



“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 most noted 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, the Lord caused 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, physically 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 spiritually 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 liberating. 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.**

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

Our Purpose . . . This Includes You

All that we endeavor to do here at Del-Haven is toward this end -- the bold demonstration and declaration of the pure gospel of the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. Your support, in whatever way that our Lord causes it to be manifested 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 57 years. And, dear friends, the race is still on! The fight for souls, the battle for truth, has not yet come to an end where we are concerned!

Prayer Requests

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. In just recent days, our Lord gave me another testimony of His all governing grace in this ministry. As I was out cutting up firewood, John Norris, who has been such a wonderful help on our staff these last years, suddenly showed up from seemingly out of nowhere. He had come to enjoy the peace and solitude out here at Del-Haven at this time of year. He informed me of his plans to be back this year to once again serve the Savior on our staff. Praise the Lord! If the Lord wills, please remember to pray for John in a special way.

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 camp season of gospel service. And, remember that it is so often true that when the Word is ministered unto one of these little children, it is very often also, by the Holy Spirit, ministered unto their whole household (not unlike the Philippian jailer). 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. By the grace of faith we understand that it is for the eternal kingdom and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ, and His ordained means for the winning of souls, that motivates us press on toward the mark of heavenly prize. Praise the Lord and Thank You for continuing to be a part of this endeavor.

Current Needs

Please also be in prayer with us concerning these things.

Dear friends and family in Christ, if everyone of us on our mailing list were enabled and led of the Lord to give just an extra \$200 between now and May 15th, we would be completely set free from the debt that we still owe for the work on the lake and the water lines that we had to have done. Please remember to pray about this also!

Speaking of lake...fishing will once again become a vital part of our camp program and experience this year. We need help in putting in some good, safe docks around the lake. If you can help us meet this need before camp starts in June that would be just fantastic!

We have been blessed with some volunteers, Dan McElwain and his sons, to service our camp vehicles so that they are reliable and safe for us to use to transport campers. They are in need of diagnostic tools or access to diagnostic tools to aid in their work. If you are able to help in this area please contact us.

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