

# **Ministries**



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Dear Family & Friends,

I just came in from raking part of my yard. Life can get routine, repetitive, irrigating, and beyond control. Yes? What can we offer to those around us? What can we change? In most cases, not much. We don't always have deliberate times for the people around us. We don't always get to say something spiritual or profound. We may even question our worth, usefulness, and accomplishments.

Recently the Lord leaned on me with this thought, "<u>Use</u> what you do best, starting now; that "best" came to you from God; that "best" is a talent, an attitude, a passion, your time, an intense & mysterious love for God and for those struggling around you. In the middle of your life journey, along the way, use your best."



Our task seems so insignificant in the big scheme of things. BUT, **chaplains** are getting Bible studies & they are using them; **inmates** are studying God's word even when they cannot get to a church service; **supporters** are excited that they have a part. We are privileged to serve on Kairos teams inside prisons & see hard lives soften, and hurting eyes cry. We are also grateful for the website we've created to assist chaplains and to enrich you. (<u>www.rememberthose-inprison.org</u>) Finally, we enjoy teaching crucial life-lesson curriculum with Prison Fellowship.

#### THIS SUMMER

Our teaching schedule with Prison Fellowship was interrupted due to personal health issues, and a lapse in our volunteer clearance status. While Liz was gone to Utah pursuing some health treatment for her lower back, I have been here in California (home) producing lessons to excite the men in prison to love God's Word and to move forward in their spiritual lives.

#### **OUR PERSONAL "BEST"**

There are good things to do even when it is not missionary work. We saved up some money and traveled: 1 grandson's graduation, birthday, and baptism (all on different dates); another grandson started a new job; we got to be there during that time; picked up a grand-daughter at the Valdosta, GA airport and deliver her to her parents; went out to lunch multiple times with another grand-daughter (she paid several times); attended the "Transfer-of-Command" ceremony for our Lt. Colonel doctor son in the Air Force at Moody Air Force Base in GA, not to mention, watched them move into a new home; helped our daughter and son-in-law with some major projects in their yard; and just plain enjoyed all of them as they show an incredible desire to please & honor God in their lives. Our final summer gathering will be a "reunion" on August 6-9 in Shell, WY. "Lord, help us old-timers as we enjoy the youngsters."



### BACK AT HOME

We will first set up our teaching schedule with Prison Fellowship. Second, we will participate in a Kairos Weekend, Sept. 1-4, at Valley State Prison in Chowchilla, CA. Of course, we will continue to provide Bible lessons for chaplains and inmates, and keep the CORR Website updated with our latest materials.

<u>www.rememberthose-inprison.org</u>

## MAJOR ENOURAGEMENT

For many years, Liz and I have had a passion to do three ministries:

- 1. Teach God's Word in the prisons so that inmates will grow during their struggles.
- 2. Create Bible teaching materials that can be distributed by chaplains & inmates.
- 3. Open a re-entry ranch for paroling inmates.



We have taught for many years in the prisons. Yes, we have hoped that we reached some lives along the way.



The big struggle has always been to get Bible study lessons into the prisons without violating prison rules.



We never were able to open an inmate re-entry ranch. Honestly, it was a great disappointment to us.

I, Bruce, have had to remember through the years that God is not expecting me to be <u>successful</u>, but rather <u>faithful</u>. God has recently encouraged us about that.

In the last few months, we have been contacted by three former inmates who expressed their gratitude for our teaching of classes years ago that they took & grew in. Man, what a moment.

During COVID, we knew there was a desperate need to get Bible lessons into the chaplains. Chaplains thank us for the materials & promise to use them. What a miracle God did here.

We visited the Evans Memorial Camp near Valdosta, GA. It was like walking back through time when we dreamed of such a place. Thank God someone else is doing it. They even want our lessons.

"Thank you, Lord, for showing us that You are not done with us yet. Thank you for showing us that there is fruit out there even from our past weak faithfulness."

Thank you for praying, caring, and supporting the expenses of our ministry. You're on the team. <u>Missionary Fundraiser - Bruce & Liz Leary - Turlock, Ca (continuetogive.com)</u>.

With gratitude & availability,

Bruce & Liz Leary