

“WALKING IN THE LIGHT”

# Kings Crossing Prison Ministries

A NEWS REVIEW & EDUCATIONAL TOOL OF JAIL-PRISON MINISTRIES IN CHURCHES OF CHRIST

Buck Griffith, Editor

“Improving society and making it safer teaching Christ to those in prison”

## 47<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL PRISON MINISTRY WORKSHOP

We are indebted to the Midwest Church of Christ, 2115 Garland Avenue, in Louisville, Kentucky and Jerry Stephenson for their willingness to host this great event in 2020. It had to be postponed due to Covid-19 and they agreed to attempt it in June 2021.

However, due to the lingering impact of this pandemic, the workshop will look considerably different. Jerry will publish a schedule and more detailed report soon. It is necessary to alert you that it will be largely *virtual*. You are still invited to attend in person, if desired. A limited number of motel rooms are reserved.

The majority will likely prefer to participate electronically. Speakers who attend will be videoed. Others will submit video presentations. God’s hand is evident even in this development. More workers can benefit at far less cost financially. Future workshops may also feature this option.



## “I Feel Better”

We will try to insert a teaching tract along with this newsletter each month. We will explain how it is used in the ministry and it may be useful to you, too. Plus, you may have a friend with whom you can share it.

“I Feel Better” is our February tract.

People act based on emotion. There are valid reasons for feeling good or poorly but most are knee-jerk reactions. We may feel better or worse for wrong reasons. Living intentionally and with purpose is rare.

God has given us the gift of feelings. This is not to make us runaway freight-trains but to deliver a powerful punch in His Name in His world. Nothing compares to the sense of satisfaction it produces.

There is corresponding *godly sorrow* when we *fly off the handle*, embarrass ourselves, hurt others, and disgrace our Maker. We want you to feel better by having a heart like His.

## “FREEDOM STEPS” NOW IN SPANISH

“Freedom Steps” is a twelve-lesson study of the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous combined with the wisdom of God found in His Holy Word. The Twelve Steps have been helped millions throughout the world to conquer addiction. These same “steps” can be followed to break the bondage to any habitual, negative, and destructive behavior.

The English version of “Freedom Steps” has been in use for over 30 years. We are delighted to finally be able to announce that it is available in Spanish! The series comes in color as well as in black ink only to comply with the restrictions of various prison systems.

The first seven steps bring the student into a right vertical relationship with God. Many make known their desire to put Christ on in baptism at the end of the seventh lesson, *calling on the name of the Lord* as Saul of Tarsus did in Acts 22:16.

Then, steps eight through twelve are designed to improve the student’s *horizontal* role with fellow strugglers as he or she continues to travel down Recovery Road.

Following baptism after lesson seven, we automatically enroll the new Christian in the six-lesson series, “Living the Better Way.” These studies plus the final five lessons in “Freedom Steps” form a successful *Christian Maintenance Program* for the new disciple seeking to walk the narrow but lighted path in the footprints of Jesus.

**THE 12 STEPS  
&  
THE BIBLE**

## MEMORIAL & HONOR GIFTS

Memorial gifts comfort those having lost loved ones. It matters not if it was yesterday or 50 years ago. It lifts spirits to know one *so loved* is not forgotten. Honor gifts show gratitude for one held in high esteem. It *gives flowers* while the person lives and offers hope to others. Acknowledgments lets others learn what we do.

### Received from:

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### In Loving Memory of:

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## CRY OUT TO THE LORD IN TROUBLE

Charlie got into trouble the first time at the age of eight. He wanted something in the department store, stuffed it in his pants and tried to sneak out. Many of us did similar stupid stuff, were marched back in, apologized, paid for it (in more ways than one), and never did it again. But for Charlie, it became a way of life.

Sure, it was petty junk at first but grew bigger. He dropped out of school to sell drugs and fathered two before his 17<sup>th</sup> birthday. Misdemeanors became felonies. Tried as an adult, Charlie got to go to a real



prison to stay awhile. A pattern set in. He went to prison, got out briefly, committed new offenses and went back. Sentences grew longer. He saw other prisoners turn to God and scoffed. After all he had done, Charlie would *never* turn to the Lord. He had not called on Jesus before and was refused to do so now. He had more pride than that – he saw himself as the Captain of a ship at sea and would proudly go down with it.

I wish Charlie would at least pick up a Bible and read Psalm 107. It is an easy read. This same statement is made four times: “Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men” (verses 8, 15, 21, 31). See the Psalmist describe the human condition:

- “They wandered in the wilderness” – “Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted” (verses 4-5).
- They “sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, bound in affliction and irons” (verse 10).
- They were “fools because of their transgression, and . . . were afflicted” (verse 17).
- “They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits’ end” (verse 27).

All the “Charlies” and “Charlottes” in the universe resemble these remarks. What made the difference in the lives of those described in Psalm 107? The answer is identical in every scenario in how they responded: “Then **they cried out to the Lord in their trouble**, and He delivered them out of their distresses” (verses 6, 13, 19, 28)! They did not wait until they pulled themselves up by their own bootstraps. They cried out **IN** their trouble!

Sadly, in rebellion, we turn to the Lord as the last resort, if then. The *Prodigal Son* in Luke 15 did not begin to turn his life around until he was in a pigpen and “no man gave unto him” (verse 16). The next verse says it was then that he “came to his senses” and charted a path back home.

The good news is Psalm 107:16 – “For God has broken the gates of bronze and cut the bars of iron in two.” So, ditch pride and cry out to the Lord. God specializes in reclamation, redemption, restoration, and reconciliation. There is no need to go down with the ship. God is unwilling to see a single soul lost (Second Peter 3:9). If you remain lost, you are on the wrong ship (Acts 27:31).

**Kings Crossing Prison Ministries** is overseen by the shepherds, Kings Crossing Church of Christ, 5901 Yorktown Boulevard, Corpus Christi, Texas 78414 (Steve Brashear, Ron Cardwell, Robert Illgen, Stephen Johnston, Rick Legvold, Jack North, and Richard Scanio).

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