



THE HAWKINS HERALD

February 1st, 2024

John 3:17 "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." I want to note some truths from this verse, first, Jesus did not come to condemn the world. The word condemn means "to separate, to decree, to judge or summon to a trial". Because of sin, the world was already condemned, separated from God, summoned to judgment. Jesus was not looking to pass judgement on men, he was looking to save them. Second, Jesus came so "the world through him might be saved". There are many who are incarcerated who feel condemned by the world and condemned by God. They feel this way because of their sins, failures, and struggles. They feel like God does not love them. They picture God as a big bully in the sky waiting for them to mess up so he can judge them. The truth is Jesus has come so the condemned in this world can be saved and made free. In the previous verse Jesus said that "God so loved the world", I am thankful that as I go to condemned men, I do not carry a condemning message. Yes, they are lost. Yes, they are headed to judgement and hell. But Jesus loved them and died for them so they could escape the wrath of God and be saved FROM condemnation. He wants them to experience a loving, caring heavenly Father who values them.

Ministry and Prison

In January I was in a total of 5 different prisons in NC and SC. At one prison in SC, we had 43 inmates attend services. The Lord blessed the preaching and I believe many inmates were helped. At this meeting, my team

and I were able to visit the protective custody dorm. I talked to one man who was considering suicide. He was very depressed and troubled. He was struggling with the truth that God had truly forgiven him, and God was not still mad at him for his mistakes. I talked with him for about 30 minutes and pointed out in the scriptures that God loved us as His sons. I also showed him from the Bible how when God forgives us, we are no longer under his wrath. We prayed together and I asked God to show this inmate that He loved him and cared for him. Many inmates struggle with a distorted view of God because of past experiences. The next week I led a team of men at another SC prison, we had 129 inmates attend services and 4 professions of faith. To finish out the month I helped at a NC prison and held services at 2 more prisons in SC. I am planning a trip to Alaska, July 6th-15th. Lord willing, I will assist with revival meetings and preach at 4 different prisons. Please pray the Lord will provide financially for this trip. Thank you so much for all your prayers and support.

Please pray for the following needs:

- Bible Funds for Bibles for inmates.
- Wisdom concerning a vehicle we have that has been in a shop for a long time.
- 2024 SC revival meetings.
- New missionaries and volunteers.
- Alaska Prison Revival Trip.

In Christ's service,

**Thomas, Stephanie, Vivian, Isolena,
and Garrison Hawkins**

Thank you for the two \$85.00 checks of support in the months of December 2023 and January 2024!

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2 Corinthians 4:5

For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

Dr. Terry R. Ellis, President
Dr. Ricky Dunsford, Exec. Vice-President



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