

# ANSWERING THE CALL:

*"For I was in prison and you visited me."* Matt. 25:36

**September 2015**

Total Involvement Ministry, Inc., 8458 Langdon Ave Unit 4, North Hills, California 91343-6582



## From The Founding Director: **Tim Page**

**W**hile I'm on the corner, from 6-7 AM, people are driving by on their way to work, or school, or wherever... When the light changes and they are stopped at the red light, I sometimes glance over, and today, a young man had his window rolled down, and honked to get my attention. I looked over, not sure who this person was, but they were smiling, so I smiled and waved back. I've learned that we may not know each other by name, but they apparently drive by regularly and see me there daily and 'support' my efforts to be a Christ-like presence in the world. Anyhow, after our brief greetings to one another, before the light changed he said, "Pray for me!" My name is Ricky. WOW! I'm glad to be an intercessor. We do that for one another all the time. "Pray for my dad who has cancer, or for my brother who lost his job, or \*...any number of reasons that our family and friends ask prayers for us. (\*examples only, not true prayer requests...)

Anyhow, it's good that we can ask AND receive prayers for another. I did bow my head down while he drove off asking God to provide for 'Ricky' whatever he needed and was in accordance with God's perfect will for him, and to give Ricky peace in the meantime. Perhaps one day, Ricky will take a minute to park his car, and visit with me face-to-face, not a 'drive by' ☺



God bless You, **Tim**

**In appreciation for your support,**

We have the Holy Mass offered the last Wednesday of every month for YOUR intentions.

Next Mass **September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 8:30 a.m.**

As long as this ministry continues, we'll have Masses said!  
Send back your Mass intention slip TODAY!

Consider Total Involvement Ministry as part of your tithing of your 'First Fruits' back to God this month!

## 2015 Financial Snapshot!

- January 2015 **-\$675.08 BELOW** expenses ☹
- February 2015 \$306.67 Above expenses ☺
- March 2015 \$385.23 Above expenses ☺
- April 2015 \$106.87 Above expenses ☺
- May 2015 **-\$171.31 BELOW** expenses ☹
- June 2015 \$913.05 Above expenses ☺
- August 2015 **-\$30.01 BELOW** expenses ☹

Because of your help, we're staying ahead of expenses for 2015. Thank YOU!

If you'd like to help us to stay ahead of our expenses for 2015, you can send us your donation with your response slip enclosed. Thank You!

(Contact us if you wish additional detailed information)

## Be a Pal! **Become a PEN PAL!**

Make a positive difference in YOUR own life and in the life of an incarcerated individual. Become a PEN PAL.

Contact our office (818) 893-7059 for additional information.

## **God Calling**

(From the book of the same name edited by A.J. Russell (ISBN#0-8007-8096-5) who considered it an honor to prepare for publication to the public, the words that two lonely women in England were given by the Living Christ Himself! They seek no praise and these "two listeners" wish to remain anonymous. Perhaps like them, you will find that YOU are no longer one and alone, but united with the Great Companion and Guide,

## *Quiet Strength*

Rest in Me. When tired nature rebels, it is her call for rest. Rest then until My Life-Power flows through you. Have no fear for the future. Be quiet, be still, and in that very stillness your strength will come and will be maintained. The world sees strength in action. In My Kingdom it is known that strength lies in quiet. "In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength." Such a promise! Such glorious fulfillment! The strength of Peace and the Peace of strength. Rest in Me, Joy in Me. September 15<sup>th</sup> reflection

## Total Involvement Ministry ~ ~ ~

...has as its purpose to bring God's unconditional love, forgiveness and assurance to individuals, but especially those involved in some way in the detention system. We do this through prevention, intervention, and follow-up. In addition, via this monthly newsletter and speaking engagements, T.I.M. hopes to educate our society about our youth and how best to communicate with them and to their needs. This is best expressed in our mission, "Answering the Call: for I was in prison and you visited Me". T.I.M. is a non-profit, tax-exempt and deductible religious outreach organization, which began as a 'grass-roots' ministry in March of 1989 but was incorporated on August 14, 1991 (incorporation #1499950). Its' Federal I.D. number is 95-4344329. It has been granted 501-c-3 Tax Exemption Status by the Internal Revenue Service as well as the State of California.

Questions: Call Tim Page, director @ (818) 893-7059

8458 Langdon Ave Unit 4, North Hills, CA 91343-6582

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Website: [www.angelfire.com/la3/totalinvolvement](http://www.angelfire.com/la3/totalinvolvement)

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## Praying God's Purposes For your City ©

### Praying for the Families of your City

(from the book of the same name by Ernie Frederick)

Jesus Christ designed His "mighty works" to impact whole cities (Matthew 11:20-24) Jesus wept over Jerusalem with a personal longing to 'gather' its people under His protection, but they rejected Him. He called His message 'this Gospel of the Kingdom', the good news of God's kingship of a culture climate change for all people. He taught His followers to pray for God's Kingdom to be established on earth in the control centers of culture, not just 'in church'. The question each citizen needs to ask is, "Do we NEED, and do we WANT the Father's name to be 'hallowed', His kingdom to come, His will to be done. His 'bread', His forgiveness, His grace to forgive others, His overcoming strength for temptation, His deliverance from evil, in our city"? If we Do, then let's PRAY the Lord's Prayer for our city:

**Father, we hallow Your name... as the Birther, Life-Give and Sustainer of our city, its people, its resources, its life. You are the Designer of our city's destiny. You know the plans and purposes You have for its people and its productivity.**

**Let your kingship come— to rule over its governments, its courts, its banks, its churches, its hospitals, its schools. Let the authority of Your righteousness increasingly transform, govern and renew the city's people and atmosphere.**

**Let Your will be done: to carry out Your determined desires in the activities of its neighborhoods, workplaces, parks and recreation areas, communication systems, healthcare.**

**Give us day by day the food: to nourish and strengthen us, to provide for the poor and-needy. And feed us Your creativity, knowledge, wisdom, inspiration, motivation for the city to grow.**

**Forgive the sins of the city: The idolatry of loving self, loving things, loving money, loving pleasure, rather than loving You. Forgive our injustice and lawlessness, our hatred and malice, our sexual immorality, our lying and deception, our greed. Give us Your grace to forgive others: and bring forth a spirit of redemption, reconciliation and harmony in the city. Give us your strength over temptation: to surround the city with Your protection, and restrain the impulses of indulgence to do evil, and silence the voices of systemic sinfulness. Deliver us from evil and the evil one: by exposing the sinful schemes of corruption, and tearing down the strongholds of prejudice, witchcraft, injustice, perversion, and bring healing. We give You glory for all Your kingship and power at work!**

## In God we Trust!

Since our inception in 1989, not one person has even been paid to work for Total Involvement Ministry, and that includes our founder/director who devotes 100% of his time to this cause. This is because of the proposal he made with God when he started the ministry, "I'll give 24/7 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) to serving Your people, and You (God) agree to provide for the necessities of life." God can be trusted for our regular Daily Providential needs. There are different ways that you can help us, but our primary need is always for 'workers for the vineyard' We hope that you'll take the time to reply to this newsletter and let us know how God might be calling YOU to help. Thanks!

## A penny a minute!

In our ministry, we make it a #1 Priority to always show appreciation for anything that people send to us, for their prayers or donations of whatever kind. Currently, it would cost 49 cents to send a first class letter, so we went to postcards (at 34 cents). Now we have a one-cent a minute phone card, or email to choose from (FREE!).... So, would you consider sending us your EMAIL ADDRESS or your phone number? Neither one will be shared with any outside sources! Just the cheapest way to say THANKS!

March 2015 -Our 27<sup>th</sup> Year of Ministry- February 2016

## Over 202,000

## Rosaries distributed!

Although we have been distributing rosaries on and off to the men in prison for a long time, at times, we are NOT permitted to do so. Therefore, any rosaries sent to us, will be distributed to other ministries and activities (street ministry, abortion clinics, etc.). We are very thankful to everyone who has sent us (and still does)

**.To date, we've distributed 202,070 Rosaries!**

# REMINDERS

• It takes effort to send our newsletter to you. If you no longer wish to receive it, let us know. Simply call us at (818) 893-7059 and computer record.

please save us your change of A penny saved, is ministry!

• Prayer is ministry. Our DAILY MASS direction for the personal life. Please join us in asking God to provide for all our needs on a daily basis.

• Although there are almost 1,300 people in our database, only 200 people receive the newsletter each month. Maybe you have been getting our newsletter each month, but would rather not. We can take care of that quickly, but we need to 'hear from you' in order to adjust our records. Simply let us know. We love to hear from you.



we'll delete your If you move, money by sending address EARLY! a penny for

VITAL to this director attends seeking God's ministry and his

## What the ex-convict said

by Maura Roan McKeegan

"Dad went to jail" was a common refrain in our house when I was growing up.

My dad wasn't an inmate, though. He was a Catholic deacon who ministered to prisoners for 15 years. When he died suddenly of a heart attack, letters from grief-stricken inmates filled our mailbox. My dad lived the words of Jesus in Matthew 25:36: "I was in prison and you visited me."

As the years passed without him, I prayed that I could be more like my dad. But as a stay-at-home mom with four children, I didn't think I would be fulfilling Jesus' words in quite the way he did. No visits with prisoners were on my calendar—until the morning that God scheduled one for me.

It was a lovely Sunday on the first day of spring. After Mass, my husband, our young children, my cousin, and I went out to a local restaurant for brunch. We were sitting around the table, enjoying God's blessings, when a loud curse word flew through the air from a man seated in the chair directly behind me.

I didn't even look to see who'd said it. With my protective "mama bear" instincts bristling, I leaned back in my chair.

"Please watch your language," I said to the man. "We have children with us."

Then I looked at him. As I waited for his response, I saw his long, greasy hair, his huge frame, and the scar beside his eye. I have to admit, if I'd looked first, I might not have had the courage to speak.

"Oh, gee..." he began. I braced myself for his sarcastic response, but I also felt the Lord nudging me: *Smile and look him in the eye.* So I did.

At first the man could hardly look at me. He seemed self-conscious, and maybe a bit surprised that I was challenging him with respect instead of cringing in fear.

When he finally met my gaze, his whole demeanor changed. "I'm sorry," he said sincerely. "I just got out of prison, and I forget where I am and how to act sometimes."

The rest of the meal passed peacefully, and when the group behind us got up to leave, the man approached our table.

"Again, I'm really sorry," he said.

After he left, my husband and my cousin looked at me in disbelief.

"He was huge," they said, shaking their heads.

I never felt fear. I didn't have time. He might have looked tough on the outside, but when I met that man's eyes, I understood that when we visit prisoners, we visit Jesus.

I'd like to think that when I looked into his eyes, I visited him in the loneliness of his prison cell. The cell that remained inside of him and isolated him—even after he left jail. The cell that stayed locked and trapped him in his past mistakes.

But maybe it was the other way around. Maybe I was the inmate, locked in a world that doesn't give a cursing ex-convict a second glance. Maybe he was the one who came to visit me in that prison and show me the way out—the way that begins with looking into a person's eyes and seeing God inside.

Although I've never been put in a physical jail, I've been imprisoned by enough sin in my life to know that, although I'm on the unlocked side of the bars, I'm not truly free except in Christ. I might not lob profanity through the air in a restaurant, but I'm just as guilty of other offenses. I can only pray that when I'm called to task, I'm as humble and sincere in my repentance as that ex-convict was in his.

Since that morning, I have a new way of thinking about Jesus' words in Matthew 25:35-36. I still want to be like my dad, but I see now that I don't have to go to a physical jail like he did to visit a prisoner (although that's a wonderful thing to do).

Prisoners are all around me: people trapped in cells of sin, loneliness, self-loathing, discouragement, and despair. When I look them in the eyes with love and respect, I can visit them there. I can visit God there—the same God who shined in the eyes of an ex-convict and gave me a glimpse of his grace. The same God who hung on a cross, gazed into the eyes of a criminal, and said, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43).

*Maura Roan McKeegan lives in Steubenville, Ohio, with her husband Shaun and their four children. She is the author of the children's book The End of the Fiery Sword: Adam & Eve and Jesus & Mary (Emmaus Road Publishing). REPRINTED with permission of Author and Catholic Digest*

**M**ake copies of our newsletters and share them with others. With the proper approval, you might take some to your church, prayer group, the break room where you work. It's a great way to let other people know of our efforts, as well as to give them the opportunity to live the Gospel.

Thanks, we appreciate your help!

## Prisoner's Prayer Request: Would you PRAY for them?

Every Saturday, volunteers led by one of our Board Members, visits a maximum-security prison. This is one prayer request that was submitted for your prayers.

Just want to say thanks for your services while I was here, I'm being released. Your sharing of God's word with us was a blessing, Thank you,  
Dannie #425-xxxx

If you would like to consider helping our ministry, EVEN after your entrance into Eternal Life, please consider including Total Involvement Ministry in your 'last will and testament. Contact Tim for details at (818) 893-7059

Do you receive in the mail various medals, crosses, holy cards, etc. from missionary groups and other religious organizations, and don't really know what to do with them? If so, consider becoming a parish representative to 'collect these items' from other parishioners and sending them occasionally to us for use in our street ministry. The youth are always grateful to have these small tokens of faith and hope. Call for more info: (818) 893-7059 NOTE: There has been a change to this program, so PLEASE call us before sending any packages. Thanks for your support of this program.

## Let's get connected!

If you have an email address, please send it to us at:

[totalinvolvement@gmail.com](mailto:totalinvolvement@gmail.com)

Visit us on the world wide web @

[www.angelfire.com/la3/totalinvolvement](http://www.angelfire.com/la3/totalinvolvement)

## Perfect Self-Surrender

This column is a newsletter regular feature, from the book "MY DAILY BREAD". (by Rev. Anthony J. Paone, S.J. 1954).

### CHRIST MIGHT SAY:

My Child, few men on earth have peace of soul because few care to let me manage their lives as I wish. Many put more faith in their own limited abilities than in My infinite wisdom and power. Some resign themselves to My Will, but they make a few exceptions; and in these exceptions they trust themselves more than Me. In these matters they are ready to sin rather than to have their plans changed. Others surrender themselves in all things, but after a while they begin to weaken in some particular matter. They are too impatient to wait for the perfect reward which I have prepared for those who love Me. None of these people will ever know Me intimately nor will they ever receive the peace of soul which I have promised to my loyal followers. Their loyalty is too imperfect

because of a false self-interest. Forget self and you will find someone far greater, ME! Let Me decide what your life shall be each day. No offering of yours can please Me completely until you have given Me the greatest gift of all, your will. Do this by preferring whatever I send you each day. Do your very best, and then accept the results as My Will. In everything that comes to you this day, see My Will. Use your intelligence and your will to live a useful and holy life. When matters displease you, practice My patience. Imitate the virtues of My daily life on earth. Practice My virtues when the occasion arises, and in all things refuse to sin.

### THINK:

Since God is all powerful, He is able to give me whatever I need; being all-wise He knows what is best for me. My mind is so small that I cannot even begin to understand how very much He loves me. I may rest assured that he wants only what is truly best for me. True, there are times when I am puzzled at the things which God permits to happen. This is only another proof of my mental smallness. The most intelligent thing I can do, is to place my life in His hands, to let Him direct my daily life as He will. This I do by my patience, understanding, generosity, and unselfishness in my daily activities. When I must provide for myself, I should do it without too much concern or anxiety, and without disregard for justice and charity.

### PRAY:

Dear Lord, I am beginning to understand at last. I shall reach the peak of wisdom on the day when I truly surrender myself to Your wise advice, following Your holy Will in my daily activities. You are present in all that I do, say, and think, in big and small matters, when I am alone and when I am in company. I please You when I do things Your way, and I displease You when I act differently. Dear Jesus, You gave me a holy example. Let me begin at once to be more like You in my thinking, speaking and acting. True, I shall fail often, but at least I can offer you the loyalty of tying over and over again. In spite of a million failures each day, I hope to prove my sincere desire to begin again after each failure. Amen.

## PRAYER HOTLINE NUMBER

A monastery of Teresian Carmelites in Worcester, MA has a 24 hours a day/7 days a week 'prayerline' just for you. Founded in 1982, the nuns will pray for any need (specifically) for 30 days continuously. Simply call (508) 581-8947. It's completely confidential. And heh, I won't mind if you ask them to pray for our needs when you call them. For prayer is the least we can do....Thanks to Joan Atvell for sharing this spiritual information with us!