

I was in prison and you visited me!

Preparation is never lost time!

begin the work in us before we arrive. We come already stirred up for the souls to be gathered in.

On Friday night after the banquet we separated the snacks for both prisons and loaded up the vehicles. On this trip I stayed in the room with all the goodies. There were chips, cookies, cakes and Kool-Aid everywhere. We cut up the cakes, divided the cookies and emptied the Kool-Aid into baggies because one of the facilities will not permit us to take certain containers in. The task was a bit

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Congregation under the servant/leadership of Pastor Alan Granger. We are a church body on the move and in the mix of things.

Matthew 25:35-39

[35] For I was an hungry, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: [36] Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. [37] Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? [38] When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? [39] Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

From October 3rd through the 5th, over 100 volunteers met in Fort Stockton, Texas to spend the weekend in two correctional facilities in ministering to about 400+ inmates at the Lionel Correctional Facility and N5 Correctional Facility. This was my 3rd time ministering at the N5 Unit.

Volunteers begin arriving late Friday afternoon. We register first and picked up our meal tickets and presented our ID that we needed to enter the facilities. Without an ID no one is permitted in. We donate cookies, Kool-Aid,

On the Friday evening we all meet at a local congregation for a banquet where we



praise God, and stir up the gifts in one another and pray for favor with the guards, administration and that the hearts of the inmates will be ready to hear the gospel. Usually the out pouring of the Spirit of God is quite evident and the group comes together in such unity that by the next day we are fully charged and eager to go after the souls.

On this Friday night both Chaplains from the facilities, a husband and wife couple, addressed the volunteers concerning the dos and don'ts of prison ministry. There was little time left for our praise and worship time. Nevertheless, God always



nacho chips and cheese sauce to be taken inside the facilities to serve to the inmates. Any one that plays an instruments brings them along to help form a praise and worship group.



daunting but with many hands to help we were able to get to bed by 11:30 pm. Johnny's daughter and her husband help out tremendously in this area. His entire family is involved in the ministry.

About Johnny Gonzales

This ministry began about 25 years ago by Jonny Gonzales pictured here. Although



Johnny has been battling health issues for some years now, nothing—and I mean nothing prevents him from making the trips in and out of the prisons. He takes this ministry to prisons in New Mexico, Texas, Hawaii and

wherever the Lord opens the door for him. Most of the time the work is down under a giant tent in the prison yards.

Johnny's vision for the souls of prisoners is contagious. Year after year, month after month the volunteers keep coming back. They come (continue on next page)

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from Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, Juarez, Colorado and they come in broke down vehicles, by bus, plane, and hitching rides anyway they can.

Some come with only enough money for the bare essentials and nothing more. On this trip there were five of us in one room with three beds. Six of us travel from Las cruces and El Paso up there but on the way back we picked up two volunteers whose car broke down on the road back. In a vehicle meant for seven people there was suddenly 8 adults wedged in together.

Since Johnny has started this ministry another brother has now taken up the mantle and goes to prisons that Johnny is not able to reach. The work continues!

What an incredible ministry this is. What a habit to be hooked on! It is intoxicating and exhilarating!

Prison can only define you if you let the stigmatism of being there drag you around like a ball and chain. Prison can refine you if you allow God to visit you and transform you behind the bars. "He whom Christ sets free is free indeed."



This is the group who attended from the Las Cruces/El Paso area. We are not allowed to take pictures in the facilities.

How I got involved

I became involved with Prison Door Inc. Ministry about 2 1/2 years ago. Martha Burke, center in photo, a fellow volunteer in the prison ministry gave my sister, Georgia, an application for a weekend revival at the Southern NM Correctional Facility here in Las Cruces. Hearing my sister's enthusiasm about going I also got an application and submitted it.

Martha then solicited our help in organizing the Friday night banquet and getting transportation for over 130 volunteers to and from the prison. My involvement in this ministry got me so fired up for the souls that I began my catchthewaveministries.com website to provoke the body of Christ to get out of the pews and go after the souls.

From this first prison ministry experience I have been compelled to get out into the world and show the believers what God can do with willing heart.

It is an amazing experience being present when dozens of prisoners surrender their lives to Christ after you have spoken God's word of redemption. There is no other experience like it. The harvest is truly plenteous and for real, the laborers are few. If the body of Christ would preach in the prisons they would soon be empty because He sent us



to set the captive free and His word cannot return void.

It is time for the body of Christ to come out of the

pews and proclaim the gospel. Our valiant soldiers of the

cross are incarcerated away from society for a reason. The enemy is taking our men away from the battle. Our future is incarcerated: soldiers, doctors, teachers, engineers, preachers, apostles, and mothers, fathers and laborers in the harvest.

How to get involved

It is true that we all have a calling to preach the gospel as we are going about our daily lives. There are times that God will call you to do something extraordinary and He will prepare you for it. But in general we are all given a mandate from Jesus to go into all the world. We must start where we are at and then move out from there. The problem we have is just

understanding that we do have a calling and to make the first move.

We do not need another building. We do not need another sermon, we need to simply do what we are called to do. We have replaced the body of Christ with a building we call "church." This is unscriptural. Every member has a function and when we begin to function as a whole we will

make headway into the harvest. My website contains information on local and global ministries. Just take action. Start with your family members, then your neighbors, and your community and your city, state and nation. The rest will follow. A church is like a tent whose pegs are being stretch across invisible lines called the hearts and minds of men.

In the Prison

We caravan to the prisons and wait to be signed in and scanned by the guards. This all takes time. We then go in and set up the musical equipment and the snack table. Those of us that are not musicians or working our shift at the snack table walk around the rooms or pavilion or tent and pray that the souls will come out because no one is required to attend so we are blessed when the pavilion begins to fill up with inmates.

In the morning we had about 100 inmates attend. After lunch we had more than 150 and the next day we have over 200 inmates attend the revival. I would say almost a half gave their hearts to God, a quarter renewed their faith and the rest were strengthened in their resolve in their faith. We had gang members who were saved that we know will have a positive impact on the rest of the prison population. The few that were mere

observers I am sure had their fallow ground broken up. We were all changed and impacted by the events.

The reports from the Lionel prison was good but they experienced much opposition. Every time the spirit began to flow they would call a body count. The first day they did it 6 or more times. The second day 15 times. "But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." Romans 5:20