



PASTORS TO PRISONERS

A §501(c)(3) California Nonprofit Corporation

February 19, 2018

Dear Partner:

My custom is to choose a book of the Bible, and the sermons are from that book until we get through the book. Several Sundays ago as I was preaching from Titus, at one point I paused and mentioned I was quoting Jesus when He asked the crowd, "are you listening?" As I paused again the 71 brothers in attendance shouted "YES" and about blew the roof of the chapel off. What a response! I really did not expect that response, but I thank the Lord for those kinds of responses that encourage the volunteers that the men are receiving the truth.

The following Tuesday as I finished the cell front visits to check up on the men who had signed up for the service but had been absent, I also find out about their health, so we could pray for them. For those who had visits I could pray that their visits were encouraging and pray for the inmate if their visit did not go well. Many times, the prayer begins at the cell front and often leads to requests for prayer from neighboring cells. I also write out all my sermons and print copies to give to all who attend the services. I also give copies to those I visit at their cells. They all look forward to the copies and study them during the week.

"Pill Line" occurs about the time I am leaving the yard to go home. The inmates have to go to the yard clinic and take their medications in front of an RN. Recently as I was leaving the yard when a brother who's cell I had visited, having taken his pills, met me as he was walking back to his building, he stopped me and thanked me for the lesson. Then he said, "I have read the lesson and it spoke to my heart, thank you." My thought at that moment was, thank you Lord for allowing me to come into this place. There are not many men who get to share Your Word with these men, and see them developing into new creatures in you, Lord Jesus.

One day when we were having a time for testimonies, one of the brothers got up and shared his recent experience. He said, "I was praying about an officer who was very mean to me and the Lord told me to go apologize to the officer." I said, "No, I do not want to." This went on for several days and then I went to the officer and looked him in the eye. I said, "Sir, I want to apologize for any-thing I have done to make your job miserable." The next morning, the officer said to me, "thank you." "Things have been getting better between us because I was obedient to God." What a joy to hear the Lord is working in the lives of these men, and see these men experience this kind of spiritual growth. Join with me in praying that many more officers will see and hear these kinds of apologies.

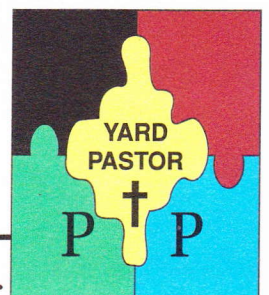
I want to thank you all for your prayers and gifts that make it possible to bring the Gospel to these men who God loves as much as He loves you and me. In 2 Peter 3:9 The **Lord is not slow in doing what he promised—the way some people understand slowness. But God is being patient with you. He does not want anyone to be lost, but he wants all people to change their hearts and lives.** I praise the Lord Jesus Christ, that you have joined me in this ministry with your prayers and gifts. May we continue together so that God's purpose will be satisfied among these men.

Joan and I are doing well and praising God that His grace is sufficient. May you experience success and enjoy God's peace and wisdom in all your endeavors.

Rev. John D. "Jack" Oien
Yard Pastor and Founder
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