



“The Del-Haven Vision”

“Without vision, the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18)

Newsletter of Camp Del-Haven

Turning Kids from Crime to Christ

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“But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed.” Acts 16:25-26

These two verses serve to be a description of the setting of an event that ends with the spiritual regeneration of a man and his whole household. What is significant with this incident is the activity that is displayed by Paul and Silas. They are praying and singing hymns to God. God is the focus of their attention and the only one unto whom they are directing every form of their communication.

Isn’t this interesting? These men who have been imprisoned because of faithfulness to their Lord are here seen as still directing all their attention unto Him. Luke is not led of the Holy Spirit to reveal to us precisely what they were praying about to God, or exactly what was the content of the hymns that they were singing unto Him, but only that they were, even in these most inconvenient of circumstances, focusing -- not on the fact that they were locked up in the stocks of a stinky, smelly ole’ prison -- but that they adored and revered and loved the Lord their God. And, while all this was going on, the Word plainly says that “the prisoners were listening to them”.

The prisoners were listening to them, but it is the jailer who was asleep that becomes the recipient of the grace of faith! Sovereign Almighty God, while orchestrating the situation so that all the prisoners would hear the gospel through the praying and hymn singing of Paul and Silas, at the same time causes an earthquake to occur in order to awaken the jailer and bring him to Christ. It is an amazing demonstration. All the prisoners were in essence, completely set free. God caused not only all the doors of the prison to be opened, but He also loosed all the chains of the prisoners. And yet, it is the jailer that is ultimately reached with the truth of the gospel of the glory of Christ. What a marvelous miracle of grace!

There are a couple of things about this event that I think are important for us to realize where our witness for Christ is concerned. First, no matter where we are, or what circumstances we may be in, we should always remember God’s overall sovereignty and rejoice that we are, in fact, His children for whom everything will ultimately turn out for our eternal good and His eternal glory. Next, we should never underestimate the power of the gospel message even if it is being publicly conveyed from us through our praying, or our hymn singing. Satan just cannot successfully combat -- the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony.

Sin is definitely enslaving, but the liberation of the gospel is spiritually contagious. Nevertheless, it cannot be spread through our silence. God has divinely decreed that the gospel must be boldly demonstrated and declared in order for it to be effective.

All that we attempt to do here at Del-Haven is toward this end -- the bold demonstration and declaration of the gospel. Your support in whatever way that our Lord causes it to be equals your involvement in this ministry. We thank and praise God for each and every one of you. It is through the moving of the Lord in your faithfulness and love to give your prayers, your time and your gifts that has served to sustain the gospel ministry of Del-Haven over these last 51 years. And, dear friends, the race is still on! The fight for souls has not yet come to an end!

*For Christ's glory only,
A. Carpenter*

Prayer Concerns

Please pray with us concerning this up and coming camp season. As always, we are in need of dedicated staff help who are willing to go to the front of the battle line, so to speak, where the children are concerned. Even though, because of the winter weather, things may seem to be rather dead, and at a standstill out here right now, it will not be long before we will once again be faced with the prospects of another active season of gospel service. And, remember that it is so often true that when the Word is ministered unto one of these children, it is very often also, by the Holy Spirit, ministered unto their whole house. We have witnessed over the years that this, indeed, is only one of the ways that our Lord, through a ministry to children, in reality, affects a whole generation. As long as sin and death reign here, this world will never ever really change. We must understand that it is for the eternal kingdom of Christ, and the populating of His Heaven through the winning of souls, that motivates us in all our labor. Thank you for continuing to be a part of this endeavor.

A letter that Sheri DeSchepper received just a few years ago from a little girl named Patricia seems to touch the very pulse of what we are all here to try to do for Christ.

Dear Shari,

I have three other letters. Can you give one to Marybeth? It has her name in the corner and so does Jessies. (she is referring to my daughter, Marybeth, and Jesse Gragg, who were both counselors with us at that time) My counselor Jessie -- not the boy Jessie. Please, I'm still crying because I miss them a lot. They were so nice and so so giggly. Well I miss them and I miss you to. I still remember the verses. The first one is, But God commended His love toward us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us, Romans five eight. The second one is, For by grace you are saved through faith and that not of yourselves it is the gift of God.

Love,

Patricia

For the last three years Patricia and her sister Sara have been the first to respond with applications to come to camp. There is no doubt, here, that the Lord is truly revealing Himself to this young girl. And, dear ones, Patricia is just one example of the many, many more children who actively demonstrate the inner soul quickening presence of the Holy Spirit.



“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that wins souls is wise.” Pr.11:30