

Tommie Martin - Prison and Jail Ministry
A Ministry of Calvary Baptist Church
Perry, OK

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2/12*

Dear Bro. Ron & Church:

*“Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.” (Proverbs 30:5) In the 8th chapter of the book of Nehemiah, Ezra the scribe read the book of the law to the Jewish remnant. Verse 8 says, “So they read in the book of God distinctly, and gave the sense and caused them to **understand** the reading.” The people wept and mourned when they heard the word of God but Ezra encouraged them with the familiar words, “the joy of the Lord is your strength.” Then the people “went their way.to make great mirth because they had **understood** the words that were declared unto them.”*

It is not difficult to present the gospel in jail because most inmates cannot deny the fact that they are sinners. They have broken the law and are faced with the penalty of wrongdoing. The biggest challenge is helping them **understand** the words that they hear. Only the Holy Spirit can open their hearts to understand. A former Jehovah’s Witness recently spoke of denouncing the religion he was raised in. He claimed to have been saved in another county jail before coming to Payne County Jail. He attends the weekly services and had occasionally spoken to me personally at other times. Recently he brought a fellow inmate to me that needed to hear the gospel and he called on the Lord to save him. The former Jehovah’s Witness then told me that he had been reading the tract and listening at the services and now **understands** and has truly accepted Christ himself. The joy of the Lord was evident as he compared his former “religion” to the relationship he now has with Christ.

A portion of a letter I received says, “I am writing to thank you for coming to visit me. I look forward to our visits because, honestly, you make me feel human again. I have been feeling very depressed lately and having the Bible Study papers and the Bible itself have been a lifesaver. . . . Things are not very fair here in jail. . . .but being here has made me become closer to our Lord and I see that as a positive.” He concluded his letter by saying, “When I get out of here I want to pursue a career in ministry.” Our prayer is that some who have been saved in jail will come back not as return offenders, but to give to others what they have received.

The command to “go into all the world” is slightly reversed due to living in a town with a large university. People from other towns, states and countries are represented not only in our town but unfortunately, in the county jail as well. This enables us to minister daily to people who will leave here and go to various prisons or back to families across the state, nation and globe. A student from England who is waiting deportation was saved just this past week. I am witnessing to an inmate from the Solomon Islands who will soon be returning home. We pray he will be saved before he leaves. Thank you for your faithful support of this ministry.

In Christ’s service,


Tommie Martin