

# Mission Report

Spring 2017

## DEAR FAITHFUL FRIENDS AND PARTNERS:

2016 was a fruitful year in the jails, prisons, rehabs and churches where the Lord graciously opened the door for me to speak. As He opened those doors for me, He also broke through in hundreds of bruised and damaged lives. Thank you for standing shoulder-to-shoulder with this ministry so that the work of seeing lives transformed by the power of God can continue.

## A GREAT WAY TO START THE NEW YEAR

The Lord has opened some new doors for 2017. On New Year's Day I spoke in a men's rehab facility for probation violators. It is a secular program, but He opened the door for me to bring the message of the life-changing grace of God to the men. One young man who stayed to talk with me at the end of that service shared how his heroin addiction had brought him to that place. His story was eerily similar to mine; he is the same age I was (24) when the process of transformation began for me at a place called the Lighthouse.

Something special happened in that young man's life on the first day of 2017. It was **a great way to start the New Year!** I presented him with the study Bible I was using that day and wrote the following words in the flyleaf:

Happy Spiritual Birthday my little brother. (John 3:3; II Cor.5:17) Welcome to the war (II Timothy 2:3-4) and always use this Bible to fight the good fight of faith. (I Timothy 6:12) Remember, God is always faithful and always makes a way out. (I Corinthians 10:13)

## LIGHTHOUSE PRISON MINISTRIES, INC.

"Shining forth the light and love of Jesus Christ"

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John Downs, Director

## NO ACCIDENT

God recently opened the door for me to speak at a women's facility that houses women who are terminally ill. Many of them will die in prison. We gave out gift bags to all the women who came, and I shared how I moved from childhood trauma, to emotional pain, to addiction, and ultimately to freedom in Christ. We had a very special meeting with the Lord and one of the women who came forward for prayer told me she was a heroin addict who had just been told she had two months to live due to liver disease. I personally know 16 people who I used to do heroin with that are now dead, so this hit home for me.

Vicky was born the same year as me; I told her it was **no accident** I was in that prison that day. She agreed with me. With tears she expressed that she just did not feel like God could forgive her and that she did not think she was prepared spiritually to die. It only took the Word of God, spoken with the love of God, and quickened by the Spirit of God to quickly reveal the lies she had believed! Vicky believed in the forgiveness of the Lord that day. When we hugged she refused to let go. It was one of those meetings where you know He, and He alone, had done something very personal that was going to last for eternity. Please pray for Vicky that God's grace will see her through her remaining days on this earth.

## PLEASE PRAY

Please pray as I speak this year in these various places:

- Harris County Jail in downtown Houston with 10,000 inmates; the same jail I was incarcerated in back in the early 1970's
- Clemons Unit for young offenders
- San Carlos Apache Reservation in Arizona
- Darrington Maximum Security Unit
- Juvenile Justice Center
- Anchor Boys Home in Missouri
- And the many surprise doors that He always opens!

Telling the Story,

*John Downs*