and beyond

# LIBERTY BEHIND BARS MINISTRY

Sending Church: Black Creek Baptist Church
JANURARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

The Spirit of the Lord COD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good idings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the aptives and the opening of the prison to them that are bound (isa 61:1)

#### Proverbs 21:1

The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.

In our last letter, we asked everyone to pray for the Lord's will to be done with selling our home and our move to Rochester. As a family and ministry, we wanted to "wait on the Lord," in order to know for sure what his desire was for us. That's exactly what we did and He has given direction!

1 Samuel: 3:16-18 Then Eli called Samuel, and said, Samuel, my son. And he answered, Here am I. And he said, What is the thing that the Lord hath said unto thee? I pray thee hide it not from me: God do so to thee, and more also, if thou hide any thing from me of all the things that he said unto thee. And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, It is the Lord: let him do what seemeth him good.

This would NOT have been something that Eli would have wanted to hear, but as Samuel said, "It is the Lord." Such is the case with LBB. It is not what people expected, what they prayed for, or wanted; but it is of the Lord. *Isaiah: 55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.* Amy and I were afraid to look at things differently for the ministry. Although we wanted to make sure we were doing the right thing in our eyes, fear drove us to do a lot of things that were not the Lord's leading. We didn't want to let people or their hopes down. The excitement of it all drove us to convince ourselves and others that this is what God really wanted.

It was then that God started putting up road-blocks to try and get our attention; to get us to look at things in a different way. God put an Angel to stop Adam and Eve from going to the garden, God stopped the prophet and donkey from going the way the man thought he should go, The Holy Ghost of God stopped Paul many times from going to where he didn't want him to go. So it's not beyond God to stop people from going somewhere no matter how good it may seem to them and the people around them.

For over a year Amy and I thought it was us changing direction in the ministry because we thought we were not being obedient or willing enough. It was complete torture to us. We did everything in our power to try and appease what we feared from an angry God! We got rid of our pets, put our house up on the market, and tried to force the acceptance that this is what God wanted. We tried to convince ourselves by trying to convince others that this is what God really wanted. When all along, God knew and wanted differently...

God stepped in a couple weeks ago through many circumstances, people, and answered prayers which confirmed to Amy and I that it was not us, but Him who was changing things. We started question, "Why did God allow us to do everything that we did?" First of all, it was to show us that it was of Him, not us. We definitely learned a lesson through this. The Lord showed me this... God told Abraham to kill his first-born son, so Abraham got everything together to go, and went. God could have stopped him right there and said to him, "I see your heart, you don't have to go any further." But He didn't. Abraham continued his journey and started up the hill and God could have stopped him, seeing the willingness of his actions, but He didn't. Abraham gets to the top of the mountain and again, God saw his willingness of Abraham's heart and his faith, and could have stopped things right there, but He didn't. Abraham built an altar, tied up his son, laid the wood in order to sacrifice him and yet, God seeing his faith could have stopped him. But He didn't! Abraham raised the knife up to kill his son, and it was then and only then God stopped him. God brought Abraham to the brink of killing his son and to the end of himself before He stopped him and provided what was needed (the ram in the thickets).

This is where LBB and the Morey's are. David had to face and kill a lion and a bear before he was ready to face and kill Goliath. Liberty Behind Bars Ministry is **still** a ministry where we will work with the men and women in jails and prisons, and even when they get out. However, we are **EXCITED** to explain some new additional aspects of the ministry that will be taking place.

Everything we have been doing, and will continue to do, can be done right from where we live! We are centrally located an hour and a half or less in any direction to reach over 13 jails; not to mention the prisons around the area! Plus with new technology advances, we are now able to reach "face-to-face" with individuals all over the U.S.! Thus, we will stay in our home in Belfast, NY and LBB will continue through Black Creek Baptist Church. The church has offered a space for an office to use for video conferences, bible distribution, video podcasts, and other ministerial work. We will be starting a fundraiser to offset the cost for building an office. LBB materials, bibles, office supplies, and other necessities have taken over our home and need to have its proper place.

## Broadening our Horizons

The Lord has truly helped me develop a strong relationship with the administration at the Monroe County Jail. I am very excited to be able to continue ministering to the men in the "Mainframe" at MCJ. The Mainframe houses very "special-care" individuals that are set apart from general population inmates. I start back in the jail, Thursday, January 6th. I also have been cleared to hold "professional" visits (one-on-one) for bible study, counsel, and prayer, etc. I am excited that I have a "helper" who will be joining me. David speaks of a "keeper" of his sheep when he is gone (1 Sam 17:20). I have prayed for this for a while now and God has answered by giving me brother Ronnie Scoloton. We are also pleased that my wife Amy will be helping to minister to the women with me at MCJ through video visits, professional one-on-one visits, and through email! At some point, we are praying that the administration and LBB can start a "husband and wife" bible study directly on the floor with all the women.

Before Covid was even spoken of... early on in the ministry, the Lord brought a memory back to me. I remembered (over 25 years ago), sitting in prison, how important mail was to me. About 5 years ago we started the mail ministry. We have faithfully mailed into individuals all over the U.S. bible devotionals, personal letters, encouragement cards, and study materials (<u>not including the thousands of KJV bibles we have mailed in</u>). The responses we have had have been tremendous. One of the many hundreds of letters and testimonies we've received: Dear Dale Morey, I want to thank you for sending me a monthly devotional, it is helping me understand the Lord's Word even more (C.W.).

Since Covid - although many other jail/prison ministries have stopped because they were not able to enter into the facilities, LBB has grown! Although personal, face-to-face visits are extremely important in the ministry, the Lord has given me additional opportunities to minister in several other ways. We have had many individuals reach out to LBB from all over the nation. We have increased to close 250 people we now minister to and continue to grow weekly.

Thank the Lord for technology! Technology has opened the doors beyond just having a local jail/prison ministry. We have several internet platforms that we have available to minister to those behind jail/prison walls all over the nation. We have the ability to set up face-to-face video calls with individuals to hold bible studies, counsel, and fellowship. We have the ability to email individuals as well. Snail mail hasn't stopped either! LBB works almost 7 days a week with responding, teaching, packing, mailing, writing devotionals, video meetings, family video meetings, etc.. With technology, we have less to worry about safety and health issues, travel, and conflicts with Chaplains, administrative clearances, and other hinderances.

There are still costs related to these new technological advances. We all are used to sending an email with no cost. However, every email that I send costs anywhere from 25¢ to 58¢ and I also include a stamp for the individual to write back. Video visits range in different amounts due to facility and how long the call will be. But compared to driving to jails/prisons in NY and beyond, the cost is substantially low!

We are now working with an App (Android and Apple) developer to design a LBB app! This will take time, much prayer, and finances to get it on the tablets that men/women use while incarcerated. We are asking that you <u>pray</u> that the developer and us can work with the various jail platforms to make it available to these men and women. This app will include good preaching messages, video devotionals, written devotionals, and podcasts. Again, we are in the early stages of this venture but are looking forward to what God can do with it!

This past year has been unbelievable with the amount of giving! We are pleased to say that we have raised close to \$6,000 to purchase good KJV bibles! We only have a couple hundred left to hand out and are hoping that we will be able to purchase more! The cost to mail bibles has increased to close to \$5! We have mailed thousands of bibles in this past year and we thank you so much for the donations in order to do so! Please continue to pray for these funds to continue so we can get the True Word of God out to these men and women!

Locally we continue to work with the men/women when they are released from jail/prison. We assist in getting them into a good KJV church by contacting pastors and churches in the area of release. We are available to help them with social services and other agencies if needed. We continue to counsel with parents and family members of the incarcerated. Many do not understand the system or need biblical counsel for difficult circumstances. When released in different states, we can use a variety of internet platforms to work with individuals, their family members, and churches to offer the same type of support.

Please pray that when the opportunity comes, I will be able to preach in jails/prisons through a local jail ministry in New York and surrounding states!

#### Needless to say - the only difference in LBB is the Lord has added more ways to reach more people for HIM!

If you would like to donate to the LBB office project, please designate your giving to "office project." We will be starting a Facebook fundraiser as well. Please feel free to send checks to the LBB P.O. Box or you can use PayPal @libertybehindbarsministry

Our family wants to thank each and everyone of you for your continued prayers for us and the ministry. We look forward to seeing what the Lord will do in 2022! We pray you all have a very safe, joyous, and blessed New Year!

### **Testimonies**

**D.P. says,** "you have given me the best gift of them all - your support and helping me find Christ!

**D.V. writes**: ...sure ministers and pastors who have led upstanding lives may be able to do a lot to help people by praying with them and for them, and by explaining the Bible to them...but sometimes people need someone who understands what they are going through. Someone who has been there and experienced it for themselves. I am so thankful for you and your ministry and for everything that you have done to help me in my growth.

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