



THE "INSIDER'S REPORT" FROM BROTHER JOE

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- * Repent
Acts 3:19
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1 Peter 3:21
- * Walk In The Light
1 John 1:7
- * Remain Faithful
Revelation 2:10
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Matthew 28:19

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PEACEMAKER

by Joe R. Garman

A young man named David had been a drug addict since he was ten years old. His mother taught him to mix and cook dope and his father, who was a Hell's Angel, taught him how to curse and fight when anyone confronted him. His friends were also addicts. This dysfunctional lifestyle was not discouraged because, after all, it was the family business. God was not part of their lives so he didn't know anything about Jesus until he was 27 years old.

After his parents separated, his mother hooked up with a man who was a child molester. He molested David's brothers and sister. Later he went to prison. While he was in prison, David learned what he had been doing. A month after his release David retaliated against him and was sentenced to eight years in Leavenworth. David was released in 2015, and two weeks later was high on drugs again. He was then sentenced to the Jasper County Jail.

While in Jasper County Jail in Carthage, Mo. he met a Christian volunteer named Curtis Williams, a biker who called himself Peacemaker. Curtis led David to Christ. But it wasn't as easy as it sounds. At first, David told him to shut up and leave him alone. But David didn't say it in just exactly those words. To David, being with him was worse than being in prison, so David refused to talk to him. But Peacemaker kept coming back.

David finally surrendered to Christ. He doubted if God even wanted to have anything to do with him. He still held grudges and there were more than a few people he wanted to take revenge on. But Peacemaker kept helping him find the answers to the questions he was asking and continued pointing him to one verse of scripture and after another. Peacemaker was on a mission from God and he was not about to give up!

Peacemaker read Prov. 28:13, "A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful. But if he confesses and forsakes them, he gets another chance." David thought, "Oh, Lord, this is what I want - another chance Lord - another chance!" Peacemaker read John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave His only Son, so that anyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." David prayed, "Show me more!"

Next, David was introduced to Col. 1:21: "This includes you who were once so far away from God. You were his enemies and hated him and were separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions, yet now he has brought you back as his friends." And then to Rom. 8:1: "So there is now no condemnation awaiting those who belong to Christ Jesus." David said, "I felt my shame lifted. God loved even me! He wants to free me from sin and death.

"Now I can stop constantly thinking about my past. I am of far greater in value to Christ than I thought. He, in me, has made me worthy of a loving relationship with God. By His stripes I am healed. Now, I can forgive myself." "For the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed me from the vicious circle of sin and death. He sent his own Son in a human body and destroyed sin's control by giving Himself as a sacrifice for our sins." Rom. 8:3.

FROM BROTHER JOE:

Upon release from jail, David headed straight for WATERED GARDENS, a Christian based gospel rescue mission based here in Joplin, founded by Mr. and Mrs. James Whitford. There he met some outstanding Christian workers, received three hot meals each day and a place to lay his head at night. They were even equipped with an ARM baptistry. David said, "I have all the support I need."

David considered his Christian friends and Bible teachers at Watered Gardens to be his 'new family'. Since he was already familiar with the dozen or so "homeless groups" in and around Joplin, he wanted to start a "homeless camp outreach program" where he could witness one-on-one with them and distribute gospel literature. Next he hoped to join a jail house ministry at Jasper County Jail.

Unfortunately, in the midst of it all, Peacemaker died, and David began to stumble in his walk with Christ. But a precious Christian lady, Jamie Myers, stepped in to take his place. Jamie is director of FORGE, a program that helps struggling men develop virtue and a strong work ethic. It teaches discipline and skills so they can go from being jobless to becoming self-supporting and responsible.

Please keep David in your prayers, as he is continuing to struggle. Our ministries broaden even after they receive Christ. As Keith Green said, "We are to be fishers of men rather than keepers of the aquarium." God is so good to us by giving us Christian friends like you. If it should all end tomorrow how could I possibly complain? Remember, \$40 will provide another case of Bibles!

Saved to Serve the Savior,