July 2018

Please forgive the laps in my communication with you. There is no excuse but there is a reason. My mind and my get up and go have been incarcerated with pain and recovery from a knee replacement surgery on my left leg. The recovery at first was brutal. The Dr. told me, "You will have a more successful recovery if you take the prescribed meds as prescribed, grit your teeth and follow the instructions. I have done what he told me to do and I am now almost without pain and sleeping through the night. The only pain medication I am taking now is the Tylenol that I regularly take. I still have to do the exercises which take about 2-3 hours but cause very little pain. I have stair climbing that is included. Today I was down on the floor on my knees looking for papers and pens I needed and Joan was very concerned that I was hurting myself, but there was actually no pain from the activity. I was very careful getting down and up again.

During the time I w down, Joan was able to take care of me. It meant long hours for her limited energy and caused a relapse of Lupus. However, she was pleased she could do it! Now she is praying she can move forward with fewer setbacks. (There have been several). We would appreciate your prayers.

Before the surgery I had great plans for catching up on a lot of paperwork. It seemed like the hurrier I went, the be hinder I was getting, and nothing got done. That get up and go evidently got cut out with the old knee and the new knee did not know anything about get up and go.

I was back in the chapel on July 15 and had a tremendous welcome which was a great encouragement. Then yesterday our attendance was back up to 64. I have a 1.5-hour time slot now, so I can have 1 on 1 counseling sessions with men who want to talk with me. Daniel had just decided to follow Jesus, and I wanted to go over the booklet "Breakout Tools for New Believers". I also went over the meaning of Baptism with Daniel. After that, he looked at me and said something that caused me to thank the Lord for what Jesus is allowing me to do. He asked me, "do you have any more copies of "Breakout Tools..." because I want share them with other inmates?"

He looked at me and thanked me for what I was doing. Then he told me," Pastor you are doing a fine thing here on "D" Yard where you are teaching, that have helped me with my decision to have Jesus in my life and be a "Follower of Jesus". Sometimes I really get reminded, and I need to be reminded that it is Jesus who is doing the redeeming here behind these walls.

I also need to remind you that it is because of your prayers and faithful giving that this ministry carries the Power of God unto Salvation into the dark places like the prison cells of R J Donovan Correction and Rehabilitation Center.

Rev. John D. "Jack" Oien Founder and Yard Pastor Pastors to Prisoners Inc.

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