

...I WAS IN PRISON AND YOU VISITED ME. - MATTHEW 25:36

May 2007

Dear Friend,

I pulled a yellow balloon out of my pocket. It was one of those stretchy ones that clowns and magicians use to make those cute little balloon animals.

As I stretched and pulled the balloon, I began to tell the inmates about a picture I had seen of a lady wearing an entire outfit made of twisted balloons. She was a balloon sculpting expert who received thousands of dollars performing her art for corporate functions and fundraisers.

I huffed and puffed and huffed and puffed blowing up the balloon, then tied it off (Believe me; it is much harder that it looks). I then attempted to twist it into a shape that closely resembled something like an animal. It didn't work and the balloon reverted back to something like a snake.

"This reminds me of how God wants to shape your life into something useful for Him," I said. "Whenever you try to shape your own life, you end up with a snake!"

The inmates got it!

This illustration was part of a message from Jeremiah 18:1-6 on the potter and the clay that I shared at Johnston Correctional Facility near Clayton, NC. My friend, Louis Alexander, Jr. invited me to join him and several team members for their monthly visit to the prison.

About 40 inmates were in attendance that evening. Several of them came to the platform to extend the hand of fellowship and a good old back-slappin' Christian hug.

The inmates sang a hymn to begin the service. The Holy Spirit made His presence known in that place. After our team shared some music and words of fellowship, I stepped up to the pulpit to preach.

I have always experienced a great deal of liberty while preaching in prison. Unlike preaching in churches, you don't have to work to convince people of their sinfulness and need for Jesus.

When time came for the invitation, I opened up the altar for those who wanted to receive Christ or to rededicate their lives. Our team members came forward to receive the inmates and pray with them. That altar was flooded!

Several of the inmates that I talked with wanted prayer to help them stand strong and walk with Christ while in prison. I can't imagine what it is like to be in their shoes . . . can you?

Best of all, 3 of those inmates that responded gave their life to Jesus Christ.

I praise God that the gospel still has the power to change lives whenever and wherever the message is shared.

PRAYER NEEDED

June 2-8, I will be traveling to San Antonio, TX to work with the Intentional Community Evangelism (ICE) Team in the inner city areas of San Antonio. This is a part of the Crossover evangelistic effort that takes place prior to the SBC annual meeting.

On Sunday, June 3 I will be preaching at Larkspur Community Fellowship - one of the ICE churches in the area. The rest of the time will be devoted to one-on-one encounters with the unchurched in these areas.

I am praying that God will use me to reach at least 50 people while on this mission. Please pray that God will hear and answer.

At this point, I still need about \$400 more to help cover the cost of this mission. Will you help meet this need by giving toward the cost of this effort?

Thanks for praying and participating in this vital work of spreading the good news! God bless you . . .

Until the Net is Full,



Darrel Davis