

Prison Was the Best Thing That Could Have Happened

In a recent conversation with an inmate whose first language is Spanish, I heard a theme that is common among the inmates who attend Harvest's Bible studies: getting arrested and put in prison for their crimes was what God used to save them. God used prison in this brother's life to break him and make him open to the Gospel, and then he sent someone to share the Gospel with him, which he heard for the first time in his life and believed and was saved. Now he radiates the new life of Jesus Christ, greeting us with a huge smile and evident joy every time we visit him. And he has an evident hunger for the Word of God, telling me of his desire to share with his friends on the outside who are still lost in the darkness that he used to walk in with them. His earnest desire is to stand firm when he is released, knowing that his friends will demand that he return to the same empty life of vice and crime that he has left behind to follow Christ.

His earnestness to stay loyal to Jesus spurs me on in my walk with Christ. How often am I tempted to soft pedal the Gospel in certain contexts where it might be offensive? This is what I love so much about Harvest Prison Ministry. The men have an urgency to know Christ and his Word that is borne out of an honest, humble acceptance of their sinfulness. As well there is an authenticity to their faith that is so refreshing. As I bring the Word to them, I leave feeling strengthened and more clear thinking about the Gospel of Jesus Christ as truly the most precious, powerful and glorious possession a man could ever have, and infinitely worthy of my greatest devotion and affection.

I am also driven to pray more, as prison drives home to me the truth that only Jesus Christ can bring about the changes in our lives that must take place, that we want to take place, but that in our own strength, will never happen. Jesus is the only Savior, his Gospel the only power of God for salvation of all who believe, and his Kingdom the only kingdom worth seeking.

Thank you for joining us in support and prayer as we labor "behind the walls" to see his Kingdom win the day in the lives broken men.

Mark Berry

Mission to the World
Casa de la Gloria
mberry@mtwsa.org
www.peruhouseofglory.org