

Grace Freedom News

Changing lives through the Gospel and Biblical truth

April – July 2009

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

Issue #3

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now.

– Philippians 1:3-5

Dear Partners & Friends,

Thank you for your partnership in God's service. God is using your prayers and financial support to further His work to those without Christ and without hope. It also helps provide spiritual nourishment and support for believers who are positive to God's truth. Your participation in what God is doing through Grace Prison Ministries is benefiting men, women, and children from all walks of life. I am so grateful to God for you all. You have given so much in so many ways to see this ministry fulfill God's call.

I get my greatest joy in life from seeing men come to know Christ and the hope found in Him. We live in a time of great opportunity to spread the Gospel of Christ and God's truth. Many are looking for solutions to their problems, especially prisoners. The solution to men's problems is found in the word of God. May we continue to seize every opportunity to spread the truth of the Gospel. Thank you for your love for God, and the lost and dying world. Please continue to pray for Grace Prison Ministries.

Yours in Christ,

Keithian L. Starling

“For nothing will be impossible with God.”

– Luke 1:37



South Georgia Regional

“For friendship's sake I do not like to conceal from you, or in fact from any one else, the decision to which I have come. So to be frank, I have decided my future course, and am going, with help from above, to be

a minister of the Gospel. Now I can imagine your astonishment, but it is a fact. I need only add that it appears to me to be the noblest aim in life to live entirely devoted to the one object of bringing others to know Him who has accomplished so much for us. When weighed against the hereafter, earth and its careers sink into insignificance.”

– FB. Meyer



South Georgia Regional

Word of Encouragement

Hope

Hope is the confidence and expectation of future blessings. Hope is based on the faithfulness of God to keep His promise. Believers don't hope for eternal life they already have it through faith in Christ. We continue to hope in the redemption of our bodies at the resurrection or the rapture of the church. While on earth we should also anticipate all the blessings God promised us in time and eternity. Many believers are going through a great deal of depression in their lives and never enjoy the Christian life.

Depression is sadness and can cause loss of sleep, loss of appetite, oversleeping, and loss of interest in things we once enjoyed. These are just some results of depression. The depressed person faces problems which seem like there are no solutions. The depressed person says: "There is no escape", "things will never get better", "I will always be alone", "no one cares about me", and so on until he think there is no hope. Some problems that trigger depression are feeling without purpose, losing a job, feeling rejected, experiencing a lost or disappointment, negative behavior from yourself, and maybe a financial set-back.

I remember when I was living a life of crime. I couldn't change my negative behavior. I wanted to change but didn't have the power to do it. I found myself back in jail often. The first few days in jail I just slept. I couldn't believe that I was back in jail after getting out last week. I was so frustrated with myself because I continued in the same behavior patterns. It wasn't until I came to Christ that I found hope.

When a person receives Christ as savior he receives the indwelling Holy Spirit who desires to control his life. The Holy Spirit provides the power to change. The word of God provides the mind for change. When the believer walks in the Spirit, by having no unconfessed sins in his life, and learns daily, thinks, and applies the word of God to his life, he changes.

After salvation (faith in Christ), God's plan is that we grow to spiritual maturity through learning, thinking, and application of His word. It is through application of His word that we glorify Him. We can have total confidence that if we persist in fulfilling God's objective for our lives after salvation, that our future will be glorious. We will have problems and it will seem like conditions will never improve, but always know that God is faithful to His word. He wants us to trust Him because it matters to Him what we're going through.

For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)

Casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. (1 Peter 5:8)

For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. (2 Chronicles 16:9)

Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, and He will do it. (Psalm 37:4-5)

Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the Lord your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. (Deuteronomy 31:6)

Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (Isaiah 41:10)

But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you. (Matthew 6:33)

We have no need to fear the future or be depressed. No matter the bad news or how hopeless the situation in our lives may seem. God wants us to exercise the same faith we used at salvation to handle the trails and difficulties of life. He wants us to learn His promises from the Bible and take Him at His word. Then we patiently wait for Him to do what he said He will do.

... If we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it. (Romans 8:25)

An Inquirer

A gentleman in the inquiry room rose from the side of a man to whom he had long been speaking, and begged of one well advanced in years to take His place, saying that he could not get the inquirer to see salvation. As requested, the aged man took his seat. "What is wrong?" he said. "Wrong! Everything is wrong. My soul is lost, and I have only found it out now." "Are there no people known to you whom you can believe, whatever they say to you?" "Yes" said the sorrowful one. "Just as you believed them, will you now believe in God? God says in His word, "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28). "I wish to see it for myself," said the man. His aged guide was taking out his glasses to read the words, but this would not do. "Give me the book so I can read it myself." With his finger fixed on the spot, he read them over and over and over again. "God, I take you at Your word, he cried. Before they parted, his friend asked him, "how is it now?" My burden is gone," he said.

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Keithian teaches

Keithian it was great meeting you at the Florida camp in 2008. I knew then that we wanted you to come to Tulsa, Oklahoma and be a part of our second Grace Gospel Missions Youth Camp 2009. After getting to know you Southwood Bible Church is honored to have decided to support you as one of our missionaries. We are grateful for the ministry God has entrusted you with to prisons and juvenile facilities. We love the fact that you are reaching them with the gospel of grace alone for salvation and then teaching them of God's amazing grace for living their lives. Hebrews 13:3 tells us to Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body.

Thank you for coming this July for our youth camp. It was a big hit with the kids. While here in Tulsa God gave you an opportunity to visit people in jail, the hospital, and to speak to the Gilcrease Baptist Church youth group as well as to Southwood Bible Church. Our people were especially impressed with the ability to teach God's Word and with your amazing testimony of how God's love, grace, mercy and forgiveness took you from prison and gave you a ministry back to others looking for hope. God has blessed you to be able to minister to many people in many different ways and we are blessed to have you as one of our missionaries and our friend.

Through faith alone,
Pat

Grace Gospel Mission

Letters from the inside

My beloved in Christ,

I have been incarcerated here at the Nashville Criminal Justice Center since January 30th 2008. When I first got here I thought my life was over. I felt like I was carrying a "cross" too heavy for my weak soul to bear. When I started attending your Christian service offered to us here my load seems to get lighter. I accepted Christ as my savior in 1991; however, my life was no different from an unbeliever. I continued to do worldly things that did not please God, but because of God's grace, In January 2009 my life turned around when I started attending your Bible studies. I consider you a real servant of God. Your doctrinal teaching is solid and effective. Thank you for providing me with books written by R.B. Thieme, Jr. who teaches the same doctrines as you. This Friday the theme was "Walking by the Spirit and Living in the Word". During the delivery of this message tears were running down my face. The words you spoke were truth. I have been experiencing it in my daily walk with Christ. Those tears were tears of joy and confirmation that God is real and there is no one like Him. I will uninterruptedly continue in the teaching presented by you my brother in Christ. Father God, thanking you is not enough for blessing me with your servant Keithian L. Starling. Please continue to open doors for him so that he can continue teaching your efficient and solid doctrine. I love you my brother in Christ. Please continue in the great work you are doing.

Sincerely yours,

Inmate Criminal Justice Center



South Florida Youth Camp

Brother Keithian,

I love these studies! They teach me so much. I have done lots and lots of Bible correspondence studies in my years of incarceration and even have studied on my own, but "The Basics" has and is helping me more than any study I've done. Thank you for your love for Christ and the dedication you show through helping me. Please pray for me, my physical and spiritual restoration. God is good and His love is evident in my life. I use to have religion, but now I have spirituality! I know what it really means to have a relationship with Jesus Christ now, something I don't think I have ever had. If it took coming to prison to find this, then I am so grateful for this part of my journey!

With God's love and mine,

Tennessee Prison for Women

Dear Mr. Starling,

I really enjoy your teaching. God is really working with me through His Spirit and Word. Thank you for the books you brought me they're an excellent help indeed in my walk with Christ. Through the truth communicated in them my faith is getting stronger and stronger. I am looking forward to more of the knowledge that comes from His word. God bless you and thank you for you time.

With grace,

Tennessee Jail

Dear Keithian,

I am from the Juvenile pod at the Criminal Justice Center here in Nashville. Thank you for your words of encouragement and for every time you teach us God's word. The Bible studies you send help me in my spiritual growth. Thank you. I have finished lesson 2 and look forward to the results and the next lesson. I just wanted to thank you for all that you have done. Take care and God bless you.

In Christ,

Tennessee Jail



Mr. & Mrs. Phrance

Dear Keithian,

On behalf of my husband and me we just want to thank you for all your help and support. You have been there for us and God has blessed us tremendously through you. I thank you so much for introducing my husband to the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord has blessed us so much and we give Him all the glory, honor, and praise. God has used you in a great way. We love you and thank you very much. God bless you always and forever.

Love,

Mrs. Phrance

Testimony of God's Grace

Dear Keithian,

I will like to thank you for what you have done for me. I was in the Criminal Justice center when we meet. God has a way of doing things, because that night you came to teach a bible class, the juveniles didn't show up because they were on lockdown. Therefore, our group got a chance to come to your study group and that was the best thing I have ever done in my life. It was a blessing to be there because that night, you introduce me to Jesus Christ. My life hasn't been the same since. Since I been out of jail, I've been baptized, and the things I did in the past I don't do anymore because I found Christ. I am enjoying the fellowship at the Church, and learning and studying the Word of God. You have been a blessing and an inspiration in my life and my family, and I am forever grateful to you. I am so much happier with myself than I've ever been. My wife and I pray God's richest and blessings upon you. We are so blessed to have you in our lives.

Your brother in Christ,

Angus Phrance

Please...

Give Thanks: (Col. 4:2, 1 Thess. 5:18)

1. For the love of God in providing salvation through the work of Jesus Christ on the cross
2. For the power of the Holy Spirit at salvation
3. For the Bible
4. For Pastor-teachers who study and teach the Word of God
5. For local churches as classrooms to learn God's Word
6. For evangelist who sacrifice their life is to take the gospel of Christ to the lost all over the world
7. For those who support missionary activity and the dissemination of the Word of God
8. For the gift of freedom
9. For the knowledge that Jesus Christ controls human history
10. For His grace in meeting our needs in the devil's world

Pray for others: (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

1. For peace for our nation
2. For our President- wisdom and divine guidance
3. For Congress- salvation of the unbeliever's and divine viewpoint as they make decisions
4. For our military- protection
5. For provision for those desiring full time work in the mission field
6. For spiritual revival among believers
7. For more positive volition in the prisons
8. For the spiritual and physical needs of those released from prisons
9. For believers who are persecuted for their faith
10. For unbelievers- circumstance to direct their attention to Christ.

Pray for Grace Prison Ministries:

1. For good health, wisdom, and guidance for Keithian
2. For more laborers
3. For more partners
4. For our existing partners-that God will meet their needs

5. For more open doors for the Word
6. For transportation to get ex-prisoners to church
7. For property and resources to build a transition house for homeless ex-prisoners

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 ther efore and mak e disciples of all the nations ... teaching them t o obser ve all that I c ommanded y ou...
– (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 crusades 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.

Grace Prison Ministries Recent & Planned Schedule

Albany, Georgia	March 18, 2009 – Boys & Girls Club March 19, 2009 – South Georgia Regional
Frankfort, Indiana	April 03, 2009 – Grace Church of Frankfort
Albany, Georgia	June 03, 2009 – Albany Bible Church
Colquitt, Georgia	June 04, 2009 – Colquitt County Jail
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida	June 14 – 18, 2009 – Lighthouse Christian Youth Camp
Tulsa, Oklahoma	June 27 – July 6 2009 – Oklahoma Youth Camp
Frankfort, Indiana	August 2009 – Clinton County Jail
Nashville, Tennessee	October 30-31, 2009 – Tennessee Prison for Women

Keithian Weekly Prison & Jail Ministries (Nashville)

Monday 1:00pm – 2:00pm	Correctional Development Center
Monday 7:00pm – 8:00pm	Discipleship class/training class (AGBC)
Wednesday 8:30am – 10:00pm	Correction Cooperation of America
Thursday 6:00pm – 8:00pm	Criminal Justice Center (Juveniles)
Friday 8:30am – 9:30am	Criminal Justice Center

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 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)