

Hispanic Ministry Group Newsletter # 399 service May 14, 2012

What a beautiful day it was as we traveled down to Forrest City to the Low Unit of the Federal Prison. A chapel worker said we had 29 in the service today, counting both inmates and volunteers. With such wonderful weather we were blessed to have such a great turn out. After we greeted our brothers there at F.C.C., Glenn opened in prayer.

With Franzini on piano and Diez on guitar we sang two songs in Spanish: *Solamente Alabale (Only Praise Him)* and *Espiritu de Dios (Spirit of God)*. Then with a split transparency, we sang a song first in Spanish and then in English: *Santuario (Lord, Prepare Me) to be a sanctuary*. With CD backup the group sang *Lord, I Lift Your Name on High* in English. Karin closed out the music portion of our service with a great song, *The Way That He Loves*.

We welcomed Linda back and also ask that you keep her brother-in-law in your prayers; Terry is suffering with terminal cancer. He is saved and most joyous about anticipating eternity with Jesus. Felipe asked for prayer for his wife and another lady in their church, and Jorge asked us to pray for his elderly mother who had a heart attack the first of May. Please remember these inmates and their families in your prayers.

We resumed our Bible study in **Romans 8:5-15**. *For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live*

according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to

God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong

to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the

Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus

from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will

also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. So

then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put

to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit

of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall

back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom

we cry, "Abba! Father!"

Even though we are believers, we are still tempted to gratify the basic desires of the flesh. Through the power of the Holy Spirit that dwells in us, we are no longer hostile toward God and are divinely enabled to understand the direction of Scriptures and be obedient to them. Unbelievers on the other hand still are in rebellion against God and strive to satisfy the cravings of their unredeemed flesh. As the verse says, persons with their minds set on the flesh are dead while persons with their minds set on the things of the Spirit are alive and at peace with God. The good things that unbelievers do are not true fulfillments of God's law because they are done by the flesh, out of selfish motives, from a rebellious heart. But if God's Spirit lives in you, your spirit manifests righteousness.

The Spirit dwells in every person who trusts in Jesus Christ. If there is no evidence (fruit) of the presence of the Spirit, that person has no legitimate claim to Christ as Savior and Lord. The Holy Spirit gives us the power to grow more Christ-like in doing away with our sins. This process will never be complete in this life; we will never stop sinning until we die. However, we grow more like Jesus when we love Him and each other.

Besides making Scripture clear to us, illumination, and enabling us to obey it, sanctification, the Spirit also assures us that we have been adopted into the family of God. The unsaved are slaves to fear of death and final punishment. *Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. (Hebrews 2:14-15) and There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. (1 John 4:18)*

The saved have been made known through the Spirit that we are His children. We can come before Him without fear as our heavenly Father, with confidence as His children, in intimate tenderness and dependence on a relationship without fear.

We will continue in **Romans 8** next week. Please lift up in prayer the requests mentioned in this letter for the inmates and their families as well as the volunteers and their families.

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