

Day 14 - Praying for Americans Behind Bars and Gangs

by Bernadette Love

It's a known fact that most Christians behind bars found the Lord after they were incarcerated. The reason for the transformation is not important. The important thing is that it happened. I imagine that sometimes God just has to get us out a bad situation in order to save our souls...and sometimes even our lives. The quiet of a jail cell may be the quiet that can turn a life around.

The prisons are full of people, men and women alike, who are more victims than anything else. Life has a way of sending us curve balls that we haven't been taught how to dodge. I'm not excusing people who break the law, however, each case must be looked at individually. You see, there is a young man sitting in prison who didn't have the benefit of a loving, working and nurturing father. He watched his mother work her hands to the nubs, trying to keep food on the table and a roof over he and his brothers and sisters heads. He wanted to help. Everything screamed in him to help his mother. He walked out of his apartment one day and was met by a thug who had an answer.

And then there's the young woman who had dreams of going away to college and becoming a doctor. She had this dream from the time that she got her first nursing kit for Christmas. She had heard that she could be whatever she wanted to be. She worked hard to get the best grades because she knew that she was going to be the first in her family to finish college and go on to medical school. It was all planned in her mind...then one day she met what she thought was the love of life. He looked good, smelled wonderful, and had a line that would put Casanova to shame. He told her "If you love me, you'll get high with me." She was hooked and would soon do anything to get a fix...including stealing.

Sometimes our circumstances will not only dictate, but they can ruin our lives. We truly need to pray for those who have, for whatever reason, chosen the wrong way and allowed circumstances to land them in the quiet of a jail cell. Pray that while there, God can use the quiet of the cell to make such a loud noise that they cry out for an answer. Let's pray that God will send someone across there paths, while they sit in the quiet cell, that can lead them back to our heavenly father.

Remember...no matter the crime, God hates the sin but loves the sinner. It is not God's will that any should be lost.

Let us pray...

Father, in the name of Jesus, we ask that you forgive us for our sins. Cleanse us from all unrighteousness as we bow before your throne. We praise you, oh God, for who you are. We magnify your name and give you all honor and glory.

Father, as we lift up every person that is behind bars, we know that some will seek you and others wont. But Lord, we ask that you soften hearts in the still of the night. Father, let seeds be planted in hearts that will receive. Father, send someone with your Word to water the seeds as the Holy Spirit brings the increase. Father we thank you right now for the lives that will be saved, the restoration that is happening and the renewing of the minds of all who say yes.

Lord, take care of their families while you do what needs to be done behind the bars. And Lord, open doors that no man can shut and windows that no man close. Father protect them and provide for their every need. Thank you for those who answer the call to minister to your children who are behind bars.

Thank you , Father, for meeting the needs of your people.

These things we ask in the name of Jesus...Amen.