



Stepping out in Love

Are you where God wants you to be?

When I began the Change class last August I never thought I would be going into the ¾ houses and jails to spread God's Word. I've never been to jail myself or have any kind of criminal record, so that's not where I would be effective. Each week I kept thinking about what ministry I was going to serve in and guess what kept coming to my mind?? Jail/Prison Ministry!! God had different plans for me! I would ask God, "Why me Lord?" and He kept giving me one word, LOVE! Did I listen right away? Of course not, I joined the Servant Ministry, because we are all Servant's of the Lord, aren't we?? God kept tapping me on the shoulder and I knew I wasn't where He wanted me to be. Just a few months after I finished the Change Class and became a HIM Member, the opportunity arose for me to go into the ¾ houses in Pontiac and I knew that God was trying to get my attention. This time I listened!!

The Truth shall make you Free!

Have you ever thought about your freedom? The Freedom we have because we live in the United States. Freedom of Religion, Freedom of Choice, and the list goes on and on. The men and women who are incarcerated don't feel that same freedom. Yes, they have committed some crime that has gotten them where they are but do you ever stop to think, "Why did they make those bad choices?" "Why didn't they know better?" Many of these people have never heard the truth of God's word and if they have, it was presented to them in a way that they just did not understand. John 8:32 says, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free". These men and women need to know the truth of God's Love. Not the lies that an abusive relative or spouse has told them, not the lies that the drug dealer has told them, not the lies that their friends have told them, but the TRUTH of the love of our Lord Jesus Christ!

The Many Faces of God's Love

I have been blessed beyond belief since I have gotten to know the men and women in the Jail and ¾ houses. To watch God work in their lives is truly amazing! Do they all turn from their old ways and let God take control of their lives? No, of course not. But if just ONE does...then PRAISE GOD! I have laughed with them, cried with them and become really good friends with some of them. I have seen the joy that just writing them a letter can bring to their lives. I have seen some success stories and I have seen some failures. I have seen them struggle and I have seen them fall. But no matter what happens I have tried to love them with a love that is from God. I have tried to encourage them and teach them and let them know there is another way to live. I have tried to show them that even though you are behind bars or in a ¾ house you can be FREE!!!

Will you love ALL of God's children?

Sometimes it's easy for us to do what is "comfortable" or to make excuses of why we won't be effective in a certain area of ministry. I would like to challenge each and every one of us in the HIM ministry to step out of our comfort zones and reach out to these men and women. It can be a small step like becoming a pen pal with someone in prison or a bigger step like helping at the ¾ houses or doing bible studies in jail. Jesus said in John 13:35, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another". However you choose to serve you can be an effective servant of God if you will simply "LOVE".

Love your sister in Christ,
Suzie Wright