



HOUSE OF HOPE

Unchained for Christ Ministry



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SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER

COVID-19

Many of you may be wondering how the coronavirus and the governor's subsequent "stay at home" order has affected the House of Hope ministry.

Currently, virtually all of the jails and prisons in the State of Washington have stopped allowing any visitations, especially those visitations where inmates may be in a group setting. While the coronavirus crisis lasts, our in-jail programming is on pause. At this time we are ramping up our Pen-Pal writing program. If you would like to assist with this program, please contact us.

It's critical that we help protect incarcerated men and women, who are especially vulnerable to the spread of disease in the jail/prison environment. Fear and anxiety are also spiking behind bars as prisoners face a period of increasing isolation and are unable to see their loved ones. Just as importantly, we want to protect our dedicated volunteers.

Once jail and prison officials re-open the doors of their facilities in the coming weeks and months, we must be prepared for the task of quickly ramping up our visitations and Bible studies.

Satan does not like what House of Hope Ministry has been doing in the jails and prisons in the State of Washington, and he has unabashedly let Michael and the volunteers for House of Hope know his displeasure.

Please take a few moments each day to pray for Michael, Margie, and House of Hope Ministry. If you would like to donate to help this ministry continue, please go to our website to see how you can help!

Sincerely,
House of Hope Board of Directors.

WHY?

Why do we visit those who are incarcerated? Why do we lead Bible studies in jails and prisons? Why do we pray for the inmates? Let me tell you why!

Let's look at Doug G. In 2004, Doug was in the King County Jail. He spent 3-1/2 years in that facility. Because he was one of those who had 3 strikes against him, he was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

He was moved from King County Jail to Washington Corrections Center in Shelton, WA. After a stay there, he was moved to Washington State Reformatory in Monroe, WA. He has spent the last few years at Clallam Bay Corrections Center.

Michael first met Doug G. at the King County Jail when Doug attended one of Michael's Bible studies. It was clear at that time that Doug was not a Christian. Over the last 16 years, Michael has kept in contact with Doug, visiting him at each of the prisons where Doug has been incarcerated. Michael has seen Doug grow in his relationship with Jesus Christ.

Last year, Doug and his lawyer applied for clemency. It is extremely rare for someone who has been sentenced to life without parole to even be allowed a clemency hearing. But God opened the doors for Doug.

In October of 2019, Doug had his clemency hearing. Michael went to speak at on Doug's behalf at the hearing. Many members of the staff at Clallam Bay had seen dramatic changes in Doug, and many of them also recommended that he be granted clemency.

Just last week, Doug got the news that the board had approved clemency for him.

None of us could change Doug, but Jesus can, and he did. That's why we do what we do!

LETTERS FROM THE INSIDE

The crazy thing is that you came and called me and my celly out without me saying anything

I try to stay busy and away from all the “drama.” I only have to impress God and no one else.

Pastor Michael,

I just wanted to write you to tell you how grateful I am to be alive right now.

That day that you came to Grant County Jail, I had received bad news, and I really didn't want to live anymore. The devil was talking my ear off to take my own life. The crazy thing is that you came and called me and my celly out without me saying anything.

The message you gave me saved my life. You randomly started talking about how the devil is a liar, and if he is telling you to take your own life just know that he is fooling you and lying to you.

Right there, I knew God was talking through you to me. Everything you said was talking about something I was going through.

Pastor M, I just wanted to say thank you for coming that day. I'm thankful that you're a true man of God. I'm very happy for what you are doing for us men that are going through some type of trial, or serving some time in prison or whatever. And you are out in every prison or county jail you can be in to tell us the Word of God. Thank you brother.

I am still here in the Grant County jail. I don't really know what's going on with my case, but I have faith that everything is going to turn out good.

I ask for your prayers so that everything will turn out okay. Also prayers that I keep my faith and follow God in the outside also.

Thank you, and God bless,

Isai D.

Dear Mr. Sgobba,

Hi! How are things going for you?

I am very busy. I am enrolled in Defy Ventures Washington. This program will help me get a job at Google, Amazon, or Microsoft. I am taking classes at Edmonds Community Collage. I am enrolled in Web Application Developer. I will receive a certificate in January 2021.

Otherwise, I am going to church 7 days a week. I try to stay busy and away from all the “drama.” I only have to impress God and no one else.

It is hard to get a job here,. It takes about a year to get employment, but that is okay with me. I would rather program and learn some new job skills.

Michael, than you for your letters. They really mean a lot to me.

I do know I will have problems when I get out of prison. I am going to try to release to Spokane instead of Moses Lake. There is more in Spokane than in Moses Lake, and I want have a better outcome.

I pray a lot for the people that do not know who Jesus is!

Your Brother in Christ,

Carlos M.

Michael met Carlos in Grant County Jail and has stayed in contact with Carlos while he is in prison in Monroe.

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to the prisoners

Isaiah 61:1