

Restoring the Reserves

1Kings 17 introduces the prophet Elijah and gives the account of his dealings with a widow from Zarephath. The chapter notes that the Lord was withholding rain from Israel. The drought was in judgment of the nation's rampant idolatry led by the royal couple Ahab and Jezebel. In verse 8, the Lord commanded Elijah to go to Zarephath, a town outside of Israel, where a widow would provide food for him. He obeyed, finding a woman gathering sticks. He said to her, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink," and, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand" (verses 11-12).

The widow, however, was in great need herself. She responded, "As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, **that we may eat it and die.**" She expected the meal she was about to fix to be the last for her family. She had no other prospect than to die of starvation. Elijah's answer was surely **a test of her faith.** He told her that she was to make some food for him, anyway, using the last of her ingredients for him. He added a promise: "For thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth'" (1 Kings 17:14). The widow's faith was evident in her obedience. And God was faithful to His promise: "She and her household ate for many days. The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah." The widow's food supply was supernaturally extended, as promised.

Throughout Covid-19, many of our donors, of whom are so faithful give out of their poverty and not from riches. Many have given in the face of adversity and in the threat of an unsure economy in our days ahead. Faithfulness to empower and support Kingdom work is seldom borne out of or forged from comfort and ease, but rather adverse times and difficult economies. The widow at Zarephath is the clarion call and epitome of such a lesson. To those of you who have continued to support The Prisoner's Hope. Thank you for your faithfulness in spite of fears and uncertainty...

Our reserves have run low throughout this time though we have continued to give and to do what we do best - serve. If you'd like to give, we have several ways that can move the needle in the work we do. One of those ways is to go to www.theprisonershope.life and sign up for '20 for 20'. You can set up Autopay to take out \$20.00 per month

From Executive Director, Darryll Davis



"I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."
John 16:33

Assaults on the Soul

The cold edge of assaults,
Takes impact upon the soul,
Where circumstances become realities,
And faith loses control.
It's a place of sadness and grief,
A reduction to total despair,
A place where brokenness has preeminence,
A taxing of great fare.
It's the epitome of nothingness,
As life passes you by,
It's all logic crying out,
Asking God, "Why?"
It's the contrast to faith,
Yet we've all been there,
Those assaults on the soul,
Which warrant great prayer.
It's the deepest of introspection,
They condition our character in life,
It's where reality challenges faith,
And it cuts like a knife.
Even now the battle rages on,
From within a concrete grave,
And the spirit shines a ray of hope,
And faith the road to pave,
So we push on towards the mark,
In times such as these,
As the assaults on the soul,
Blow through like a breeze,
We look unto Jesus,
For we know that He cares,
Combating the assaults on the soul,
Can only be won through prayer."

7/8/98 by Darryll D. Davis

for the remainder of 2020. A reasonable way to support and yet a significant amount to help. May the Lord bless every effort and make your house to be full... *Darryll*

A Godwink Story by Susan Dejean

It began slowly and developed into a compelling call to help.

The story arose out of the mass prisoner release action. Darryll mentioned one of the big drawbacks was them not being supplied with a state ID causing all sorts of barriers once they were released. "Joe" was referred to The Prisoners Hope by someone and contacted Darryll by phone. He had just been released, was living at a transitional house, had no money, no family in the area, no job, no food, no clothes, no car, no phone. Although he wasn't in The Prisoners Hope program, Darryll felt moved to help him where he could. He sent him food and clothing. At a sober living home, rent is \$100/week and he had no job. Normally, The Prisoners Hope pays the first month while the mentee is getting situated and finding a job etc. but with the current corona situation the financial resources have dried up making this impossible. Days went by and the nagging thought to help in the back of my mind grew making its way to the front of my mind and wouldn't let go. So I started wondering how can I help. Darryll was trying to find him a job and I wondered if I could help out with the first week of rent. An insistent voice interrupted with, "No, more." I asked my son, Adam, if he would like to participate. He agreed and we each put \$200 into an envelope to take care of Joe's first month's rent. I will make donations to a group or cause or crisis, but I'm not normally given to jumping in there to fill personal needs for a specific person. Darryll was overjoyed when I told him our plan the next morning; he said this help would be so appreciated.

Now, a couple days earlier Adam's brother made unscheduled visit and said he had a brand new pair of work boots for Adam that a friend of his had given him along with the few other pairs of shoes. They were size 10 ½. Adam wears 9 ½ but figured they would fit with innersoles and thick socks.

Friend, Cenia, and I planned to get food for the Southeast food drive; she realized she got the dates mixed up. So I called Darryll to see if Joe needed more food. Darryll said, "No, but he needs a phone with minutes and shoes...size 10 ½!" Sure those boots were intended for Joe, I texted Adam and asked him what he thought about giving away his boots he hadn't even worn yet. And bighearted Adam said, "Give him whatever he needs." I gave Darryll the \$400 for the rent; Adam surrendered boots and Cenia bought the phone. Darryll told me Joe cried when he found out about this gift from total strangers. When we arrived, Joe was at an interview Darryll had arranged for a job making about \$14. Then Joe calls Darryll to tell him he got the job and was going to be making \$20/hr. I thought we were all going to break into a victory dance! Things were just unfolding so quickly we couldn't keep up with God's speedy work. Cenia, Darryll and I had still not met Joe in person. When he returned from his interview, Darryll was in a zoom meeting; Cenia and I talked with him. Joe was open about his history of charges, drugs and prison time. He said in so many ways God has answered his prayers. One of the rehab facilities he mentioned was Faith Farm in Florida. That was the same facility and year that Adam entered rehab! We also found out we were all down there in the same place on the same day for the alumni celebration; a giant cookout and game competitions between the Faith Farm campuses. And Cenia was the one who had been my traveling partner on that trip and here we are in the midst of this revelation. I was just amazed on how all these things seemed systematically set in motion by a Divine designer.

When Joe talked about Faith Farm I felt like God was putting the lid on any doubt that He was the One working behind the scenes in all our lives connecting us together and working all things for the good of those who love him. What a privilege to be instruments of God's blessings to someone!



A Life Changed by Joe K

My name is Joseph Kamely; I'm a recovering drug addict alcoholic. My story is no different than any other person struggling with addiction. It started when I was in my mid-twenties after 2 deployments to Iraq. I came home a different man than when I left and I found myself drinking, drugging and surrounded by people with that same interests. I was brought to a general court martial on July 26th 2003 and sentenced to 60 months in federal prison for selling narcotics to another sailor. I served 36 months and was released to go back home to Chicago where I found myself "wanting to make up the lost time". I was in a different bar every night and doing more cocaine than I could afford. I was arrested the summer of 2007 for residential burglary and was given an alternative sentence to go to rehab where I had my first experience with Jesus. It was a faith-based rehab on the far south side of Chicago where I spent 18 months and graduated. I did well for a while attending and being active in my church until I became complacent. As I slid into the "I got this God" attitude, it wasn't long before I fell into my old habits but this time it was Heroin. I was a slave to that drug for about 2 years until an overdose almost killed me made me wake up. This time I went to a faith-based treatment center in Florida stayed a few months in the 10 month program. Of course, I relapsed again and again and again. The problem was my faith was nonexistent. On December 12, 2018, I was arrested on multiple felony warrants for charges in multiple counties. As a result, they ran the time consecutively and I was given a 10 year prison sentence. I was utterly alone when my family washed their hands of me; they didn't write, they didn't answer phone calls, nothing. When girl I was with committed suicide while I was incarcerated, I felt truly hopeless. I had my spiritual experience on Easter day 2019 and I felt the Holy Spirit come over me. I began to pray, change the way I talked and began to have a little hope. The parole board requested I complete SAP and Moral Recognition Therapy; I did and was granted parole in April of 2020. I was sent to a half-way house in Louisville where I was given the number for Darryll Davis. I was told he helps guys that are released and have no resources. That was me so I decided to call and I thank God every day I made that call. Total strangers were filling every need and lack I had from rent money to work boots. I slipped and fell back shortly after my release and paid the price for the lies I told claiming I hadn't used but it was obvious I had. Once I became humble and told the truth I was extended a second chance. I fell and they helped me up; The Prisoners Hope ministry has walked beside me through every aspect of my life. I was given the lead to the job I now have making more money than I've ever made before; I was given food and a gift card to buy more food. I was blessed with a phone and other resources that helped me get back on my feet. I was introduced to my mentor, Brad. He and I are growing closer every time we spend time together going to church on most Sundays. God has been reintroduced into my life; I've been extended love and encouragement. I can't thank the ministry enough for all that they have done for me...



Mentoring 'Joe' by Brad Britt

It all started with a phone call from Darryll. He asked me to pray on mentoring a young man fresh out named Joe. What Darryll didn't realize is that I needed Joe as much as Joe needed me. I was starting to feel like my work and my business was getting in the way of my spiritual life. My church attendance was down; I was still praying but was I really putting forth the effort. Not so much, I decided and I talked to Darryll about my concerns. I needed something to get my balance back. As soon as I agreed to mentor Joe, God made even more opportunities to serve. Our first conversation went well; I told him a little bit about myself and he was very responsive and seemed eager. Then we hit a speed bump. But that's okay because these things happen and I truly believe we can learn much from a slip. I've learned God's grace is limitless and that the devil is still nipping at our heels just waiting for that slip. What I learned about Joe from it was he had repentance and a true desire to follow God. He owned his mistake, realized why he slipped and genuinely grew from it. On our first meeting, I picked him up and we went to church at the Corner of



Hope. How better for Joe to get to know me than by seeing where it all began for me. After church we hit up Louis, the best hot chicken in town. I felt good about the connection so we made plans to make it a routine. Like I said, I need a 'Joe' as much as he needed me. It helps to hold me accountable by being available to him and our church and lunch meetings. My church attendance has been up; my spiritual level is back where it needs to be. Our mentor-mentee relationship is growing and he's getting more comfortable confiding in me and asking for good godly counsel. I'm excited watching him grow in the word, seeing him hit his milestones, and watching him succeed in life outside of prison. He is my first mentee and I just hope that I am half the mentor to him that Darryll Davis has been to me. Brad



[GivApp](#) is a giving platform that Allows you to support Christ centered non-profits in 3 ways:

- 1) One time gift
- 2) Recurring monthly gift
- 3) 'RoundUp'

See how at: <http://givapp.com/>
To [Donate](#) through website visit:
www.theprisonershope.life



The work of The Prisoners Hope continues in times of crisis. We are so grateful for each of our donor partners who have given to the work of The Prisoners Hope, especially the ones who are struggling. You are making a difference to many who are seeking Christ and a new path in life. We know many of our friends are struggling to make ends meet, wondering when life will return to a more normal state; a question none of us can answer. One thing we know for sure...God will provide. Jehovah Jireh is "the Lord will provide". We can take comfort He will never forsake us and reflect on His promise of provision and blessing in scripture: "Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. (Malachi 3:10)

What is our current situation? Basic needs have grown as more prisoners have been released as a result of the First Step Act. More mentors are needed as social distancing requirements has it more difficult for face-to-face interaction. All the while, regular donations have declined due to understandable family needs, The Prisoners Hope financial reserves have significantly diminished; yet, housing, job placement, transportation and basic needs have increased. The inability to hold fundraisers that gather supporters of the ministry makes it even more crucial to count on our individual donor partners. We are grateful for the federal programs we were able to apply for as a non-profit; however, they are short term.

What is our greatest need? In His time and in His way we believe God will provide as He always has. Our greatest need today is for continued financial support to help us help others. We are aware, regardless of your desire to do so, that some of you reading this are simply not able to make a donation; would you pray that God will send those who can? If you can make or increase your donation, we promise to make every dollar count towards life transformation for the prisoners and families we serve. If we can create a healthy spiritual, physical, emotional environment in which they can thrive, recidivism will be an obsolete statistic.

How can I help? Click this [link](#) to our donation page to make a one-time gift, recurring donation or round up spare change on your everyday purchases. Or, donate your birthday as a fundraiser on Facebook. Something so simple as inviting your friends into your giving can bless them and make a significant difference. If you buy on Amazon, purchase on www.smile.amazon.com and .5% of your purchase will come to The Prisoners Hope. It costs you nothing to make that selection.

Brothers and sisters, there is nothing more compelling to me than to know it pleases God when I share what He has provided to me with others in need. 2Corinthians 9:7-11 says "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, 'He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God." God bless everyone. *Ron Kelley*/June 2020