

H-I-M Jail & Prison Ministry

2008 Christmas at the Jail



God, I'm sure the stores are filled with shoppers busy buying last minute gifts. The churches are filled with people who only attend once a year. There are parties and carols and lots of food and kids hoping to see Santa. It really hurts to be here at Christmas. Then I remember the story behind all the fuss. Mary gave birth to Jesus in a barn with the animals, far from comfort and friends. There was no room for them in the inn. It seems like there's still no room for Jesus at Christmas. I sit here wondering about all this, God. I know about being in a place far from comfort and friends. But, there is room here. I am an inmate but just the same I am asking you today stay with me for Christmas. Amen



Did you ever wonder what goes through the minds of those incarcerated during the holiday season? When the entire world outside those walls are scurrying around trying to find the right gift for that child or loved one. I am sure they must ask themselves time and time again; will I be remembered by someone this Christmas Season.

The H.I.M. Ministry every year looks forward to spending time preparing the Christmas gifts for 2000 inmates at Oakland County Jail. It is that special time of year when we forget what we have to do and think about the joy it brings those inmates. Again this year many of us spent Saturday morning filling their holiday bags with Socks, Bibles, Candy, Stamped Christmas Cards, Toiletries and other special items so that they too would be remembered. I truly believe that we as H.I.M. Members get more out of this day than we could ever try explaining to another. As we prepared those bags there was so much laughter and love among us as the rolled up socks continually flew across the room and it seems as though Howard Miller was always the instigator. But, just the same many of us got him back with a barrage of sock power. Those Christmas bags for the inmates had many hands laid upon them and many prayers put forth.



Later that evening we set forth to the O.C.J Work Release Facility for Christmas Caroling with the inmates. Eddie played that guitar to a packed audience at both the Women's and Men's facility that special night. We had 40+ H.I.M. Members and friends who experienced a movement of God in both facilities. H.I.M. Members and the men and women inmates at O.C.J. sang their hearts out. They laughed and they cried. We laughed and we cried. We sang songs from Silent Night, The First Noel to Here Comes Santa Claus to Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer.

Besides the Christmas Caroling many testimonies were given by H.I.M. Members who at one time could relate to many of those sitting in jail that holiday season. They shared how God had changed their lives and how God had restored their families and how He is the God of deliverance and He is the true God of restoration. After the Word was brought forth by Pastor Mark...73 Women and 51 Men made a commitment to God and to allow Him to be the Lord of their lives. We as Christians and we as H.I.M. Members were blessed and we know that God saw to it personally that those inmates at the jail were also blessed.

More...



Heb 13:2-3 Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering. Our God tells us to remember those prisoners. What a blessing to be in the will of God! What a gift that God gave to us by opening those prison doors and allowing us to go in and telling those inmates that God loves them no matter what they had done to be there.

As one inmate put it: It is almost Christmas God. Help me feel your love.

God, I know that Christmas is not about pretty cards or trees and lights or ribbons and bows.

It is about love___love that transforms enemies into friends, love that turns fear into trust.

It is all about love that heals broken relationships, that mends broken dreams. Christmas is about the infant Jesus, who was born to bring us the good news of your love at work in our lives, Merciful God let the light of your love shine in my heart this Christmas season, that the people crowded around me can see your love in action through me. Help me get through the holidays with grace so that I can ease someone else's loneliness, someone else's hopelessness and despair. I ask this in the name of the infant Jesus...Amen

Be Blessed In 2009,

Hogs In Ministry

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Rom 10:13