

Lighthouse Prison Ministries, Inc.



SUMMER 2026 NEWSLETTER



John 8:31-32 "...If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

"I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has enabled me, for that He counted me faithful, putting me in the ministry; who before was a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Christ Jesus might show forth a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on Him to everlasting life. Now, unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen." 1 Timothy 1:12-17

PATTERN FOR MINISTRY

These verses in 1 Timothy have become my life verses and ministry verses. They are a summation of what happened to Paul and what compelled him to finish well for the Lord. In like manner they have served as a **pattern for ministry** and what I have done in the jails and prisons for the last 35 years. It was over 45 years ago that the Lord arranged a court order for me to be sent to a facility called "The Lighthouse" which was situated on a small island 40 miles south of Corpus Christi, Texas. I was 24 years old and addicted to heroin and methadone. I was facing 20 years in prison for eight felonies resulting from my addiction. The Lighthouse was a Christ-centered, spiritual boot camp. It was there that my life was transformed by the power of the Word of God.

Since that time God has opened the doors for me to be in many prisons, jails and rehab facilities, including several years of ministry on Texas death row. The pattern for ministry has always remained the same: showing forth the abundant mercy and grace I received from the Lord to others who are in need.

I DID NOT GET ARRESTED, I GOT RESCUED!

My primary mission field and my very favorite jail to be in these days, is actually the one where I was locked up as a defeated heroin addict. That is the Harris County jail in downtown Houston which averages about 10,000 inmates. I ride a bus daily and travel 40 miles to get to the jail. I spend my days talking with inmates about salvation or sanctification or perhaps about a recent death in their family.

I also conduct church services in the jail chapel and bring a book cart into the cellblocks. I enjoy going to cellblock because many men will not come to church, but when I go to the cellblock everyone is going to hear my story even if they are in bed! When I walk in and they see an old man dressed like a detective I immediately announce that, "I am Chaplain Downs, and I have eight felonies related to a heroin addiction, but I realize now that **I DID NOT GET ARRESTED, I GOT RESCUED!**

I then tell them my story (which is actually HIS Story) of how I got free and how they can be free indeed. (John 8:31-32)

I THANK CHRIST JESUS MY LORD

I want to close with Paul's first words in 1 Timothy, **"I thank Christ Jesus my Lord."** I thank the Lord for His faithfulness to sustain and strengthen us for all of these years. I weep these days when I meditate on God's grace and goodness.

I want to thank all of you who have stood with us for so many years! Many of those who have stood with us in prayer support and financial support have gone Home to be with Jesus, and we so dearly miss that prayer covering. Please pray for us as the jail gets darker and more violent.

Pray for the ministry that houses the men who get out and want to continue in their walk with God. It is called Christ's Hope and Reconciliation Ministry (CHARM Ministry). Pray for the leadership there.

Continuing in Him-
John Downs



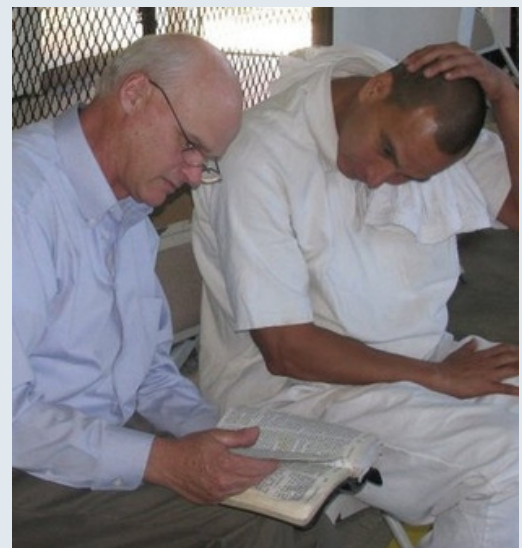
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Please pray for these who have come to Christ but are struggling:

Mike H Stephen F Eric B
James S Clay P Tony B
David T Destin Q Tyler B

Please pray for revival in the jail that I serve in.