

"Fruit by God's Saving Grace"

Below is an update regarding David who was incarcerated at the Men's Central Jail over two years ago. During this time, David's family in Chicago reached out to [Only Hope Prison Ministries](#) to provide help for David who was arrested for a crime while living homeless on the streets of Los Angeles. By the Grace of God we were able to provide David with a re-entry program from the jail into the [San Fernando Valley Rescue Missions](#) - [Renewed Hope](#) (Formerly, Hope Again) 10 month life Recover Program. God very quickly allowed for David's probation to be transferred from Los Angeles to Chicago where he is now living with his parents!

Email received today, April 20th from David's Mother:

Frank, As we celebrate bringing David home two years ago I am reminded again how God used you and Steve Borja and your ministry to break David free. Thank you!

I pray that you will still be able to visit the inmates in CA and encourage them in this very dark season of loneliness. I pray for health, protection, and strength for you and your family and your staff. May God encourage you each day and fill you with His Spirit to carry on such a crucial ministry. We will always remember your faithfulness and appreciate the loving care you gave to David. We still have no clue how probation will end, hopefully by next April, but if we travel to CA we hope to meet you for dinner. David is still working and we are praying for a spiritual breakthrough in his life. Blessings

"Encouraging Moments from Men's Central Jail"

The Coronal virus situation has affected the jails. Due to the social distancing requirements, regular services, classes, and small groups have been suspended until further notice. As a result, chaplains and religious volunteers are permitted to walk rows as long as we wear a mask and do our best with social distancing. Even though this new protocol is a challenge we are taking advantage of the opportunity and God is "ordering our steps". Here are a couple of short examples.

"Inmate Paul"

Last week I was making "rounds" in the hospital area of the jail. I was speaking to some trustees when an inmate on a gurney asked to speak with me. His name is Paul (not his real name). He asked for some reading material and I gave him a couple of biblical books. He thanked me and I walked away to meet with some other inmates. As I was walking past to leave, another inmate named Pablo, still on the gurney with a nurse tending to him, asked to speak with me again.

Pablo said I really need a Bible and some other "stuff" to help me learn about what it means to be a Christian. You see, just today, I asked Jesus to be my savior. I asked who helped you and he said he had been reading some biblical "stuff," and I knew I needed to ask Jesus into my life. I gave him a Bible, prayed with him, and told him I would follow up the next day. I checked the computer to find his location in the hospital when I found out he had been moved to the hospital in Twin Towers across the street. Immediately, I emailed the chaplains at Twin Towers to follow up with him explaining that he was a new believer and needed some Bible studies and encouragement. The chaplains followed up and confirmed that they would meet with Pablo

"Inmate Ivan"

On another day last week , Frank Mastrodonardo and I were walking rows in Men's Central Jail. Prior to starting our walk, we "acknowledged to ask God to order our steps". We started with a tier on the 2000 floor. The deputies were busy, so we went to another tier on the same floor. As we walked, we counseled, prayed and handed out Biblical materials. The men who came to the bars were grateful for the visit from the chaplains.

One particular inmate stands out. He is a Russian immigrant; I'll call him Ivan (not his real name). Ivan asked us for some biblical material and we prayed with him. In the material we gave was a booklet, Greasy the Robber which is the true story of a Russian man who came to Christ. As we were walking back past his cell, he came up to the bars and said I need to tell you something. You see, Ivan is not a believer he is searching. He said that just the day before he had been praying that God would somehow encourage him and show him if he was real. Ivan said God answered my prayer. We told Ivan we would return to speak with him to answer his questions regarding God and His Son. Please be praying that when we return he will be open to the message of the gospel!

Jeremiah 29:11-14a: For I know the plans that I [h]ave for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you,' declares the Lord

May The Lord Bless and Protect you and your families!

In Him,

Frank Mastrodonardo

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