

2nd Chance Christian Newsletter

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Dreams

May 2005

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I was visiting an inmate in a local county jail the other day and we talked about the dreams he was having from his drug use. That question reminded me of those things that seem so distant from my life today since I no longer have to deal with them.

This newsletter will not have the usual amount of scripture verses in it because it will be based more on my personal experience which Christ is the answer of. As I have said before, there are things that cannot be taught or explained: they must be experienced to be understood. The way the Lord has delivered me from my drug addiction is one of those things.

For those of you that are not familiar with my past I will give you the quick version. This is not to glorify sin but to give you some insight into the multitude of problems that drugs brought into my life. I need to be somewhat graphic so you can understand the hopeless state that

sin had brought me. It should also lend hope to inmates, drug addicts, parents and the children of parents that have seemed to abandon them for a self-centered, self destructive lifestyle. If God could come into my totally depraved life, which He did, and save me from my sin, which He did, then He can do the same for you. All you have to do is ask Him. **Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. 12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. 13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall**

be saved.

I was on prescription medication when I was eight years old for hyperactivity. That is what they called it then. Now, Attention Deficit Disorder is the most recognizable term. It still goes by many other titles, depending on age, if there is a connection with other psychological disorders, whether it's deemed to be organic or not, etc.

I soon added to my prescription medication, marijuana and alcohol soon after that. I will give a quick summary and then skip to the end of my drug use because of space. At the end of my drug use I had used: 1) Alcohol most of my teen years through adulthood 2) Marijuana most of my youth through early twenties 3) Cocaine (intravenous) most of twenty years 4) Crack most of twenty years 5) Heroin (intravenous) most of eighteen years. This does not take into account the multitudes of prescription and non

prescription pills I abused along with anything someone would give me to try.

As you guessed, along with the habit I needed a method to support it. Needless to say I used just about every method I could think of, except selling myself for sex. Not everyone I met on the streets could say that, male or female. I went through most of the common experiences associated with excessive drug use except death. I was in fifty plus detoxes and rehabs. I overdosed seven times

which required hospitalization. Four times, I stopped breathing; and three times I quit breathing and my heart stopped. I tried to kill myself on more than one occasion, usually with a massive drug overdose. I've been in Psych wards, had multiple jail visits and one six month sentence in a Federal Prison. I have been shot at four times, twice by the police. DO YOU GET THE POINT? Everyone on the planet gave up on me including myself.

At the place where I was convinced that God

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Special points of interest:

- Free: English & Spanish John & Romans
- Free: ABC Salvation Booklet
- Free: The Destructive Power of Secrets Booklet.
- I have a few English Gift & Award Bibles for free. Just write and I will mail out what I have and put any extra names on a list and mail others out as I get them in.

Even though this material is primarily free for inmates and rehab patients we will try to fill any request to send material to any lost or backslidden soul as God provides.

was the only way out. **Mark 10:27 And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men *it is impossible*, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.**, and that Jesus Christ was God. **1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.**

I was beginning to believe that faith in Jesus Christ would give me the answers I had been looking for all my life. **Hebrews 11:6 But without faith *it is impossible to please him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.** I got on my knees and made the most desperate cry for help ever. The

God, and the wisdom of God. **25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. 26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: 27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the**

positions of science falsely so called: **21 Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen.**

We must always keep in mind that the world is the enemy of God. **James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a**

Bible says if anyone lacks wisdom let him ask God. So I did. **James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.**

This is just a side note on the kind of wisdom the Bible is referring to. **Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy *is* understanding.**

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction. The wisdom that comes from the Lord is different from worldly wisdom. **1 Corinthians 1:17 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of**

weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; **28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: 29 That no flesh should glory in his presence. 30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and**

friend of the world is the enemy of God.

This has been my experience with the world as far as trying to overcome my drug addiction.

1) The endless attempts at reaching out for help through the merry-go-round of self help twelve step programs.

2) All the psycho babble that's

none effect. **18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. 20 Where *is* the wise? where *is* the scribe? where *is* the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. 22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: 23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; 24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of**

sanctification, and redemption: **31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.** Following the world's wisdom will get you a reservation in Hell. The Bible tells us of a couple of other things that the world considers a source of wisdom. **1 Timothy 6:20 O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and op-**

so readily available in our society.

3) The so called "cure all" happy pills the private and state sponsored programs wanted to feed me. It's just used to sedate parts of the brain to modify the thought process to control physical behavior. If they didn't understand something, they would put a label on it and prescribe

enough medication to control the outward problem. This does nothing for the spiritual source of the problem.

It is my belief that all drug addictions have a demonic spiritual source. This is not limited to illegal drugs. More and more, we see children on psychological medication displaying behavior that had to be influenced by devils. We see

mothers killing their babies, children killing siblings and parents only later to find out they have been under-going treatment with some sort of medication. I believe that any sort of interference of the brain's thought process as designed by God the creator opens us up to spiritual attacks. Our ability to defend against such attacks becomes weakened. This is no different

than a person who finds themselves in a position where they had too much to drink and is tempted to do something sexually they would not normally do. There have been many babies born throughout the history of the world by the conduct of otherwise responsible people. Often it is because of drugs or alcohol that they were open to a spiritual attack that under normal conditions would

not have been a problem for them to resist.

This is not limited to sexual sins. There are many men and women in jail and prison that do not remember exactly what happened because they were under the influence. There are many men that have to ask their wife's forgiveness after every night of drinking. They don't know what came over them. They don't understand why they act the way they do. It's because drugs or alcohol opens doorways into there mind that makes them vulnerable to temptations they wouldn't normally be susceptible to. This in turn gives the devil access to their soul. The soul is what the battle is really over. Satan tries to kill the flesh before the soul can get saved. He will also try to kill the flesh after salvation to keep anyone from being used by God to draw others to

Christ. The daily battles never end even though the war was won on the cross by Jesus Christ. Because of Christ's victory on the cross, for those of us that have accepted Him, we have eternal victory over death and Hell. **1 Corinthians 15:55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? 56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Now, I want to share with you how we need to fight the daily battles in our life. Because of space I will skip all the half hearted attempts and just pick up where I made a commitment to the Lord and asked Him to come into my life. This is what some people refer to as where the rubber meets the road or putting feet to your faith. One of the biggest prob-

lems former drug addicts have are the cravings. Often they come in the form of dreams. I remember waking up from a using dream and having sensations from what I dreamed. Sometimes I would have chills, sweats or the shakes like I was going through withdrawals all over again triggered by a dream. Sometimes I would get high in my dream, and when I first woke up I would feel high but as I became more awake the high would dissipate and trigger cravings that would drive me to a relapse.

Now before you accuse me of wanting to get high and only using the dreams as an excuse, let me explain. I could have been clean for months and have been making real progress in my life during the daytime but I had no control over what my thoughts were when I slept. I just wasn't applying the scriptures to my life

to overcome temptation.

This is where my relationship with Jesus Christ came into play. It took several tries before I started having victory over temptation but the more I turned to the Word of God the more He revealed to me how His Word worked. There are several points that need to be made if one who was deep in

sin, as I was, wants victory over temptation in his life both while he is awake and asleep.

1) First, you need to be saved. You need to accept Jesus Christ as your Saviour and confess Him as Lord of your life. At that time you are sealed with the Holy Spirit. **Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye**

heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

The Holy Spirit leads us in all truth. **John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all**

things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

2) Secondly we must rely on the Word of God for the things of God. Ecclesiastes tells there is nothing new under the sun. **Ecclesiastes 1:9** The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun. When someone tells you he has some new book or a better translation they are either a messenger of Satan or a deceived, backslidden child of

God that never got grounded in the Word and is used more for the glory of Satan's kingdom than for the Lord's. Do not let anyone lead you to another book as a replacement for the Bible. In English we have the divine, inspired, preserved Word of God known as the King James Bible or Authorized Version. When we go out into all the world we use a King James Bible translated into the language of the people we are trying to reach. We may read other peoples writings or comments on the Bible, but we must compare every thing to the Word of God and that includes anything I write. Do not get sucked into the trap of being a follower of men. **1 Corinthians 1:12** Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of

Christ. 13 Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?

1 Corinthians 3:4 For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?

3) We need to believe and apply what the Bible says to our lives. The Word of God assures us that God has given us all things necessary for life. **2 Peter 1:3** According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: **4** Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the



corruption that is in the world through lust.

John 15:3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

Psalms 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Psalms 119:9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy

word.

You may not be willing to give up your sin right now. You may not have reaped enough of the pain and misery that is harvested by the years of ungodly living like I was. If you are allowed by God to live long enough you know where to look for the answers. **2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness;

but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we say that we have not sinned, we make



him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup

with him, and he with me.

Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

I hope and pray this newsletter will be an encouragement to someone out there. If the Lord

lays it on your heart, please feel free to make a copy and give it to someone that may benefit from it.



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