



So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. Isaiah 55:11

Dear Friends and Fellow Workers for Christ,

The summer has flown by, or more like sloshed by in our area, and the harvest was not so great because of all the rain. But as usual we find ourselves wondering, "Where did the time go?" When I begin to see the leaves turning I always think of the text in Jeremiah 8:20 that reads: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Contemplating this text, it seems to imply that the harvest was not good! But with God's help even a stony field can yield a harvest.

We are so thrilled to share the news of a spiritual harvest during this last quarter. The Holy Spirit has been working and slowly leading souls to repentance. One precious soul from the women's prison who has been studying for more than a year was baptized and is so happy to be a part of God's remnant people. Making the decision when you're living in an incarcerated environment is a real challenge because everyone around you may be pulling you in different directions. It's just a given that if your cell mates are not studying with you, they will try to discourage you, but when Ellie decided to talk to the Chaplain and shared that she was thinking about baptism she got a big surprise. She shared the following testimony with our volunteers and we want to share it with you.

"It's the Chaplain's job to guide and encourage people in their spiritual walk, right?" Ellie questioned? "But instead, I got a shock when I went to her office for council. I just wanted to share my thoughts with someone who I felt would encourage me in my search for a closer walk with Christ, but when I told her that I was thinking about baptism with the Seventh-day Adventist study group, the Chaplain looked at me blankly." "The Seventh-day Adventists are a cult." She declared! "You shouldn't even be going to their meetings and you surely don't want to be baptized by them." She told me sternly. "I was shocked that she would make such a judgmental statement, but I didn't back down." Ellie continued with her testimony. "I suddenly found myself defending what I had learned in class and declared that everything the SDA's taught came straight from the Bible. It was at that moment that I knew in my heart that all I have learned is the truth and that Seventh-day Adventists are God's remnant people. And I also realized that I didn't need a Chaplain or anyone else to help me make my decision. I heard myself telling the Chaplain that I see the truth plainly and that I absolutely DO want to be baptized by them." And baptized she was! On August 3rd she entered the water and came out a new member of God's remnant church. Praise God!

But that's not the end of the story, about a month later that particular Chaplain was fired, and is no longer working anywhere in the DOC in Virginia. It is not known if her prejudice toward the SDA service had anything to do with her dismissal, but the inmates tell us that they now have a Chaplain who is very friendly, easy to talk to, and willing to help when she can.

One of my responsibilities as Coordinator for the Potomac Conference Prison Ministry, (it's a volunteer position) is to conduct what we call a "Prison Ministry Sabbath" at churches throughout Virginia. Working as a team with two or three of our regular volunteers we give our personal testimonies of how the Lord led us into the Prison Ministry work. We share testimonies from the inmates, and sometimes we bring a former inmate to share a short testimony and how he was encouraged to come to Christ because of the volunteer meetings inside the prison. Although our presentation is somewhat different than a regular Divine Service, congregations always express that they are blessed. If you are in Virginia and would like your church to have a Prison Ministry Sabbath please contact us. We will contact your Pastor and make all the arrangements.

In early June, we conducted one of these Prison Ministry Sabbaths in Tappahannock VA. There is a faithful church member there who is maintaining a small SDA study group at a nearby prison every other Wednesday night, but was in need of help. He, and an occasional assistant, were hoping some "new blood" would help increase attendance, both of inmates and church member volunteers. The prison is 165 miles round-trip for us but Wednesday nights were open and you know we just can't turn down a call for help.

The first night we attended this new facility we discovered that two inmates who had been attending for a long time were seeking to live Christ-like lives and were interested in baptism. We are working to be sure they are ready, and to set up a date for baptism.

We want to up the services there to weekly, and have approval from the program coordinator, but we are encountering challenges with the head of security. Policy dictates that a religious service must have at least five attendees and at our last visit we were terminated because of low attendance. Most facilities will overlook an occasional drop in attendance, but this one seems to be "flexing their muscles" with us. This prison has over 900 inmates who need to know that Jesus is coming soon. Please pray with us that interest will increase, and that tension will decrease so that God's last day message can reach those who are seeking to know Jesus in this dark corner of the harvest field.

Thank you for helping us get The Good News to those who are largely forgotten by the world, so that they can make a decision for Christ before it is too late.

May God give you strength for the day, and hope for the future.

In His service *John & Nancy (Annie) Carmouche'*

Donations, questions, or comments may be made on-line, by phone, or by regular mail.

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