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Happy NEW YEAR from PRISON OUTREACH of DELAWARE

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Dear Praying Friends,

Here it is January 4th and I'm just getting to my thoughts for this month's newsletter. I am also celebrating my birthday today which leads me to a question based on a comment I hear quite regularly. I ask a guy at the prison, "How are you doing?" to which he responds "Well I woke up this morning so I guess I'm okay."



So here's my question, If God woke you up today, Why? As I reflect on another year of life, a new year of possibilities, why am I here? My response to the men is "God must have something for you to do, someone to help or something to learn." If we're here to only take up space and use up oxygen than we are missing what makes life worth living.

So, as we enter 2023 when you wake up tomorrow wake up asking, "who can I help, what can i do, what do You want to teach me God?" Then listen through your Bible reading or looking through God's eyes at the people around you. There is plenty to keep us busy if we only look and listen.

Happy New Year! Let's make this year count for eternity!

In His Service Together,
Chaplain Tim
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HOW you can HELP

Donations can be made through United Way Visa, Master Card, Discover, American Express, Pay Pal Accepted. **I.D. #9124**

AMAZON SMILE: When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Prison Outreach of Delaware.

Our website has been updated and revamped! Check it out when you have time!

www.behindthebars.org



Hello Everyone,

The two men hanging on each side of Jesus at their crucifixion have historically signified two types of people in the world. On one hand we see the group that dictates to God how things should be done. They seek to create a god in their own image. "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" Luke writes of the one thief in his gospel in chapter 23. The words alone may sound sincere. He is urging Christ to save them all. Luke tells us his intent though was abusive and self-serving. Man-made religion is ultimately self-centered and often leads to the oppression of the weak. On the other side of Jesus was the repentant criminal who takes responsibility for his sinful choices and cries out for mercy to the only One who can save. This group submits to God in repentance and follows Jesus, on His terms.



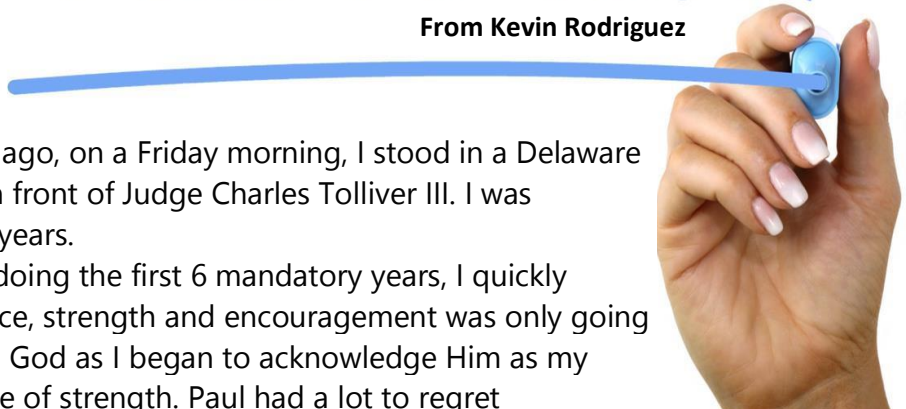
Matthew and Mark indicate that earlier, the repentant criminal was hurling the same insults toward Jesus as everyone else. What changed? It certainly seems to be a combination of factors. At some point the believing thief began to realize that he was close to death. Combine this with extreme suffering and it's not surprising to see how a man would be broken under these circumstances. Intense misery and pain alone will not save anyone- we see that from the first man. Going through all of this within a few feet of the Savior is the key in my opinion. Witnessing Jesus persevere through a crucifixion with love and peace, forgiving the very ones who were doing this to Him, made an everlasting impact. Repentance and faith were gifted to this sinner, and he received it freely. With no time or opportunity to do any "good works", the *gift* of salvation is clearly demonstrated in his life. What response will we have to Jesus's finished work on the cross? Will we flatly reject Him? Will we only serve Him on our own terms, not letting Him get too close to make any lasting changes in our lives? Or will we humble ourselves, turn to the only one who has the authority and power to forgive us of our sins and give us a truly abundant life? May our Father in heaven implant in us a humble song that cries out to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

In His Service,
Chaplain Steve Anderson
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TESTIMONY

From Kevin Rodriguez

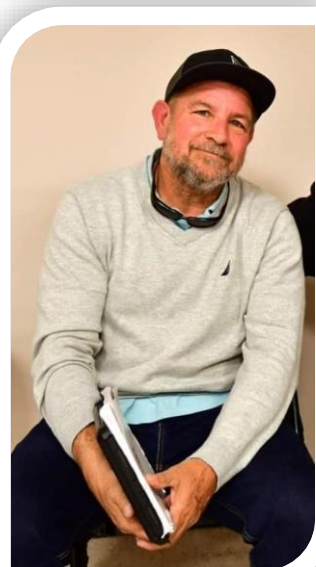


"Today, 31 years ago, on a Friday morning, I stood in a Delaware Superior Court in front of Judge Charles Tolliver III. I was sentenced to 21 years.

As I settled into doing the first 6 mandatory years, I quickly realized that peace, strength and encouragement was only going to come through God as I began to acknowledge Him as my helper and source of strength. Paul had a lot to regret

about his past. In Philippians 3:13 he tells us; "No, dear brothers, I am still not all I should be but I am bringing all my energies to bear on this one thing: FORGETTING THE PAST AND LOOKING FORWARD TO WHAT LIES AHEAD"

UPDATE: Kevin has been going through the expungement process and currently has a date with the Board of Pardons Next month! PRAISE GOD! Please keep Kevin in your prayers.



Dear Ministry Partners,

“Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:28)

I pray you all had a most joyous Christmas in the celebration of our King's advent! What an amazing thought it is that God would come as a baby to serve mankind by giving of His life to ransom our souls! What a Savior!! It is this love that spurs us on to this same kind of service.



This month we had planned to go into the city of Wilmington on Christmas Eve to serve the community and preach the gospel, but God had other plans. Due to dangerous weather, we had to reschedule. At the time (in my heart) this was a major disappointment but turned out to be a great blessing! We decided to go on New Year's Eve instead and were blown away by the response! This was by far our biggest outreach yet! We had the most volunteers, and the most people from the community show up! Furthermore, we had a dear brother in the Lord from Kirkwood Detox that came out to serve! We had one person decide to go directly into treatment right there on the spot! Doug, and his team from Kirkwood Detox will continue to partner with us for our future outreaches to try and get people right into treatment and off the streets! This was a major answer to prayer! We went through just about everything we brought out to bless the community! We shared the Gospel with many and prayed with many. The day was filled with laughter, and tears of pain and conviction. But God was definitely at work!

I am still excited to say that I continue to go into Howard R. Young to preach to the men there and build relationships with them, and into the Plummer Center (work release) and preach to those guys. The goal is to plug them into our ministry on the outside when they get released, and it is proving fruitful so far! We also continue to provide the daily preaching and teaching of the Word of God on our Sunrise Sanctification group via Zoom. This is Monday through Saturday at 8:30am. Our Broken Beginnings Men's Group still meets weekly on Sunday afternoons. And finally, the guys and I provide a service once a month for the Sunday Breakfast Mission.

I cannot thank you all enough for your prayers and support! God hears you and is answering in BIG ways!! We are always looking for gently used men's, women's and children's coats, and winter wear, clothes, and shoes. I am also going to put out a new [registry on Amazon](#) with items for our care packages we make for the homeless. For information on this or anything that we do, or how to get involved please contact me directly.

With Love,

The Santa Barbara Family

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timsbpod@yahoo.com

[Broken Beginnings YouTube page](#)

[Broken Beginnings Website](#)

[Registry on Amazon](#)



OUTREACH – Food and supplies under the bridge in Wilmington.

