

Masterlife Ministry, Inc

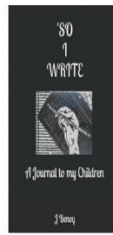
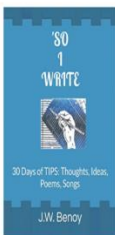
Travis Mileur
P. O. Box 21
Pryor, OK 74362-0021

Masterlife.ministry@gmail.com

www.Masterlifeministry.org



'SO I WRITE JOURNALS



- Do you long to communicate with your children or loved ones?
- Do you have a child or loved one who you can't talk to?
- Do you want to be able to counsel and nurture them? Tell them how amazing they are or simply say I love and miss you!
- Are you weighted down by pain, guilt, shame and/or despair?
- Are your children being left to wonder if they did something wrong, or if you have forgotten them, abandoned them or stopped loving them?

'SO I WRITE' journals provide an incarcerated parent the alternative to risking their letters being rejected, hidden, or destroyed. They can safely record all of the conversations, thoughts, dreams, and ideas that they long to share, while holding on to the hope of one day handing this journal to their child or loved one, saying "not a day has gone by that I did not think of you, miss you, love you, and wish I could be there with you----

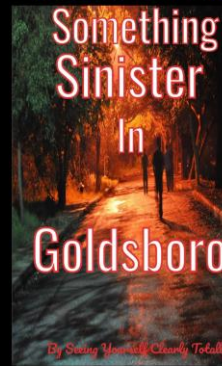
'so, I wrote.'

Check These Out!!!!

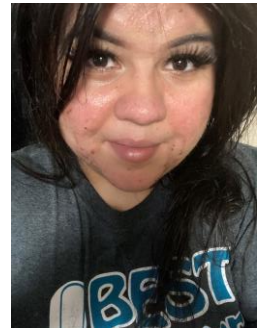


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WALT & LILI





Mrs. Teresa
 Mrs. Donna
 Travis and Bequita
 Rachel with Emery
 Jon and Connie

MASTERLIFE
MINISTRY, Inc.
 NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2022
www.MasterLifeMinistry.org

MASTERING LIFE THROUGH THE POWER OF JESUS CHRIST----IN PRISON

Editor's Note: Blessings MasterLife brothers and sisters! We are sorry to inform you, due to text behind restrictions on page count, MLM is not able to include all of our material in a single issue of the ML Newsletter. However, to resolve this problem, we will be publishing the ML Newsletter bi-monthly. The idea being that we will divide specific ministry material into categories and publish them accordingly. For example, this issues primarily features our Adopt-A-Life Program and our Mastering life After Prison Program. The next MLNL will primarily feature testimonies from various ML groups and group

leaders throughout the North Carolina prison system. Of course, we will continue to publish a Special Christmas Issue as usual. We have further planned to include sections for articles such as: current event, Tony's corner desk, Choosing a Christian Worldview, and a Field-Minister-Forum. These ideas will only flourish through your writing contributions. MLM publishes these NLs at no cost to you and your families for the purpose of glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ; pointing out His work, inside the prisons, through His faithful followers. Our hope is building up the body of Christ, reaching the lost, providing a platform for incarcerated

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COMING NEXT ISSUE:

- Testimonies from MasterLife groups & ML-Ministers
- Rico's: Veteran's-Mastering-Life Ministry

Christians to share their testimonies. We hope that you are encouraged as you enjoy this issue of Master Life Newsletter!

SUCCESSFUL MINISTRY

By IEN, Nash

I recently sat with a group of college students from the North Carolina Field Ministry Program (NCFMP), listening to them discuss their final assignment for their final semester. The question they were to address was: What does successful prison ministry look like? As I listened to their responses, I heard theological answers and personal philosophies communicated in such academic ways that I almost forgot that I was sitting in prison with a bunch of inmates. Weeks passed by after that conversation, yet the question remained fixed in my mind, demanding an answer. So, I began to interview other students from the college, asking them what they thought success in prison ministry looks like. I received an overwhelming amount of response. Then, I interviewed James Benoy, Mr. MasterLife, who had the same assignment. James responded by handing me an index card that read: **"Success is not determined by your accomplishments; success is determined by how bright Jesus shines in your accomplishments - when you fade into the shadows, and you are forgotten in the moment, and all eyes are on Jesus, then you are successful in ministry"** James Benoy. James had given me a beautiful, well thought out response, but I still did not know what that looked like in prison, until Christmas 2021.

Christmas 2021 at Nash Correctional was filled with excitement, Christmas cheer, and Jesus. The men in 2B dorm began making plans, putting posters on the wall, and assigning duties to those who volunteered to help. At chow, I heard guys from other dorms discussing their own plans for a Christmas party in their dorm. And later, I learned that Christmas parties were being planned by inmates in almost every dorm at NCI – WOW!

Well, a couple of days before Christmas I was in the med line overhearing a big debate about who started the whole idea for these Christmas parties. You should have heard the inmate.com versions of the story. Of course, I knew the truth but didn't dare attempt to enter into the debate. Then it hit me – I could see what a successful prison ministry looks like in practice. So, I am writing this article to show you what the Lord has revealed to me.

For the past 15 years, Travis Mileur, President of MasterLife Ministry Inc, has committed his life to discipling, supporting, and collaborating with inmate James Benoy. In return, James utilized this training and support to do what he loves the most: serve

the Lord Jesus Christ and show love to the convicts on the yard. As a result of Travis and James faithfulness, MasterLife Ministry Inc was birthed. This ministry has evolved into MasterLife Adopt-A-Life (AAL), Mastering Life After Prison (MAP), MasterLife Newsletter (MLNL), MasterLife Population Outreach Program (MPOP), MasterLife small groups, and the famous MasterLife Christmas party.

James excitedly tell me the story of how it all began in a small jail in Georgia where he began to head a small MasterLife group with a group of men who could not read. Within a few years it grew to include Bible Trivia, Sunday burritos services, and an annual Christmas part for the entire dorm. 5 years into his ministry, James was approved to hold MasterLife in the prison chapel, visitation room, and gym of every prison location he was housed at. Hundreds of men were attending ML programs; lives were being transformed and families restored. Many men began to start their own ML groups across the state prison system.

James eventually landed in the North Carolina Field Minister Program at NCI in 2017. This did not stop MLM. By the end of his freshman year at the College at Southeastern, James had begun facilitating Sunday burritos for the 80 men in the dorm, administrating Sunday services in the dorm, executing Nash Correctional first Christmas party, and organizing small ML discipleship groups in his dorm.

During his sophomore year, James and his classmates were moved to another dorm where he continued doing what the Lord called him to do – plant churches, administrate, execute outreach to the prison population, disciple men, and host ML Christmas parties.

By his Junior and Senior years, James' impact at NCI had grown throughout the entire facility. There were 8 ML groups in various dorms, Sunday services in 3 dorms, and inmate led Christmas parties in almost every dorm at NCI, - WOW!

Through all of this, James' MLM has never been featured in the NCI Nash News, has never made the paper, and has never been acknowledged by the College at Southeastern – so, no wonder many men don't know the origin of these events.

And, as this 5th year of Christmas events took place in the various dorms, I was in the dorm where I was able to observe James Benoy, Mr. MasterLife, as he sat in the back of the room,

in the shadows, enjoying the Christmas party. James didn't facilitate, administrate, or communicate that he had any part in the event this year, yet it was his God-given vision that inspired so many others. I cannot help but look at this index card and the words coined by James Benoy truly apply to this man's heart: **"Success is not determined by your accomplishments; success is determined by how bright Jesus shines in your accomplishments. When you fade into the shadows, and you are forgotten in the moment, and all eyes are on Jesus, then you are successful in ministry."**

Long after Mr. MasterLife is gone from NCI and DPS, Jesus Christ will still shine through these Christmas parties.

That, my friend, is what successful Prison Ministry looks like!

I.E.N., Nash



CONCENTRATE ON THE FOUR DOTS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PICTURE FOR ABOUT 30 SECONDS.

THEN CLOSE YOUR EYES AND TILT YOUR HEAD BACK. KEEP THEM CLOSED. YOU WILL SEE A CIRCLE OF LIGHT. CONTINUE LOOKING AT THE CIRCLE.

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

What is Adopt-A-Life (AAL)?

MasterLife Ministry's *Adopt-a-Life* program takes prison ministry to the next level by entering into the lives of individual inmates. There are incarcerated men and women serving life sentences who are "sold-out" to Jesus Christ. Their lives have been transformed and they spend their time serving, witnessing, and reaching out to their fellow inmates---in other words, they are our MasterLife ministers!

The problem: many of these Christian brothers and sisters have no ministry partner, outside support or personal mentoring. For others, families have either: abandoned them, divorced them, or died; thus, many of these lifers are living in a hostile prison-mission-field without the encouragement and support that is given to other missionaries.

The solution: YOU! You can become a ministry partner: alongside one of our MasterLife-ministers and co-labor in their ministry. Whether it is through letters, phone calls, visits, or financially, you can make a world of difference in the life of a MasterLife-minister----

Contact us at:

MasterLife-Ministry@gmail.com



AAL Ministry Partner

Travis Mileur

Me, adopt someone? You maybe thinking, there is no way. But you have amazing skills developed over years of raising kids and a family. These interpersonal skills could help a person in prison. They need someone to talk to, believe in them, be a sounding board. No telling why they are there but what can you do to show Jesus in each conversation? Encouragement, wisdom, practical advice, and maybe a birthday gift or Christmas food package. Your investment into him may be instrumental in their life, may impact their life (and yours?). Is it worth a chance? Do you feel a call to help, we could use your help. We have 450 inmates on our mailing list and at least 20 are on the AAL waiting list.



AAL - Ministry Partner

James Benoy

First year of my walk with Christ, I met Travis Mileur, a man who was in Prison Ministry. He disciplined me through a program called Master Life Discipleship Program – written by Avery T. Willis, Jr., Southern Baptist Missionary, Pastor, President of Indonesia Baptist Theological Seminary, and later working for the Christian Development Division of the Sunday School Board for the Southern Baptist Convention. He taught me the foundational tools to stay rooted in Christ. But what impacted me the most is that after the program was over and we both moved on to other places. He kept in touch with me, encouraged me, and helped me get up when I was down. He never gave up on me. This man walked me from a Spiritual Child to a rooted and grounded Disciple of Jesus Christ. Travis sent books to me to help me in my studies; he blessed me with a monthly allowance to help with canteen items. He became a Spiritual Father to me. I was like Timothy☺. Well, I was being blessed so much by all of this, that I would share coffee and oatmeal pies, etc. It felt good to help others. Not realizing that I was building relationships in the process. Then it happened!! Some of the guys I had been making friends with asked me if I would help them read the Bible (two of them could not read, I found out later). So, I brought some candy mints and coffee and we sat down and prayed and started in the Gospel of John. Later on, in my cell, The Holy Spirit began to remind me of the Disciple's Cross presentation from MasterLife class. The next day I began teaching. Since then, this little Bible study has grown into a ministry, called MasterLife Ministry, Inc; a ministry that over 1000 men have been disciplined through. Travis is my teacher, my Spiritual Father, my co-laborer in ministry, my encourager but most of all, he is my friend. I have a New Future, a New Hope, a New Family – GOD gave it to me☺! I am not in prison anymore; **I am on the Mission Field. James Benoy**



AAL Ministry Partner

Rebecca Keeter-Lee

Hello, all MasterLife followers and disciples: It has been several months since the last time I wrote for the

MasterLife Newsletter. I want to express the joy I receive when I read all your contributions to the ministry and newsletter!! Since the last time I contributed an article, my husband Andy and I dedicated ourselves to helping further the work of our Lord, by providing support through the *Adopt-A-Life* Program. Kirston Angell, who is a recent graduate of the *North Carolina Field Minister Program*, has displayed the fortitude that a field minister must possess, to minister for the Glory of the Kingdom of God.

I have been in the field of educating and providing encouragement to numerous youth who are residing in facilities for troubled teens. These youth have addiction, PTSD, sexual abuse, mental health, legal, criminal, violence, and several issues that they receive help with. Of all of the problems that these youth face, they deal with the problem of trust. They do not trust others or others do not trust them. Trust, when broken, is a difficult trait to regain, whether it is trusting others or gaining the trust of others. But God provides this message:

Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV, *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths”.* (NKJV: New King James Version)

Many in society do not trust inmates and do not entertain the thought of helping them. Andy and I have placed our trust in the Lord, and that Kirston Angell will receive our support and use it to minister to those who also need that trust, love and forgiveness. If God had not placed me in the position that I have been in, working with troubled youth, I may not be as “trusting” as I am right now. I have listened to them cry because they can't be trusted, or they can't trust anyone. However, there is hope in Christ Jesus, that trust can be returned, by allowing Him to direct your paths!!

My prayer is that God will work through Kirston's ministering to reach those who will receive His message of love, repentance, forgiveness, and TRUST in Him with their whole hearts.

In Christ's Holy Name, Amen.

Rebecca Keeter-Lee, MAT, PhD(c)



AAL - Ministry Partner

Kirston Angell, MasterLife Minister

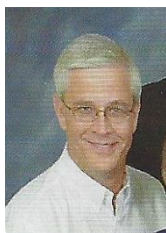
The status of being a prisoner carries with it many negative connotations. Inmates are often viewed as evil, manipulative, violent,

and selfish. In some cases, this rings true and many of the stigmas and stereotypes placed on the incarcerated are reinforced. However, there are some people who truly reach the end of themselves during their tenure behind these walls. For me, the end of myself came at the beginning of my relationship with Jesus Christ. When I believed the gospel message, Jesus began to work in my heart. The things I used to love and pursue---drugs, money, women, respect, and acknowledgement---began to fade away. As I continued to grow in Christ through discipleship groups like Master life, I learned that I wasn't just merely saved



from the penalty of my sins. Christ saved me by his grace in order to bring him glory and honor through my testimony, lifestyle, good works, and helping other understand God's word. While my heart, mind, morals, and values changed as I drew closer to Christ, my incarceration did not. Incarceration itself presents many obstacles, especially in reference to developing positive relationships, acquisition of resources like study bibles, dictionary's, discipleship books, correspondence courses, etc. My partnership with Mrs. Becky Keeter-Lee through the Adopt-a-Life program has led to a good friendship, mutual encouragement, and various levels of support. I just graduated from the North Carolina Field Minister program, and I am awaiting a transfer to Foothill's Correctional. While I don't know exactly what my job will entail, I know that my Adopt-a-Life partner has my back. Becky prays for me and offers encouragement by messaging on our tablet system. Becky also selflessly gives of her resources by placing funds in a ministry purposes account set up through Master life Inc. so that I will always have access to the study materials I need to provide for any bible studies or small discipleship groups that I lead. To be supported and trusted in such a way makes me feel valued as a human being. And for that, I say Thank you Becky. I am extremely grateful.

Kirston Angell, NCFM, Pastor, Evangelist, Christian Apologist, Foothills



AAL Ministry Partner

Brother Robert Sparkman

When Bro. Travis first approached me about becoming a pen pal with an inmate at CCI I was quick to answer with a hardy yes. As

we so often do, I quickly began asking myself, what have I just committed too? The Holy Spirit instantaneously reminded me it was my responsibility to visit those in prison and in so doing you will be doing it to JESUS (Matthew 25:36). In this instance, I considered writing the equivalent of visiting. My initial goal in becoming a pen pal was lofty, but Biblical. I simply wanted to do the following 2 things:

1) 1Thessalonians 5:11 "Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing."

Hebrews 3:13 "But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."

2) Serve JESUS by visiting those in prison thru writing letters to them. (Matt. 25:36).

Within a short amount of time, I discovered that Tim Jones was a great encourager himself. I discovered he was filled with the Holy Spirit. I discovered his cursive writing was far superior to mine in beauty, HA! I discovered that maintaining this relationship thru writing was going to require some dedication, time & effort which in the end is richly rewarding. Most of all I feel I have received far more than I have given as Bro. Tim has become a friend I know I will see one day in heaven.

Brother Robert Sparkman



AAL - Ministry Partner

Tim Jones

One of the most blessed experiences that I have ever had was being partnered together with a man that

has become my forever brother, my friend, my mentor, my faithful prayer warrior Robert Sparkman through the MasterLife Adopt a Life ministry. For six years now Robert and I have shared and built a relationship with each other as Christ as our central focus. It has been nothing but God ordained and I have been encouraged, strengthened, and have grown so much spiritually as a result of my relationship with Robert made possible by the Adopt a Life ministry. I truly thank the Lord for blessing me with a truly sold out for Jesus servant of God that I can sincerely claim as my friend and brother throughout all eternity!!!!

Brother Tim Jones, MLM Senior Partner

AAL - Ministry Partner

MasterLife Volunteer Warren Stephenson

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!

ISAW 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

(Brother Warren became a mentor to Walter while at Caledonia Correctional. He has continued their friendship after release. In return, Walter and Lily have adopted several men who they personally support through their new ministry.)



**AAL -
Ministry
Partner**

**MasterLife
Volunteer
Joe Johnson**

I WOULD
LIKE TO
APPLAUDE
THE
PROGRAM
AND ITS

FACILITATORS IN MANY OF THE PENAL INSTITUTIONS OF THE MASTERLIFE PROGRAM. IT IS SUCH A GREAT PROGRAM WHICH INTRODUCES MEN TO JESUS CHRIST, OR ENHANCES SOMEONE'S RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM, AND TEACHES HOW TO GROW IN A REALTIONSHIP THAT IS LIFE ALTERING AND THOUROUGHLY ENRICHING IN EVERY WAY. GOD ALMIGHTY IN ALL HIS ULTIMATE WISDOM HAS SENT HIS OWN SON TO GIVE HIS LIFE, IN SUCH DEGRADATION AND HUMILIATION; ONCE AND FOR ALL TO FREE US FROM OUR SINS THROUGH REPENTANCE, WHICH REMOVES OUR GUILT. HE GIVES US OUR REASON FOR EXISTING AND FOR OUR ULTIMATE PLACE IN A UNIVERSE WHERE GOD IN CHRIST CREATED ALL THAT IS AND IS EVEN MIRACULOUSLY MARVELOUS IN THIS CURRENT FALLEN STATE OF THIS WORLD.

I AM JOSEPH JOHNSON. I AM A BORN AGAIN BELIEVER IN GOD ALMIGHTY, AND HIS BLESSED SON JESUS CHRIST, AND AM NOW INDWELT (FILLED) WITH GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT. I MADE THIS DECISION EARLY IN LIFE, BUT LIKE MANY OTHERS DIDN'T TAKE MY FAITH FOR WHAT IT WAS, BUT HAVE GROWN A GREAT DEAL THROUGH GOD'S GRACE AND THE LIGHT AND FREEDOM THAT I NOW HAVE IN JESUS CHRIST. I'M AT AN AGE WHERE I CAN LOOK BACK AND SEE THE HAND OF GOD IN MY LIFE, HELPING ME ALL THE WAY.

I HAVE LED A VERY PRIVILEGED LIFE, AND HAVE SOME EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES WHICH HAVE ENHANCED MY LIFE AND UNDERSTANDING. AFTER GRADUATION FROM HIGH SCHOOL, I RECEIVED A B.S. DEGREE IN HORTICULTURE SCIENCE. I WORKED IN THE LANDSCAPE/NURSER FIELD FOR SOME YEARS. AFTER A LIFE ALTERING SITUATION, I THOUGHT I SHOULD DO, OR AT LEAST TRY TO DO SOMETHING I HAD THOUGHT ABOUT AFTER GRADUATION HIGH SCHOOL. THAT WAS TO PREPARE

MYSELF TO SERVE GOD. MY INITIAL THOUGHTS WERE TO BECOME A MISSIONARY TO AFRICA. ALWAYS THOUGHT AFRICA WAS COOL! I THEN WENT AND RECEIVED A MASTER OF DIVINITY FROM SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY. FOLLOWING MY GRADUATION FROM THERE I FOUND A DPS CLINICAL CHAPLAINCY POSITION WHICH I FOLLOWED FOR NINE YEARS. I RESIGNED THAT POSITION IN 2013. ALWAYS MISSED MY CHAPLAINCY JOB, BUT THE THEN GOVERNOR DELETED CHAPLAINS AT ALL BUT THE CLOSE CUSTODY LEVEL INSTITUTIONS.

I HAVE REMAINED IN CONTACT WITH THE LEADER OF THE MASTERLIFE MINISTRY SINCE THAT TIME. I WANTED TO ENCOURAGE HIM AND I LIKED TO STAY CONNECTED. HE IS A VETERAN TO THE WORKINGS OF PRISON INSTUTIONS AND HAS SOME OF THE NEATEST IDEAS HOW TO REACH MEN AND ENCOURAGE THEM IN THEIR PURSUIT OF GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. I'M JUST AS PROUD OF HIM AS IF HE WERE MY SON, AND HE IS A GO GETTER WHO PERHAPS NEEDS TO SLOW DOWN SOME, BUT I AM ENCOURAGED BY HIS CONSTANT ENTHUSIASM FOR THE MASTERLIFE PROGRAM.

I HAVE RECENTLY, THIS YEAR, BEGUN AN "ADOPT A LIFE" MISSION WITH A MOST INTELLEGTENT MAN WHO HAS A GREAT PASSION FOR THE STATE OF MEN'S SALVIFIC SATE AND HAS COMPLETED THE SOUTHEASTERN SEMINARY COURSE INSTITUTED AT NASH CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION. WITH WHOM I AM VERY IMPRESSED. HAVEN'T MET HIM YET BUT CORRESPOND WITH HIM. I TOLD HIM THAT I'M CLAIMING ONE HALF (1/2) OF THE LIVES HE DIRECTS TO THE LORD. HA HA, BUT I AM SERIOUS. I HAVE SUCH GREAT EXPECTATIONS FOR HIM, AND FEEL HE IS MOST CAPABLE THROUGH THE GIFTS GOD HAS GIVEN HIM. IT IS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR ME AS WELL. I GET ENCOURAGED, AND DO SO WANT TO KEEP HIM ENCOURAGED AND GROWING. I ALSO WANT TO HELP HIM IN HIS PERSONAL GROWTH, FOR I AM CONVINCED THE MORE HONEST WE ARE WITH OURSELVES, THE GREATER OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD MAY GROW.

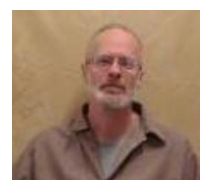
I AM HOPEFUL AND PRAYING FOR GOD TO LIFT OTHERS UP WHO HAVE SO MUCH TO SHARE, THAT THEY TOO MAY GET INVOLVED WITH THE LIVES OF INCARCERATED MEN TO ENCOURAGE THEM WITH THEIR GOD GIVEN GIFTS OF

ENCOURAGEMENT AND FAITH, TO HELP SOMEONE WHO OTHERWISE FEELS LONELY TO GET CONNECTED TO ONE IN THE CHRISTIAN FAITH.

HAVING SERVED AS A CHAPLAIN AT ODOM, WARREN AND CALEDONIA; I HAVE SEEN THE LIVES OF MEN AND AM AWARE OF ALL THE DISTRACTIONS THAT ARE PRESENT FOR MEN INCARCERATED AT ANY INSTITUTION. EVERYONE HAS A GOD SHAPED VOID IN THEIR LIFE AND ALL ARE LOOKING FOR IT. WITH A PROGRAM LIKE MASTERLIFE, HERE IS A PERSONAL GROWTH PROGRAM WITH THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF CREATING IN THEM THE LIKENESS OF JESUS CHRIST AND AN ETERNAL HOPE FOR REWARDS WHEN THIS LIFE IF FINISHED. NOT TO MENTION THE GLORIOUS LIFE HERE AND NOW. THE PEACE, REST AND FULFILLMENT THAT COMES WITH A GENUINE RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST AND GOD OUR FATHER, AND BECOMING A CHILD/SON OF GOD. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE POSSESSES THE MOST IN FAITH, MYSTERIES, LOVING FULFILLMENT AND GOODNESS THAT SEEM TO BE WHAT I HAVE SEEN IN OTHERS SEARCHING FOR IN THE OTHER RELIGIOUS GROUPS. THERE IS MORE OF EVERYTHING OFFERED BY GOD OUR FATHER TO KEEP ONE PEEKED WITH THE POSSIBILITIES THAT GOD CAN ACCOMPLISH IN EACH MAN'S/PERSON'S LIFE. WITH ONE'S ACCEPTANCE OF JESUS CHRIST AS THEIR LORD, AND THEIR SAVIOR; THERE IS SUCH A WONDERFUL LIFE THAT MAY FOLLOW. THERE IS ALL THE FORGIVENESS THAT ANYONE COULD NEED IN OUR LORD. WE'RE NOT AN EXCLUSIVISTIC FAITH GROUP FOR WE INVITE EVERYONE WHO WILL TO EMBRACE A RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

I AM GRATEFUL TO GOD FOR THE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BE A PART OF THIS AAL PROGRAM, AND AM VERY GLAD TO BE CONNECTED WITH ANOTHER YOUNGER MAN WHO I THINK WILL BE QUITE SOMETHING IN THE FUTURE FOR OUR LORD.

Reverend Joe Johnson



**AAL - Ministry
Partner**

I am **Charles Anthony Ball**, and I am now in the Adopt-a-Life program, in order to better serve

those whom I'm trying to reach with the Gospel. Through the use of MasterLife series books, believers both new and matured can

learn how to answer the "what next?" question and live a Christ-centered life. Within the context of doing the MasterLife Ministry, those of us serving others often run into stumbling blocks...and this is where Adopt-a-Life comes in. Adopt-a-Life is useful in this ministry, as it provides a means of much needed encouragement, a way of assisting us through struggles with funding for the ministry, and a manner in which an outside source can be a spiritual mentor guiding us in here with their wisdom and experience. James Benoy paired me with an amazingly supportive co-laborer, spiritual mentor, and ministry partner. As I'm not sure if this person wants their name mentioned, I will refrain from doing so. The ministry partner has provided all of these areas of support. I was set to deploy to Warren Correctional, our new mission field on Friday January 15th, but a couple days prior, Covid hit here at Nash. Again. The same thing happened December 2020, when Covid lockdowns stopped the small group Bible study ministry I was leading in Unit 3 with two other brothers. The Devil is definitely warring against the ministry. However, I look forward to "boots on the ground" ministry involvement at Warren as soon as we are released to transfer. God Bless you all.

Charles Anthony Ball, NCFM, BA Pastoral Ministries, Warren

AAL - Ministry Partner

By Jonathan Ramirez, Piedmont Minister

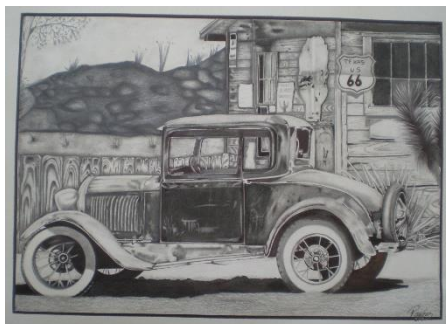


Hello, my name is Jonathan Ramirez. I have a life without parole sentence, yet Jesus Christ granted me freedom from the confinement that sin was

wrecking in my life. Christ redeemed me and gave me a purpose: to share his love, grace, mercy, and the gospel message with other men behind these walls. Without the help and support of my ministry partner through the Adopt-a-life program, I would be severely limited and much more struggle to find the materials I need to do ministry. As a man, I have always been self-dependent, and I've always said "I don't need nothing from nobody" I came to learn that is just pride speaking. When I ban others from helping me help others then I am actually working against those in the church. I limit the exercise of their gifts which are used for the edification and building up of the church (Rom. 12:4-12; 1Cor 12). My AAL partner has helped me realize I don't have to walk this path alone. I don't have to minister alone, ministry can be troublesome and draining work, but my

partner encourages me and pray for me. I don't want to let Jesus down, nor do I want to fail my partner or those I am ministering too. Adopt-a-life has inspired me, encouraged me, and boldened me to step up in my service to others. I thank God that he gave me a friend, a sister in Christ, a true servant who makes me a better person.

Jonathan Ramirez, Piedmont



Hola, mi nombre es Jonathan Ramirez. Tengo una sentencia de cadena perpetua sin libertad condicional, sin embargo, Jesucristo me concedió la libertad del encierro que el pecado estaba causando en mi vida. Cristo me redimió y me dio un propósito: compartir su amor, gracia, misericordia y el mensaje del Evangelio con otros hombres detrás de estas paredes. Sin la ayuda y el apoyo de mi compañero de ministerio a través del programa Adopte una vida, mi capacidad para encontrar los materiales que necesito para hacer mi ministerio estaría severamente limitada. Como hombre, siempre he sido autodependiente, y siempre he dicho "No necesito nada de nadie", pero aprendí que eso es solo orgullo hablando. Cuando impido que otros me ayuden a ayudar a otros, en realidad estoy obrando en contra de los de la iglesia. Limito el ejercicio de sus dones que son usados para la edificación y edificación de la iglesia (Rom. 12:4-12; 1Cor 12). Mi socio de Adopt-A-Life me ha ayudado a darme cuenta de que no tengo que recorrer este camino sola. No tengo que ministrar solo. El ministerio puede ser un trabajo problemático y agotador, pero mi pareja me alienta y ora por mí. No quiero defraudar a Jesús, ni quiero fallar a mi pareja o a aquellos a quienes estoy ministrando. Adopt-a-life me inspiró, me animó y me animó a intensificar mi servicio a los demás. Doy gracias a Dios que me dio una amiga, una hermana en Cristo, una verdadera servidora que me hace un mejor persona.

Jonathan Ramirez, NCFM, BA Pastoral Ministries, Piedmont

Dear MLM partners,

First off, I want to say how proud I am of this ministry, my two sons, and all of the men behind the prison fences who are serving the Lord. Whether you are involved with MasterLife Ministry, or are a NC Field Minister,

or serving in some other capacity, my husband and I are blessed to see and hear the sincere changes that are being made in the prisons.

I am writing this article to share how blessed I have been to be a part of the Adopt-A-Life Program. Although I initially committed to support one lifer in the ministry, being on so many of your tablets has given me an opportunity to connect with several of you. So, I feel like I have adopted all of you.

Apart from the radical transformation of our sons, what inspired us to be a part of this ministry was a very touching letter from Tony to my husband. My husband felt as though God had touched him through that letter. So, if we can return that touch by encouraging you all in some way, then we will. God bless you!

I hope you enjoy the art supplies!

"I didn't give you life - Life gave me you."

Your sister and mom in Christ, Ms. Debra



AAL - Ministry Partner

By Pastor Willie Lee Martin III

I use not these words for mere flattery of

conscience but because our Lord Jesus has performed an amazing work in my life. I attended one of the roughest elementary schools in Durham, North Carolina while raised in one of the most abusive environments. I lived in a continuation of fear and joy. Then, due to my artistic ability that was refined under the pressures of home, school, and life I was chosen to attend one of the most prestigious middle-high schools in Durham – Durham School of the Arts. This was a school of extreme diversity. Here God poured into my life, skills of computer graphics and art design, pottery, photography, piano, guitar, theatre, singing and the list goes on. Then my heart died – my grandmother, she was my inspiration and motivation. When she died, I died. I dropped out of school with a year remaining. I began to live a life cultured by the streets of my city. From gang affiliation, to drugs, selling drugs, unfaithful and abusive relationships, selling women via prostitution, buying sexual favors, alcohol, addiction to pornography etc.

For 17 years of my life, as many say, was a roller coaster ride of ups and downs. Being molested by my aunt and brother, placing myself in the system of foster care and group homes, to homelessness and beyond. This is only the tip of the iceberg. BUT GOD!!!

Finally became all the way involved more than ever before because I'd hit my perceived rock bottom that landed me in Durham's County Jail, and I cried all the way out in complete surrender. Ever since that day, October 22, 2015, our Savior appointed me and chose me to His ministry as a pastor. At that time in life, I had no idea what that truly meant, but His Spirit fell upon me strongly giving me desires and a zeal to do in a way greater than the desire or zeal I had to live the life I was living. I started preparing songs and sermons for service as God used me to be a fisher of men in that county jail and throughout my incarceration.

Today, after seven long years, I'm ordained as a pastor. Right after my ordination at Harnett Correctional Institution where I eventually met Bro. James Benoy and he introduced me to the ministry he, Bro. Travis, and his family established, which is the full work of God, MasterLife Ministry Inc.. I began to sit in on his sessions to see what God was doing with him in and through this ministry. I experienced a great work of God through these sessions for the oppressed in chains, so I in support of my brothers ministry and Jesus's Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20), committed myself as a partner and co-laborer of MasterLife's mission in raising up leaders and sincere, genuine followers of Jesus Christ and not mere fanatics of Jesus, training them up, getting involved, and unconditionally as well as sacrificially loving them as they go through their individual sanctification processes like a farmer who plants a seed and patiently endures as he waits for the harvest of his labor and toil. Blood, sweat, and tears I'm willing to give to each of these men regardless to how challenging it gets. Jesus was patient with me for 30 years, I can at least be patient with those in whom I've been entrusted to shepherd.

Being a MasterLife Minister over my own group has been exciting in every way. From opening up with letting my family know how much I love them, to sharing what we are thankful for daily, opening up in prayer or conversational prayer, ice-breaker questions for building and bonding, memorization of scripture, working through the MasterLife books by Avery T. Willis, working through one another's personal or ideological strongholds, and so forth. My focus and goal as a minister for MasterLife is pointing these men to Jesus and encouraging them to STAND and CONTINUE in the FAITH no matter what life throws their way. Staying faithful to Christ and the family of believers.

In the process of doing this and being faithful as Jesus has taught me, our brother in Christ, James Benoy, has

introduced me to Bro. J.D. (Jon Daniels) and Bro. Tony (Pastor) of Bayshore Community Church. Me, along with my group of 10, want to extend our thanks to you not only adopting my life, but theirs as well. Bayshore, before I ever knew you would become a part of my life, I prayed that you would. I always earnestly pray that GOD will place those in my life that need to be so that I may fulfill His will in my life and to immediately remove those who don't need to be unless they are intended as a learning curve. I've prayed for you and our brothers and sisters throughout the world daily, for your comfort, protection, provision, guidance, your purpose being fulfilled, and Holy Spirit empowered lives. I truly love you for loving me not even knowing me. Because of MasterLife, the scripture becomes a reality. "Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful". (1 Cor. 4:2) and "from everyone who has been given much, much will be required, and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked". (Luke 12:48) Jesus has called for my life that He may lift it up, so shall it be given, so shall it be raised by Him. MasterLife Ministry, by GOD, has entrusted unto me not just finances, celebratory meals, coffee, candy, or cookies but GOD has entrusted me with His word and the souls of those He put before me, and I try my best not to take that lightly. I just pray that I won't let the family name we bare together down. As long as I prioritize Jesus over all that's the start. So again, I say, My Dearly Loved Family, thank you all for your much needed support, charity, and hopefully prayers daily. I'll be home June 10, 2023, and maybe GOD will afford me the opportunity to trip out to Florida with you all to see the one in whom you're investing in.

Pastor Willie Lee Martin III, Lumberton

Prayer List: for those MasterLife participants who are MasteringLife after prison

JEFFERY AFFOLDER, DAVID AIKEN, WILLIAM ALLISON, SOLOMON ANDERSON, MARCUS ARCHER, SCOTT ATKINS, CHARLES ATKINSON, DWIGHT BADGER, BRYAN BARE, DR GARY BARNES, JONATHON BERRY, BRANDON BLACKWELL, JOSEPH BOWLING, WAYLAN BRADFORD, KEVIN BRAXTON REGINA BRIDGES, JOHNNY BULLINS, MATTHEW CAMPBELL, LONNIE CASSELL, DONNIE CHAPMAN, TRACY CLARK, ADAM COTTLE, JAMES COURTNEY, JOSEPH CRAWFORD, DAVID CUNNINGHAM,

DERRICK DIXON, ALAN DRY, CLAUDE ELLIOTT, ANDREW EWING, WALTER FINLEY, TONY FLOYD, LINWOOD FOSTER, ROBERT FOX, RANDY FURLOUGH, MALCOLM GARNER, REGINALD GLOVER, TYRIE GONZALEZ, QUENTIN GYIER, TELVIN HAGWOOD, LARRY HAIR, MIKE HARRIS, NICHOLAS HARRISON, MICHAEL HARVEY, RICHARD HAWKINS, CHAD HICKS, ANTHONY HILL, ROBERT HILL-BEY, SIDNEY HOFFMAN, JOHN HOLLANDER, JASON HOLLISWORTH, CLIFTON HOUSE, ELIJAH HUMES, DENNIS JACKSON, MICHAEL JARRETT, CLAY JEFFERSON, MELVIN JENKINS, DENNIS JOHNSON, KEVIN JOLLY, DANIEL JONES, JOHNNY JONES, JAHRESE JONES, JOSEPH KNIGHT, DON LONG III, RUDY LOPEZ, WILLIAM LOWERY, TORIANO LUMPKIN, PHILLIP MACKEY, JAMES MCBRIDE, ANTHONY MCCOY, VANN MCDONALD, FLETCHER MCLEAN, THOMASMCNICHOLS, ANTOINE MELTON, ANTHONY MESSER, DAVID MILLER JR, SANTANNA MITCHELL, CARLON MOBLEY, NATHANMONTGOMERY, JUSTIN MOORE, DERRICK MOORE, TIMOTHY NEIDHARDT, KENYON NELSON, JASON PARKER, DONALDPARKER, QUINTON PARSONS, TRENTON PEARSON, CHAD PEARSON, CARROLL PENLAND, JIMMY PENNELL, ANTHONY PERKINS, VINCENT PICKARD, JUNIOUS PITTMAN, MARSHALL POPE, BRANDON POTTER, JOE POWELL, ARCHIE POWELL, ERVIN PRATT, AARON PRETTY, LARENCE PROFFITT, MICHAEL QUENGA, OTIS QUICK, LARRY REVELS, RICK RICHARD, JOSEPH RILEY, HENRY ROBERTSON, JUSTIN SHOEMAKE, OTIS SHORT, SEAN SIZEMORE, BRETT SLAVEY, TONY SLOAN, PAUL SMITH, REGGIE SMITH, FRANKIE SMITH III, THOMASSNEAD, WILLIAM SOPRANO, SHAUN SPICER, TRACY SPIVEY, DAMIEN STANFORD, LARRY STANLEY, SERGIO VASQUEZ, DAQ VIRGIL, EARL WADE, SHAWN WALKER, THOMAS WARD, GARY WHITE, MICHAEL WILES, EDWARD WILLIAMS, CLARENCE WILLIAMS, GERROD WILLIAMS, JONATHAN WILLIAMS, GARRETT ZABLOUDIL

Mastering-Life After Prison (MAP)

Many men who have been involved in MLM are now flourishing on the outside! Former addicts and habitual offenders alike, have broken the revolving-door cycle by learning to MasterLife through the power of Jesus Christ. Below are testimonies and a prayer list of the men. MAP is an idea that wishes to follow up with the lives of these men, assisting them in whatever areas that we can. Thus far, MLM has assisted with vehicles, cellphones, clothing, shoes, food, shelter, job & ministry opportunities. This idea, at the moment is an office with very limited resources or management---HELP WANTED!!!

By Kevin Jolly



Finally....after all of those years locked up, I get to write an article for the Mastering-life After Prison (MAP) section of the ML Newsletter. I used to

lay on my bunk and dream about this article:-) And now I pray for the day that you are out here Mastering-life [through the power of Jesus Christ] After Prison. Mastering life through the power of Jesus Christ in prison or after prison can be tricky. I like to compare it to driving down the road in a heavy snowstorm: you think you are being cautious enough, going slow enough, staying alert enough, then you hit an ice-covered section of highway, and whoooooh!!! At times like these you remember that you have no control: it does no good to hit the brakes, the gas, or try to steer the wheel; all you do is start praying....Jeeeeesuuuuuus!

Before I tell you my Mastering-life After Prison story, I feel that it is important to begin with my Mastering-life in Prison story:

First of all, when I hit the yard at Caledonia Correctional, serving God wasn't even on my radar; I was "going hard on the yard!" I served my time on the ball court, bangin', fighting, hustling, and getting high. My selfish, narcissistic, survival instincts had driven my entire family out of my life, but served me well in prison---I fit right in. But secretly I was one miserable dude who wanted to be a

different person. I just understood that prison is not the place to be getting soft. Then I began to notice these MasterLife guys everywhere I turned. They were like a gang of happy-dudes; always smiling, hanging out together, and looking out for one another. Some of them would speak to me and invite me to the Master Life Program they had in the gym. Then I heard they had free writing supplies, free hygiene items, and all-you-can-eat free chicken & pizza party at the end! Then one of the Homeys from my set told me that if you can get close to that Benoy guy, you'll be straight, because he's got money and he looks out! I thought to myself, this is my meal ticket; I'm going to infiltrate this program, get in good with Benoy, and ride out my time. Being the narcissistic and self-confident person that I am, utilizing the masterminded skills that I have, being well versed in scripture as well as the 48 laws of power, my plans would be easily executed. So, I signed up for Master Life, and here is what happened that forever changed my life: During the first MasterLife meeting, Benoy was the speaker, giving an introduction to ML speech. Somewhere in the speech he began to prophesy, saying something like, "God wants to do something in your life, He wants to reveal Himself to you, but you won't get real...you won't lay down your old life and allow him in." Benoy said, "if you will make a decision that you are going to put your life in hold, separate from the yard, erase everything that you think about Christianity & jailhouse religion, and open your heart & apply the principles of this program, I promise you on the authority of the Word of God that Jesus Christ will manifest Himself to you in a very real way." But, you have to ask Him, you have to seek Him, you have to look for Him to show up. What does that look like? Simple: say, "Lord, I need to know if you are real, show me!" Then, obey Him. What does that look like? For now, you have obeyed Him by being here. and for the next fourteen weeks, the men of God in this MasterLife will teach you principle that you will apply to your life--- that is obeying Him. So, how does He reveal Himself to you? It is different for everyone, but God knows what to do in YOUR life for you to see Him. For some of you, God will show up through a letter in the mail from someone; for others He will show up through some need being met; somebody will get reconnected with a loved one that you haven't heard from in years; for some it will be something as simple as a cup of coffee from a stranger. But, you have to look for Him. And when you see Him, tell somebody!" Benoy said, "don't you want to know if this Jesus thing

is real? don't you deserve to know the truth? I challenge you to settle this matter once and for all!" Now I might not have preached that exactly the way Benoy did, but, all I know is I prayed right then and told God that I was going to give Him all,; but I really needed Him to show up---and show up he did!!!

Before I proceed to tell you what happened next, I need to say: by no means am I preaching that God is a genie in a bottle. However, I do believe that God blesses people in similar ways that fathers give gifts to their children---little kids get candy and toys, older children get things they need like socks and shoes, and still grownups get to work and raise other children. With that said, God blessed me with candy:-)

When I left that MasterLife class and was called to the unit managers office. When I got there, Unit manager Jones handed me a piece of paper that had a name and phone number on it---I broke down and wept---it was my dad! I hadn't heard from him in over a decade. I began to thank God! I remembered what I had just prayed less than 30 minutes ago in ML class. And I realized that God showed up. After leaving Jones' office, I went to find Benoy and tell him what had happened; that he had just prophesied this. He smiled and said, "God's always doing that kind of stuff, and he'll keep on doing it for those whose hearts are fully committed to Him, who will thank Him and brag about Him." And brothers, I have continued to do just that...and He has continued to pour out blessing after blessing in my life. And The Lord gave me the power to MasterLife in prison: He delivered me from the gang life, hustling, getting high, conning, and lying; He made a way for me to move in the block with Benoy, completed the 24-week ML workbook series, I joined the choir, became a ML-Minister, wrote my own ML material, became a chapel clerk, and began to mentor other inmates--- God showed up at every turn!!! Then I was released...

With this comparison, I want to be clear that practically there is a huge difference in Mastering life in prison and mastering life after prison; and as I tell my story, I will explain: While Mastering life in Prison, one is immediately and daily surrounded by the encouragement, accountability, and love of Christian brothers. From the time I got up in the morning to the time I went to bed, everywhere I turned, there was a brother: in the dorm, on the yard, in the chow hall, four times a week at church, and five days a week in my MasterLife group! That kind

of brotherhood fosters strength. On top of that, in prison you become significant to others very quickly: In other words, God gives you purpose as He begins to involve you in His mission. For me, it seemed like overnight I went from hustling, fighting, bangin', and ballin', convict; to born-again, Holy Ghost-filled, choir member, chapel clerk, and MasterLife-minister who was writing my own MasterLife material!! So, as a Christian in prison, I went from a nobody, going nowhere, to a somebody, going somewhere. Christ provides this type of transformed life.

Then, overnight, I got thrown into this great big free world---and no matter how much I prepared, how cautious I was, how slowly I tried to transition, I went from what seemed like a somebody back to a nobody. Like Cinderella when the clock struck midnight and she went back home, I was just another ex-felon alone in a big, nasty, hostile world. I was trying to navigate the storms of life with no Christian encouragement or accountability, and no Christian purpose to focus on. But, I, thank God for the six biblical disciplines I learned in MasterLife, disciplines that I had appropriated into my daily life. I also thank Him for the follow up support of the MLM, Inc brothers like Travis, Benoy, and Walter. These brothers collectively and separately played major parts in helping me navigate through the slippery parts of mastering life after prison. Walter walked me to the door of my release preparing my mind for the things to come, things that he recently experienced. Benoy reminded me of some crucial principle that we learned from Katie Sousa's book, "Key to your Expected End." this is important, so let me detour for a minute to instill this into you all: One of the biggest phenomenon within the penal system concerning jailhouse religion goes like this: "how is it that people go to prison, get on fire for God, and get out only to return to the same old lifestyle?" This phenomenon is the reason so many people scoff at jailhouse Christians. But the solution to this phenomenon has been discovered by Souza and practiced by the Master Life brothers who are now out and mastering life through the power of Jesus Christ. The solution lies within "God's purpose." God has a calling for every believer's life: a call to salvation, a call to service, and a call to a specific purpose. The reason people get on fire for the Lord in prison is because they answered the call to salvation and are experiencing the blessedness that comes with cultivating that relationship with the Lord Jesus and His body the church. Then they begin to serve the church inside the

prison through the choir, chapel clerk, or yard ministry. But they never find their purpose; or if they do have an idea of their purpose, they never make the connection as to how it fits in with their release plans. So, they transition back into society assuming that somehow they will stumble into God's purpose and plan for their lives.... WRONG!!! Instead, what tends to happen is the world sucks them right back into its claws...they are driving along the road of life, and a curve in the road has an ice-slick. They hit it and slide right over the cliff. They wake up and find themselves back in jail and everybody echoes those famous words, "I knew that jailhouse religion wasn't real!" What happened? no purpose!!! brothers you have to have a ministry plan, goal, purpose!!! you've got to be surrounded by a network of believer's who have "been there and done that!"

When I got out, Benoy reminded me of this truth! He kept hammering me with the six biblical disciplines of discipleship: which he summarizes as, "quiet time and service!" Kevin, he would say, you must continue you quiet time and you must continue to minister to others!" That's the key to Mastering Life After Prison! Then he'd say, "don't worry, we're gonna put you to work until the Lord gives you clear direction!" Travis sent me some business cards with my ministry title on it, I began mentoring a young man who will might someday be my business partner and ministry partner,; I'm answering phone calls from prisoners, I'm supporting other ML brothers through Adopt-A-Life program; and, I'm praying and laying plans for my upcoming electrical company that will employ men from the upcoming "Mastering Life After Prison Home!" "The MAP Home!" Which will be a transitional home for brother being released who wish to MasterLife After prison.

The latest and greatest opportunities given me by the Lord was being able to represent MLM, Inc in helping NCFM Jesse Bracey with his Field Day event at Granville Correctional (Polk). No, I didn't get to go inside the institution, by it felt good providing hotdogs and chips to a prison full of forgotten young men, and it felt good to be ministering with two faithful brothers that I have known and worked under for years at Caledonia. (Thanks brother Jesse and Benoy). Besides all of this, The Lord has blessed me with a home, a truck, a BMW, and a job making six figures! I tell you that not to brag, but to show you what the Lord can do with an ex-con who turns his life over to Him while in prison. I tell you that in hopes that you too will use your time

to learn a trade, get in a Master Life group, and surrender all to the Lord Jesus Christ. There is something fulfilling in serving Jesus, the one who took my place on the cross; and it's an awesome feeling to serve others who have been where I've been. And, although I'm still travelling with caution, I'm able to see the road ahead, the storms are getting lighter to bear, and as the true Master of Life is behind the wheel, I am able to enjoy the ride.

I will close by sharing that through MLM's MAP strategy, the Lord is showing me how my work life and home life are able to be interwoven in with the ministry that He has called me into. It is exciting to watch as He directs my steps, builds my life, and simultaneously uses me in the lives of others.

MLM Pastor Kevin Jolly

NEW BEGININGS

JON DANIEL MAP PART #1

My name is Jon Daniel. Some of you know me personally as I sat where you now sit for over 6 years in North Carolina DPS. My stay there was nothing special in events other than my involvement in Master Life. I entered prison having lost everything in life both socially and financially. All relationships were gone I was alone. If there was ever a time in life where I had no options this was it. My faith in God was nonexistent and in many ways, I was skeptical of His even caring for me. I walked the yard you now occupy with little to no care in my life ever being a success again. I came across Master Life at AMCI. I began to attend a morning group and work on letting God remove things that were in the way. I carried tremendous hatred for many events and people in life. This made it very hard for my heart to get right. God began to work on the small things in my life that I was willing to let go. Staying focused on God was tough for me since I was used to being self-reliant. In many steps forward God revealed the person He wanted me to be. Was I ready for this then? No. It took coming back to finish my post release for me to give up my grip on how I wanted to do things.

I was released in March 4, 2018, almost two years ago and will never be back. It was good to finish the sentence. More than that it was good to leave prison with no real expectation of what I was going to do. I went straight to the train station waited 24 hours for the next train to Florida. When I got to Sarasota, I had 25 dollars or less in my pocket.

I entered a homeless shelter where I slept on the floor for 12 dollars a night. Taking it real slow I worked day labor jobs flagging traffic and stuff like that. I was helped by a Jewish group who assisted me in a deposit for an apartment and in late May I moved into an apartment. I just kept working and trusting that Gods got a plan. A week after moving into the apartment



I began working my current job. I had no furniture, or dishes just a bed. I spent nights on the bed praying for God to do what he does best and change my situation.

During the summer God began putting people and things into my life that were good. In this summer I met my now wife Connie who is the best woman in the world for me. She has all the attributes that I need to have a great marriage with her. God knows who I am. He's got this. Connie brings with her a caring and loving warmth, and it fills our marriage with security and respect. God could have given me any woman, but he chose Connie to walk with me and share to ups and downs of life.

There have been many financial blessings God has given me also. He has put an employer who is a Christian in my life. This person is a mentor who genuinely cares about my success and invests time in my life in areas not related to work. This job has given me financial means to bless others and my family in ways that are His. I truly have no financial worries most of the time. More signs of His plan.

In the environment you are now in many would say you can never have a good job again. You will never be financially capable again. God doesn't care. Your life is worthless. I live today a living proof that Gods got plans I never thought would happen in my life. Tomorrow Connie and I will have a contract secured on our first home. I NEVER thought

this would happen in my life. I just thought I would have to put all of this in somebody else's name. Truth be told I qualified without my wife in less than two years removed from prison with \$25.00 as my starting point. God can do anything. I believe he enjoys doing things we think are unachievable.

This Christmas I want you to know God has a plan. I'm nobody special I'm just me. In Gods eyes I am His and he controls it all if I allow Him to. There is no bigger fan of you than God. He is pulling every step of the way for you to do the right thing. He is cheering for you to get back up when you fall. He is your advocate and protector. He loves you. As you read this sitting on your bunk today rest assured your road has not ended. There are always paths yet untaken and plans unfulfilled. While you await the next step trust that God wants you to have a great life there and elsewhere. In my life God began giving me the small stuff to see how I would handle it. So, this is the best place to begin. Am I handling the small stuff God has placed in my life? Am I doing the next right thing? This could be as simple as a soup to the guy who is hungry and has nobody to help him 2 bunks down from you.

It is mine and Connie's hope that this Christmas begins with a trust in God for your life. He's got your best interest in mind, and He has a plan for you. It begins with the small stuff and moves to a greater fulfillment. Today Gods waiting on you. Always remember you are Gods choice. Chosen by Him. God cannot fail nor is He forgetful. He knows your wants and needs. He loves you. Merry Christmas!!



JD

MUCH CHANGE

JON DANIEL MAP PART #2

By Jon Daniel

A big hello to all the guys reading this currently sequestered for a period of time. In my last submission here, I shared with you that God is blessing my family in many ways. So, here is the update. **On December 31st Connie and I bought our first home here in Bradenton Florida.** Life changed in big ways with this

move. It's hard to even imagine living in this home, having the best wife in the world and just being at peace with all things around me. God has shown me a part of life that to be honest feels like my father's life. Connie and I reference the house as "Jacks House" because we are in a place we would have never planned to be. Living amongst people who would never in a million years guess not two **years ago I sat where you currently are.** More important than that we make sure people know who gets the credit. God. How else could you explain the events? It's not because I'm some great person, or we won the lottery, or luck. God planted us here.

The morning the former owners moved out Connie and I took the opportunity to go thank them for selling us the house. We stood in the kitchen as they told us they had planned on staying here forever. When I shared with them that two years prior, **I was homeless and paying \$12.00 a night to sleep on the floor of the Salvation Army.** They were stunned. Connie and I both gave God His correct praise for the sequence of events that led us to where we are.

I want you to understand God puts things in motion we have no knowledge of prior to us needing them. It's called a plan. His plan for each of us is to be able to better serve Him and lead others to Him by the attraction of our lives. Not talking about money or stuff attraction I'm speaking about people seeing something in you that indicates a spiritual change being shown in your actions. It's the love we show others and the grace we give them that was given us that people see most. So, who today sees God in you? Is there something you need to correct? God wants all of us to handle the small stuff. It's a proving ground for bigger things. Each of you have an opportunity to have a life testimony. Even if you are not ever planning on leaving there. Gods got a plan for your life no matter how jacked up your choices were. Just make better ones today. It's an outcome God wants. So, I want each of you to know today you are thought of, loved for who you are, by God and others watching this ministry. I will be praying for God to put a plan in motion for you moving you from where you are to where He wants you. Just give Him the glory for where you are headed because we are all going somewhere. I love you guys and look forward to hearing how God has touched your lives.

JON DANIEL MAP PART #3

Master life Guys,



My apologies as I am so very behind in getting you an update of all God is doing down here in Bradenton Florida. I write you today from a very different place than I would have expected. So, lets title this Gods Will. As I encounter my day-to-day life its very unclear in each event what is the right path for me to take when making decisions. Now I am not speaking about right and wrong paths but maybe just the simple question of does God want me to take this road or another.

In the past two months Connie and I have taken some really life changing directions. It all really started from a bunch of bad decisions on my part relative to finances and taking on debt that I really didn't need to help family members and people out of situations they could not fix. These decisions while good ones cause a bunch of hardship on our finances, and we began to seek a better remedy to repay the debt. I went to my bank and was in the process of borrowing against the house we rebuilt after the fire. In this process I started getting home offers that were what we would consider insane, and we sold the house. God will?

So there is a bunch here to unpack. I would say that we always look at the situation from what has happened rather than knowing what the plan is. This is very easy to do because we don't have the foresight of knowing the outcome. Look when the house caught fire and we rebuilt it we looked at this as a blessing from God for us to have a newly rebuilt home and it was. 14 months later the

home is now owned by another family from Canada who are believers, have 8 adopted kids and we have a good friendship with them. I am the guy helping them while they make the eventual transition by having the grass mowed and moving stuff in since they are not here. But guys here is what Connie and I finally got out of this. God was rebuilding our home for them. We are just as blessed in the situation. We just have a different role in the process. Sometimes we are not hands but feet. Does this make any sense to you? Guess what for the first time I think in my life I saw this unfold and understood as we made the decision to sell that God had a different plan.

What's the message here don't hold on to situations longer than God wants you to. If you truly think God has got everything than take good steps. Do what might seem uncomfortable, follow where led. Sometimes taking these steps will cause us to see the blessing for us in a situation was short term and by moving on God has a different one. Connie and I now have the blessing of being financially independent. We owe nothing and have been able to bless others in the process. Guys this is just the beginning. Remember it's been under 52 months since I was with you right there at count time. I could not have asked for God for the things that I have. Never in my plan was this the road. Truthfully I can say I would have never asked to be blessed as I am today.

My message to each of you is this. There are many roads to Gods plan in your life. It's called restoration. You can make wrong decisions about right things and God will work it out for His glory. I hope this finds you in a place of peace in your life. It's not the easiest place to be so my prayer this morning is for each of you to find your road. I want to pray for you, your families, relationships, challenges you face. May you begin to understand the place God has for you today just where you are. I pray you come to an understanding that tomorrow is already taken care of. May God continue the work he has begun in you, and I pray most of all for you to remain strong, protected and loved!

Jon and Connie

Aaron Pretty MAP

To all my brothers in MasterLife I am still in the Lord Jesus Christ. I want to thank everyone in the ministry, and I have been praying that someday I will be free of prison. I have been working on my case for years and with the good Lord Jesus Christ and everyone's prayers, I am looking to getting out of here soon one day. So, keep praying for me and I will always pray for you. Amen.

(Aaron Pretty's case was overturned, delivering him from a double life sentence after over thirty years of incarceration. Aaron gives all glory to the Lord Jesus Christ as he MastersLife After Prison.)

Tim Strickland-----MAP Ministry

Hello to all of my MasterLife brothers and sisters out there! And hello to all of my "lifer" brothers and sisters still chugging through the day-to-day monotony of prison life.

I can honestly say, 'I've been there and done that!' Yeah, I spent ump-teen years dealing with the various emotional struggles of doing a life sentence, emotions like confusion, anger, lost, loneliness, despair, depression, and hopelessness. I even attempted suicide by taking 81 "leanbacks." But God!!! God saved me and told me to hold on. Now, through the power of Jesus Christ, here I am, delivered from a life sentence, and writing an article for Mastering Life After Prison! All I can say is Hallelujah!!!!

I've only been out a few months, and I've got a long story to tell y'all. And I will continue to update yall on all that God is doing in my life. But, for now just know that I'm out, God has answered my prayers by giving me my family, a God-fearing Christian woman, and a great church family, I'm already serving the Lord, and I'm MasteringLife After Prison. Don't give up----there is always hope through Jesus Christ.

Tim Strickland-----MAP Ministry

Hello brothers and Sisters in Christ!!!

This is your sister Lili. Walt is right here with me, but I wanted to write to ya'll for us today. How is everyone doing? It's good to be able to speak to you along with our family at the Master Life Ministry. Some of you already know that my husband was a student of MasterLife for years. He led groups and taught for MasterLife too. He talks about so many of you that it feels like I have met you face to face. I know for a fact that MasterLife

helped to make him the Christian husband that he is. He had me studying the Disciples Cross book almost immediately after we left our jobs.

I want to give you a little background first because some of you are hearing from us for the first time, and then I will give you all an update on what God is doing in our lives right now.

My husband and I have felt the pain and sweat from working at a lot of factory jobs together in the past. We even experienced racism and unfairness, and we saw how the devil was at work to destroy our relationship and our walk with God. We had various people try to separate Walt and me. We continued to work our jobs until God put it in our hearts to leave and to focus on His work. You can imagine how much bad mouthing we got from our family members and friends for leaving a job that paid very well for what they thought was to live poor. Some of these family members and friends were also children of God.

Even when we told them that God had told us to leave our jobs, they acted as if God could only speak to them or that we were crazy.

We ignored their bad mouthing and trusted God because God said that even a prophet is not accepted in his own hometown (Luke 4:24).

God opened the door for us to start our ministry, to visit our Christian brothers and sisters outside of prison, to send out teachings, make Christian YouTube Videos, and to fund our ministry by authoring and publishing books. We have visited some of the brothers that a lot of you know in hospitals and prayed with them and laid hands on them for healing. That is because of God! If we had listened to the haters and the people who thought they were giving good advice, then we would have missed out. My mature lion (Walter) could have ended up back in prison or worse. I call him my mature lion. LOL! He calls me his lioness. Don't tell anybody! LOL!!

We support our ministry through our books. Our books are all sold on Amazon.com and Kindle. Your family and friends can go to: www.seeingyourselfclearlytotally.com to visit our book website or go directly to amazon.com and enter our company name (seeingyourselfclearlytotally) in the Amazon search window.

To visit our Ministry website, go to: www.thetwogoldenlampstandsministries.com

There are a lot of videos there to see.

We love you and we thank our brothers and sisters in Christ at MasterLife for what they are doing all over the prison systems, and for being a loving family to us.

We hope that by our testimony that you can trust God in every circumstance. Trust God not man.

We Love You All!

Lili and Walt

CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

CHOOSING A CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW Semester one, my Philosophy professor Dr. Lyon matter-of-factly announced, "everyone has a worldview----whether they know it or not!" And, without going into philosophy lecture of my own, a simple definition of worldview is: the lens by which one sees and interprets the world around him/her. Worldviews have their roots in one's core values, values concerning God, truth, reality, humanity, and morality. You can hear people express their worldview when they make statements beginning with, "I think...", or "I feel..." As Christians, one of our ministries is to decipher through various ideas that people have, and help them make sense of why they think the way they think on a given topic. We want to teach them to question their ideas, asking where they got them, are they true, and could they be wrong?!?! Then we want to help them compare their idea with the Bible and the Christian worldview. Ultimately, we want to introduce them to Jesus Christ and His Worldview In our "Choosing a Christian Worldview" section of the ML Newsletter, we provide a platform for our readers to discuss worldviews: quote them, explain them, lecture on them, give history lessons on them, contextualize them, ask questions about them, or expose the ridiculousness of some of them.

Just the Truth; Credit Due

"When the righteous are in authority the people rejoice; when the wicked man rules, people groan". (Prov. 29:2)

Okay, okay, okay, yes there are some bad cops out there. And yes, there are really nasty prison guards in the prisons. But should all of them be despised and demonized because we are angry at the actions of a few bad apples? Are there not some good, kind, and

considerate men and women in uniform? Of course, there are. Do they not deserve honor and recognition?

The mainstream media and inmate.com seem to believe that demonization is the best narrative. In fact, the hurtful and hateful comments mixed with the negative reports appear to insinuate that it is politically incorrect to speak a kind word about those called to serve and protect.

Well, not-so for everyone- Thank God for the Christian worldview. The Christian Worldview does not condone evil, nor do we deny the existence of it. However, we chose to focus our attention on the good in the world. Yes, in contrast to those who spend time and energy reporting and shedding light on what satan is doing, we choose to point out what God is doing through those in positions of authority.

So, what does this have to do with you? Do you have a positive comment, story, or experience that honors our good, kind, and considerate staff members? MasterLife Ministries would like to encourage you and them by sharing your stories in our future newsletters.

FIELD MINISTER FORUM

The North Carolina Field Minister Program (NCFMP) is not being properly presented on the yard! Not only do the inmates have a faulty understanding of the program, but much of the staff have never even heard of the most significant and rehabilitative program in the NCDPS! To further complicate matters, there is a lack of communication between the staffers who have knowledge of the program and those inmates who are qualified to participate in the NCFMP. Therefore, we, as those who understand the NCFMP and its qualifications, benefits, and purposes, must get the word out; we must set the record straight. Do you have a comment, article, or observation about the NCFMP that will enlighten the prison population & administration? Can you set the record straight? This MML-NL goes out to hundreds of persons who would like to know.

What are some of the ministry activities that MLM supports?

1. **Small discipleship group studies**

- ✓ ML Workbooks and notebooks
- ✓ Coffee & snacks
- ✓ Prison food sales for fellowship meals within group
- ✓ Dorm/unit/yard outreach activities done by ML-group members

2. **Christmas Parties**

- ✓ Food package orders for block Christmas party hosted by MLM-group members
- ✓ Various items for gifts/prizes; purchased from approved prison outlets.
- ✓ Phone time and tablet time for Christmas gifts/prizes.
- ✓ them.

3. **Adopt-A-Life**

- ✓ Volunteers enter into a mentor/mentee relationship and co-labor with an MLM/group leader/ ML ministers.
- ✓ We supply MLM group-leaders/ML ministers with necessary resources for success in MLM mission.

4. **Newsletter**

- ✓ We print and mail newsletters free of charge to anyone who wishes to be on our mail list.
- ✓ The NL is a platform for ML members to share: their testimonies, their ML experience, a word of encouragement, prayer request, shout-out.

5. **Mastering-life After Prison (MAP)**

- ✓ We have many men who have been released, men who are

flourishing on the outside. MAP is a platform for them to encourage others and be encouraged.

- 6. www.MasterLifeMinistry.Org
- ✓ is our website.

❖ What can I do to help?

1. **Pray that God will bless this ministry, those involved, and the men on the front lines inside the prisons.**

2. **Understand that all of the above ministry activities do not have enough volunteers or funding to be properly administered. Simply put, we need people to step-up in some of these areas.**

3. **Donate: funds or service.**

- ✓ **If you would like to *donate*, donate online at:**
www.MasterLifeMinistry.Org

- ✓ **Mail money order to:**
MasterLife Ministry, Inc.
PO Box 21
Pryor, Oklahoma 74362



When you consider the day and events, do you look back and think "What was I thinking?"

Consider the Word of God.

His Word is Truth revealed

His Word can be trusted

His Word never fails

His Word is the Way

His Word is Jesus the Christ!

- ✓ **If you would like to *serve* in one or more areas above, contact us at:**
MasterLife.Ministry@gmail.com

