

Fall & Winter Edition of **The Disciple Times**

273 NEWPORT AVE UNIT 2, QUINCY, MA 02170

OFFICE: 617-237-9607 ~ PRAYER LINE: 617-237-0019

WEB: www.DiscipleofChristMinistries.org & www.PenPalsforJesus.org

Serving God's People since 2012

A Season of Thanksgiving & Joy

From the Desk of Pastor Dennis

Well, here we are again – it's time for the Newsletter. I hope this issue finds you in good health and in a well-spirited place. What a great time of the year we are entering; of Thanksgiving and the celebration of the Birth of Christ. I have always enjoyed Thanksgiving and have fond memories of the old days when my family got together at one of the elder's home to feast on Turkey and all the fixings, enjoying the time with family. Looking forward to Christmas and the happy times that would be coming starting the next day. Back then you would not see any type of Christmas items out til after Thanksgiving. Boy, how things have changed over the years. I must say Thanksgiving and Christmas has a whole different perspective to me today than before I became Born Again in October 2008 and called to serve.

I am so grateful for this opportunity in serving God through this ministry. I never in my life thought I would be serving God in this capacity. What an awesome God we have! I have a lot to be thankful for this Thanksgiving, as I look back over the past nine years, remembering my release from the house of correction on Nov 4th 2011 and being homeless and feeling lost, not knowing how I would get back on my feet. There I was, walking in faith, believing that Christ would lead me to the plan God had for me, no matter where it took me. In the beginning it was very challenging having stops in shelters, then a cheap motel room and finally into a small studio apartment. During this time, I was seeing God's hand in every part of this journey, keeping the faith in what I believed God wanted me to become. A faithful servant, striving to extend my

hand to those who struggle in life here on earth.

For this issue God put Colossians 1:3-14 (Thanksgiving and praying) upon my heart. What awesome Scripture to study and fulfill during the seasons we are about to enter: Thanksgiving day and then the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. As I stated above all the things I am thankful for were only possible through the mercy and grace of God. It is truly amazing as I look back over the last 12 years and see the blessings and changes in my own life, since fully surrendering my life into the hands of God. I had been praying for God to take my life, as I felt I no longer wanted to live. I thought my life had become a disaster zone. Struggling with addiction and no longer feeling that I had any worth in life, I gave up. How thankful I am today that God heard my prayers and answered them with His will not mine.

During my own incarceration, my eyes opened and the light of Christ started to shine brightly around me. It appeared to me that God was placing his people around me throughout my incarceration. Especially my Christian Brother Jake who was coming into the prison to offer us a Bible study every Monday night. He was the first of many Christian men who would enter my life over my early journey walking with Christ, giving me hope and strength to seek more knowledge in living in the spirit through the word of God. Building upon a solid foundation, with every book I read within the Bible. Receiving the knowledge and wisdom to change my worldly ways into a spiritual guided

way of living, pleasing to God and for his glory.

I guess this message is not only for the inmate behind the wall - it is to every Christian who reads this newsletter. You see there is really no difference between them behind the wall and all of us living in bondage and shackled on the outside. We are all saved by the blood Christ shed on the cross after living amongst us, even coming into this world as a baby. As John 3:16 says: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." What a precious gift he has given each one of us.

While preparing material for this newsletter. I fully understood the message that God has given me to share. A message of obedience, faith and love, "the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the Gospel that has come to you. All over the world, this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. I have not stopped praying for all of you. Asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding." Their faith in the Lord reveals their turning from their old nature to Christ and their desire to live daily for Him.

Through my own experience, I can speak of the peace and joy a Christmas card brings to someone who has such strong faith in Christ but feels so alone in a place with overpowering darkness.



What a difference it made in my time of incarceration receiving a personal letter or note from someone when God placed it on their heart to reach out and share the love of God to me. This gave me my faith in the Gospel, knowing that God works through people - my prayers answered by people I did not even know, Christian men and women who were willing to share God's love for me. I know that many of you know what I am talking about, and have the same love in Christ that they shared with me. I must ask you. Are you the person God wants to use to answer someone's prayer by sharing the love you have for Christ Jesus in your daily lives?

In this chapter of Colossians. Paul is encouraging us to focus on Jesus. So, just how are you to live a life that pleases Christ? I know I try to live in obedience to God every day, bearing good fruit in all things I do, so they are pleasing to God. Walking in the light of Christ, sharing his love to those who have wandered into the darkness. Constantly seeking knowledge and wisdom in the word of God so that I can become a better servant in the Kingdom of God.

The holiday season is an especially bleak and difficult time for people incarcerated, especially this year. For many, the card they receive from you through our **2020 Christmas Cards Outreach** for Inmates will be the **ONLY** piece of mail they will receive this Christmas. Let us join together in bearing good fruit and brighten the way for a Christian brother or sister this Christmas by sharing your love for Christ in a personalized greeting of hope, joy, and peace this Christmas. Open your hearts to allow the Holy Spirit to give you the words and passion to make a difference in someone's life this Christmas. Many of our inmates are followers of Christ and fight a spiritual war between the darkness and light every day behind the wall. Help us in supplying the fuel in the word of God to make the light they bear never go dark and become a beacon of light to all around them.

As I come to a close with this letter, I want to say Happy Thanksgiving to the individual in whose hands this letter finds. May you find the many blessings you have received over the past year. *I know it been a hard time dealing with COVID-19 and social injustice!* However, we must give thanks for all the things God has provided for you during the past year. Then as we begin to enter the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior on Christmas Day, let us not forget the real reason we celebrate; Jesus is the reason for the season. May God give you the boldness to spread the gospel to all around you, spreading joy, comfort, and peace. Have a Merry Christmas

Heavenly Farther, as we all read this newsletter may we be forever Thankful for the blessing in our lives that you made possible through your grace and mercy. Thank you father for loving us so much that you sent your Son to live amongst us without sin, only to die on that cross paying the price for our sins. I also ask that you open the hearts of each person who receives this newsletter that they may hear your words and find it in their hearts to take part in our Christmas card outreach. I have seen by my own obedience in serving you through this ministry how one person can make a difference in the lives of your children.

Father God, I ask for your blessings over our Christmas card outreach. Let their prayers be answered for all those who feel lost and forgotten this holiday season. May your grace be felt in the hearts of all who take part in our mission spreading the true meaning of Christmas: The birth of Christ!

In Christ Jesus' name, I ask.
Amen

Dennis Dockham
Faithful servant,



Thanksgiving Day Prayer By Mary Fairchild

*Heavenly Father, on Thanksgiving Day
We bow our hearts to You and pray.
We give You thanks for all You've done
Especially for the gift of Jesus, Your Son.
For beauty in nature, Your glory we see
For joy and health, friends and family,
For daily provision, Your mercy and care
These are the blessings You graciously share.
So today we offer this response of praise
With a promise to follow You all of our days.*

CHRISTMAS DEVOTION

The Real Meaning of Christmas By Martha Noebel

It's that time of year again. December has come and with it all the joys of Christmas. But what is the real meaning of Christmas? Is it the gifts under the tree, the lights in the windows, the cards in the mail, turkey dinners with family and friends, snow in the yard, stockings hanging in the living room, and shouts of "Merry Christmas" to those who pass us in the streets? Is this really Christmas?

For many people, Christmas is a time of sorrow. They don't have the extra money to buy presents for their children, family, and friends. Many are saddened at Christmastime when they think of their loved ones who will not be able to come home for various reasons. Turkey dinners may be only a wish and not a reality for some.

Yet, Christmas can be a season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It can be a time of healing and renewed strength. You see, Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to be born. His birth brought great joy to the world. Shepherds, wise men, and angels all shared in the excitement of knowing

about this great event. They knew this was no ordinary baby. The prophets had told of His coming hundreds of years before. The star stopped over Bethlehem just to mark the way for those who were looking for this special child.

Luke 2: 4-19 says:

"So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart."

Why did He come? Why did God send His son to this sometimes cruel and hard world? He sent Jesus to us so that one day, He would grow up to become a very important part of history. His story (history) is one of truth, love, and hope. It brought salvation to all of us. Without Jesus, we would all die in our sins.

Jesus was born so one day the price could be paid for the things we have done that are wrong. The Bible says that all have sinned. We are all born with a sin nature. We do things that do not please God. Through the sins of Adam and Eve, we have all inherited that sin nature. We need to have that removed. The only way is through Jesus. Jesus came so He could die on the cross for ALL of our sins. If we believe that Jesus died for our sins, we can ask Him to come into our hearts and forgive us. Then, we are clean and made whole. We can know that heaven is a place where we can go to when this life is over.

"But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong." [1 John 1:9](#)

We can truly be happy at Christmas! No matter what may be happening, we can know that we are His children. We then become sons and daughters of God. Heaven will be our home one day.

Look at Christmas in a new way this year. This is the year to invite Jesus into your heart. You will then have a "Merry Christmas." The joy and peace you will receive will last all year as you look to God for all your needs to be met.

Jesus Is the Reason for The Season!
Rejoice!

'Tis the Season

"Merry Christmas!" says one. "Happy Holidays!" says another. "'Tis the Season" is proclaimed and posted everywhere this time of year. But what do we really mean when we refer to this "season"?

In general, a season can be a particular time of year, such as winter, spring, summer, and fall. It can also refer to a time characterized by a particular circumstance, like in a "season of awakening." Some may use this word to describe a suitable or natural time, like when their "season" comes. Or it could mean an indefinite period of time; for example, a person on assignment for a "season."

However you want to look at it, we all need to be reminded of Paul's words to Timothy: "Be ready in season and out of season" ([2 Timothy 4:2](#)).

Before the great flood, in the days of Noah, everyone was carrying on as usual, having a good time. All the way up to the day Noah and his family boarded the ark, the people knew nothing (and cared little) about the things which were to take place. Although Noah preached righteousness to a mocking generation, none were saved except eight souls. The flood hit and swept everything away ([Matthew 24:37-39](#); [2 Peter 2:5](#)).

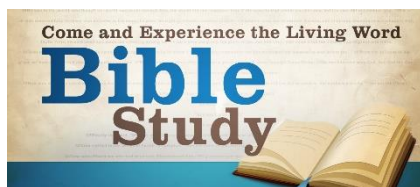
The arrival of Jesus will be like that: Two men will be working in the field - one will be taken, one left behind; two women will be grinding at the mill - one will be taken, one left behind. So stay awake and alert. You have no idea what day your Master will show up. But you do know this: You know that if the homeowner had known what time of night the burglar would arrive, he would have been there with his dogs to prevent the break-in. Be vigilant like that. You have no idea when the Son of Man is going to show up ([Matthew 24:39-44](#), Message). Therefore, be ready in your season - whatever it may be.

You may be in a season you are ready to see end. Or perhaps you are in the best season of your life, hoping it will never end. Still others may be altogether oblivious to the season around them. In any case, seasons come and seasons go, but our instruction remains the same: be ready in season and out.

Serious athletes prepare year-round for their season. If they were to wait and begin preparing at the start, not only would much time be lost but they suffer the consequences of loss. Are we really much different in this game of life? We are told to "be ready for every good work" (**Titus 3:1**), "be ready to give a defense for the hope within you" (**1 Peter 3:15**), and if need be, "be ready to suffer for the sake of the Gospel" (**2 Timothy 1:8**).

The point is, there will be no excuse for our conduct or readiness despite our season. George Washington once said, "Bad seed is a robbery of the worst kind: for your pocket-book not only suffers by it, but your preparations are lost and a season passes away unimproved." Every one of our actions is a seed. And every seed will produce in its season. We should learn from those who have preceded us. Mother Teresa is noted for saying, "Love is a fruit in season at all times, and within reach of every hand." Even out of adversity, Charles Spurgeon humbly said, "It is good for me to have been afflicted, that I might know how to speak a word in season to one that is weary."

"So whether the opportunity seems to be favorable or unfavorable [whether it is convenient or inconvenient, whether it is welcome or unwelcome], stand by, be at hand and ready..." (**2 Timothy 4:2**, Amplified). 'Tis the season!



Colossians 1:3-14 **Thanksgiving and Prayer** **"It's All About Christ!"**

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints-- the faith and love that spring from the hope that is

stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Introduction

In **Colossians 1:3-14** we read how Paul complimented the church at Colossae for their relationship with God and then how he encouraged them to go deeper in their love for the Lord. I praise the Lord that the more we know and experience God, the more we realize what it is to know and experience. The key to spiritual growth is to keep our focus on Christ and not to be self-satisfied with our so-called achievements. The theme, "It's All About Christ!" will direct us properly to glorifying God with our lives and will reap a harvest of blessing for us and our families.

Colossians 1:3-8

Paul compliments the Colossians in 1:3-8. They have a strong faith in Christ Jesus and a love for all the saints. Their faith and love originates from their hope in the Lord that is stored up for them in heaven. Their faith in the Lord reveals their turning from their old nature to Christ and their desire to live daily for Him. Their "love for all the saints" then is a practical expression to those around them of their lives being changed by Jesus. In fact, if your life is truly changed by Christ, then you cannot contain the overflow of His love from spilling out onto others.

The society of New Testament times was very class conscience. They were well aware of the labels that identified individuals in society such as nationality, religion beliefs, economics, and politics. But when people gave their hearts to Jesus as Savior and Lord then the only factor that mattered was their love for the Lord. Jesus Christ was the One who saved them. Jesus Christ is the One for whom they lived. And, it is Jesus Christ who united them. The church at Colossae understood this fact and lived it appropriately.

Their faith and love sprang from the hope that they would be with Christ in heaven for eternity. Their hope for an amazing future with Jesus helped them to respond properly to their present realities and equipped them with the fact that this world is not their home or final destination. The best is yet to come.

Paul then answered any question they might have concerning the validity or impact the message of Christ had worldwide. The Gospel of Jesus Christ was not just a local or regional phenomenon. The message was global and changing lives just as their lives were changed. They were in the flow of the worldwide movement of the Spirit of God.

Colossians 1:9-14

It was because of the Colossians' faith, love, and hope that Paul prayed they would grow deeper in their relationship

with the Lord. In the final verses of our passage, Paul asked God to fill them "with the knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding." Paul was a spiritual father to the Colossians and, as such, he wanted the best for them. As a father of three sons, I understand that the best for my sons is not that they acquire wealth or popularity but that they find the Will of God for their lives and follow the Lord without compromise. What could be better than following the Eternal and Almighty God?

The knowledge of the Will of God is found through spiritual wisdom that comes only from reading God's Word and spending time in His presence. Understanding the Will of God means that you learn how to apply what you read and then you live in a manner that honors God. You must find the Will of God in order to fulfill the very purpose for which God created you; to glorify Him. Paul then wrote that once you obtain the knowledge of His Will then you must live a life worthy of the Lord so that you can please Him in every way.

Let's stop for a second and rephrase what was just said. Do you want to be happy? Do you really want genuine, amazing, abundant joy? If so, the focal point of your heart and mind must be on Jesus Christ. The purpose and fulfillment of your life is not found by being self-focused or by making your ideal of happiness be your desired outcome. You will find true purpose and fulfillment only by making Jesus Christ the center of your being. "It's All About Christ!" is our phrase that speaks volumes. Paul is encouraging you to focus on Jesus.

So, just how are you to live a life that pleases Christ? Paul wrote that you are to first bear fruit in every good work. This means you will seek to do that which honors the Lord. Second, you are to grow in the knowledge of God. This means you will hunger for God's Word and spend quality time in His presence. Third, you are to seek to be strengthened with all power so that you will have great endurance and patience.

This means you will overcome life's obstacles by the Lord's strength and not your own. Fourth, you are to joyfully give thanks to the Father who gives you your inheritance. Your joyful and thankful heart positions you properly to love the Lord and brings you peace that passes all understanding. Fifth, you are to remember that you owe your life to God, the One who rescued us from darkness and brought us into the love of Jesus Christ.

Application

I am so thankful that the Lord sees where we are in our spiritual journey and then takes us to a deeper level with Him. Paul's letter to the Colossians applies to you and to me. You can be so very thankful for what the Lord has done in your life. But, there is so much more! You can find the knowledge of God's Will for your life. You can live a life worthy of the Lord. You can please Him in every way. You can do this if you focus on Jesus and are obedient to Him. "It's All About Christ!" May the Lord find us faithful. Let's pray.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, please teach me to live a life worthy of you so that I may please you in every way. I want to bring glory to you in everything that I do. Amen.

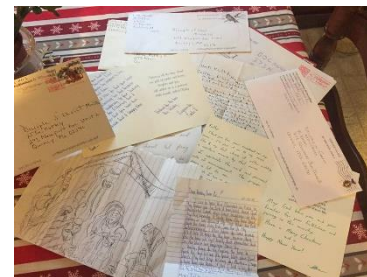
For You to Consider

1. What can you do to strengthen your faith in God?
2. How can you overcome the difficulties you might have in loving other Christians?
3. What changes should you make to your life if you lived each day as a preparation for eternity?
4. What should you do to live in the knowledge of the Will of God?
5. List five ways that you will seek to please God this coming week in your thoughts and actions.



From Behind the Wall

Here are a few letters that we received from inmates who have received a Christmas Cards over the years through our Christmas Card Outreach.



"Though I am Jewish I can still appreciate the beauty in your message. May the GOD of Abraham - your GOD and mine - bless you all tenfold for your selfless acts of human kindness and compassion." -Victor

"To the wonderful people who remembered those often forgotten, who know the difference between a sin and a sinner, who took the time to bring some warmth to a cold place, who softened our hearts and maybe even watered our eyes, you are the hopeful future. You clearly reflect His light." -John

"The Christmas card that you sent me really touched my heart. Thank you so much for sharing the true meaning of Christmas with me." - Jay

"My gratitude and thanks to all the Christians who spent their time and effort to bring happiness and joy to an otherwise bleak time behind bars." Anonymous

An Inmate's Prayer

Please God I know I am a sinner and right where I need to be. I have accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior and seek your Word. Nevertheless, why am I forgotten in here behind these prison walls. If only I could receive a message of hope from a Christian Brother or Sister this Christmas it would be a blessing.

Christmas is so hard to deal with in this dark place; it has been so long since I have received a Christmas card from anyone. Please let the love of Christ reach into our cells and be a beacon to all around us.
In Christ Name, I pray.

Help us help the lost and forgotten souls in finding their way back to God!

To all of our friends, supporters, and pastors who receive our newsletter over the past years, I want to thank you for your support and encouragement. I could not fulfill the work of this ministry myself without your support this past year.

God has blessed this ministry in many new ways this past year and I am looking forward to what He has planned for the ministry and me in the New Year.

As we continue to grow as a Prison Ministry, "Answering the Call to Serve God's People No Matter Where They are located"! your help is needed to accommodate the volume of inmates reaching out to us for assistance. Our Pen Pals for Jesus program alone has increased by 7% over the past six month.

You might ask yourself. How can I make a difference in someone's life in the coming year?

Well, we have a few things listed below for how you could help our ministry grow.

Financial Support
The estimated cost for 2021 is about \$7,500

We are a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization and strictly rely on donations to meet our financial needs in running Disciple of Christ Ministries in 2021.

This past year we started a Monthly Sponsorship program. So far, it is working out pretty well for us. However, we need more ways to have steady income coming in to pay our monthly costs.

Would you consider making a donation or even become a monthly sponsor of the ministry?

Volunteer to be a Pen Pal for Jesus Correspondence by mail missionary.

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." Matthew 9:37.

We are constantly in need of more pen pal volunteers. At this moment, we have over 300 applications from inmates waiting in our office for volunteers to begin writing them.

Most of the inmates who contact us are already Christians and some are new Christians. Occasionally we hear from unsaved inmates who are in need of someone to show them how to be born again, and they have indicated this on their application. If that is the case, we have already sent them material about how to be born again.

Some of our volunteers are writing more than one inmate because we just do not have enough help. God is truly bringing in a harvest through this ministry and we need workers to help bring in the harvest!

Many have been receiving our Newsletter while they were waiting for a pen pal. We are so blessed and privileged to lead many inmates to the Lord. They all need our encouragement and prayers!

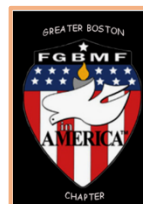
If you think you might be interested in helping in any area of our ministry, please contact me at 617-237-9607 or

send us an Email:
office@discipleofchristministries.org
(NO Phone Calls from Inmates Please.)

Helping us in serving God's lost sheep, one letter at a time, through our Prison Correspondence Ministry.

According to one of our volunteers, "You will receive blessings on top of blessings, new friends, and the joy of being used by God in the life of a needy person." Even small things I have said myself in letters are appreciated beyond my wildest expectations... that's when I know the Holy Spirit is working through me and this ministry.

I want to share with any inmate who is being released soon a program that I have join forces with called S.O.S. Surviving Out-Side.



S.O.S. Surviving Out-Side

A formerly incarcerated support group for men

We are a support group for men out of incarceration supporting them in a weekly group format meeting. We are Christian men who have all struggled with the challenges re-building a life out of the rubble of destruction our addictions and mistakes have caused us and others. No judgements. No pre-requisites other than having done any amount of time behind bars and a willingness to be accountable to change. We are under the umbrella of Full Gospel Businessmen Fellowship in America, Greater Boston Chapter. Currently, and for some time to come, we will be online. If you are being released, please take our email down for contact information to join our virtual group.

Fgbmfa.matteo@gmail.com.

You can also look us up on meetup.com under FGBMFA Greater Boston. Or simply google us. We look forward to being one tool to help you in re-building your life with a Christ focused group. Be blessed. We CAN do this together!!!

Thanks to all who have made this newsletter possible with your continued support to this ministry!

May God continue to bless our work in reaching the lost and forgotten souls through your financial support!



Thanksgiving Day Blessings

T - Is for the Tons of Blessings that I receive each day.
H - Stands for these Hands that fold, when I begin to pray.
A - Means all the Awesome powers our Lord has from above.
N - Stands for His Never ending patience and His Love.
K - Is for the Kindness and forgiveness He has shown.
S - Stands for the Sweetest gift of love we've ever known.
G - Means the Amazing Grace that God bestowed on me.
I - Says I can't imagine, without His love, just where I'd be.
V - Is for "Victory in Jesus", just like that song of old.
I - Means I'll do my best, to lead lost sheep into His fold.
N - Is for the nails driven through our Savior's hands.
G - Stands for God's Greatest Gift, His Son's life for mortal man.

We thank you, Lord, for all you give;
 The food we eat, the lives we live;
 And to our loved ones far away,
 Please send your blessings, Lord, we pray.
 And help us all to live our days
 With thankful hearts and loving ways.
 Amen.

Thank you for the blessings that you give to us each day;
 For friends and family we hold dear, for all you send our way.
 We ask that you will guide us well, in everything we do,
 And pray we never will forget these blessings came from you.
 Amen.

God bless the food we eat this day.
 We thank you for it; and we pray
 For all our loved ones, far and near,
 And every person gathered here.
 We ask your blessings on each one,
 And claim them by your holy Son.
 Amen



Christmas Card

Christmas lights and decorations everywhere
 you turn
 But all you feel inside is dark and gray
 There may be joy for all the world but is there
 any joy for you
 Hold on, Love is looking for a way
 Hold on, I believe it's why love came

So I'm sending you this Christmas card
 To let you know somebody loves you
 And I'm singing you this little song
 To let you know you're not alone
 And I'm thinking, as we celebrate, how Love
 came down
 So every lost and lonely broken heart would get
 found
 And wherever you are, I hope this Christmas
 card Finds you and reminds you:
 You are loved

For every one who's been left standing on the
 outside looking in
 Every one with dreams that never will come true
 When the story of your life gets re-written over
 night
 Well, this is all part of the Christmas story, too
 And I believe God knows and He's right there
 with you

So I'm sending you this Christmas card
 To let you know somebody loves you
 And I'm singing you this little song
 To let you know you're not alone
 And I'm thinking, as we celebrate, how Love
 came down
 So every lost and lonely broken heart can be
 found
 And wherever you are, I hope this Christmas
 card
 Finds you and reminds you
 You are not alone

You're never forgotten
 The God who made you came down to our world
 To let us know wherever we are
 He is with us
 Our God is with us
 And He really wants to let you know
 Just how much He loves you

And I'm singing you this Christmas song
 So you'll know you're not alone
 And I'm thankful, as we celebrate, how Love
 came down
 Now all the lost and lonely broken hearts can be
 found
 And wherever you are, I hope this Christmas
 card Finds you and reminds you
 You are loved

"Don't be afraid, only believe." (Mark 5:36)

Long ago, people viewed shepherds as outcast. Living alongside their sheep, shepherds had few opportunities to bathe.

Because shepherds were considered "unclean," they were banned from entering the temple.

Yet God sent an angel messenger plus a host of angels to proclaim His Son's birth to these outcast of society. What a message of hope for us today!

Apart from God's grace, all of us are outcast. But God's overflowing Love extends to everyone. No one is left out. God Himself comes to fill us with Faith instead of Fear.

"Cast all your cares on God, because He cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7)

www.DiscipleofChristMinistries.org



273 Newport Ave Unit 2
Quincy, MA 02170-1727



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Once again, I am happy to kick off Our 7th Annual Christmas Card Outreach where we send a personalized Christmas card to one of our prisoners who takes part in our Pen Pal for Jesus Ministry. Many of these individuals do not receive anything for Christmas, so a card from us with a note inside means the world to them! To think that someone who does not even know them would take time to send them a Christmas card is unbelievable in their eyes. We at Disciple of Christ Ministries have been sending Christmas and Birthday Cards to all of our inmates since we first started our Prison Outreach.

Last year through The C.C. Outreach, we were able to send out 325 cards to our pen pals. This year we would like to be able to send out even more Christmas Greetings to our inmates from more of our Christian Brothers & Sisters. Showing the inmates the love of Jesus through that card, that is why we are asking for your help in sending Christian cards again this year. The goal of this outreach is for prisoners to be introduced to Jesus and shown the love He has for them all. Together we can make a difference in their lives, fulfilling what Jesus said, ***"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."***

Would you be willing to send a few extra Christmas Cards with a note from you and your Family in a sealed stamped envelope to us so we can send them out or just ask us for some names and I will provide them to you. I would like to thank you in advance for whatever help you may be able to give us to make this Christmas special to a fellow Christian Brother or Sister. We will need cards back to us no later than Dec 15.

The holiday season is an especially bleak and difficult time for people who are incarcerated. For many, the card they receive from you through our 2020 Christmas Cards Outreach for Inmates is the ONLY piece of mail they will receive this Christmas. These cards deeply touch the men and women who receive them. Last year, Pen Pals for Jesus received many letters of appreciation from prisoners. In their own words, reveal the power of this program.

In Christ's Precious Name,
Dennis Dockham
Founder / Faithful Servant