes they must live by in order to survive. Some examples of this are "keeping it real to the game", "representing", being "one-hundred", or "doing what I gotta do." These catch phrases represent ideological strongholds that influence the way one sees life and the world around them. The questions posited to everyone is: What is really real? How do we know? What are our beliefs based upon? Where did we get our facts? Were they accurate? Could we be wrong? In these sections we will explore some of our ideological strongholds and their origins.

Recognizing and identifying ideological strongholds

The next question is where do these ideological strongholds come from? Humanity lies under the influence of the world, the flesh, and the devil (1 Jn. 5:19). Satan has sets up barriers in our minds by creating belief systems, belief systems that come from information and influences in one's life. How did this happen? Jesus announces the problem, "you reject the commandment of God in order to establish **your traditions**, thus making void the word of God by **your tradition** that you have handed down, and many such things you do" (Mk. 7:7-9,13).

Applying this to our context, our beliefs are formed by the **information** that shapes our perception of things, information that has been taught and handed down by very influential persons in our lives. Mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, teachers, preachers, politicians, news anchors, actors, sports figures, commercials, convicts, homeboys, and many others. These people have strong opinions and firm beliefs about most any subject known to mankind. They present ideas to us, often with no evidence to support their claims; but, because of their particular influence in our lives, we believed them. It is sad to say, but even after many of these influential people have long been removed from our lives, we are still stuck believing the things that have been taught to us. Just like the fish, we are stuck swimming back and forth in our own ideological thinking, blocked from the truth. The purpose of this section is to present readers with many ideas, ideas that will cause one to reflect on their individual beliefs, where those beliefs came from, and are they based on fact.

Think about the reason people buy a \$200 pair of shoes instead of a forty-dollar pair of shoes or one brand of toothpaste over another. Why are some people democrats while others are republican? Why are some people racist's and others not? Somebody has influenced them: a famous idol, a television advertisement, peer pressure, or culture. Whether it's discussing which is truly the best brand of toothpaste and tennis shoes, or more important issues such as abortion, homosexual marriage, racism, socialism/communism/capitalism. The issue underlying one's stance on these beliefs is: where did you get them? When confronted by this question, one finds that many things they believe as absolute truths have no more basis than, "cause my momma said so" or "that's the way I was raised to believe." These things are often flippantly glossed over with statements such as "Oh, he is just stuck in his ways." These answers may be sufficient when choosing a pair of shoes or one's choice of toothpaste brand, however, other ideological beliefs can have life changing consequences for an individual or an entire nation. For example: haven't the teachers and text books determined what people believe about history, science, economics, and sexual identity? Of course they have. The science books continue to teach Darwinism as fact long after it has been proven "grossly distorted" by numerous credible scientists (Strobel, Lee. 2004. The Case for a Creator. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan). Socialism has proven faulty, yet it is taught as a credible economical philosophy in many major universities. Even history has been distorted depending on the lens one chooses to look through. Some questions that we must ponder are: Have the scientists had an influence on how we believe the universe came into being? Do we believe that man came from monkeys? Does the FDA or a favorite health magazine influence what we consider healthy to eat? How many times have the facts been changed? There are other types of things that have influenced people throughout the past: cannibalism, suicide bombers, child brides, sexual identity, just to name a few.

In all prison system there are certain words that will provoke an instant fight. In North Carolina, "Water-head" is the worst word you call someone to challenge them. This word could easily get you stabbed. In Texas, the word "hoe" is an instant fighting word. Well, when I was

Beatitudes

by Michael Benoy
Matthew 5:5

"Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth."
Our Lord and Savior,
Jesus Christ remained meek
throughout every trial and temptation.
Even unto the point of death.
Meekness is not powerfulness or weakness.
It is born of humility and obedience to the Father.
It is not of the flesh but of the Spirit and
is not occupied with self,
but with the will of God.
It is knowing we have at our hand the power
and infinite resources of heaven
but remain submissive and
in-service to the kingdom of heaven.
It is a willingness to receive the good and bad,
from friend or enemy, to complete and
fulfill God's purposes for us.
It has the power to kill yet chooses to heal.
I AM submissive to the will of God.
I AM responsive to the Holy Spirit.
I AM sustained by the power of God.
I AM being shaped into the image of Jesus.
I will remain meek and strong!

in Texas Department Criminal Justice I was sharing with the guys what "water-head" meant in North Carolina. They laughed and mocked at such a silly word. Likewise, when I came back to North Carolina DPS I shared with the guys about the word "hoe" in Texas and they laughed. Yet, men are stabbing one another over such words. Who taught these ideas to these men?

I was in jail with an eighteen-year-old young man who had shot and killed a guy that he grew up with. When I asked him why he killed the other guy he said, "I represent west-side and he represents east-side." This young man is doing a life-sentence for the west-side of a town that no one has ever heard of. Where did he get his strong opinion of the "west-side?" I bet those west-side homeboys ain't writing him or holding him down while he's in prison. In fact, I know they are not!

This brings more questions to the surface: could you have been taught wrong? Could your values be misplaced? What is the truth? Is Jesus right? Have we rejected the truth of God's Word and listened to handed-down ideas of man? One thing that is a fact: we deserve to know the truth! Hopefully, as we move

through this material, we will draw closer and closer to the truth.

Perceptions: God, Others, Self

We also have ideas about God, other people, and ourselves that have been distorted.

There was a guy who tried convincing me that everything was created by aliens; I've listened as someone gives a dishonest description of another person; but, one of the most hilarious things is to watch someone who perceives themselves as something they are not. Like an ugly dude who thinks he's good looking. How about the guy who thinks he's really doing it big cause he's hustling lots of Ramen noodles and postage stamps in the penitentiary? Our misperception of God, others and ourselves can blind us from the truth, the truth that could change the course of our lives for the better or the worst.

Perception of God

Who is God? What does He look like? How does He think? Is he like a communist dictator? do what I say or die! Is He a teacher? He gives the lessons; you do the assignments, take the tests, and get the degree. Is He a boss? If you do your job right you get paid, but if you don't measure up you're fired! Is he a cellmate? He stays on his side of the room and you stay on your side. Is he a hangout buddy, a convict/gangsta/respect thang who knows your heart? Everything is all good, yall cool. Or, could He be a spouse? For rich or poor, through good times and bad, through sickness and health, until death do you part. These are rhetorical questions designed to stir up one's thinking. We are not going to discuss other gods or religions. These answers are yours, these are your personal perceptions. After you have answered them, ask yourself, "where did I get this idea from?" and "could I be wrong?"

Perception of others

People can have distorted perceptions of one another. There is a wide range of things that contribute to the way in which one person perceives another. The reason our perceptions of one another are different is because of our belief systems and the information we receive about others. Information can be misunderstood, misinterpreted, and

misrepresented. The point to be made is that we are often mistaken about other people.

Let's look at some of the perceptions of Christians in the prison system? Think about that for a moment. They are labeled as weak, soft, fake, scared, punks, snitches, "can't handle it"; some are called con-men, trying to get a meal ticket or a free ride out of prison, and many other names. Where did these perceptions come from? These ideas come from information that has been handed down, information that has created wrong perceptions. In taking this idea a little further, I pose the question, why would anybody in their right mind continue to attend church in prison knowing that these are the labels they must wear? Have any of you thugs and convicts ever thought about that? These Christians have basically become targets behind the walls, targets for predators, extortionists, fights, mockery, and persecutions; furthermore, they are lied on, hated on, and gossiped about by fellow cons and staff members alike. Who allows themselves to be treated this way? Maybe it is possible that these men have found something? Maybe this Jesus thing is really real? Maybe these men have found something that has taken the pain away, the shame, the guilt, the hate, the bitterness, the loneliness. Maybe they have found something that has given them love, joy, peace, patience, and forgiveness. Maybe they have found something that has brought that "change" we have been discussing. And, they don't care what people say about them or do to them.

This reminds of this girl in school that no one wanted to go out with—Tanya. I wasn't really interested in her either, besides I was busy chasing after a girl who didn't want anything to do with me. But, Tanya and I happened to stop at the same store every day after school. Eventually, we began to talk to each other and after some time I realized that I really loved this girl. No I didn't go on to marry her, but once I fell for her, I strutted around the school with her, not caring what anybody said or thought about me. She was "my girl" now, and she brought happiness to my life!

Likewise, these jailhouse Christians have found something that has given them something we all want: happiness, peace, love, and a changed life! A change of mind that results in a change of behavior. This is found in Jesus Christ. When you love someone, you do not care what people say or do to you, all that matters, is pleasing the one you love.

"We love Him because He first loved us" (1 Jn. 4:19).

Because of the false perceptions of jailhouse Christians most inmates will never take the time to think about questions like these. They have formed strong opinions and firm beliefs based off of the information they have heard from other convicts. These distorted perceptions of others have blocked them from the changes they desire.

Are there people that you could be wrong about? I know my penitentiary belief system, false information, and influential people caused me to be wrong about someone. When I was in close-custody prison, I met a man they called "Country." He was a great big hillbilly type. I always saw him at church and he was always smiling. He also played volleyball really good. He became my friend and always came to talk to me and even helped influence the unit manager to give me a job. One day, when I was sitting at chow with some of my popular, well-respected, hard-core, super-tough, super cool-guy convict, gangsta, thug "friends," one of them told me that they don't hang out with no child molesters. Of course, I said, "Yeah, me neither." And that's when another guy says, "well, that guy 'Country' that your hanging out with molested his own three-year-old daughter!" What do you think I did with that information? After my perception was changed towards him, I stop associating with him, I slandered and gossiped about him, and hated him. He went from friend to enemy with one piece of information that I was persuaded to believe. Well, later "Country" went back to court and his case was overturned and he was found innocent of the charges. After 15 years of prison and mistreatment from false information, he was freed. I was given an opportunity to tell him that I was sorry for judging him and slandering his name. He easily forgave me and said that he had grown used to it. Country was released from prison, and I learned a valuable lesson: I can easily be persuaded to think and act a certain way by the information that influences my life belief system. I wonder how many friends and blessings I have missed out on by these kinds of devilish persuasions.

Our perception of others is manipulated by the information that we receive, information taught to us by influential people that we trust. Teachers, textbooks, media outlets, family, friends, homeboys, can put a barrier in our minds, a barrier that can block us from the truth about other people. The word of God tells

us that we are all on level ground, meaning, we are all sinners in need of a savior and we are not to judge one another, but leave all judgement to God who judges righteously. This has been designed for us to understand how easily influenced we are in our perceptions of others. We should examine ourselves and ask: could I be wrong in my perception of that person?

Perceptions of self

Even our perception of ourselves can be distorted. One may believe that he is a good person, while another thinks they are a nasty, no good, worthless person. Still, others have the perception that life is a game and they are the master of the game. Have you ever sat in the dayroom and watched the guy who thinks everybody fears him or respects him because he belongs to the little rascal club, the peanut gang, or because he controls the TV schedule? He walks around with an "S" on his chest like he's superman, thinking that he is running something, like he is in charge. What is your perception of this guy? Are you afraid of him? Do you laugh at him? Is his perception of himself the same as your perception? Or, is his perception of himself somewhat distorted? What about the guy who allows others to physically and verbally abuse him, what is his perception of himself? We have men who abuse themselves with drugs, others who will not take showers or brush their teeth, some who are angry and hate themselves. Whether one's perception of themselves are full of pride or shame and guilt, the fact remains, that at the end of the day, every one of us in these prisons are wearing the same clothes; we are wearing another man's recycled boxer shorts and socks. We are all on level ground. We are broken men in need of change/repentance/Jesus, and our perception of ourselves are contributing to blocking us from what we need.

Could these men's perception of themselves contribute to their life problems? In light of this thought process, what does Jesus think of these men? Are you a super-tough-alpha-male gangsta-convict who thinks he's got the game all figured out? Are you a person who has given up on ever having a successful life, a life of stability, love, joy, peace, forgiveness, and freedom from your personal strongholds? Who are you really? What is the truth? Everything can change for you right now. You can get honest and become the *real you* and learn how to have the life God designed you to have, the life that you deserve. Nobody's going

to perceive you any different than they already do, the world is not going to put a spotlight on you because you have decided to get real. Jesus is putting a spotlight on your heart right now and is revealing the truth to you in an attempt to pull down the ideological strongholds in your life and free you from the game and a life of sin. So, take off the mask brother and become a brand new person, the game ain't real anyway!

Prison perceptions, strongholds, and worldviews

Up to this point, we have reasoned with one another: we have concluded that we would like lasting change to come in our lives, however, we have strongholds preventing us from getting the change that we desire. A lot of the information and influences in our lives have led us to believe things about God, others, and ourselves that are not true. The world, flesh, and the devil have set up shop in our minds. Information that was taught to us by influential people has helped shape our perceptions, perceptions that have become ideological strongholds in our lives. These strongholds keep us swimming back and forth like a fish in a bowl—stuck in faulty worldviews. Being wrong about others can create life changing circumstances, being wrong about one's self can cause terrible setbacks in life; but, if one is wrong about Jesus and jailhouse Christianity there are eternal consequences, consequences that not only effect one's personal life and eternity, but husbands, wives, and children as well.

Prison is a world of its own, a world with influential voices that determine what is believed as truth. They say things like: I don't believe in jailhouse religion, you weren't going to church on the street so you ain't supposed to go in here, or I will get my life right with God when I get out, I got more respect for God than to go crying to Him when I get in trouble. Still others believe that they are too rotten for God to love them. Though these ideas sound good enough on the yard, they are not rooted in any facts; instead, they are based off of handed down prison philosophies. They are based on what, "I think" or "I feel." And just like the fish, we are swimming back and forth, back and forth, back and forth, not ever realizing that the food is right in front of us. If these presentations have helped you escape from the stronghold that Satan has set up in your mind and you are now willing to let someone in, we would like to introduce you to Jesus. He wants to come

into your heart as your Lord and transform your life by renewing your thinking; thus, you will experience the changes that you have so desperately desired. For now, would you pray a simple prayer asking God to *reveal Himself* to you and give you assurance that Jesus and jailhouse Christianity is truly the solution to your problems? Jailhouse Christianity is the way, the truth, and the life—Jesus brings lasting change! Whoever told you different has set up an ideological stronghold in your life; and, you have barricaded yourself inside of this false ideology. I know, because I was this person for fifteen years of my incarceration.

Exercise: Did I hear that right?

Now we understand that we all have worldviews, worldviews that have been developed by information and influences in our lives. We have determined that we could have distorted perceptions as a result of how this information was presented to us. Now let's have some fun that will illustrate how easily we can get our information twisted.

This exercise must be done with a partner: Below are seven questions. As you ask these questions, the other person should respond with the first answer that comes to mind.

1. How many of each animal did Moses have on the Ark? (Moses didn't have any animals on the Ark, Noah did!)
2. What do you call the raised print that deaf people use to read? (Deaf people do not use brail, blind people do!)
3. Can you ever end a sentence with the word "the"? (yes, I just did)
4. Spell SHOP. (wait on response then immediately ask next question) What do you do at a green light? No, you GO!
5. At noon, if the big hand is on the three, and the little hand is on the five, what time is it? (No, it is noon!)
6. Spell SILK... (wait on response then immediately ask next question) What do cows drink? No, cows drink water.
7. Last one, okay this is easy: you are driving a train and you have thirty passengers on the train. At the first stop, twenty passengers get off. How many passengers do you have left on the train? Right, ten! What is the name

of the conductor of the train? (It's your name; you are driving the train!)

8. Did you miss any? It is easy to hear something wrong isn't it? Or not pay attention to a key word in someone's statement. One key word can change our entire belief system.

James Benoy, Nash

AFTER A COUPLE YEARS OF BIBLE STUDY AT TILLERY PRISON, I MOVED ON TO CALEDONIA PRISON DUE TO A GOOD INFLUENCE FROM GENE, ROBERTA, AND ROBERT. THIS WAS A MOST REWARDING MOVE FOR ME AND MY WALK WITH THE LORD.

I WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH MASTERLIFE AT THE TIME BUT I SAW WHAT IT ACCOMPLISHED MANY TIMES OVER THE YEARS I WAS INVOLVED IN ITS VOLUNTARY LEADERSHIP.

I MET WITH GUYS WHO GREW UP IN THE CHURCH BUT STRAYED. I MET GUYS WHO DID NOT HAVE ANY CHURCH EXPERIENCE. BUT THE MASTERLIFE PROGRAM DID NOT CARE!

I WITNESSED INTENSE INTEREST IN WHAT THE BIBLE HAD TO SAY ABOUT GOD'S PEOPLE. WHO WERE THERE AT CALEDONIA. "AM I REALLY LOVED BY GOD AFTER WHAT I DID?" THEY BELIEVED!

I SAW MEMORIES THAT HAD NOT BEEN CONSTRUCTIVELY USED FOR MANY YEARS NOW BEING USED TO READ AND RECITE GOD'S WORD!

I SAW JOY IN FACES THAT MAYBE HAD NOT FELT JOY IN YEARS! I SAW AN INTENSE STUDY OF GOD'S WORD THAT WAS RECITED WITH CONFIDENCE EVERY THURSDAY OF OUR SESSION.

I SAW LEADERSHIP IN THIS STUDY OF GOD'S WORD GROWING EVERY WEEK WE MET.

I NOW SEE HOW THAT LEADERSHIP HAS GROWN IN MY FRIEND, WALTER FINLEY, AND HIS CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH THE MASTERLIFE MISSION!

I HAVE SEEN MASTERLIFE REFLECTED IN MY FRIENDS, ZEKE, BENOY, CRAIG, JESSE AND OTHERS WHO ARE NOW IN INTENSE STUDY OF A SEMINARY TRAINING

PROGRAM TO BECOME MINISTERS OF GOD'S WORD IN OTHER PRISONS.

WHAT GREATER REWARD COULD I HAVE THAN HAVING BEEN A TINY PART OF THESE GODLY MEN'S DEDICATION TO GOD'S WORD AND HIS WORK WHICH HE IS ALWAYS DOING AROUND US! JUST LOOK AROUND YOU AND SEE!

WARREN STEPHENSON
ROCKY MOUNT NC

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Please MasterLife brothers, keep my wife Amanda Dudley in your prayers. A few years back, when her mom died suddenly, she turned away from God, thinking He was to blame. Then when I got convicted at my trial, well that didn't help either. She has been sleeping here and there, only going home for a short while at a time. She's distanced herself away from everyone, including me. Please keep her in your prayers. She's an awesome person and I love her dearly. Thank You! **Mark Dudley, Tabor** Let me begin by thanking you for putting my prayer request in the newsletter. I am still waiting for eye surgery, but my vision is still holding on. Your continued prayers are still appreciated. I spoke with the Chaplain earlier today and informed him that I am going forth with MasterLife. The director of education, Heather Warnig will be my staff supervisor. The class will be on Monday afternoon and the chaplain does not work on Mondays. He said we have his blessing. I have been speaking with several guys who are very interested. I told Chaplain Ramsey the students' workbooks would be sent to him. I am not sure of what will be in the starter kit, but I am requesting that you go ahead and send the information for the class. As was stated in my prayer request, I am ready to be on team MasterLife. I have prayed about the class as well as others. We want Alexander on fire

THE KILLING OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Causes behind the closing of thousands of churches annually:

- * Unbelievers in the majority
- * Efforts by LGBTQ to Infiltrate
- * Sexual abuse by the clergy
- * Vocationally called Ministers
- * Lifestyles of church members
- * Efforts by Cults to appear Christian
- * Media liberalism
- * Institutions of Higher Learning
- * Millennials
- * The absence of God within churches

Gene Jackson is the author of "*Reflections Along the Way*," which appeared weekly in two Alabama newspapers; Good Times, Bad Times, Ugly Times: That's Life!; The Pew Warmers: Thorns Among the Wheat; The Arrangement; and is the founder of the Rocky Mount (NC) Writers' Guild. He has a varied vocational background in the fields of education, agriculture, private enterprise, the Christian ministry, and served in the military during World War II and Korea. A graduate of California Baptist University and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, he has served churches in Florida, Alabama, Washington state, California, and North Carolina.

like Nash and others. I will call you again to try to speak to you about my request. Take care, be blessed, and always keep your head up. Sincerely,
Rodney Scott, Alexander

2. I need all the prayer I can get. My father and myself went through a lot. My father raised my sister and myself. My father was found by police 911 call back in June. My father was hooked to a breathing machine. This machine was the only thing breathing for my father. I never in my life ever prayed as much for my father. So, our God in Heaven allowed my father to pull

through. I got to talk to my father on 10/11/19, 4 days before my father's birthday. I said, "Happy Birthday Dad!" My father said, "is it my birthday?". The reason for this prayer is my dad was all I had. This was my home plan. My father passed on 1/26/2020! I don't have another home plan at all. We were supposed to start the MasterLife program here today. We did not! We are working on it though. James Benoy got me in MasterLife at Nash. I really enjoyed it. Benoy is my home boy. I saw some guys I've done time with in this each day change their life as Hambone did. I saw a great difference in him. I've stayed pretty straight here. I'm in service every chance I get. All I have is Jesus when I'm released. I know when the time comes, God will have something planned for me. Just keep me in your prayers. Please, I need all the prayer I can get. Thank all the guys that help get the newsletter out each time and all the hard work you guys put in this. Well, take care, God bless each and every one of you guys. Take care,

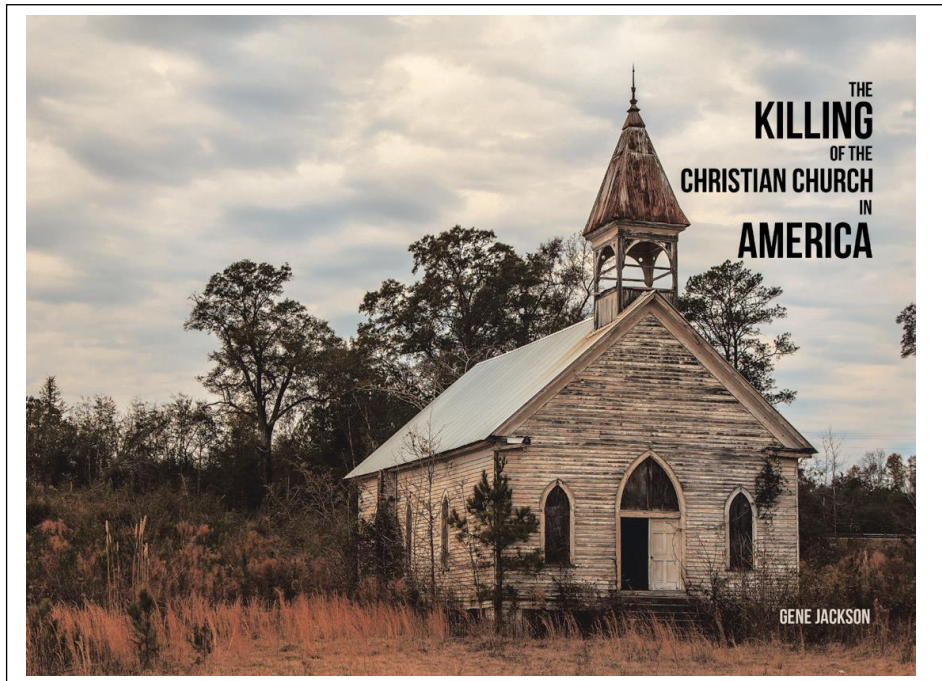
James Stout, Alexander

3. Special prayer and protection for all the inmates and staff for protection from the COVID-19.
4. *MasterLife* group leaders, groups
5. Daily walk in the bible
6. Joe Gibb's Game Plan for Life
7. College at Southeastern and Field Minister program
8. DPS Administration
9. Caledonia's upcoming MasterLife program
10. All chaplains and volunteers in prison ministry
11. Families of the incarcerated
12. Sentencing reform
13. Unity in the body
14. Carroll Penland – health issues
15. Jesse Jones – health issues
16. The North Carolina Field Minister graduates will be received well at the assigned prisons

SPECIAL THANKS

Bequita Mileur, Ken & Rachel Morris, Waltea Swasey for typing the testimonies and articles, **Pat Phillips** for the copying of the newsletters. **Pryor First Baptist Church** for the copying.

Please look up Brother Gene's new book!



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