

# Gateway International Missions Report

## “A Passion for Souls”

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**Dr. Stan A. Frye, President**

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Dear GIMI Team Members,

Blessed greetings to all of you precious people who pray faithfully and give regularly to our GIMI Ministry! I pray that as we are now in the summer time here in America, that your lives are blessed beyond description, in spite of the many difficulties that all of us are having to continue to bear with during these, hopefully, final days of the Covid crisis and its devastation. I sincerely pray that you and your family are still very safe, and that through all of the hurt and suffering that you, your family, and your church family have gone through for the past almost three years that Jesus has been right there with you through it all. I believe that most of us have had to deal with much sickness, death, depression, and truthfully, the loss of most of our hope. Oh yes, we have had to endure some terrible things as we have tried to appropriate the grace and resurrection power of our Lord Jesus Christ to deal with so many discouraging things. I would have all of you dear friends and supporters to know that for months and months, JoAnne and I have fervently prayed for you and your family almost every day during these past three difficult years. These years have truly been difficult. But, for sure, Jesus has been here with us through all of the sicknesses, deaths, disappointments, and times of seemingly, hopeless situations. Also, we know that you dear folks have diligently prayed for our family, also, as we have borne some very difficult times. Yes, these recent months have been challenging. But, God has been here to minister to us. And, we believe this is because so many of you have regularly prayed for us, and, God has sincerely answered your prayers. Thank you so much for constantly taking us to the throne of grace during these hard times. But also, thank you so much for continuing to help us financially to carry on this wonderful ministry. As I say so often, there is just no way that JoAnne and I could have carried on this marvelous ministry for all of these years were it not for people like you helping us. So, thank you so much for caring, and also, thank you for sharing when so many people have lost their burden to help present the Gospel to thousands of people during these Covid days. Let me tell you that things seem to be looking much better as far as the Covid situation is con-

cerned. But, I would like to ask you to please pray for my health situation, because it just seems that in this old body of mine, every day is truly a challenge. I do thank those of you who pray for my health on a regular basis. And folks, every day I thank God for my precious wife, JoAnne, because of her kind faithfulness to her sickly husband. Truly, God gave Pastor Stan the best wife ever given to a preacher of the Gospel way back there in 1965, when we got married as teenagers right out of high school. I sincerely agree with JoAnne's brother, Jerry Lail, who told me one day in a nursing home just before he went home to heaven, that when I got JoAnne, I knocked a grand slam home run! I can surely say Amen ten thousand times to what Jerry said! She has truly been with me down through our 57 years of ministry as I have traveled over five million miles, preached and taught over 12,000 times, preached over 1,300 revival meetings in 33 states here in America, and made 70 trips to Africa. Yes, I believe JoAnne Frye is the greatest pastor's/preacher's wife that has ever been given to a man of God. So, let me ask you again to keep praying for her as she takes me back and forth to all of my doctors' visits, and, as she helps me still travel some to our regular supporting churches, and to some brand new ones trying to keep our support coming in during these difficult days.



Orphan school children with Uganda Pastor Joshua Serwada at Shiloh Childrens Home. GIMI is now helping to support these children.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR LOVE AND GENEROSITY

I mean not to be very repetitious, but, because circumstance haven't changed much since our last newsletter went out, I am going to give you a few paragraphs again from the last newsletter to hopefully inspire you as an individual, your personal family, and even your church family, to read the next few paragraphs again to glean the truth that carrying on a huge ministry like we have with GIMI is not easy to keep it going without friends like yourselves helping us on a regular basis. The point I am making is that I sincerely hope and pray that you might seriously pray about continuing to give sacrificially so that we can continue to reap the huge harvest, which God is constantly giving us. I would like to remind each of you that according to Matthew, Chapter 10, when Jesus gave the Great Commission to His disciples and sent them out to their fields of ministry, He told them that even those who would open up their homes and treat his disciples with love and Christian hospitality and receive their message about Jesus, they would share equally in the rewards for every soul that got saved.

## YOU WILL SHARE EQUALLY WITH ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE WORKED SO HARD TO WIN THOUSANDS TO CHRIST!

Before moving on with our newsletter, I would like to stop and share some difficult facts with you! I hope you will pay much attention to these facts, and that you will respond accordingly as God touches your hearts about these words.

Folks, I would like to tell you that during the past three years of suffering and hardships, because of the Covid crisis, many people, and yes, even some churches have either stopped supporting our GIMI Ministry completely, while some individuals and churches have really cut way back on their giving. Of course, we don't know how many of our formerly faithful supporters were actually forced to stop giving or to cut way back, or, did some of these formerly generous people use the Covid crisis as an excuse to completely stop giving or to cut back on their giving. Certainly, I am sure that both of these things probably happened! But, whatever the reason for the cut backs and the discontinuing of regular giving, our GIMI Ministry has suffered in many ways.

I say this, because during these years of the Covid situation, the costs of our ministry have really gone up. For instance, this past year GIMI sent almost \$900,000 to Af-

rica alone to help with the costs of medicine, masks, cleaning supplies, blankets, food, medical bills, and yes, several thousand dollars to help pay for the funeral costs for those friends of ours who God took on to heaven. Truly, these times of suffering brought much hurt and pain to our workers and to their families. But also, because so many people were sick, and then, some passed on to heaven to be with Jesus, the cost factor was very great. Therefore, because of GIMI's love for their workers, we tried so hard to help with the hurt by contributing to the financial costs of the sicknesses and the deaths. Thus, with all of the extra expenses, especially, during this past year, we have been able to keep providing our monthly support in addition to all of the other financial needs we have had. Therefore, my beloved friends, with the costs being much more, and many individuals and churches cutting back or stopping their giving, it has been hard to keep meeting every need. So, I would like to ask that everyone of you, our friends, to reconsider what you have been giving, and take a step of faith and restart the generous giving you have done in the past. We desperately need your help to try and keep this marvelous soul-winning ministry going forth with reaching thousands of souls in all of our African countries.



**Orphan children at Spring of Hope Children's Home receiving school supplies given by GIMI**



## **Over 7,000 People Saved Through Our Radio Broadcasts In Uganda, But Now I Must Stop Again Because Of My Voice!**

Most of you know that back on the first weekend of this year, 2022, we restarted our radio ministry after being off the air for over two years due to my vocal cord paralysis and ultimate surgery. And, I believe most of you know just how much I love the radio because of the possibility of reaching so many people, especially during these days when travel to Africa and other countries is so restricted due to the Covid restrictions, and also, because of my uncertain health problems. Therefore, our present recently restarted radio ministry was on almost 90 radio stations all across America and in Africa when we restarted this ministry again back in January of this year. Also, when we restarted our GIMI broadcasts, 16 of our stations were in Africa, where we were airing our broadcast either on Saturday or Sunday every weekend. And folks, I must tell you that I have had radio programs on many stations all the way back to the time when I was a young pastor just getting started in the ministry back in the late 1960's. And, I have to tell you that I have never seen any radio station workers or Disk Jockies anywhere do what has been done recently by two of our radio ministry workers in Uganda. Sister Esther Nakyangulanyi at the Dunamis Radio Station in Mukono, Uganda, and Sister Annie Uweera at the Grace Radio Station in Mbarara, Western Uganda have just been fabulously airing our weekly 30 minute broadcasts in such a way that hundreds of people have been getting saved. These precious ladies are just wonderful in the way they draw the net at the end of our broadcasts each week. Surely, God is using these dear ladies in a marvelous way. I just wish that more of you radio Disk Jockies and personnel would follow the examples that Esther and Annie have been using to bring so many people to Christ! Folks, just recently in the outreach of the Grace Radio on Western Uganda, several hundred people got saved, and over 100 people were baptized in just one baptismal service! Praise the Lord!!

### **What Every Radio Station Should Do In Order To See Many People Come To Christ!**

Let me tell you what these dear ladies are doing to bring so many people to Jesus! Each weekend just before our Gateway International Missions Radio Broadcast started, both of these dear sisters introduced our program, and they would tell the listening audience that if any of them prayed to receive Christ with me at the close of the broadcast, they needed to call the station and tell Esther or Annie that they prayed with me to get saved. If they couldn't contact the local station they were listening to, then, they could e-mail me at: [gimi@charter.net](mailto:gimi@charter.net), and tell me that they got saved. If the new convert was not in the areas where Esther and Annie were, then, I would respond to their e-mail. Then, we would find out where the new convert lived, or where they could be met in order to receive a copy of God's Word and a copy of my new convert booklet that I wrote sometime back. The booklet is entitled, "Getting Started Right," and it is designed to help the new believer start his or her new Christian life in the right way, and to know what he or she needs to do next. GIMI pays for having many copies of the booklet reprinted, and, for the Bibles that these ladies and I give these new converts. We are very happy to help these newly saved believers get started off well, and

to discover what they should do next in order to help them grow as new born-again believers. If every radio station would do what Esther and Annie have been doing at their stations, I believe multitudes would get saved and then follow Christ! May God convict all of our Radio Station workers to follow the great example of Annie and Esther, and help us bring hundreds to Christ!

## **THE WAR IN THE UKRAINE DRAGS ON WITH MILLIONS SUFFERING!**

Also, I would just like to remind all of you that the War in the Ukraine is still going on horribly now for five months. And, because some of you have sent us designated gifts for Pastor Dima Bulakh, and the people of the Grace Evangelical Church right in the middle of Kyiv, the capitol of the country, we have circumvented the money wiring system and sent Pastor Dima thousands of dollars to help him and his church people as they have been hiding out in the basement of their church. Also, I am thrilled to tell you that because of the numbers of people coming to their church to get food and other essential items, Pastor Dima, has been preaching the Gospel and seeing numbers of people get saved. Please join us in praying for a great harvest of souls there in that formerly beautiful country of the Ukraine.

In addition, I would like to tell all of you that because of some additional designated funds from a few churches, GIMI has been able to send well over \$10,000 to Dr. Nathan Merrill in Romania to help him bring some Ukraine refugees out of the Ukraine to their home there in Romania. Then too, Brother Nathan and his wife, Anca, are providing a huge amount of medicine and humanitarian aid for many of the people who have chosen to stay in their torn country to see what ultimately is going to happen. Please pray for the safety for Nathan and Anca, and for, the Ukraine people who are fleeing their country to run for their lives to Romania and other countries, where the refugees are fleeing. Also, I hope you will join us in praying that God might stop this horrible demon-possessed Putin, who is such a reprobate monster. As David often prayed for his enemies to be destroyed in the Book of Psalms, let's pray that God will remove Putin, this horribly evil man who is hurting and killing so many innocent people.



## **PRAISE GOD FOR A TREMENDOUS HARVEST!!**

Most all of you dear readers know that JoAnne and I have been working in Africa for 37 years. During these many years we have seen God do some amazing things. We started this great ministry working with Brother Mickey and Sister Alice Parrish who had at that time just moved to Nairobi, Kenya, just a short while before. Making my first trip there was truly a challenge for me, but, it turned out to be one of the greatest decisions that JoAnne and I ever made, because through this new African ministry, we began to see a spiritual harvest of multitudes of people coming to Christ. In fact, at this present time I can tell you that since that first trip in 1985, God has given GIMI the privilege of preaching and teaching the Gospel to just over 15 million people. And, praise God, from this huge number of people, He has given us a harvest of over 5.3 million people making first-time decisions to follow Christ. Also, when my wife and I started working in Africa with Brother Mickey and Sister Alice (Both of which are now in heaven), this ministry was working full-time in just two countries; Kenya and Uganda. Since that time, we have worked non-stop in a total of 17 African countries. Presently, we are working in 14! These have often times been very difficult, especially, back in 1993, when we had the terrible vehicle accident in Uganda. When my Outreach and Missions Director at Tri-City Baptist Church in Conover, NC, was killed in this horrible accident, things became very difficult for the next several years. Truthfully, I have suffered much PTSD for many years since the accident. But, with the help of Jesus and a sweet wife, I have tried to keep going on with this wonderful ministry. And, I can tell you that God has blessed this effort tremendously!

I tell you this because I want all of you to know that we are still seeing thousands come to Christ through the hard work of our national workers, through our many mission teams, and of course, through the continuing work of the few people who have worked on our American staff, especially through the great work of my dear wife, JoAnne, through the volunteer work of my son-in-law, Pastor Mike McKinney, and through the efforts of Sister Patsy Little, who just left us after six years of faithful service. God is still pouring out His Spiritual power and Divine presence as we continue to try to take the Gospel to a lost world. And, my dear friends, I would like to tell you that even through the past three years while fighting the horrible Covid 19 Plague, God has given us a huge harvest of souls. Just as a testimony to what God is doing, let me tell you that from January through May of this year, God has given us the privilege of sharing the Gospel message with 554,581 people in all of our countries. And, from this great number, God has given

us a harvest of almost 120,000 people making first-time decisions to follow Jesus! I just want you to join me in shouting "Praise God, Hallelujah, Amen and Amen!!!!!!"

### **Our GIMI Celebration Harvest And Board Meeting Were A Tremendous Blessing!!!**

While talking about the great and wonderful harvest God has been giving GIMI, let me share with you that just back on June 24-25, our GIMI Board Members and many other of our friends conducted our GIMI Banquet and board meeting, celebrating our 22nd year of ministry since JoAnne and I took over this work. We had a marvelous celebration with Brother Wade Spencer providing a tremendous short music concert following the delicious meal we enjoyed. Then, following the music concert, Dr. David Gallamore, Senior Pastor of the Rock Springs Baptist Church in Easley, South Carolina, preached a challenging message from Mark, Chapter 2. Truly, we were blessed beyond description during the entire evening together with our GIMI family and friends. Then, on Saturday morning, we had a very productive annual board meeting. JoAnne and I would like to tell all of you that participated in our annual banquet and board meeting that we surely thank you for coming, many of you from a far distance, to be such a valuable part of this ministry. She and I would like to share with you that we were really encouraged to keep on keeping on for Jesus with this precious ministry. With your continuing help, we will continue to move forward with our plans to reach literally thousand of people; plus, ministering to thousands of suffering people. We could not continue on with this great harvest ministry were it not for dear friends like you praying for, and by helping us financially. Thank you so much for helping to hold up our arms as we continue to move on with the quest for the Promise Land of blessing and fruitfulness in these final days just before our Lord and Savior returns!



**Wade Spencer in concert singing  
at the GIMI Celebration Harvest  
and Board Meeting**



# GIMI CELEBRATION HARVEST BANQUET



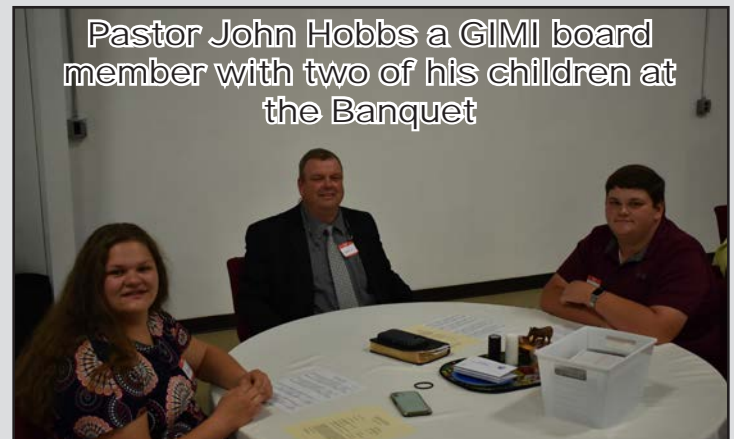
GIMI table displays at the Celebration Harvest Banquet



GIMI Directors member Mildred Catron fellowshiping with Janet Hart at the Banquet



Vice President Tommy Snyder of GIMI praying over the meal at the Banquet



Pastor John Hobbs a GIMI board member with two of his children at the Banquet



Pastor Stan and Mama JoAnne 3 great grandchildren Jackson, Sawyer & Sophie playing at the Banquet



Pastor David Gallamore preaching at the GIMI Banquet



Some of the GIMI Board Members that were present at the Banquet



Delicious dinner being served at the GIMI Banquet



# GIMI WORKING IN UGANDA



Sudan widow refugees in Uganda waiting for food from GIMI



Hundreds of school children listening to the gospel at Circle of Prince School in Uganda



Sister Esther praying with children who were saved in Uganda school



Sister Rachel sharing Jesus with Shiperoy students in Uganda



Children at Shiperoy School in Uganda listening to the gospel



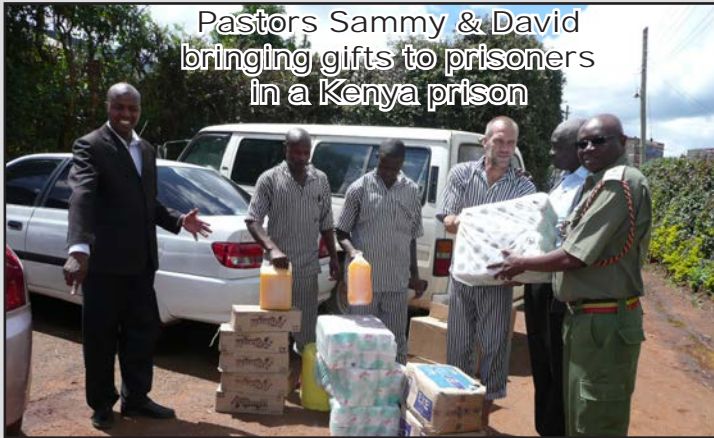
Pastor Abraham playing the drum with Uganda prison choir



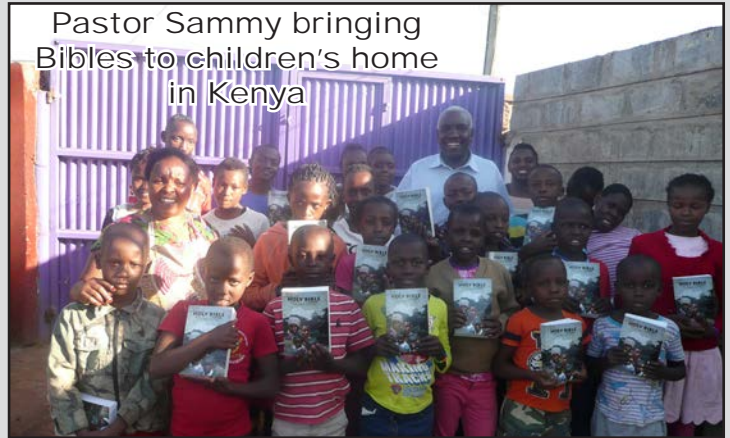
Pastor Abraham sharing Jesus with Uganda prisoners



# KENYA, RWANDA, & CAMEROON



Pastors Sammy & David bringing gifts to prisoners in a Kenya prison



Pastor Sammy bringing Bibles to children's home in Kenya



Pastor Danson preaching the gospel in a large Kenyan prison



Pastor Faustin praying over a large gift of corn maize for vulnerable people in Rwanda



Pastor Faustin bringing a large truck load of corn maize to vulnerable people in Rwanda



Pastor Emmanuel loading many gifts from GIMI for prisoners in Cameroon



Pastor Emmanuel preaching the gospel to prisoners in Cameroon



Pastor Emmanuel bringing the gospel and many gifts to prisoners in Cameroon



# GIMI WORKING IN DR CONGO



Pastor Robert preaching the gospel in a makeshift church in DR Congo



Pastor Robert giving gifts from GIMI in a makeshift church in DR Congo



A huge crowd in a dangerous outdoor setting preparing for worship in DR Congo



Pastor Robert sharing Jesus with children in a school in DR Congo



Pastor Robert praying with people who have come forth for salvation at the end of worshipping in DR Congo



Pastor Robert praying with many who are coming to Jesus in DR Congo



Pastor Robert baptizing one of 22 candidates in a Baptismal Service in DR Congo





Pastor Israel giving medicine to prisoners in DR Congo



Orphan children drinking their juice given by GIMI in DR Congo



Pastor Israel sharing Christ with a class in DR Congo



More medicine for Congolese prisoners given by GIMI



New mattresses from GIMI for youth that survived the volcano in DR Congo



Fleeing refugees from terrorist groups in DR Congo outside of a school



Pastor Robert preaching the gospel outside in volcanic rock to crowd in DR Congo



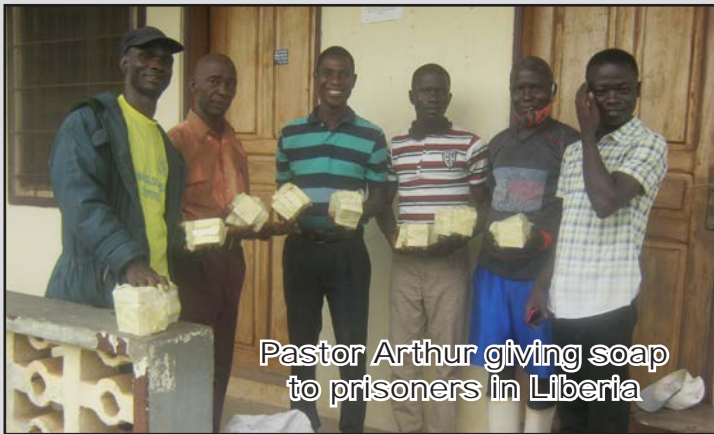
# LIBERIA AND ZAMBIA



Outdoor worship in Liberia where Arthur Yanweh is our GIMI Preacher



Large crowd listening to Pastor preaching the gospel in Liberia



Pastor Arthur giving soap to prisoners in Liberia



Pastor Arthur with stacks of Bibles for Liberia given by GIMI



GIMI teacher Charity bringing dress clothes and shoes to lady prisoners in Zambia



Prisoners in Zambia receiving humanitarian gifts from GIMI



Bibles from GIMI for Zambia prisoners



Large number of women praying for salvation in Zambia womens prison



Sierra Leone Pastor Kassim Kibia's twin daughters traveled to Ghana for surgery on their legs because of Rickets. Gateway International **Missions paid to have these girls flown from** Sierra Leone to Ghana for this surgery. GIMI paid for all the travel plus the cost of the surgeries. The twin girls are now back home in Sierra Leone and are doing well!





## A Final Note For This Time!

Dear beloved GIMI friends, before I bring this July and August newsletter article to an end, I would like to share something else with you that I hope will really be a blessing and a strong encouragement for you who might be dealing with the problem of loneliness. Let me begin by telling you that the article I am going to give you to complete our newsletter comes from one of my books, which I wrote for prisoners several years ago. This article dealing with loneliness is Chapter 9 of the “Prison Manual,” which I wrote to help prisoners with the many daily problems they face every day. And, I will tell you that right now as an older preacher having been in the ministry for 57 years pastoring 11 churches, preaching over 1,300 revival meetings

in 33 American states, and having worked with people of all descriptions in Africa for 37 years, I must confess that loneliness is one of the most difficult things I face every day since I am working alone most of the time. Thus, I hope this article will help you as it has helped me to study and write these pages. If it helps you, I would love to hear from you and how God used it to encourage you at a difficult time in your life when you were or are struggling with loneliness!

Dr. Stan Frye

President of GIMI

Matthew 9:35-38

## “DEALING WITH LONELINESS” SCRIPTURE: PSALM 142:1-7

### Introduction

We now come to Chapter 9 in our study. Up until now, we have dealt with a variety of problems and attitudes that prisoners are bound to face and demonstrate. In this chapter, I want us to take a look at another very difficult problem that every inmate has to deal with while he or she is in prison. This is the problem of loneliness. Now the ordinary man or woman who has never been in prison would never understand what it is like to be so very lonely while in the midst of several hundred or thousands of prisoners. Yet, every day that a person is in prison, that person is separated from family, friends, colleagues, and other common people that most everyone has relationships with on the outside. So, being separated from these close people breeds a growing amount of loneliness, which often leads to deep depression, which we have already covered in this book. What can a prisoner do to overcome this terrible loneliness, which is bound to come to every prisoner who is incarcerated? To find the answer to a life of severe loneliness, I want us to go back to the Book of Psalms in the Old Testament and spend some valuable time studying the Psalm 142.

In this Psalm we find the story of David who is hiding out in a cave down in the desert somewhere trying to get away from King Saul who was out to kill him. David had reached his wits end, and at this time in his life, he cried out to God and made a great complaint to God about his circumstances. In verse number four, David said, **“I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul”**. Dear beloved prisoner, “have you ever felt this way?” Have you ever felt that you just had no one that cared for you? Have you felt that everyone has forsaken you? If so, be encouraged to know that David went through this same difficulty, and in the midst of his problem, God gave him a prayer to record so that you could be helped in your time of despair and loneliness. I want to take you carefully through this great Psalm so that God can encourage you, and bring you to the reality of His presence so that you will never again feel alone. I ask you to really study your Bible along with this text, so that you can glean all that God has for you during this different time in your life. Why don't you begin by reading Psalm 142 three or four times so that the passage will sink down into your soul and speak to your heart. Now, let's begin our study of the text! Just remember that David is at the bottom, and from that position, he cries out to God for help in his time of loneliness and desperation.

### I. NOTICE THE WISDOM OF DAVID'S CRY. vs. 1-2

It is a great day in the life of any prisoner when that prisoner cries out to God for help when he or she has



reached the end of his or her wits. Please notice that I said, “Cry out to God”, because just crying out for help to any human being will not suffice. Let’s see the wisdom of David’s cry to the Father.

#### **A. David’s cry was wise because of its direction. v. 1a**

As I just mentioned, crying out just to anyone will not help you in the midst of your loneliness and despair. But, you must cry fervently to God for help as David did. David has no one near that could help him. He had no means of communication, except for possibly a servant who may become his courier from time to time. He had no telephones, no cell phones, no writing stationery, and no means to send text messages. He was truly all-alone, but he never forgot that God was near, even when he might not sense God’s presence.

As a prisoner bound by incarceration, you must never forget that God is near, even when He may seem like He is thousands of miles away. If you only recognize His presence when you can feel Him, it requires no faith. But, if you can trust Him even when He seems to be so far away, you will be assured that He will answer your prayers and come to your assistance in this lonely time in your life.

#### **B. David’s cry was wise because of its determination. v. 1b**

In the latter part of verse one, the scriptures tells us that David cried to God with a loud voice and with resolute determination to make God hear him. Of course, God has no problem with His hearing, but David was so distraught that he cried out to God with a heart-felt fervency to have God come to his aid. Later in this text you will see that God did answer David’s plea and came to be his refuge and strength.

In the Book of James, Chapter 5, verse 16, we are told “...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” David had learned to live a righteous life, and he knew that when no one else was there to help him, that God would indeed come to his assistance. Let me encourage you as a prisoner away from your home and family to remember that you are not alone. Jesus is there with you, and He relishes the thought of making His presence known to you if you will wisely call upon Him with determination. Why don’t you stop right now as you are reading, and call upon Him for His presence. He is very near!

#### **C. David’s cry was wise because of its desire. v. 1c**

The word supplication in this verse means that David cried out to God with a specific request for God’s help at this time of darkness in his life. This was no time to pray in generalities, but it was a time to pray specifically for God to come to where David was and help; even in a dark cave. Obviously, David knew that God was not limited, and that God was everywhere all at the same time, and that He had the power to be with him immediately. And, may I say, that in the Old Testament the Holy Spirit did not indwell every believer as He does in this New Testament generation, but He was always ready to answer the prayers of a righteous man when he prayed with a clean heart and with the right motives.

Truthfully, in this age in which we live, Jesus will never leave or forsake us, although, at times it does seem that He is far away. Dear prisoner, you are not alone, and Jesus will answer your prayers if you pray the right way.

#### **D. David’s cry was wise because of its disclosure. v. 2**

Verse two is an unusual verse. Why? Because it reveals that it is quite all right to pour out our complaints before God, and describe specifically the trouble we are in and the problems we are facing. Now, I know that some “super righteous people”, who believe they have arrived, seem to believe that we should never complain to God about anything. But, I would remind you that God already knows that we are nothing but frail flesh and blood, and I believe He will not chastise us because we with transparency share with Him how we really feel.

And, I think that I need to add that through many years of serving God I have complained to God when I had reached my wits end. And, I don’t think that He was bothered or even got angry with me because I complained. Yes, He has rebuked me a few times through the Word of God or when I was listening to someone preach the Word of God, but I have never felt condemned because I shared with God the anxiety I was going through. God already knew what I was going through as He does for each of you prisoners, but I sincerely needed to cry out to Him so that I could release my feelings and receive His forgiveness. There is great therapy in sharing with someone who can be trusted, or with God himself, how you really feel about what you are going through. And, I believe that you will never feel the



presence of God in your life until you do release your guilt, your fears, and your anger before God. David was honest with his heavenly Father, and so should we be as well.

## **II. NOTICE THE WHEN OF DAVID'S CRY. vs. 3-4, v. 6**

Now, I want us to take a look at when David cried out to God for His presence and help. Why is this important? Because the timing of our supplications to God is so important to not only when we will get answers, but also, to the attitude and confidence we will demonstrate when we are facing loneliness and other problems. Let me explain by giving you the following times when David cried out to God.

### **A. David's cry came in a time of defeat. v. 3a**

It is very obvious that David cried out to God when he was defeated beyond measure. Remember that David had been a successful young man as a shepherd boy taking care of his father's sheep, and, he had already been anointed by the prophet to become Israel's next King. Yet, here he is in a terrible dark and damp cave down in the wilderness, all alone with no one to care for him, and no one to share his loneliness. But it was at this point that he decided to pray with great determination because, obviously, he came suddenly to realize that God knew everything about him. He knew the paths that David had walked in the past, and knew where David was walking at the present time. He suddenly realized that God had not left him, but probably, God had planned this for his own good. God was teaching him some valuable lessons that he would need in the years to come.

Could I please remind all of you dear prisoners, that it was not God's perfect will for you to come to prison, but He did allow it because He has great things He wants to teach you while you are in prison, so that in the future, He will use you in a greater way than you could ever imagine. He did this with David who was imprisoned in a cave for the moment, and he will do the same for you if you will cry out to Him for to be your closest friend in these hours of loneliness. You may be defeated for the moment, but victory is on the way!

### **B. David's cry came in a time of danger. v. 3b**

In the latter part of verse three, we are told that David knew that his life was in danger. Actually, as long as King Saul was alive, David faced the possibility of imminent danger wherever he was, whether in the cave or traveling through the trails of Israel. He stated in this verse that wherever he has gone, the enemy has laid a trap for him. With this danger, there had to be anxiety, pressure, and a certain amount of fear. Yet, he knew that God was aware of what he had already gone through and what he was going through at the moment. Therefore, he knew that he was not really alone, even in the face of danger.

When one is in prison, that person is usually living with a sense of fear and dread. He or she never knows what they might have to face each day that they are alive, but it is possible to have peace in these anxious moments when this person reminds himself or herself that God is near through fervent prayer.

The best way in all of the world to have peace instead of fear is to totally trust God for His protection and sweet presence. Of course, this can only happen if one is truly saved by the blood of Jesus Christ. If Jesus could have called legions of angels down from heaven to set him free from Calvary, which He did not, yet surely, He can send one to our side in the darkness of the night to watch over us; even in a dark and dirty prison in Africa.

### **C. David's cry came in a time of desolation. v. 4a**

The English dictionary tells us that the word desolation means totally abandoned by others, and existing in a barren place. This sounds so much like the circumstances that David was living in, and also, the circumstances that most prisoners find themselves in. Yet, David remembered that in his desolation, he had not been abandoned by God, although it may have seemed like it.

If you are a prisoner, please remember that in the midst of your terribly desolate situation, God is ready to come and be your close friend. And, He never sleeps or slumbers, and He is never on vacation or holiday. Therefore, call upon Him when you are in a time of desolation because He awaits your call!

### **D. David's cry came in a time of depression. vs. 4b, 6b**

We have already talked much about depression in a previous chapter, but let me just tell you that David was



at his lowest point probably ever. He was being harassed by his persecutors, and he had lost all of his self-esteem and self-worth. He was at the bottom! And, so are some of you prisoners that are reading this material. You never intended to be this low, but your wrong choices or the evil choices of others have brought you to this place. Now is the time for you to cry out to God for His help in your time of dark depression and loneliness. God is standing by waiting for your prayers of supplication. If you feel that you are in the same state of depression that David was in, let me encourage you to stop reading this material and cry out for God to come to your assistance. I assure you that He is more ready to help you, than you are to call upon Him. And, let me say that He may not come to set you free instantaneously, but He may just come to be your friend until He does a perfect work in your life while you are still incarcerated.

#### **E. David's cry came in a time of defamation. v. 6b**

In the last part of verse six, David reveals that he is being severely persecuted by his enemies, and this persecution is coming from those whom he has tried to be-friend and serve. Some of the persecution and criticism that we receive in life is brought on justly by our own bad choices and actions, while other persecution comes from those we have loved and tried to help. I believe it is much easier to deal with the attacks that come as the result of our bad decisions and actions than it is for us to be hurt so deeply by the criticism and persecution of those we have given our lives and service to. I can tell you that as a pastor who has tried to serve Jesus faithfully for almost 57 years, I have been hurt more and scarred much deeper by those who have pretended to be my friends than anyone else in the entire world. It is so very sad that so many of those that we have tried to help, viciously and bitterly turn against us and seek to do us much harm. In my personal opinion, this is the lowest of the lowest, and the worst of the worst! And, yet long is the list of those who so often stand in line seeking to return disrespect for respect, and harm for good deeds. Paul said this to the Corinthian Church in II Corinthians 12:15, when he said, "And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved."

If this is the way you feel today as a prisoner, just remember that you are truly in good company with Paul the Apostle who himself many times was a prisoner!

Let me just mention this before I move on. As a prisoner, it is my prayer that the day will come when you will be released from prison and allowed to return home to your village or town. When you get there, don't be surprised if many of those who pretended to be your friends before you left for prison now become your enemies and persecutors. Just make up your mind with God's help to go about rebuilding your life, even without their love, friendship, and respect. Just remember that if God has forgiven you, that is all that really matters. So, don't become discouraged and return to crime. Jesus will still be your friend, even if others will not. And, He is the one that understands loneliness better than anyone whoever walked on this earth. Why do I say this? Because on the cross when He was dying, he said, "...My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Matthew 27:46. God the father had turned His back on the Son because He could not look on this suffering servant with the imputed sins of man upon Him. No one has ever experienced the loneliness that Jesus experienced that day on Calvary. Therefore, dear brother or sister, Jesus understands your loneliness!

### **III. NOTICE THE WHY OF DAVID'S CRY. vs. 5,7**

In these last couple of verses in this great text, we come to the "Why" or the reason for David's cry for help in his time of severe loneliness. There are five components of this why, but at the basis of all of the reasons is the fact that David just felt that He could not go on, and that he would never have a friend ever again. He was a young man as are many prisoners, but David saw no real future and seemed to be hopeless. Therefore, this cry to God was his final cry. Yet, I believe that David remembered just how faithful God had been to him in the past, and he still believed that God would be faithful in the present. I can promise each of you prisoners, and every person outside the prisons that God will always be faithful to you as He was to David. Now, let's look more carefully at the reasons David cried out to the Lord.

#### **A. David cried out to God because of His need for refuge. v. 5**

David was so low and lonely at this point in this life that he felt that he had lost everything he had ever had, and I believe he felt like he would never have any thing again without the help of God. David made a statement in



this verse that should bring encouragement to every heart. That statement says, “...Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.” In other words, David was simply saying, “God I have nothing in life but you”. And, beloved prisoner friends, let me tell you that is all we really need. Many of you today may feel just like David did, but take hope because Jesus is your portion if you have truly been saved. And, He is more than willing to be your closest friend and wonderful partner in the darkest days of your life. And, according to Psalm 46, He has promised to be “Your refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” So, let me admonish you to cry out to Him so that you can run to Him for protection and provision. He is much nearer than you think!

#### **B. David cried out to God because of His need for release. v. 7a**

Not only was David locked up in a cave bodily, but, in this verse, David says that even his soul is in prison. His circumstances had become so bad that every day he was living in absolute bondage. He could not see any friends, have any relationships, enjoy any fellowship, and even his mind and heart were in bondage. So, he cried to God to set him free in his soul and spirit. And, he had a confidence that God would come through on his behalf. Even if he was imprisoned in a terrible cave, David knew that he could be free in spirit and sense the freedom of a soul set free.

My dear prisoner friend, you too can be set free in your soul and spirit if you will call upon God to release you today. You may still have to remain in prison for a while longer until God opens the doors, but I assure you that right now, He will open the doors to the prison of your heart, if you will let him do so. Why don't you call upon Him right now for deliverance?

#### **C. David cried out to God because of the need for reverence. v. 7b**

Continuing our study of verse seven, we come to the conclusion that David is praying for God to set his spirit and soul free so that he can once again reverence and worship God. David has been down so low and so lonely that he did not even feel like worshipping God. Therefore, he desired to have the divine awareness of God's presence once again so that he could praise the Lord once more.

It is extremely important for all of us to understand that we are a composite entity composed of three parts; body, soul, and spirit. And, because we are a trinity, if we are ill in any of these three parts, it will adversely affect our worship of almighty God. Therefore, we must make sure that when we approach God that we are rested physically, free from emotional bondage in our soul, and we must make sure that there is no sin between ourselves and God the Father. Thus, David cried out to God so that he could once again experience true worship and praise for the Father.

I trust that you as a prisoner fenced away in prison can be free in your spirit through an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, and that your loneliness will drive you to despair, but that it will drive you to Jesus, your best personal friend.

#### **D. David cried out to God because of the need for the righteous. v. 7c**

In the next part of verse seven, David prays that once more he will be encompassed by righteous people. In other words, David was crying out to God for Him, to send him some righteous people instead of the enemies who had been persecuting him. He was pleading with God to send him some people who were genuinely right with God, and who would be a positive influence upon him during this difficult time of loneliness.

May I say to each of you reading this material, that I truly understand what it is like to be surrounded by lost wicked people who only want to hurt you. I have been under attacks by many pretending believers who have set out to do me and my family harm. And, sometimes the attacks become very vicious and hurtful. Yet, I know that if I will make a special attempt to avoid being around those who will do me harm, God will ultimately send me not only some real friends to encourage me, but also, He will provide His Holy Spirit to take away my loneliness.

Let me encourage those of you who are in prison to pray that God will give you some truly righteous inmates who have been genuinely saved so that they can surround you with love, warm fellowship, and a hedge of protection from all of your evil enemies. Then, start a regular Bible study, a prayer group, or form a prison church so that you can depend upon each other for encouragement and support. This is why Jesus died for the local church, so that we can have the weekly support of believing brothers and sisters. Even in prison, everyone needs a support group to make it through tough times and deep loneliness.



**E. David cried out to the Lord because of the need for restoration. v. 7d**

In the last phrase of verse seven, David reveals that now his faith and confidence have come back because he knows that God is going to bless and restore him. He states that God will deal bountifully with him, and David seems to have found the assurance and self-confidence that he had previously lost. In this last statement, there seems to be the implication that David has come back from the bottom, and now he is encouraged again. In other words, the presence of God has come back to David's life, and he is no longer lonely.

**Conclusion**

Now in conclusion, I want to say to all of you that read this material that regardless of what you are facing and how lonely you feel, God has not forgotten you, and He is very near if you will call upon Him for complete restoration. He loves you, and you are very important to Him, or else He would never have promised to always be with you. Therefore, rise above your circumstances and call upon God to come to your rescue, whatever you are facing! Even locked away in a terrible African prison cell, God is nearer than any other person could possibly be. So, depend upon Him, and trust Him to bring you back with complete restoration. And, let me tell you that even at your lowest moment, God is ready to live in you in resurrection power, stick with you through thick and thin, and He has promised that through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, the best is yet to come.

Many years ago during the Second World War, Sir Winston Churchill told his English brethren and sisters to "never, never, never, give up". They took his advice and England, along with the help of allied forces, won the war and Adolph Hitler's Germany was soundly defeated. May I repeat to all of you that are in prison: "Never, Never, Never Give Up", because you are not alone. Satan would try to convince you that you are, but don't you ever believe it. In and through our Lord Jesus Christ, we have the victory!

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