



**SEPTEMBER 2021
QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER**

“This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil,” Hebrews 6:19

From Executive Director, Darryll Davis

“If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, then how can you contend with horses? And if in the land of peace, in which you trusted, they wearied you, then how will you do in the floodplain of the Jordan?”(Jeremiah12:5) God indicated that if Jeremiah found his present circumstances difficult, his future situation would be even worse. God used two metaphors to make this point- *things are going to get worse before they get better*. If Jeremiah had raced with men on foot and was complaining about being worn out, how could he compete later with horses? Similarly: the idea of the second question could be paraphrased: *If Jeremiah was wearied in times of peace, what would happen when things really seemed to fall apart?*

The last two years have been full of more challenges than the last twenty years collectively. Not only change for us as a nation, but particularly for world leaders and what we see unfold from their “moral compasses”. No country was spared from the Covid-19 pandemic or related economic, educational and national security crises. Issues of climate change became even more acute than they already were, with a record number of disasters, including fires, hurricanes and droughts. Geopolitical instability became a shared experience within and across nations.

Masks, vaccines, fake news, racial unrest, rioting, and bias media are just a few hi-lights from our “new norm.” Many say the days ahead are uncertain. I totally disagree... The days we are peering into in the rear view mirror were mere signs that point to the road that lies just up ahead. How do I know? The Word tells me clearly what the days will be like, giving us a forewarning as to how we should live, how we should approach them and how we should trust not in man’s broken moral compass, but rather in the infallible Word of God. That it should be not only our navigational resource, but the final authority of all things.

The Apostle Paul prophesied of perilous times, great darkness covering whole generations, that in the last days men would be lovers of themselves. evil trucebreakers, hating what is good and clinging to what is evil. The Gospels tell us that the Love of many shall wax cold and evil shall wax worse and worse. These are just a few scriptural snapshots of what the days ahead will look like. While it may feel like these are the perilous times, I can assure you they have not yet arrived. Let us take heed from Jeremiah and prepare now (while it is called today) for what Tomorrow holds. For we will contend with horses and be courageous in the floodplains of the Jordan.

While some people say, “It’s falling apart,” we believe “It’s falling in place.”

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3rd Quarter Review



The Prisoners Hope 2021 Volunteer Appreciation Picnic @ Fairdale Christian Church

There is a season to laugh and to cry, to mourn and to celebrate..... Our 2nd annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic was a time to celebrate. Once again, a great day in June filled with fun, music and testimonies. Mentees were asked to share, as well as those that came out to represent our partner, "Fairdale Christian-Celebrate Recovery".



Thank you to our faithful donor partners for joining us in Give for Good Louisville!

Your generous GFGL donations and prayers for The Prisoners Hope represent well our priorities to ensure that the vital needs of returning prisoners, and their families we serve, are being met every day. Thank you for stepping out in faith and taking the initiative to make positive change in lives that will impact a family and our community for generations to come. Here's how your support made a difference.

- Our goal was \$30,000
Over \$33,000 Raised (final numbers will likely be higher)
- Our goal was 125 donors
Over 135 donors participated

We can't thank you enough for every donation you gave. We promise to make every dollar count! And we look forward to returning for a 7th GiveForGoodLouisville year in September 2022!



Thanks to Pastor Larry Mitchum, Director of CR, a dear friend and partner in ministry work. Cecil and Amanda Comstock, followed by Ryan Lynton provided music and sing-a-long. A huge

thanks to all of our mentors and volunteers, for those that made it out and those that didn't. Without you, there'd be no impact in the lives of those we work with.



As the photos reflect, the park next to the church provides plenty of room to eat, shout, run and have fun. Thank you to those who labored to cook, grill and serve. Thank you, Darryll and Tiffany, for

appreciating the volunteers!



Did you mean to give a gift but missed the date or got there too late....

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From Prisoner to Pastor by David Thomas

While growing up in the Westend of Louisville I had a solid support system. My mom, Dad, brothers, and sisters were present in the house. They were there but not there. My dad and mom would give me the world but even though they gave me the world, they lacked most of all in, discipline. Missing discipline left me thinking I could do whatever I wanted and get away with it.

Even getting locked up, my dad would always come to my rescue and get me out. Once I started selling drugs, I didn't need him no more to do that. We moved to the projects and I became a product of my environment in a major way. I began to sell drugs, gang bang, and having kids at an early age. I would shoot at people, people would shoot at me, and my life was out of control.

I got locked up and was facing up to 60 years when God got my attention. I gave my life to Him while in prison, and He began to give me a hunger for His Word. I began to seek Him with my whole heart and He began to change and transform my mind. My father died while I was locked up, but he would hear me talk about the Lord a lot. I'm so grateful for that, and I know that he's in heaven cheering me on.



I'm now an ordained Pastor and Outreach Director for my church, Greater New Beginnings Christian Church. God is doing amazing things in and through my life. Darryll Davis is my mentor and he was able to give the charge at my ordination ceremony. Me and Darryll met while we were in prison together in 2001. God used him to pour mightily into my life. God used him to help me learn and understand Greek and Hebrew. I knew then that I would be connected with this brother for the rest of my life. I'm so grateful for his coaching and guidance. I'm blessed being able to share that same guidance as God uses me to mentor through The Prisoner's Hope.

Mentoring is a 2-Way Blessing by Josh A.

My journey with The Prisoners Hope ministry began about 2 years ago. I had just started serving at church where I met Darlene. Over the next few months, she worked on me to meet Darryll and see what the ministry she worked for was all about. One Sunday the Lord gave me a nudge to meet Darryll. That Monday my journey with The Prisoners Hope began.

In his office, Darryll began to tell me of his life and ministry that he so loves. He asked me to pray about becoming a mentor. We finished our meeting with a prayer, and before I left, I knew I was meant to join. About a week later, I called to let him know I would join the ministry as a mentor.

Mentoring two amazing men, I have grown and learned so much myself through sharing the ups and downs of our lives. I learned I needed an accountability partner and Darryll found me a brother in Christ to walk alongside me. I have given away items to the ministry for other mentees; I have delivered food to those who didn't have any and have driven those with no car to see their loved ones after years apart. I have helped setup events and torn down many afterwards. I have benefited just talking to others in the ministry. The staff and volunteers I've met in TPH have become my family and I have received more love and compassion than I have ever given to anyone I've helped.

For anyone looking for a place to serve, I'd suggest you check out TPH. Whether it's writing a mentee, praying for the team, reaching out to someone in the ministry, setting up an event or sharing TPH mission, you're sure to be blessed in large ways. As for my part in TPH, I pray the watcher sees the Father. God's word reminds me... "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." Colossians 3:23-24



His Grace is Sufficient by Tim Winters

Nearly two years ago, the Lord led me into the wilderness of brain cancer. I was rushed off to the hospital in an ambulance soon to be told “before you leave here you will have had brain surgery”. Soon the brain surgeon would cut the top off my head and remove a large tumor. The surgeon awakened me hours later to say they believed it was the type of tumor that no-one survives. The shock was great to all of us.

But the Lord was taking us into a trial that continues to bear fruit. In James 1:2 we read: “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing”. This passage scared me in the past, but I understand it better now. I had been afraid to enter into such a trial. I feared that I was not strong enough and that was true. But I am thankful that the Lord chose to show me my weakness and His great power.

I am thankful for brain cancer and what the Lord has been teaching me. The old hymn says it well:

“Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I’ll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.
When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of grief shall not thee overflow;
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.
When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine”



There have been times of sorrow and sadness. My thinking ability has changed greatly by result of the tumor. But I would take nothing for what the Lord is teaching my wife and I through this process. Our great God is refining His saints. We are His children and we know that deep, deep love of Jesus. We are thankful that the Lord is using cancer and whatever else He chooses to prepare us to live with Him and serve Him forever in His kingdom!

Before his brain cancer, Tim volunteered as a mentor for The Prisoners Hope; today, he continues to bless mentees with his experience, strength and hope.

*Upcoming Events...Save the Date
December 8th Breakfast for Hope*

Covid kept this event off the schedule last year, but we have already secured the venue and date for our second annual Breakfast for Hope. The breakfast will be held at the Watterson Room in the Jeffersonian, right here in Jeffersontown. You will hear from a family we have mentored for the past three years speak of the impact TPH has made on their lives. Watch for more details and ticket sales in the very near future. We hope you will make plans to join us.

You're invited to Join
The Prisoners Hope
Prayer Initiative **"LIFT UP"**
along with hundreds of
others... Check it out at:
LIFT UP PRAYERS

