

Ministries

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Greetings Family and Friends,



Thanks to all of you who are standing with us with your prayer & financial gifts. We are very grateful.

Our time has been spent: putting our Pine Valley house back together after years of renters; scheduling medical appointments for Liz (great doctors at Scripps here in San Diego); keeping in touch with former inmates; organizing our Leary Family Trust (you know, all the stuff your surviving

family members need after you die); and, completing more Bible lessons to be sent to the prison chaplains mostly in California.

We have also begin submitting applications for volunteer clearance to some of the California prisons where we served prior to COVID. Pray that other prisons will begin opening up for programming. It could be a little slow and somewhat limiting. It all hinges on what phase of risk a prison is in. As the risk drops, the possibility of resumed programming increases.

Two cool things happened in the last two weeks, and they had nothing to do with prisons:

First, we were asked by a local Testing Proctor Service to help proctor (supervise a large test for engineers). We did it for two days (8 hours each day) at the Del Mar Fair Grounds in San Diego County. My assignment was to guard a set of entrance/exit doors; Liz was stationed outside the ladies' restroom. Exciting you say? Not really! However, I found myself praying for these individuals. We didn't even know them; we spoke directly to very few of them. They represented many ethnic groups and various walks of life. We will most probably never see them again – BUT, we got to pray for them. Thank you, Lord. He knew we have been missing the prison inmates; He knew we needed a boost during this COVID intermission.

The second thing happened to me (Bruce). I got a message on the computer from a man that I haven't seen since he was a pre-teen. I ministered to him way back in my youth director days at my church. You always wonder happens to people in your ministry past. I responded. He send me a photo of a Bible (with a note & my signature in it) that I had given him years ago. I don't even remember it at all.

The inscription was dated June 25, 1970 & said, "To a young person the Lord is going to do great things with." His response to himself was "If only he knew". That's all I know at the moment. I share these two stories to encourage myself and you. Despite the horrible cultural & governmental disappointments we are facing right now, I (we) cannot let it drag us down; we cannot let it change our personalities & attitudes & interaction with people.

I need to say, "Lord, use me during these strange times. Use me to do what I do best. Use my strengths and gifts to please you, to reach out to my family members, to make a difference.

It may be that our main focus or ministries may not be the thing we can do right now. Rather, it may be the actions we think are small, minor, and not important compared to what I do in "ministry".

Could it not be the guy in the ACE hardware that you made laugh? Could it not be that water I gave to a guy last week? Yes, I teased the receptionist at the doctor's office. Remember that note you wrote? That call to the truck driver on the road all the time? The friend going through a Worker's Comp claim and all the grief & delays, and how he was so grateful for the phone call. Don't forget the cashier at Walmart, the construction worker paving the road outside my fence. Did I mention my neighbor with his struggles and loneliness?

These are my lessons. Thanks for listening in.

Continue praying for us – Adequate finances to do ministry & pay the living expenses

Successful doctor visits & good health & strength

Encouragement for prison chaplains

Mental strength to continue creating Bible lessons for prison use

That we would enjoy contentment & gratitude in our lives

Liz and I are looking forward to hitting the road later in May for ministry opportunities.

May the Lord make your light shine and your heart rejoice!!

Bruce & Liz Leary

Financial support should be sent to: MGF, PO Box 1535, Turlock, CA 95381 (Project 89).

Press CTRL & click link to access our webpage: https://www.mgfhq.org/leary OR https://www.continuetogive.com/4826389/donation_prompt

PS. If you are interested in taking a peek at a Bible study we're creating, check out the next two pages of this letter.

A Verse to Remember 1

This is totally your study. Nobody will be instructing you and nobody will be grading you. It will just be you, your Bible, these lessons, your own paper, and of course, the Holy Spirit guiding and teaching you.

VERSE	John 3:16	
TEXT - NKJV		ed the world that He gave His only begotten ever believes in Him should not perish but ng life.

ВООК	The Gospel of John
PURPOSE OF	To persuade the audience that Jesus Christ is God
ВООК	

CHAPTER	3
THEME OF	A response to Nicodemus by Jesus about how to be "born again"
CHAPTER	or become a Christian or enter the Kingdom of God.

What seemed important to Nicodemus was where Jesus came from? Where did Jesus come from? (3:2)

If we assume that the "Kingdom of God" is where Jesus came from, and that Nicodemus wants to go there, then what must Nicodemus do? (3:3)

What was confusing Nicodemus? (3:4)

If we assume that being "born of water" is physical birth, and that being "born of the Spirit" is a spiritual birth, then which of these is/are required to get into the "Kingdom of God"? (3:5-8)

Obviously, Nicodemus was a human born from his mother years before. Jesus said that a person has to be a human to get into the "Kingdom of God". However, what else needs to happen to get into God's family (3:8).

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What

Being "born of the Spirit" seems to involve something that is "Heavenly", something "from above". How can we get access to the Spirit Who gets us into the "Kingdom of God" if we are down here on earth? (3:13)		
Jesus reminded Nicodemus of the Old Testament story in Numbers 21:9. What happened in that story?		
Nicodemus should have remembered that story. He taught the Old Testament. He knew the Jews helplessly were being bitten by snakes because they "bad-mouthed" God. He knew that they would all PERISH (or die) in that desert.		
How do we know that God loved those people out in that desert?		
What did that bronze snake on the pole mean? Where would their help have to come from? Who would be the only one Who could help? (3:14)		
Who is the Son of Man? (3:15)		
Are we not also dying from the fatal bites of sin here in this evil world. Without God getting involved, we are doomed. Read the verse again (3:16).		
Christ was hung up on that cross to "get bitten" for us. He took the penalty for our single ("God gave His Son").		
So, what was God's attitude toward the world? (3:16)		
What did we (world) have to do? (3:16)		
What did <u>not</u> happen to us? (3:16)		
What did we get? (3:16)		
When the Jews were saved from the snakes, they lived then, but they all died of old		

When the Jews were saved from the snakes, they lived then, but they all died of old age later. So, "everlasting life" must be more than being rescued from snakes. It is a life of forgiveness from our sin, and a hope, a victory & a home with God.