



Searching Outside Yourself To Help Others

Volume 39 - 7

Monthly Newsletter

July - 2022

Last month, I ended my article with these statements. In order to disciple others, you must first become a disciple, and then seek to disciple others. In **John 14:6** Jesus says, *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life.”* Jesus came and revealed the true way of

life. For us to obey this command, we must first be discipled in His ways, and then seek to disciple others in His ways. Discipleship is a matter of one who is living in the way of the Lord, showing someone else how to live in the way of the Lord. All disciples belong to the Lord, but stewards of His ministry shape them. This month, I want to write on how I became a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ, and how stewards of His ministry shaped me.

The one thing I needed most while I was growing up was a father. There was a man married to my mother, who was my biological father; he was a hard worker and provided for all of our material needs, and I know he loved me. But like so many fathers, he left me to my own thoughts and myself most of the time. Without a positive influence in my life, I started doing what was right in my own eyes. I learned to care for myself because no one else would. I

DISCIPLE

BE ONE. MAKE ONE.

Part Two

taught myself about life and trained myself to cope with it. I learned that only the strong survive, so I became strong in myself; and if anyone got in my way, I stepped on him or her before they could step on me.

Trying to be my own god and father didn't help me survive; in fact it contributed to my destruction. By the time I was twenty-one years old, I had been expelled from high school; and in the next few years, my string of arrests stretched all over the eastern United States. I was arrested for robbing a drugstore in South Carolina, for possession of eight pounds of marijuana in Georgia, one hundred tabs of LSD in Florida, and finally, for possession of heroin in Pennsylvania. In between arrests, I had joined the Army, but went AWOL ten times, received assorted reprimands and punishments, a summary court-martial, a special court-

martial, and finally received an undesirable discharge.

But the worst came when in a drug-related incident; I was responsible for the death of someone I really cared about. I didn't mean

for it to happen, but like a lot of other unpleasant things in my life, it happened. After their death, I couldn't stand myself. My life became so unbearable that I didn't want to live any longer. I finally reached the bottom of life, and I gave up on myself; but God didn't. In fact, the very night I was going to kill myself, someone introduced me to Jesus Christ; and instead of death I received life. Not having a father almost destroyed me, but through the love of my heavenly Father, I was healed and restored. I quickly learned the meaning of **Psalm 68:5**, which says, *“A father to the fatherless ... is God in His holy habitation.”* For the first time I belonged somewhere; I was part of the family of God.

After surrendering my life to Christ, I knew I must also surrender to the authorities, for that is what my Father

(continued on page 2)

would want. The next morning, I turned myself in, and two months later I was found guilty of second-degree murder and was sentenced to thirty years in prison. For the first time in my life, I realized that I was accountable for my actions. I discovered that you can't put something behind you until you face it. I also began to realize, though God forgive me of my sins, I still had to face the consequences of my actions. I soon discovered that as I faced those consequences with faith in God, He was able to do two things; He was able to minimize the damage of those consequences, and He was able to maximize the good. Where prison hurts most people, because of God working in my life, prison helped me. God showed me that I didn't need to get out of jail as much as I needed to get out of me the things that got me into jail.

My first year as an inmate was extremely difficult. Even though I had a heavenly Father who loved me, there were no Christian men around to father me in the ways of God. Instead, I was surrounded by men who, like me, had never been fathered. Although I read my Bible and prayed faithfully, I felt as if I was getting nowhere in my Christian life. I had changed some, but not nearly enough. Growing more and more frustrated, I asked myself, "Is this all there is?" It was then that I realized I needed to be fathered spiritual-

ly. I needed someone to love me, to teach me, to train me and discipline me. I knew that with God all things are possible, so I started praying that He would somehow make a way for me to be fathered in my Christian walk, even though I was in prison.

God answered that prayer in an unusual way. In November of 1973, I went to my mailbox and there was the answer to my prayer. It was a magazine called New Wine. To this day, I don't know how they got my name and address or who paid for the subscription, but there it was in my mailbox. I'll never forget that first issue, because it was all about the Holy Spirit. Until that time, there was much confusion in my heart and mind concerning the person of the Holy Spirit. But as I read each word, my confusion started to dissipate. That first issue gave me vital teaching on the person of the Holy Spirit, and corrected many false ideas I had. I continued receiving New Wine throughout my prison term without ever paying a cent, and God used every issue to father me in my Christian walk.

New Wine taught me how much God loved me. Through its teaching I was encouraged, admonished, inspired, edified, and disciplined. I learned how to love others and myself properly. I learned what real relationships are all about. I learned about commitment, discipline, sacrifice, discipleship, and accountability. In essence, I learned what

my heavenly Father was like in the person of Jesus Christ, and I learned how I could become like Him. Not only did New Wine father me, but it also served to father other Christians I was incarcerated with at Sumter Correctional Institution in Bushnell, Florida. New Wine gave us the direction and teaching we needed to start an inmate church. We began with only three brothers, but within a year, we had 120 members in a population of 800 inmates.

Since that time, I have been paroled, but the ministry at Sumter continues. Hundreds of inmates have not only met Jesus Christ, but they have also learned to not give up on themselves, because God hasn't. They have learned to walk with Him on a daily basis. These men, who became my brothers while I was in prison, are still a part of me. Neither time nor distance has affected our relationships. For many years, we had a reunion for all the released brothers and their families. It has been a joy to see these brothers living their Christianity outside prison with the same zeal and faithfulness they had while they were in prison.

Through the years, I've been accused of talking too much about New Wine and the teachers who wrote for it. Some people have felt my admiration and love border on hero worship. I really didn't know if that

was true or not until I met Charles Simpson, one of the teachers who wrote for New Wine Magazine. He was speaking in a meeting I attended. I had the opportunity to meet him and thank him for all that he and New Wine had accomplished in my life. As I left the meeting, I knew what I was feeling in my heart was not worship for a hero, but a son's love for a father. Since that time, Brother Charles agreed to pastor me, to disciple me, and to hold me accountable. He has been my Pastor for over twenty years, and as a result of the Holy Spirit working through him, I have matured in ways that I never dreamed possible.

In the ensuing months, I am going to share with you how other men of God have disciplined me in very specific ways. These will cover many areas that we as Christians should be growing in. Listed below are the different areas that I will be covering.

A Disciple and His Doctrine. A Disciple and His Prayer Life. A Disciple and His Service. A Disciple and His Desires. A Disciple and His Hearing. A Disciple and His Speaking. A Disciple and His Relationships. A Disciple and His Submission. A Disciple and His Purpose and Purity. A Disciple and His Anger. And a Disciple and His Fruitfulness.

Remember, you aren't qualified to disciple someone, if you have never been disciplined. Through these articles, I hope to put in you a desire to be a disciple, and then in the process of becoming one, you will then start making some.

Jim Newsom

At the beginning of the year I raised \$5,000.00 to be able to buy 1000 books from my publisher at a reduced rate so that I could give them to inmates for free. Since that time we have given 1500 copies of my book to prisons, county jails, prison ministries, and half-way houses. We continue to get requests for more books, but as of now we don't have the money to buy them.

Therefore, I am asking those of you who are able, to make a generous financial gift to this ministry so that we can continue to provide books for the inmates that want them. Just make out a check to **Outward Focused** and in the memo put "**prison books.**"

Rivers Of Living Water Ministries, Inc., is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. **Outward Focused** operates as a ministry of **Rivers Of Living Water Ministries**. **Outward Focused** receives no county, state, or federal funding; it relies on churches, individuals, and businesses as instruments of support.

Remember this ministry in your mission giving.

If you can give, please make out your check to "**Outward Focused,**" then place your tax-deductible contribution in the envelope provided. You can also give through our website. The address is: **www.outwardfocusedinternational.org**



Outward Focused is a ministry of
Rivers Of Living Water Ministries, Inc
3432 Christopher Trail
Jeffersonville, IN 47130
Jim's Cell - (502)593-7612
Jim's E-mail address is: newsom035878@gmail.com
Web Site: www.outwardfocusedinternational.org

Notes From The Newsom's From Diane's Desk



Jim's Itinerary For July - 2022

PRAISE GOD! He answered our prayers; our air conditioning finally got fixed, and just in time to deal with 90 to 104 degree weather. We have been enjoying the comfort of our house during these very unusually hot days.

I have finally gotten in with a local rheumatologist, and don't have to travel 2 hours one way for my appointments. She is adjusting my medications, after running multiple tests and x-rays. She has changing my diagnosis to Rheumatoid Arthritis. As I taper off some medications, I am experiencing more pain in my joints, but I believe that God will bring healing to my body, and I will be able to function normally. Pray with me to that end.

Jason has been able to find a new apartment to move into the first of July. It is in a much safer area of Seattle. Where he was at, he had the wheels stolen off his new bike, his car tire slashed, and his car window smashed in an attempt to steal his car. And all of that was while they were parked in his apartment complex's secure parking garage. We are so glad that he is moving to a safer area!

Ronan has loved his day camps. He just finished one of his acting camps, and played his pirate character perfectly. After his ice-skating camp, he had improved so much that they moved him up a level in his normal weekly lessons. He seems to be quite a natural at ice-skating. He can now skate on one foot for short distances, skate backwards and switch from front to back skating seamlessly. He is really enjoying it.

July 9-10 - South Holland, MI

Spirit Of God Fellowship
50 Year Jubilee Celebration
Pastor Brian Kamstra - (708)225-2900

July 11- 13 - Owensboro, KY

Pastors & Wives Gathering
Pastor Michael Peters - (314)395-6326

July 29-31 - Starkville, MS

New Covenant Church
Dean Jordan - (662)617-4890

If you would like to schedule Jim to come speak at a school, prison, or church in your area, please call or e-mail Jim at the above number or address.