

March 2014

New Name Ministries



P.O. Box 11694 Fort Worth, Texas 76110



Growing Pains

Kingdom Culture

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Is 55:8-9 NIV)

Prison has its own way of thinking, its own culture, flipped 180 degrees from the world's way of thinking. In the same way, Kingdom thinking and/or culture is 180 degrees from the world's culture or way of thinking.

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Please join us in welcoming our newest arrivals:

Michael Lewis Jan. 10, 2014
Richard Cole Jan. 14, 2014
Stephen Hall Jan. 27, 2014
Xavier Uribes Feb. 6, 2014
Travis Lovett Feb. 7, 2014
Darryl Reeves Feb. 12, 2014
Burl Hagler Feb. 24, 2014
Kenneth Wagner Feb. 27, 2014
John Wait Mar. 13, 2014

Pray that our recent graduates will walk in their God-given talents for His glory:

Martin Bradford Feb. 20, 2014



It doesn't take much of an analytical mind to notice something a little peculiar with our new arrival and graduates lists to the left. Nine new arrivals and one graduate is certainly out of our normal here at New Name Ministries. Never before in our history have we had so many men come home in such a short period of time. With each new arrival comes the responsibility to transport him to meetings dictated by parole and to resources such as clothing, eyeglasses, & other benefits. Usually, Chuck and Don handle most of this need with Pastor Jon only a phone call away. Well, wouldn't you know it, in the midst of this season of increased need, Don has been hit with medical issues requiring him to be away from the office much of the time. On one particular morning, Chuck had to get one man to a clothing resource at 9:00 and then another man to pick up his eyeglasses at 10:00 at another location.

Also at 10:00 he had to pick up a friend to take him to his doctor's appointment. Let's not forget that these men all need to be picked up and taken back home as well. As we already know, Don is out of pocket. Pastor Jon is in Dallas at the Texas Voices conference. Tom, our backup-backup driver, is in the hospital being prepped for quintuple bypass surgery and Chuck is not known for his racecar driving skills. Somehow everyone got to where they needed to be and made it back home without being arrested for loitering. On top of that, it was done on a 325 mile tank of gas (with plenty to spare) that usually screams "feed me" at around 300 miles. Jesus promised us life abundantly. Abundance can take many forms but will always leave us with more than we need. He is faithful to fulfill every promise and we can live with the joy of watching Him do it. Oh, what was that about growing pains?

From the Father's Heart

By Pastor Jon Cordeiro

On my desk is a sticky note that says "When you find the right environment, you thrive." Often we search for an environment outside ourselves to provide the righteousness, peace and joy that we long for, never realizing that as believers we've been given the keys to entering this environment all on our own. So, it's our responsibility to find the right key, unlock the door, open it, and enter an environment the Lord has already provided for us.

We search without, for what is within: the Kingdom. In the Kingdom is everything we hope for and more! Yet, we look around with earthly eyes not perceiving the Truth because we are stuck in the lie of believing what we see rather than seeing what we are told to believe. What sorrow to be unbelieving believers; how the Father's heart must ache for his beloved.

For those of us coming out of prison we are conditioned to keep our secrets, as well as other peoples', so as to preserve our life. This is survival: the code of silence which our enemy hopes we will adopt as a core belief for living. Survival mode sucks the very life out of us and others in that there is no room for prosperity, freedom, or community. Community behind the walls is based mostly on the identity of desperation. Freedom from behind the walls is often thought of as something "out there"; while prosperity looks like things to be had or taken. Fear, rather than love, becomes the banner over those taken captive and imprisoned. There is a fine line between being a captive and a prisoner. The Word tells us to take our thoughts captive. I believe this is because if we don't take them captive, they will take us captive.

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Kingdom Culture continued

Usually, when you add 180 degrees to another 180 degrees, you get 360 degrees or a full circle. Not so here. Prison culture is much further away from Kingdom culture than the world's culture.

When incarcerated, the goal is survival. We do our own time, and operate out of fear. Everything is done through the filter of self preservation. Even when we have a core group of others we are comfortable with, it's at arm's length. This code of conduct is a barrier to our calling as Christians who are called to die to self and live for the good of others and the glory of our God. This can become our greatest hurdle or keep us humble enough to see other believers through the eyes of Jesus. Those who "do good" in prison are often only doing rather than being. Often acting righteous to manipulate for personal gain (self preservation) rather than living righteously. Caught in the trap of performance, they never really commit to anyone else's well being but their own.

The honor code in prison is not about honor like that of the Kingdom of God. Prison rules are about performance and punishment. We submit to them out of duress; if we don't, we get punished. This is true even with the unwritten rules that govern the prison culture, both those of the guards and the inmates. In contrast, Kingdom rules provide a means to healthy relationships and freedom (inner). Submitting to God's rules (laws) comes with the promise of reward. If earnestly trying to please God out of love for Him, He encourages us with the promises of fresh mercies daily and grace enough to cover our sin and transgressions through the blood of Jesus. When, or if we fail, we have an advocate who is not interested in punishment. Instead, he desires healing and healthy relationships; first with God, then with man. Counter clockwise to prison culture, those who are

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From The Father's Heart continued

They will imprison us behind physical bars or emotional bars made up of lies. No one will ever experience the fullness of God's desire for their life by living a lie. They might look like they are operating in freedom and prospering in community; but it's only a glimmer of what God intended. Man's glory pales next to God's.

New Name Ministries encourages its men to drill down below the surface

Kingdom Culture continued

called to live as servants to the King and heirs to the Kingdom of God are told to be their brother's keeper; hard to do if your base line is self preservation and doing your own time. It takes two or more for the Kingdom to operate. If everyone else is keeping status quo by doing their own time and minding their own business to survive, it can be a huge challenge to get others to receive the Truth about themselves, the Kingdom and others.

The Word tells us to keep our mind on things above and to be careful not to be polluted by the world. The world is always striving to distract us from our high calling by wooing us to all the things "it" has to offer. But God says to seek first the Kingdom of God and then all these things will be added to our lives as gifts and rewards from God. When we do it the world's way, it comes without His blessing and rest (peace).



Even when a man is released from prison and brought in to a Kingdom culture like the one at New Name, there is the counter culture of the world that reinforces the very same thinking as prison culture: It's all about me; look out for #1, mind your own business, do what you have to do, survival and entitlement mentality, etc. God always has His mind on us! This is an obvious reflection of how we should be caring for others, as in being our brother's keeper. Jesus continually encourages us to be like Him: Holy (whole hearted & healed), loving,

From The Father's Heart continued

of right answers and good appearances in their personal and group curriculum so as to enter into the fullness of the Kingdom. Here, men can walk in freedom and prosper in their soul while becoming a part of community, not apart from. We hope you will join us in becoming the fullness of Christ's glory here on earth, while activating and enjoying righteousness, peace, and joy paid for by Christ.

Kingdom Culture continued

servicing, listening to and obeying God. The world tells us it's up to us to overcome and that we should receive the glory. Jesus, the hope of glory in us, says not to fear the world; He has overcome it!

The world tells us that we can do whatever we want as long as we work hard and outdo the other guy. No wonder so many think they can get to heaven or receive God's approval through works. In prison one can go a long way on doing good and outperforming the next guy. The favor from guards, chaplains and others is all too often stored up for a favor. Yet God says he has given each of us a measure of faith which grants us unmerited favor. We can't earn it; it's a gift! We need to be intentional in choosing what God has for us. This requires a level of trust unlike that which we've experienced in earthly relationships. Going beyond our earthly experiences, where most people's faith stops, to a faith (trust) that allows for new experiences outside of our human abilities and personal resources. This is where God gets His glory and Jesus gets His just reward of our re-presenting Him (by trusting our Heavenly Father) as we bring His Kingdom of Heaven to Earth.

The Kingdom is the King's Domain and the Earth is His footstool. Why would we want to reach up for things that are beneath us?

As always...

We appreciate your continued prayers and financial encouragement for this ministry. Our current needs still include a new van and car, financial support for administrative staff and gainful employment for our men.