

JAIL MINISTRY

The Real Story

Chapter 1 — Preparation and Seeking God

Let's take a Tuesday night. Class starts at 6:30 p.m. It's a half hour drive. We have spent part of the day on preparation; we have a syllabus we work from that we wrote initially three years ago. We have added about 75 pieces of literature to go with it, including "homework." However, we always seek the Lord to know what to do for today! We pray every day for the ministry and for the people we've encountered, and especially for those now in jail, or those in prison, or those just getting out that have stayed in touch with us.

We come into the foyer of the detention center, and there is a list of inmates, along with their charges. We check to see who is there to help crystalize what we've planned. (Oh, yes, and we always do a bathroom stop!) Tonight we are shocked to discover that a man (we'll call him "John") we've been in touch with regularly is back in jail! Our hearts sink.

We check in and wait to be called and for the buzzer to go off that opens the entrance door into a tiny entry. We shut the door; it locks. While we wait for the next door to open, we make our declarations: Jesus, Your Name is above every other Name! We cover ourselves with your shed blood — body, soul, and spirit. We ask for Your anointing to be upon us and go before us to break yokes of bondage. Let them know they are loved. The next buzzer goes off, and the door opens into a hallway. We can see two cell blocks, and we look to see if any of "our" guys are looking out, waiting for us. They are all different ages, mostly white, all dressed in orange. We minister in a town that has a large Hispanic population, but rarely are any of them in jail!

We follow the corridor to the left past the rec room (about 20x20) Some may be playing ping pong. We go to the end of the corridor and can see into another cell block with a large window in the outer area, and our men are waving "hello".



Chapter 2 — Gathering the Saints

There is "John," looking embarrassed. We wave back and turn left and go down another corridor, and at the end of it, there is one more small cell block. One young man is sitting on the floor looking up at the TV. He sees us, lights up, and gets excited! He is usually the first one released into our class room which is small with four slim table desks and eight chairs, with room for more chairs. He has been alone in this cell for over four months waiting out his time and final outcome. He has been consumed with the Word of God, doing all of our worksheets, and reading Christian books. One day, right at the end of class as we went by his cell, we saw him bent over the new worksheet. His face was close to the page as he needs glasses desperately!

We are convinced that God's Word has kept him sane in these months! He now has hope for his future, which is probably a group home. So many challenges ahead of him — so much trauma in the past. BUT for Jesus! How great to be able to present Him to our young friend.

Usually a county jail is meant for 30-60 day stays; it is probably why there is



Ram's Horn Ministry

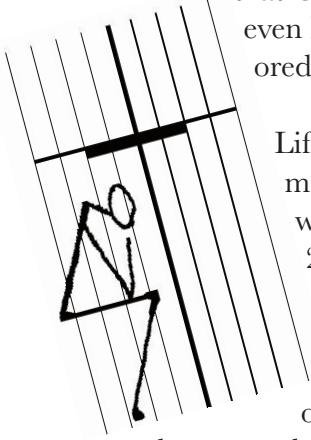
Fall 2011



Partners and friends— we thank you for your interest, support, giving, and love! This fall, Myrna was given a prophetic word at a conference that the Lord showed them vines growing under the ground and sprouting up all over Eastern Europe and growing fruit! We are so encouraged by that word, and thought you would be, as well, since we are partners!

Amen?!

no exercise room, only this area with ping pong table and a library around it — no outside windows. No sunshine, ever. However, we've had one guy for close to 20 months. Once he was out for a week. Adjustment is difficult. We understand that God wants us to be His sunshine; His ray of hope, and even His instructor and designated friend. I wear bright colored clothing, jewelry, and perfume!



Cells are let out one at a time — the men are told that Life Skills is here — do they want to go? Sometimes we may have half to a third of the population — right now we have about half which is 10-11. Lately we have had 2-3 women. Sometimes we take them with the men; sometimes not, if they are not allowed to be together, or if we feel we need to separate to have better results.

It is rather demoralizing right now that MOST of them have known each other on the outside. They have greatly affected each other's lives for destruction. One night God gave me the words: *unholy alliances*. I shared it with them the next day, and they agreed it was true. I asked what they thought would be God's plan. One guy spoke up that they should become a force united on the outside for good. We believe that is part of their destiny — to destroy the works that the enemy has wrought upon them! (Two men are definitely leaders, and the enemy has tried to steal their giftings and anointings for a long time.) Almost all of the crimes were connected with addictions. It is our prayer, our goal: that the Lord will become so real, His Presence so mighty, and that they will love Him passionately and strongholds are broken.

The guys shake our hands as they come in; we greet them by first name, and "John" enters with tears in his eyes, grabs us by the shoulders — we can't hug, but he squeezed our shoulders. (We speak to him alone after the class, and he gives us more information.)

Chapter 3 — Changed Lives in Christ

But the class goes on, and we try to draw each one into the discussion. The week before, we had shown a DVD called *How Great is Our God*. It establishes a base for the class on God as Creator and Lord of the Universe. It is awesome! One of our new guys was gasping for breath at the end of it. He said, "When that guy (Louis Giglio) talks, I have trouble breathing." We explained that he was anointed by God to bring in His Presence through the DVD. You are feeling God's Presence. How many more of you also feel it? Five others acknowledged that they did. From there, we have begun to share that the most basic life skill is learning to know God; the necessity of reading HIS handbook for living here, and the joy that this Creator and Lord takes in each of them. They are made in His image, and while they were yet sinners, He sent His Son to pay the price for a relationship with Him. We have continued to talk about how to receive Him as Savior

From this, we can build on their identity in Christ — what it means to be IN HIM. He shows us how to release anger, forgive, use money, how to communicate and build relationships, how to allow the Holy Spirit to take control — even over the addictions.

We have so many testimonies of each day we go — of changed lives, yet struggles. We adjust the normal eight-week class to fit whoever is there, yet keeping a focus. When we finish, we press the buzzer, and the jailer asks what we want; we

Jail Ministry Needs

- Prayer warriors; there is conflict! — for the awesomeness of God to be revealed; His authority and power to be manifest and victory walked out!
- Mentors to come alongside.
- Teachers to be willing to come in and learn to minister.
- Money for car expenses, supplies for classes and corresponding, and mailing expenses.
- Rejoicing and joy to be expressed at the goodness of God!



Ram's Horn Ministry

Ways to give:

Mail: Ram's Horn Ministry
P.O. Box 335,
River Falls, WI 54022

Online: www.abundantlifeonline.org
and click on the "Giving"
tab. Be sure to designate
Ram's Horn Ministry.

Phone: 320-760-7666

tell him we are finished with this group. As they go, we again take hands or make some other form of touch and say goodbye using their names. They are grateful. If anyone has court before we come back, we note the day and time. They get our P.O. Box address in the town where the jail is; they may have our cell phone number — one not in our living area — so they may stay in touch if they want to when they get out.

The jailer lets us out, and we go again through the door procedure, thanking God for what He's done and declaring that that which was sown will not be stolen. We again declare that we are cleansed by the blood of Jesus. We rejoice and leave.

Chapter 4 — The Ministry Continues

After a conference with the jail administrator this week, we were given permission to start a Sunday service; we may do it as often as we are able. We know the inmates *desperately* need to worship! They are building skills and habits that we trust God to keep building apart from us — so a life and habit of worship and the joy of it must be experienced and desired. God help us!

Now, you may think we are trying to do all of this ourselves. Actually, we are continually seeking those who can come alongside and carry on, enhance, build up what we are doing — both in class and in a mentor program. So far, it has been tough going!

Mentoring is the key. Who will give their time to come alongside — first during the incarceration, then on the outside? There are programs that will train; we will also train, but wherever you live, the need is tremendous! These people will come back and live in our communities anyway. How much better that the Body of Christ take their place, instead of the emissaries of the enemy that seek them as soon as they step out the door, or go through depression on the inside as their worlds crumble.

We now have about 10 on the outside or in prison that we are in touch with often. Two will get out of prison in November, and one we have known for almost three years. We will have a celebration of homecoming for him — God has provided a place to live, and he can get his old job back. Another guy calls regularly, and he lives in the metro area of Minneapolis-St. Paul. He took our recommendation and found a church that has turned out to be *incredible*! May all be so blessed. He is on track with work, relationships and the Lord! He wrote to us for seven months in prison after he left us, and then called immediately when he got out. Another young man, who is out and working, calls really often as he goes through situations! We are glad we can know each of them.

One young man wrote about a month ago from prison that no one from his family was calling or taking calls, or writing. Would we please send him a picture of us? He said that when he thinks of Roger, he sees purity. He has great need of that. So, we sent him a current picture of us. He wrote back how grateful he was, and now when he gets depressed, he looks up at the picture and remembers that *someone* loves him. So, we write every week, send lessons, and pray! We all need Jesus in the flesh, don't we? Even though we know we have weaknesses, we can be God's hands, feet, mouth, and have His arms of love demonstrated in faithfulness and kindness. What an honor to have this kind of fellowship with our God! We are so blessed to be following His call for this time.

Not "The End" — The Beginning of New Life

Side Notes

Ernst and Luda are just now back in Minsk from their stay in China. We don't have a full report yet, but will be getting one— it was a time of great fruitfulness, challenge, and joy!

Pavel and Irina's trip to Germany solidified their desire to start churches with Russian speaking people wherever they may be. More to follow. He's on a long fast now.

Alexander and Natasha in Kiev working with God Seekers are involved in incredible, life-changing ministry all over Eastern Europe. He is now in Korea for a conference with Yongii Cho. They are also expecting their third child this winter- a girl!

Liza and Marat have moved away from the Tel Aviv area into a smaller city in the North of Israel where they will have more access to work and the opportunity to work more with YWAM. Their little girl Yasmin has recovered from an attack by a dog.

Christ for the Nations, Poland is off to a fresh start with Joshua and Izabela Cagle directing the school. They have incredible vision and drive and anointing from the Lord! We're so proud of them. There are lots of challenges, and one big one is MONEY! Please consider a donation. You may send to Ram's Horn, earmarked for CFN Poland.

In our end -of -the -year newsletter, we will share pictures and synopses of the work of each of the outreaches.

