



Fountain of Youth

An Insider's View

By Beecher Cameron
Parole 101 – Part 1
Getting Out

CONGRATULATIONS: You made parole. Does the thought of parole scare you?... No? Perhaps a bit nervous? No? OK, you are doing better than I did. In

Continued on next page

Please join us in welcoming our newest arrivals:

- Jerry Deramus Mar 3, 2018
- Daniel Mitchell Apr 9, 2018
- Charles Snapp Apr 12, 2018
- Jason Spray Apr 18, 2018
- Gary Karr Apr 30, 2018
- Jacob Jenkins Jun 24, 2018
- Joe Gomez Jul 5, 2018
- Bob Cooper Jul 13, 2018
- David Koen Jul 17, 2018
- Matthew McMurray Jul 17, 2018
- Brandon Kendrick Jul 19, 2018
- James Richard Aug 1, 2018
- Chris Pomroy Aug 3, 2018
- Robert Maggard Aug 28, 2018

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

- Brent Harden Mar 28, 2018
- Champ Johnson Apr 10, 2018
- Paul Charles Apr 10, 2018
- Charles Jones May 8, 2018



It's Saturday morning, and I do not want to get up; it's been a long demanding work week. The alternative to sleeping in is walking 400 feet down the gravel road and joining the work on the Psalm 40 Lodge House. That means heat, an occasional snake, and thorny vines that seem conscious and predatory. I get up.

It was at the Neal Unit that I first read about the Psalm 40 project in this newsletter, and it resonated. I knew my crime had permanently changed my life, and the best path back to being part of a community again would begin at this acreage near the obscure town of Boyd, Texas. This project is not limited to making a place for those with certain crimes; it's about demonstrating what men can do who have

repented from the damaging actions of the past and know they still have something to offer. This expansion is about more than geography. It's about opportunity and improving lives, and it is getting national attention.

At no point did I plan on something like this being part of this late stage of life, but I have been reminded several times about God's amusement with human plans. I am working lots of hours, but God has granted a small reward for making him laugh. Despite the calendar, I stay young.

So does all this get me up and down the road to work? It does, and I don't have to listen to "old" jokes.

From the Father's Heart

By Pastor Jon Cordeiro
Father's Day

I can only imagine what Father's Day is going to be like in Heaven. One Father, with zillions of testimonies from His kids sharing about the loving kindness of the One who sent His Son for our redemption. The Word says there will be many tongues, Tribes and Nations worshipping God at His throne. Worship comes from a heart of thanksgiving. Thanksgiving manifests in the form of our testimonies. How else can you testify of our Father's goodness if you haven't tasted it personally? Our story is



His glory. Amen?

The Word also tells us that he inhabits our praises. What will the atmosphere be like in the throne room of God when we are all there praising Him? We'll already be in His presence; I'm believing it will blow

Continued on next column

away any woohoo experience we've ever had, in any way. I can only imagine...

We recently had our ministry All-In Meeting and I was told I had to be there. I figured it was going to be a celebration of our closing on the Psalm 40 Ranch that happened the week before. I was greatly surprised when the men shared that they wanted to celebrate me as a father figure in their lives.



As many of the men came up and read the card that they had written in advance, I found myself having many different reactions emotionally. Some of their words caught me off guard, there is only so much I can take for granted. Others were reminiscent, revisiting times of trouble and triumph. All reminded me that the fathers' ceiling is the children's floor.

Continued on next page

An Insider's View continued

many ways the first day out of prison was scarier for me than the first day in. In the event you might be experiencing a little fear, please read on.

As knowledge of your parole has spread around the immediate part of the unit chances are you have been approached by two different categories of individuals, those that offer you good wishes and congratulations and those that do something else; offer horror stories about parole and how they were victimized. Don't listen to category two. If you have been in prison for any length of time, an hour or so would be enough, you realize that certain inmates love to talk; the less they know, the more they talk. Remember the source; if someone is telling you how awful and impossible parole is, it could mean they have been there and failed, but the failure was not their fault; it was the system and a sadistic parole officer. The reasons for this type of talk are a psychological minefield that I am not qualified to cross (though I tend to think that many failures are based on a desire to fail), but I am qualified to tell you to avoid this guy. He wants confirmation of his skewed perception and everyone to be at his level of fear, but there exists a kernel of truth in his statements. Parole is not easy. The intent here is not to frighten or worry but to prepare, and the rest of this piece will be my thoughts on how best to get ready.

Start by saying some prayers, silent, whispered, or spoken out loud; it does not matter. I thought of it as opening a dialogue that I had delayed too long. As Christians we

Continued on next column

The Father's Heart continued

Every thoughtful embrace of how God had used me to strengthen His sons humbled me and made me grateful that I could be used in such a significant way.

After everyone who wanted to had shared, I took the liberty to share the need for all of us to remember Paul's words that there are many teachers but few fathers. We may start as children of God, but we are not created to remain as such. If you look at the pattern in the New Testament, you'll see as children, we're called to become disciples, so as to learn to serve; then, as disciples, become friends (on the same page with God) still focused on serving; as faithful friends, we're called to become sons, serving and leading by the Spirit; then, ultimately, as sons, we're called to become fathers in the Lord. Imparting His love and wisdom for His glory.

An Insider's View continued

frequently hear the phrase "Give it to, God." I admit that this phrase bothers me because it's misleading. This does not mean you can hang out at the ministry house, munch on chips, and check out "Price is Right" while God does the heavy lifting. I think we are asking God for a partnership – we will take care of our business and when the inevitable setbacks, problems and other things out of your control occur, God will handle those and strengthen you.

GET ORGANIZED: There is no alternative. Papers related to parole are already coming in; keep track of them. If you don't have one of the 15-



inch expandable folders available on commissary, get one, and organize parole-related information. This is a good habit to start because as your release date approaches more paper will come in. At your pre-release unit you will receive a copy of your parole order with your conditions and

Continued on next column

The Father's Heart continued

No matter where you are in this journey, lift up your praises of thanksgiving to the Lord. Share your testimonies with others so they can see God's loving kindness is real. Press in to take hold of what He has taken hold of you for. If you're a child of God, glorify Him as a child; serving Him as a devoted disciple, do it for His glory; being a faithful friend, give God the glory; learning



to be led by the Spirit as a son of God, do it for His glory. Entering into or walking in spiritual fatherhood, stay the course. Remember; Progress, not perfection. Look forward to seeing you on Father's Day.

An Insider's View continued

instructions about the initial visit to your parole officer and other parole related officials. It was not until my actual release day that I received original copies of my birth certificate and social security card. Send I-60's to the parole office of the various units you will be assigned to as you approach release in whatever volume is required to make sure that those documents will be waiting for you. These are essential in order to obtain a driver's license or Texas ID card, which are universally needed to establish your identity for bank accounts, employment, and other life activities. Perhaps the best gift your family or friends could get for you as you leave prison is a cell phone, a simple one with talk and text only and either no camera or a disabled camera. You must be able to communicate.

Once you get to New Name there will more paper, proof of residency, life services, ministry curriculum, and some I have forgotten. Your brothers at the house will help you remember important dates (they are all important during the first 30-60 days), but in the end it's your responsibility. Do not be concerned about the far future because the tasks ahead of you might seem too difficult. Take them on one day at a time and maintain a sense of urgency about getting things done that are upon you.