

New Name Ministries

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Insider's View

By Beecher Cameron

Turbulence

This is my third year of involvement with New Name Ministries, and it seems to me there has always been something going on, something unpredictable, something not easily resolved. I thought that my arrival coincided with the beginning of an unusual period for the ministry. I was wrong, this is business as usual, quite normal. It has to be this way; New Name lies at the juncture of the prison and free world, and like the meteorological equivalent, there will be turbulence at the intersection of two such different environments.

Despite the predictable storms, New Name has been and remains successful at transitioning men into a new life. The curriculum at New Name is solidly based in Biblical and spiritual values, but it is not the "learn it on Sunday, forget it on Monday" type of education.

Please Welcome our New Arrivals

Evan Murphy	4/20/20
Eddie Bernardo	4/03/20
Miguel Padilla	4/09/20
Timothy Hirsche	7/02/20

From the Father's Heart

By Pastor Jon Cordeiro

Get Used to Different

Some of you have likely heard of the series "The Chosen"- the television drama based on the life of Jesus Christ. If not, consider yourselves put on notice; The Chosen is a must-see series. There are eight episodes in the 1st season, which was the highest crowd-funded media project of all time, to date. Apparently, the Lord wanted this project to happen. After watching the series I can see why; it wrecked me several times, in such a good way. I encourage you, better yet, double dog dare you, to ask your loved ones, saved or unsaved, to watch it. I promise it will change their lives.

There is one line that really stuck out to my wife and I that we've adopted as our standard for the season we're in; spoken by Jesus as he redirected his disciples to Samaria, he uses this revelatory moment to enlighten these future apostles as to what ministry was going to be like daily when following him, "Get use to different". We're 2000 years down the road but I promise you, Jesus is still inviting us into something much different than what we're thinking.

The world is a different place today,

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unlike ever before in so many ways, yet much the same. Seems that "different" is becoming the norm as this world clamors for safety and stability rather than a life with spiritual substance and hope. Without the spiritual eyes and ears of the Holy Spirit within being activated, many will miss the signs of the imminent return of Jesus for His bride (see Matthew 25: 1 – 4).

As churches are being closed due to CV-19 (a loss of our 1st amendment rights) and social(ist) distancing and masks in public are being required to participate in everyday essentials, we are turning into a society required to comply or be ostracized. Sounds and looks like Socialism (which leads to Communism) to me, a sure sign of the enemy's involvement (see 1Peter 5:8, Hebrews 12:1 and 2 Corinthians 2:11).

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Insider's View continued

The group living environment of the ministry requires that these values be practiced and lived daily. It's a messy laboratory with frequent missteps and the occasional explosion that are used as learning tools, resolved through constructive confrontation, and left in the past. The unchanging lessons – cooperation, accountability, and responsibility are essential characteristics in the foundation of free living.

It's easy to put a name to these lessons; there is nothing easy about practicing them. In fact it can be dismayingly difficult, and no one has a perfect record. Like any learning process, New Name can only succeed with the consent of the pupil, and one year is a short time to learn. So the essential lessons to be transmitted are that these principals are the subject of lifelong learning and have to be practiced daily during and after the time at the ministry. The other is that graduation does not remove someone from the New Name community. There is always someone there to talk with when times are difficult or confusing.

There will always be failures, and when they occur the news is transmitted throughout the community of New Name participants and graduates within minutes. We look for the common thread. A word that occurs to me recently is "impatience."

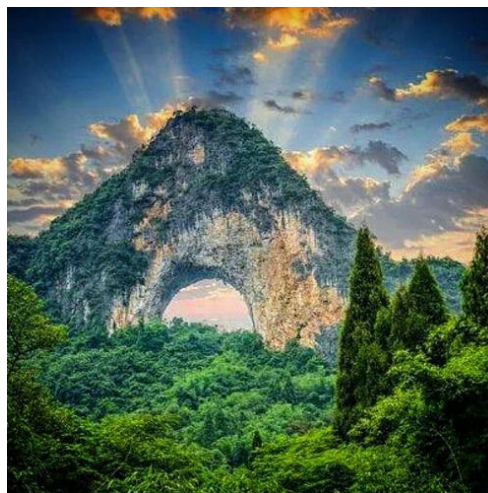
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Father's Heart continued

Spurgeon cautions believers regarding our Adversary, the devil writing that "He will attack you sometimes by force and sometimes by fraud. By might or by sleight he will seek to overcome you, and no unarmed man can stand against him. Never go out without all your armor on, for you can never tell where you may meet the devil. He is not omnipresent, but nobody can tell where he is not, for he and his troops of devils appear to be found everywhere on this earth."

Fortunately, the Word of God is active and alive and God is omniscient (a real know it all!). He's not caught off guard or taken back by the enemy's schemes. God is the God who is, was and always will be. He knows what's done, being done and what's going to be done. He isn't looking around wondering how to deal with all our earthly problems, he's already provided the solution.

Praying we all get use to different – God's way.



"Neither a borrower, nor a lender be..."

By David Duremus

This is a phrase familiar to most over the age of forty, but probably few will know its origin. The language has a proverbial sound or maybe something from *Poor Richard's Almanac*? Well, Proverbs does speak on the subject ("...the borrower is servant to the lender." 22:7), and Ben Franklin's folksy sayings are legendary, but this pithy admonition is from William Shakespear. A character from the play *Hamlet* gives his son advice about entering into polite society listing several "do's and not to do's" including this priceless financial gem, not to borrow nor to lend, "...for loan oft loses both itself and friend..."

What great advice! Haven't we all found that, after loaning money to family or friend, they don't seem to come around as much as before? Or, conversely, am I the only one who has taken the long way 'round to avoid a creditor in the path ahead? It is important to recognize that this father is talking about forming healthy relationships, and debt will change the nature of relationship, or stifle it entirely. Debt tends to produce disillusionment, resentment, alienation and maybe even abandonment.

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Insider's View (continued)

Desires for more and newer material things are relatively easy to control if one is willing. Impatience for a romantic relationship is a more difficult and recurring issue and one that can easily lead to foolish behavior. This is not a statement on morality, nor is it an unnecessary review of why someone would want a relationship. It is a statement about premature actions and consequences.

Relationships, platonic and otherwise are almost universally addressed in parole restrictions, and opinions about their fairness are irrelevant and not a reason for disobedience. There is a unique danger here because relationships can put a parolee close to the circumstances that help lead to their crime, and the turbulence of a relationship gone bad is of a particularly dangerous variety, on or off parole.

New Name is not just for one year. It exists to be part of a graduate's life for as long as it is wanted or needed. The ministry is there to help during and after parole, and it hopes that all who come into its program will eventually have healthy, lasting relationships, but they should not be initiated from need, envy, or weakness. They are not a substitute for the practice of the principles stated earlier. Relationships only have a realistic chance of success if they come after the foundations are solid. It's not on our time, nor is it a case of perceived readiness. God will provide the opportunity when one is indeed ready.

More Turbulence**Beecher Cameron**

A recurring topic in this newsletter is preparedness for parole. The first months out of prison are a busy time, and the list of things to be accomplished can be intimidating. New Name Ministries has always recognized this and devotes a great deal of time and energy to making these initial steps back into the world go as smoothly as possible. We are not going to let you forget things and will make sure you are where you need to be.

Just about every aspect of life including a parolee's re-entry has been complicated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Several of our men have been tested for the disease because of potential exposure on the job. Fortunately all have come back negative, but masks, social distancing, and business closures are significantly affecting our lives as well. By far the most pervasive effect has been the closure of state and local government offices.

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*Fear breeds mistrust
and yields destructive
isolation. Can you say
Cain?*

Lender (continued)

A friend was telling me about a conversation he had with his son; theirs is a contentious relationship, and as is often the case their conversation arrived at an impasse. "Well, son, I'll pray for you about this problem," said my friend. His son was annoyed at this, saying "There you go with your prayers again, Dad! Can't you just give me some fatherly advice without all that God stuff!?" It seemed that just the mention of the Holy Spirit's power to resolve issues in our lives was enough to arouse a sort of resentment in the son. The thought occurred to me that often it is not the actions of others that foster angry resentment in us, but rather our own indictment of the shortcomings we see in ourselves. In other words, my creditors weren't hounding me for payment; but certainly the mere thought of them made me remember my delinquent accounts, and my shame. Could it be that this young man had a similar sense of shame-- for whatever unperceived shortcoming, whatever unkept promise--that created this agitation in the presence of his dad...or perhaps in the sight of the heavenly Father?

This is the kind of imbalance that drives a wedge between family and friends, a sense of being judged and found wanting, even if that sentiment is not expressed. My friend wasn't judging his son in offering prayers,

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**More Turbulence
continued**

For example, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) offices have been fully or partially closed since March complicating the process for obtaining or renewing a driver’s license. DPS has gone to an appointment system, but there is a large back log of expired licenses, including mine. Fortunately the public is under a grace period. The closure of offices has also complicated visits with parole, therapists, and health care providers, but these complications are steadily improving. There is no end in sight to the Covid-19 situation, but with patience and cooperation everyone will get through.

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**More Turbulence
continued**

New Name excels at helping men through this busy initial period of parole. Job number one is establishing your identity, and the critical documents needed to do this are a social security card and birth certificate. As soon as possible begin the process with TDCJ to have these documents supplied to you at or before your release. Be persistent; these are required to obtain a driver’s license or a state ID card, which is the gateway to employment, bank accounts, and government benefits. When receiving these documents take time to verify that all the information is correct, and let Re-entry know immediately if it is not.

During relative short five and a half years I was in prison there were significant changes in how daily business is conducted in the free world. Paper job applications are disappearing, and a current e-mail address is more critical administratively than a physical address. It’s an electronic world, and like it or not, we all have to enter it. This entry will be made much easier with the proper documents in hand from the beginning.

Lender (continued)

he merely wanted to share the peace and joy which comes from his relationship with God. But for the boy, it must have felt like an indictment. Like he was short in his accounts, like he was late with his payment.

Which brings me back to the debt. If a friend asks for a “small business loan” of, say, \$20.00, I’m often able to provide that. But in my mind, I don’t think of it as a loan at all, but rather as a gift. If it returns to me, great! But knowing how the best intentions oft go awry, I don’t really expect it back. There is no debt.

This is the model that Jesus provided for us, the benefit that doesn’t have to be repaid—in fact *cannot be* repaid. Christ cleared the account for us, because our Father wants relationship and fellowship with us, His children. Too often we seek to avoid Him, feeling we have fallen short. But He is not the Great Lender, and we His debtors; He is a giver and we the heirs to all His riches. Abundant life truly is a “free offer”. We have only to accept it.

Character can only develop when we get out of our comfort zone.