

DOING FOR THE LEAST MINISTRIES

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***What's Happening Report
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Greetings to everyone coming into this 4th Quarter!

The ministry is still maintaining efforts to teach and counsel the lost in addictive and criminal behavior. The parole and probation folks have been a little slow in coming, but we are still at it. The parole and probation groups have been downsized to two nights a week focusing on whatever is the need of their day. I have also offered counseling and mentoring. The Drug Court group is meeting two Wednesdays a month to meet whatever needs they have in their program.

The Meridian Nursing Home groups have been doing well. We have been ministering to about ten residents that meet around the table, as well as with some in their rooms. We have concluded our series of Bible books and characters and now have continued to the story of Jesus in Luke and Matthew. We first deal with His humanity trying to tie the Old to the New showing that God's plan in the old was to bring Jesus into this world to accomplish His purpose. Some catch on to that thought while others simply hear, and we hope it has an effect. Currently, we are studying the "Sermon on the Mount" focusing on Jesus' teachings and authority.

The Alzheimer's group on the other side has been meeting Sunday afternoon each week. A CD is used for music, and I share a passage about Jesus. As I mentioned before, this type of group is a mission of mercy letting the word do the work. I'm finding some already have had the word in them, and this helps them remember.

For this report, I am focusing on a special person. I'm relating back to one of the first I called BG or Baldemar Garcia. I reported about him last year calling him BG. While he has had troubles in - I'll just call it the Old Man - he is now growing and doing well. He was baptized earlier this year and is making progress in the new life. Recently he got a job at a local motel (a fancy one), and he's working hard to keep it. I have let him rent or use a room in my house, and he is managing well. He even drives for me at night to the group meetings due to my light sensitivity and is doing well. One of the really neat things that he does is he brings his 7 year old over for the weekend. He is really working on this child. I tell him he is creating a bond in that child that will last a life time. I'm almost envious. It's the father son bond that so many lack today. Another thing he does is he is reading the scripture plus a Christian book on the Bible and behavior.

I tell this story of this individual for a very specific reason. These people can change. It's along hard road and many don't make it. It's like I told him this week - God is working on his old man and is having to cut some things and people out of his life to make the changes needed. We often talk about the discipline of the Lord in Hebrews 12. God is refining him bringing about holiness. Friends, I fear many of us would find it hard to do what many of these are trying to do. Many are starting over from the beginning. They missed what some of us had from the beginning. We had discipline from the start and parents that guided us the best they could. But some of these never had that person in their life. While Balde has a long way to go, I still hold him up as a good example not only to those that come to group, but to you and me too.

Thanks for reading about the stories and progress we are making. Please keep holding on with us, and one day we all will see God's end for us all.

Thanks Again for Your Support!

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