

Grace Freedom News

Changing lives through the Gospel and Biblical truth

January – March 2010

"If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:36)

Issue #5

Dear Beloved in Christ,

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support. I am forever grateful to God our Father for your partnership in the building up of His kingdom. The love you have shown towards the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has been a great source of blessing and encouragement.

The year 2010 is starting off very well. Many have heard the simple grace gospel of faith alone in Christ alone for salvation and the procedures to living the Christian life. So far, God has opened doors for me to visit two prisons in Georgia. I continue to teach at 2 jails and 2 prisons here in Nashville weekly. At one jail I teach adults, and juveniles being tried as adults because of the nature of their crimes. These are the most violent offenders in the city of Nashville. They are responding very well to the truth. Many are so confused and filled with rage and anger. There is hope in Christ for these troubled young men. Please continue to pray for them and me daily.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...teaching them to observe all that I commanded you..." (Matthew 28:19a, 20a)

The trip to Ware State Prison and Smith State Prison in March went very well. About 250 inmates heard the simple gospel message and basic teaching on how to solve problems in the Christian life. Many inmates asked me to come back soon and stay longer. I plan, if the Lord will, to visit them again for about 2 days. The Holy Spirit took what was taught and caused them to thirst for more. It was so encouraging to talk to some of the inmates who have life in prison. They are full of life and excitement. Our United States would never be the same if the life and passion that I see in these individuals were in most Christians. These men seem to have purpose, hope, love, peace, spiritual freedom, and hunger which comes from faith in God and His Word.

Most believers are confused about what living the Christian life is about. The spiritual life is not just going to church on Sunday, and Wednesday. It is developing an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ (Monday-Sunday) through walking in the Spirit (no unconfessed sin in our lives) and taking what we learn from the Bible and applying it to every facet of our lives. This is how we allow Christ to live His life through us. Our Lord Jesus Christ wants us to experience His life to the

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full (John 10:10). God is calling us to a life of commitment. No matter

what we are going through; we are to keep God's Word at the center of our thought life and decisions and He will share His happiness with us.

The steadfast of mind you will keep in perfect peace, because he trusts in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for in God the Lord, we have an everlasting Rock (Isaiah 26:3-4)

My dear friends in Christ thank you for your partnership and love. God continue to use your prayers and gifts to further His work. I'm sure those incarcerated are thankful as I am for your partnership with this ministry. It is God's plan to make Himself, and His power known to the lost through us. He wants them to be part of His family and to share in Christ's riches. It is a privilege to be part of what God is doing in trying to rescue lives through the dissemination of His Word. May our Father continue to supply your every need according to His riches and grace in Christ. Please continue to pray for us.

In His steadfast love,
Keithian L. Starling



Correctional Development Center

Man's Great Power

When J. Wilbur Chapman was in London, he had an opportunity to meet General Booth, who at that time was past 80 years of age. Dr. Chapman listened reverently as the old general spoke of the trials and the conflicts and the victories he had experienced.

The American evangelist then asked the general if he would disclose his secret for success. "He hesitated a second," Dr. Chapman said, "and I saw the tears come into his eyes and steal down his cheeks," and then he said, "I will tell you the secret. God has had all there was of me. There have been men with greater brains than I, men with greater opportunities; but from the day I got the poor of London on my heart, and a vision of what Jesus Christ could do with the poor of London, I made up my mind that He would have all of William Booth there was. And if there is anything of power in the Salvation Army today, it is because God has all the adoration of my heart, all the power of my will, and all the influence of my life."

Dr. Chapman said he went away from that meeting with General Booth knowing "that the greatness of a man's power is the measure of his surrender."

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Mission Report

Keithian,

Once again, words cannot express my appreciation for your presence, fellowship and ministry of the word of God this week here in Bossier City. Your spiritual gift has definitely blessed these young people here even more this year. Your work through the Holy Spirit has definitely made an impact on several of the youth this year and I expect positive feed back from most of them. Thank you for your friendship.

With gratitude,

Mission Partner
Bossier City, LA

Dear Mr. Starling

Greetings in the name of the Lord,

I have enclosed the final 5 lesson from "The Basics" book. I have learned so much from it. Thank you for seeing me through the course. May the Lord bless you greatly for your work. I know I have so much more to learn. The greatest blessing is to know that I have eternal life through my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I look forward to that day when there will be no more crying, no more hunger or crime. Thank you for staying in touch with me and your kind words. They have been a source of encouragement to me. I can only imagine what God will say to you when you get to heaven "Well done good and faithful servant".

Take care,

Letters from the inside

Dear Brother Starling,

I enjoyed your Bible lesson today at the Tennessee Prison for Women. We appreciate you taking the time to bring God's Word to us. I am interested in continuing with the Bible correspondence courses you offer. May God continue to richly bless your ministry.

In Him,

Dear Mr. Starling,

Thank you for your last letter. Your kind words are always a blessing to me. Life can be very hard behind these walls. It is kind words like yours that make all the difference in the world. When you put that with God's word, there is nothing better. Again, thank you for the basic lessons and book. Thank you for all that you allow God to do through you. You gave a lot of us hope through our Lord Jesus Christ. Please take care and God bless.

In Christ,

Dear Brother,

I got your letter along with study material. I praise God for the doctrines I've learned through your classes and studies. It has truly been a source of strength for me. I miss your bible study classes because it was personal and I gained so much knowledge of the truth. I'm going to close now. I will be praying for you and the whole Grace Prison Ministries family. I hope to hear from you soon.

Love,

Dear Mr. Starling

Thank you for your letter which shed light on my situation and how to handle it. I have learned a lot through your Bible studies. I have learned that the only way to be ready when the enemy tempts us is by being consistent in the study of the word of God. Satan likes to come when we are not prepared. It is a blessing to have met you. I would like to return to the jail for a good cause; to help others come to know Christ as I have. Mr. Starling, please know that God is using you in a great way. Thank you for everything you've done. May God continue to bless you.

In Christ,



Correctional Development Center

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. (Rom 8:28)

Dear Keithian,

I received your letter just the other day and was glad to hear from you; so when this letter reaches you I hope it will find you doing well both physically and spiritually. The Lord is doing great things in my life. I feel that I've been blessed; because there are many that I once knew that are no longer with us; they have departed into eternity, never to return to life as they once knew it.

I've been incarcerated since 1991; for a crime I had no knowledge of. I didn't have anything for an attorney so I got railroaded really good, and got a life sentence for a crime I had no knowledge of. But you know brother Keithian, I remember Joseph and how he too was falsely accused but in the end he was blessed and God used Him mightily; what the enemy thought was to do harm, God turned it into good. Also Saul and Silas did a great work while in jail. Who knows the mind of God? It just might be that He got a great work for me to do inside and outside. I'm going to continue to serve Him and let Him be Lord of my life; He will without a doubt bless me for my faithfulness. I've been holding a small Bible Study on the yard everyday here, it's going well.

I've been involved in prison ministry for 17 of the 19 years I've been incarcerated. I am asking God to renew my spirit daily and give me new direction. Therefore, when trials arise, we will run toward the Lord, and not try to handle things ourselves because; He who created us can handle any difficulty and pain, even when it seems overwhelming and hopeless. He wants our surrender and trust; it is in His arm that we will find rest for our souls. Brother Keithian, if God can use a man in such a situation as myself, imagine what He can accomplish through us all. May God's blessing continue to be with you.

In Christ love,

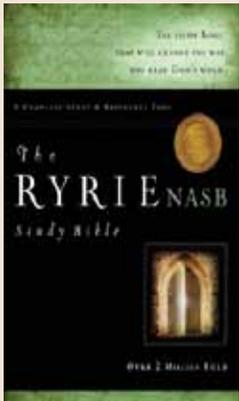
Prayer Request

Grace Refuge Transition Facility

Fellow prayer warriors!! It is the desire of Grace Prison Ministries to one day start a transition facility, where prisoners who are positive towards doctrine can find a good transition from their incarceration. I have found out personally, and through many men I work with, that transitioning back to the same company and surrounding can be a disaster for some. Therefore G.P.M. is presently seeking property to work towards building a transition facility. The facility will have 2 small class rooms, a kitchen, a living area for about twelve men at a time and a small chapel area on site where they can get nourished in the truth for continued discipleship.

G.P.M will also have a Bible training institute on site where those who have the gift of evangelist and pastor-teacher can be trained for the work of the ministry. Some will join us as we go to prisons, detention centers and jails, taking the gospel and biblical truth to those who are enslaved to the life they once were a part of. Please join me in prayer for the fruition of this project, which will benefit the believer and bring glory to Jesus Christ.

Need Study Bibles!



Grace Prison Ministries is in need of study tools for students who have completed both the Discipleship study and the Basics Bible Study through correspondence courses. These students are now ready for more advanced training and are in need of a bible such as the Ryrie study Bible that contains additional features that will help them grasp the truths of Scripture.

Please remember this is a grace ministry and operates entirely on voluntary contributions. We do not solicit money. When you contribute you have the opportunity to share in the dissemination of the Word of God.

Please join us in Prayer!

Reasons for thanksgiving :

- We thank God for His love in providing salvation through the work of Jesus Christ on the cross
- We thank God for the power of the Holy Spirit which enable us to live the Christian life
- We thank God for the Bible that we may know Him and His plan
- We are thankful to God for those who communicate His word
- We thank God for those who support mission work and the dissemination of the word of God
- We thank God for opening doors for the gospel in the prisons and the lives He is changing
- We thank God for the knowledge that Jesus Christ controls history

Please join us in praying for others: (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

- Peace for our country
- Our president – wisdom and guidance
- Salvation of those in Congress and wisdom to make decisions
- Our military – protection and courage
- God's continued provision for those desiring to work in the ministry full time
- For more open doors in the prisons and jails
- Strength for new believers
- Revival in our country
- Persecuted Christians around the world
- Circumstances to awaking the unbeliever to His need of Christ

Please Pray for Grace Prison Ministries:

- Good health, strength, wisdom and guidance for Keithian
- For more laborers in the work of the ministry
- Our supporters – that their needs are met spiritually and physically
- Upcoming program in October at the Tennessee Prison for Women
- Temporary housing for those released from jail
- For property and resources for Grace Refuge Transition Facility

Grace Prison Ministries: Overview

Grace Prison Ministries is incorporated in the State of Tennessee as a Christian, non-profit organization. We are a non-denominational ministry focusing on changing the lives of prisoners through evangelism and sound Bible teaching. We endeavor to restore individuals one by one, thereby making a positive contribution to our neighborhoods and our society.

Our Mission:

In obedience to the command of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations... teaching them to observe all that I commanded you..."
– (Matthew 28:19a, 20a)

We have the following objectives:

1. Evangelize the unbeliever with the simple grace gospel: salvation by "faith alone in Christ alone." With this in mind, our primary job is to make the gospel as clear as possible, without gimmicks and without imposing our personal views on anyone. Rather, we leave the gospel matter between God the Holy Spirit and the person. Our duty is to present the gospel and leave the decision "to believe" or "to reject" solely to the individual.
2. Assist those who have responded positively to the Gospel in the following manner:
 - a) Encourage and help them form study groups.
 - b) Teach them sound Bible doctrine, provide Bibles and doctrinal materials such as Bible teaching on CD, and written literature which will enable them to fulfill the command to "grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18a); thus enabling them to re-enter society as productive citizens and good role models.
 - c) Assist those who possess the spiritual gift of pastor-teacher to obtain study Bibles and resources to help them prepare so they may minister effectively to others both during their stay in prison and upon release.
 - d) Direct believers upon release to a doctrinally sound local Church or study group.
 - e) Direct the poor but positive believer, with a teaching gift, to acquire seminary training.

3. To assist inmates, upon release from custody, who are homeless and jobless.

- a) Network with employers to assist with jobs so they can become self-sustaining.
- b) Direct those released from incarceration to grace-oriented transition housing where Bible doctrine is the cornerstone of a structured environment.

4. To assist the needy as God provides and directs us. These may include but are not limited to:

- a) Provision of food.
- b) Provision of clothing.
- c) Assistance to those who are associated with Grace Prison Ministries when needed.

5. Occasionally hold conferences in prisons that we have visited inviting guest evangelists and pastors. Giving those who have the call, to serve the Lord in prisons, an opportunity to serve.

6. To write periodic reports to update our associates regarding our ministry.

Financial Policy: Grace Prison Ministries offers its services free of charge. We do not solicit funds but operate entirely on voluntary contributions. When understanding the need to reach lost souls with the Gospel and sound Bible teaching motivates you to contribute, you have the privilege of giving and sharing in the dissemination of the Word of God. This is a grace ministry.



Men's Transitioning

Grace Prison Ministries Recent & Planned Schedule

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Glennville, GA | March 5, 2010 – Smith State Prison |
| Waycross, GA | March 6, 2010 – Ware State Prison |
| Albany, GA | March 7, 2010 – Dougherty County Jail |
| Nashville, Tennessee | October 30, 2009 – Tennessee Prison for Women |

Keithian Weekly Prison & Jail Ministries (Nashville)

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Monday 1:00pm – 2:00pm | Correctional Development Center (Male) |
| Monday 2:30pm – 3:30pm | Correction Corporation of America |
| Wednesday 1:00pm – 2:30pm | Correction Corporation of America |
| Friday 8:30am – 9:30am | Criminal Justice Center (Adult Males) |
| Friday 10:00am – 11:00am | Criminal Justice Center (Juveniles) |

Please pray for these gatherings!

Biography

Keithian L. Starling is a native of Albany, Georgia and grew up in a single-parent home in a poor neighborhood of drugs, gangs, and violence. Keithian was so far behind in his work to pass the eighth grade. Due to constant incarceration, he dropped out of school. He turned to a life of drug dealing, partying and crime. He spent most of his young adult life incarcerated.

In 2000, while incarcerated in Albany, Georgia, he prayed and asked God to reveal His ways to him and a few days later he had the privilege of receiving books by R.B. Theime Jr. from Ernest Smith of Lost & Found Ministries. Mr. Smith is a member of Albany Bible Church. These books opened Keithian's eyes to salvation—by grace, through faith—and how to live the unique spiritual life through the power of the Spirit and the word of God. When he understood the doctrine of "Faith alone in Christ alone, the confession of sins & keep moving, faith-rest, the filling of the Holy Spirit, and other doctrines taught by the late R.B. Theime Jr., he became a lover of truth and burdened for those suffering for lack of truth. Keithian started teaching the doctrine he was learning to the inmates and the jail guards. When he was released from prison in 2003, he continued his pursuit of doctrine at Albany Bible Church where Pete Daughtry is the pastor-teacher.

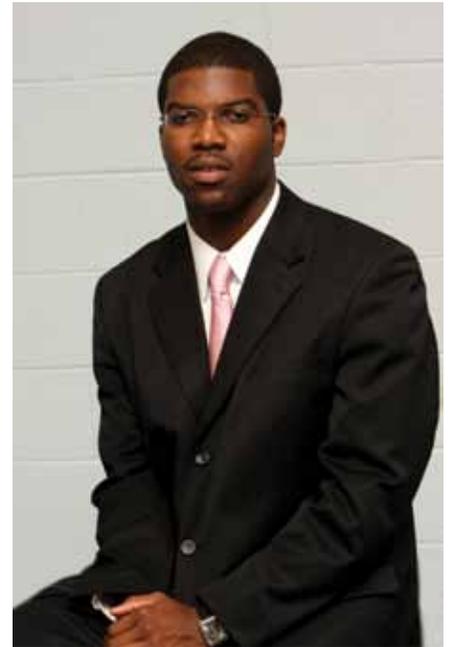
From 2003-2006, while attending Albany Bible Church, God opened doors for Keithian to visit schools, prisons, jails and youth detention centers presenting the gospel and basic procedures to living the Christian life.

In 2004, Keithian got his G.E.D and started attending a community college. He then sensed the call by God to enroll in seminary through extension at Tyndale Theological Seminary in order to be a better trained minister of the Word.

From July 2004 to August 2006, Keithian worked for Nanze Spings Water Company as a salesman. While working at this company his daily route brought him in contact with many who needed the gospel. This kindled his desire to do full-time mission work. He began to see what the Lord meant by "the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few."

In August 2006, Keithian moved to Nashville, Tennessee to partner with Moses C. Onwubiko, founder of Grace Evangelistic Ministries. While working for Grace Evangelistic Ministries and reading many letters from prisoners all over the world, Keithian sensed the call by God to go back into the prisons, jails and detention centers, taking them the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and sound Bible teaching. Therefore he incorporated Grace Prison Ministries.

Currently, Keithian teaches weekly at two Nashville jails and one prison. He travels to youth detention centers, jails and prisons in Georgia, Tennessee, Louisiana, Florida and wherever God opens the door. Keithian shares our Lord's heart for the lost, and especially for prisoners. He has already walked a mile in their shoes and knows that the only way for them to change is by becoming new creatures in Christ and renewing their minds. The grace and love of God has transformed his life and now he is reaching out to share the truth that set him free.



"I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who strengthened me, because he considered me faithful, putting me into service...It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all". (1 Timothy 1:12, 15)