

Mission Report

Winter 2017

DEAR FAITHFUL FRIENDS AND PARTNERS:

"There is no pit so deep that God's love is not deeper still." This quote is taken from the amazing story of Corrie Ten Boom who was a prisoner housed in a Nazi death camp during WWII. It was the life-giving and life-sustaining truth that not only worked then but remains effectual today. The Psalmist said it best in Psalm 40:2: "He brought me up also out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my going."

As many of you know most of my days are spent in the same jail where I sat in the 1970's with no hope and fighting a monstrous heroin addiction. My message to the men, who for a large part are dealing with addiction, is that God, and God alone, can turn the pit into a palace if you turn to Him with all your heart and receive His offer of salvation. I am committed more than ever to be a lighthouse of hope to men and women who are in the same pit I was in before my transformation in 1978. Our nation is in a virtual epidemic of addiction and I am thankful that He has guided me back to where I can maximize the miracle He wrought in my life through His marvelous grace.

II Corinthians 5:17

THANK YOU

I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE STOOD WITH US this past year and "held the rope" as we took the message into some dark places. 2017 was a special year with many triumphs as well as trials. God opened doors in jails, prisons,

rescue missions, rehabs, boys and girls homes, and some unusual places this past year. God is faithful. My heart was totally broken when the mom of a young man whom I had worked very closely called to tell me her son had mysteriously died in the floods of Hurricane Harvey. Colby was only 22 years old and like a son to me. We had spent many hours together in jail working on his addiction, and I had seen him fall in love with Christ and the Word. Please pray for his mother Gloria.

One of the highlights of 2017 was sharing my story with the Apache Indians in Arizona at a tribal jail. Meth addiction has devastated the reservation, and it was such a joy to go with missionary Scott Murphy and love on those guys. Pray for the ongoing work at Regeneration Reservation in Arizona.

Because of the nature of the field God has called me to, I take great joy when I see abiding fruit in a life. One of the greatest joys I have is going to prison with some guys I have seen come to Christ, get out, live for God, and then go back in to share the message. I recently was with one such man who came to Christ in my service over 20 years ago and now has homes that house prisoners who are getting out with no place to live. That one salvaged and serving life is why I go.

PRAY

I am excited about what God is going to do in some broken lives in 2018! PRAY for open doors. PRAY that the inmates who make decisions will follow God with the same level of fervency when they get out as they had while they were incarcerated. PRAY for the new director of chaplaincy at the third largest jail in the nation where I serve. I just met with him and I believe God is going to do something special in that facility.

Hebrews 6:10

John Downs

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