



THE INNER COMMUNITY TIMES

A HEART FOR PRISON MINISTRY

The Church Behind the Prison Wall

Issue 1 - 2011

Getting Out of the Cycle

By David Hassel

First, I want to say that I am so thankful to the Lord for Pastor Tim May and the Ebenezer Outreach Ministry team at CSP-Solano, they have truly touched my life. The Lord has used Tim and the ministry to produce spiritual growth in my life and to open up new doors of ministry for me to serve; but the road has been a long one for me.

From a young age I was raised in the church and under parents who made sure I attended church at least three nights a week in addition to Sunday morning services.

At the age of fourteen, I felt the Lord calling me into ministry and I started to study with the pastor of our church. But like Jeremiah the Prophet, I felt I was too young and didn't have the right words to say. At that time, I didn't know the Lord would give me the words to say (Jeremiah 1:6-7).

Then at the age of seventeen, my father died of cancer and I got sidetracked away from the church and serving the Lord. From that point on my life began to spiral

downward. Then right after my twentieth birthday, my life was empty, without purpose and out of control. So I prayed and asked the Lord if He would get me out of the cycle I was in I would serve Him wholeheartedly for the rest of my life. Within two weeks of that prayer on August 22, 1996, I was in handcuffs in the back of a police car on my way to jail. At that point I knew it was the Lord and I fully surrendered to Him

and agreed that wherever He sent me I would go. From that day on I have been faithfully serving the Lord.

For fourteen years it has been an amazing journey, one that I would never trade for anything in the world. The Lord has used my coming to prison to make me and mold me into the man of God I am today. I have been active in prison ministry and the Lord has used me in ways I never thought possible.

In January 2009, I entered and completed the Offender Mentor Certification (OMC) program CSP-Solano. The OMC teaches inmates to be certified alcohol and

drug abuse counselors through the California Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors (CAADAC) and to assist fellow inmates with recovery at In-Prison Substance Abuse Treatment Programs.

The OMC training program took the alcohol and drug abuse counseling curriculum and accomplished in four months what takes other schools two years to teach. It was a very intensive course and we studied six days a week eight hours a day. Through the training program I was taught a variety of counseling theories and techniques. As a result of the training, the Lord placed the desire in me to want to use these skills to give back and to advance the Kingdom of Heaven by helping reach others for Christ.

Being a previous facilitator in Pastor Tim May's programs, I thought about sharing some of the basic concepts which I learned through the program with the other inmate facilitators to make them more effective in teaching the material and to reach others for Christ. I prayed about it and made a proposal to Pastor Tim about starting a small-group facilitator

**A Brother in Christ
at California State
Prison-Solano**

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training program.

This program is taught by Christian men from the OMC program and me, the classes are ten sessions long. During the program, I share basic counseling skills and small-group leadership skills. Then they are placed in small groups to practice those skills. The last two sessions of the program are about evangelistic outreach and they are taught how to reach others for Christ. Currently, we have had 100 men go through the program and they are more equipped to facilitate the small groups and to reach others for Christ in programs sponsored by Ebenezer Outreach Ministry.

Then the Lord opened up the door of opportunity for me to create and present another class. The class is called “Building A Marriage for Success.” The program, which is based upon the Love and Respect principles of Ephesians 5:33, is a class designed to help those who are about to embark on the pathway of marriage, or those who are already married to build from a Biblical perspective a successful marriage. Of the 198 men who attended the class, 169 of them successfully graduated.

The class teaches the importance of building a spiritual foundation, defining the different roles in marriage, the meaning of marriage, and what healthy boundaries in a relationship are and how to establish them. Also, the men were taught the basic needs of men and women along

with practical ways of how to meet those needs in the marriage. Lastly, the men were given *Love Dare Challenges* from The Love Dare book based on the movie Fireproof, which are specific acts of affection they were to do for their significant others to express their appreciation to them.

The men were deeply appreciative of the class and stated their wives saw an immediate positive change in how they acted in the marriage. One man in particular came to the front of the class and stated, “I didn’t know that this class had consequences for doing it, which you failed to tell me about. Now my wife looks forward to me doing these *Love Dares* every week.” I assured him they were not going to be left as orphans. All of the men who completed the class were given a fifty-two week *Love Dare* guide so they can continue doing those dares all year long.

I praise and thank the Lord for allowing me to be used by Him to teach these classes and to reach many for Christ. I never would have thought the Lord would be using me in this way when I first started.

I have to say that the Lord has

answered my prayers and He has a purpose for me I never thought possible. I am so grateful to Pastor Tim May and the Ebenezer Outreach Ministry team for allowing me the opportunity to serve and to reach others for Christ.

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Ministry Report

By Tim May

During this period several programs at California State Prison-Solano (CSP-Solano) were completed:

Passport to Purpose: Taught by Carol Davis and facilitated by Ebenezer Outreach Ministry Re-entry Team members, ended with 206 men completing the requirements for The Promise Land and the Crossing class. Comments from class participants may be viewed on Carol's website, **Mission of Grace Foundation**, <http://www.missionofgrace.org>.

Transformational Project: A Prison Fellowship program which continues to instruct twenty men, these classes include Celebrate Recovery, Cleansing Streams, and discipleship and mentoring for the candidates, facilitated by several volunteers from **Prison Fellowship**, www.prisonfellowship.org, and **2nd Wind**, <http://secondwind1.web.officelive.com/default.aspx>.

Kingdom Inheritance: Ninety-seven men completed the program on Level 3; also a new class is in progress on Level 2 with 117 men, facilitated by John and Donna Haaf, ministry associates of **Freedom in Christ Ministries (FICM)**, <http://www.ficm.org/newsite/index/php>, and facilitated by Ebenezer Outreach Ministry Re-entry Team members.

Men of Purpose: A discipleship program instructed by Pastors' Alfred DeGree and Eddie Thomas with forty men participating monthly and facilitated by team members of www.epa.net/menofpurpose.

Facilitator Training: Christian inmates taught one class of fifty-eight men on Level 3, instructed by the Offender Mentoring Group and facilitated by Ebenezer Outreach Ministry Re-entry Team members.

Building a Successful Marriage: Developed by David Hassel, Christian inmates taught this ten session class which 133 men completed, facilitated by Ebenezer Outreach Ministry Re-entry Team members.

Purpose Driven Life: Facilitated by Pastor Tim May and Carol Davis, from **Ebenezer Outreach Ministry**, <http://www.ebrock.org>, and **Mission of Grace Foundation**, <http://www.missionofgrace.org>, and facilitated by Ebenezer Outreach Re-entry Team.

Ongoing Ministries

One Voice Praise Choir—the Summer and Christmas Tour ministered to the men on all four yards of California State Prison-Solano; two services were held in the main chapel at Sierra Conservation Center-Jamestown; we had the opportunity to minister to approximately 2000 men at these facilities with 190 men dedicated or re-dedicating their lives to Christ.

Joyful Expressions—ministered in song and Word to the men at California State Prison-Solano during the regular weekly ministry services in the chapel. The team also ministered at Sierra Conservation Center-Jamestown where approximately thirty-five men committed or re-committed their lives to Christ.

In addition to our musical component, Ebenezer Outreach Ministry provides weekly preaching, individual counseling, and assists with coordinating the CSP-Solano Demonstration Project as part of the Joseph Project featuring special rehabilitation teaching programs and guest speakers.

Production Team:

Pastor Kim Moreno Music Director; Jeanne Schultz Choir Director; Rudy Aguardo and David O'Guinn, Sound

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Thriving Through Ministry Conflict

by David Pack

I would like to take this time to share about an amazing opportunity the Lord has opened up at CSP-Solano.

I am currently working on my Master's Degree in Conflict Management through Trinity Theological Seminary. One of the books I was blessed to come across in my assigned readings was, Thriving through Ministry Conflict: By Understanding Your Red and Blue Zones. The authors of this book, James Osterhaus, Joe Jurkowski, and Todd Hahn are in the order listed a psychologist, a counselor, and a pastor. The principles in this book reached out and grabbed me so profoundly, that I couldn't keep these gems to myself; I was infused with a passion to share what I had learned.

About this time those of us in the Substance Abuse Program at CSP-Solano, were in the process of beginning to teach self-help classes to the general population at the prison. Most of the programs had been cut, so it fell on us to teach secular self-help classes. Although I certainly wanted to help the men, I was compelled to do so in a deeper manner than mere secular self-help is equipped to do so. I sought, by God's grace, to reach these hurting individuals on a level that could fundamentally change them rather than merely attacking the symptoms.

The moment of truth had arrived. What would I do with the unction God had given me? By His grace and enabling, I sought the head administrator over the Substance Abuse Program at the prison with an idea to incorporate this material on conflict management from my Christian college into the mainstream self-help programs. His response to me was to write him a proposal.

So, with an innocent, child-like faith, not knowing I was asking for the world and then some, I submitted the proposal. The Lord touched this man's heart, and caused him to give a favorable response. That was great! Right? Well, I wasn't even supposed to get this far, and my proposal included providing books and workbooks for every person going through the class.

There is an advantage to being naïve, or shall we say having child-like expectations, while not realizing you're in over your head. With this attitude, "Hey, who cares if the answer is no?" I decided to write the publisher of this book, as well as different bookstores in order to obtain free or severely discounted copies of this book, but to no avail.

Some told me they didn't do such things, others never responded. Finally, one night, when I was on the phone with

my mom, I suggested she E-mail the authors of the book, which I proceeded to dictate to her over the phone. I told them my child-like vision that I believed the Lord had given to me, and left it at that. God doesn't cease to be amazing at any stage, and He continued

A Brother in Christ at California State Prison-Solano

to open up doors that typically remain sealed shut. The next

day, Joe Jurkowski, responded in an E-mail to my mom, flattered that the book had such an impact on me and let her know that about sixty-five books were on the way to the prison. Are you kidding me?! One more obstacle to clear.

In my proposal I had said there would be a workbook to supplement the book as well. Surely God had brought us this far, one more hurdle wouldn't be too much? In the midst of a prison-wide lockdown, God touched the heart of the prison administrator to let me into a computer lab to type up the necessary material.

The next step would not have been possible without Pastor Tim and the folks at Ebenezer Outreach Ministry. Pastor Tim told me to mail him the material I had typed and he had a team that would expeditiously mass produce and spiral bind the material into a workbook for the men. Sure

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enough, within a week or so, Pastor Tim had fifty copies delivered, and has provided more than 100 such subsequent copies. Without the generosity of Pastor Tim’s team, the vision God had placed within me would have fallen short. By His grace, He touched the hearts of this incredible ministry.

The first time around we had thirty men who started and completed the entire course, with the exception of two men, one of which transferred, while the other one, a lifer, paroled. The fundamental premise of this book as well as this course is dealing with healthy, Godly ways to deal with conflict.

Conflict in many instances with men in prison has been handled poorly, and has resulted in deep emotional scars that, if left unattended to by providing no tools, continue to fester and

rear their ugly head at the most inopportune times. One of the major concepts of the book is to look at one’s self in conflict, while discovering what God is teaching us through nemesis. Oftentimes the very things that we cannot stand in others are character traits we don’t like in ourselves. As a result, conflict can actually be our ally. That’s right, our ally! Well, I don’t want to ruin the book for you, so I’ll stop there.

The men who have already completed this class have been liberated in ways they had been previously unaware of. These aren’t just any men. Most of these men have taken many classes, and in fact a lot of them are considered self-help “gurus” if you will, yet they have not received a mere band-aid through this course, but rather a fundamentally Biblical structure

in dealing with conflict. Now that other brothers have gone through the initial program with me, they are now beginning to facilitate classes on their own.

We initially had 176 men who signed up, but were only able to take thirty. This second time around, we are taking about 100 participants through the program. Our gracious authors donated an additional seventy-five books! Pastor Tim and his crew provided us with 100 workbooks.

There is no limit to what God will do in regard to this program. He has already confounded human logic by the doors He has opened. The doors He has opened have consisted of many amazing things. One of which have been the gracious donations from Ebenezer Outreach of the workbooks that accompany this course that the men get to keep. Thank you so much! God bless



This is the choir’s first release; you may purchase a copy of this CD by sending a check or money order to:

Ebenezer Outreach Ministry
PO Box 2715
Vacaville CA 95696-2715

Suggested Donation
\$18.00

A Miracle Season of Love

By Paula Caddy, Angel Tree Coordinator

What a fantastic thing to KNOW God hears—and answers a parent’s prayers! For most inmates—and their families, Christmas is the hardest time of year. Incarcerated parents so long to be with their families; many families have given up on their inmate husbands or wives. Their sons and daughters barely know the parent, and the outlook seems bleak. But God!

God and our Angel Tree sponsors showed up strong this year, and it was indeed a season of miracles. What I love most about being the Angel Tree Coordinator for our area is the opportunity to chat with, encourage, and sometimes meet with the families and caregivers who are raising children whom inmate parents have requested a gift for.

Sometimes I have to employ my “Nancy Drew” type detective skills to find caregivers who have moved, changed phone numbers, or who frequently work more than one job to make ends meet... and are just difficult to get in touch with.

One grandmother I contacted, expressed concern that not only was her son in prison, but

her granddaughter’s mom was missing for the past few days. I assured her that God knows all about it, and knew exactly where her daughter-in law was. I asked if she would like to pray for her safe return home. “Yes, that would be great!” she enthusiastically replied. We prayed, and she said, “I’m so glad you called. I really needed that!”

When I called a few days later to arrange a time for her Angel Tree visit, she confided happily that her daughter-in-law had come home that very same night and she was so thrilled her prayer was answered so quickly.

I never consciously match up sponsors with their Angel Tree Children, unless they specifically request a boy, a girl, or a child of a certain age. One of our sponsors, a lady who lives a good ninety miles away, contacted me by phone a few days before Christmas, to say her Angel Tree child was a teenager who had requested a small electric amplifier for his guitar. The sponsor went on to say that she is herself a musician, and really wanted her Angel Tree child to have the best possible amp, as she knows the importance of

good equipment to get the best result out of the time and effort required to practice and learn a musical instrument. (The teen’s mom had confided in me the gift was completely out of her reach financially, so it would have to come from God. Sadly, the boy’s father had been locked up so long, that he really didn’t believe his dad would actually send him a gift...so the mom said, “I don’t want him to be disappointed, so I won’t say anything unless it actually happens.”) Well, what better time for a Christmas miracle?

She said, “I found the perfect amp on Amazon.com...but it’s \$100, and the budget for Angel Tree gifts is supposed to be less than \$50. Our sponsor lady said, “I was praying about it, asking God what I should do...when I walked my roommate, all excited, clutching her mail, saying, “Hey, would you look at this? Amazon.com sent me a gift card—for \$100! I think I’ll give it to charity.” Our sponsor said, “Well, I know just the place for you to do that!” Amazon.com threw in free shipping for purchases of \$100 or more, so she bought the amp, along with other items to help with the teens’ music. The package arrived the morning of December 24, and she arranged her Angel Tree visit that night, right after our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

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Ebenezer Outreach Ministry is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code; contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Thank You!

A receipt will be sent for your tax-deductible gift

Please print:

Mr. Mrs. Ms. _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

My gift of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$ _____ One time gift Monthly gift

Gifts can also be given on our website: <http://www.ebrock.org/Donate.aspx>

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One Voice Praise Choir and Joyful Expressions Members:

Carolina Aguardo, Galen Anderson, Nancy Anderson, Marvin Ashe, Janet Hartwell-Brown, Paula Caddy, Sandy Evans, Lynne Gallaher, Shawna Gates, Brenda Gittens, Judith Handa, Ron Handa, Jeanne Havlicek, Quinton Kelley, Regina McCollam, Tim May, Cheryl Medeiros, Janell Michael, Judy Moran, Norbert Moreno, Barbara Niehoff, Kathi O’Grady, Julie Oppenheim, Joan Paquette, Verna Ringler, Terralyn Seikop, Carolyn Sheehan, Tonya Stanton, Joseph Tomlinson, and Sarah Van Buskirk. In addition we had eight Brothers in Christ from CSP-Solano sing with the choir.

Weekly Ministry and CSP-Solano Demonstration Project:

Pastor Richard Atchley, Michael Barrett, Brett Braidman, Joseph Chang, Pastor Russell Crooks, Carol Davis, Chris Davis, Pastor Alfred DeGree, Cheryl DeGree, Edward Fogle, Tom Forrester, Ervine Ray Fowler, Linda Fowler, Dan Gamel, Jay Grover, Donna Haaf, John Haaf, Ron Handa, Doctor Samuel Huddleston, Sol Irving, Herman Littleton, David Michael, Ramon Molina, Roger Morgan, Christopher Mullen, Pastor Daniel Robertson, Serrita Santos, Doctor Michael Savage, Pastor Sammie Shavers, Robert Silva, Arthuretta William-

Smith, Pastor Eddie Thomas, Joseph Tomlinson, Erik Trantum, and Pastor Stuart Welch

Churches Involved:

For a complete list of the churches involved with this ministry, please visit our website at: <http://www.ebrock.org/Links.aspx>

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Yet another Angel Tree sponsor, a lady who recently moved here from out of state, signed up to give gifts to an eleven-year-old boy whose Mom was in prison for drug-related issues. As our sponsor ministered the love of Jesus, she found herself talking to the boy about forgiving his mom, and assuring him that his mom truly does love and miss him, and thinks of him all the time. As fate would have it, this same sponsor has a family member, the mother of her own grandchildren, who has unresolved drug issues. She marveled at God’s masterful touch.

Paula Caddy has been a member of Ebenezer Outreach Ministry since 2008; she attends the Mission in Vacaville, California

*Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,
nor have entered into the heart of man
the things which God has prepared
for those who love Him.”
(1 Corinthians 2:9)*

HIDDEN WISDOM

What did you see
when you opened the door?
What did you see that
you never saw before?
I gave you new eyes
to see Me in the Spirit,
new ears that now can hear
what I have to say to you.
What do you see and hear?
Because you now are able
to wait upon Me,
will I reveal My mysteries to you,
not the foolish questions of man,
but rather the wisdom of the Spirit,
the understandings that reveal who I am
and who you are in Me.
In opening the door to seek Me,
I have opened your heart to see Me!

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February 4, 2011

<http://www.Godcares.org>

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