

Set Free Update

A Monthly
Publication of
Set Free
Ministries



JANUARY 2007

“The Great Commission”

Author: Jesus Christ

“All authority in heaven and on earth
Has been given to me.
Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,
Baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son,
And the Holy Spirit,
Teaching them to obey everything
I have commanded you.
Surely I will be with you always,
To the very end of the age.”
Matthew 28:18-20

In these few words before his departure of this earth, Jesus reassures his followers of who He is and what He wants to accomplish through them....that being to make disciples who hear and obey his commands.

Jesus now has ALL authority in heaven and on earth and promises his 11 men he will be with them to the end.

To “*commission*” means: to give authorization to carry out a task. Jesus is telling his disciples they were now authorized to go into all the world, to all nations, to go “make disciples”....not just students of the nations.

A student of Scripture will give you the right answers about truth.....Jesus refers to such as fools who build houses on shifting sands that will one day collapse when tested.

A disciple of Jesus Christ desires to learn and obey the truth of the Scriptures. Jesus refers to such as wise builders whose homes are built upon “The rock” They stand strong to the end, even in adverse conditions.

“I run in the path of your commands,
For you have set my heart free” (Psalm 119:32, NIV).

In 2007, Set Free Ministries is committed to the command of Jesus Christ to “go make disciples of all nations”.....who will observe and obey the commands of God.

Our prayer is the Lord will continue to give us His grace that will empower us to walk in His truth that will set the captives free and make disciples of all nations.

Serving Jesus,

Dean Vander Mey
Executive Director

ON THE WAY AGAIN

I woke up one morning in a jail cell. I was angry, a raging anger, angry at God for making me live. Why could I not succeed in ending my useless life of pain? I swore at Him and called Him every name in the book. I know Him. I asked Jesus into my heart a few years ago and life became good. I had a wife and son (my family), a home, car, a good job and my church. Life was good until one day I found my wife with another man and my life exploded in my face. I lost everything. I now own a bicycle, the clothes on my back and enough stuff to fill a small duffel bag.

It all started twenty six years ago. My earliest memories of my dad were a drunk who beat me a lot. At five years old he left my mom. She remarried a man who hated me and abused me until I walked away from home at fourteen. I lived on the street 24/7 until about twenty years old when I asked Jesus into my heart at a small Baptist church. I had done the drug and alcohol scene for about six years and survived.

After my marriage blew up my life spiraled down and the pain inside became unbearable. I was not allowed to see my critically ill mom, the only person who I loved. What if she died and I never was able to tell her I loved her? Finally I could not handle the pain inside so I decided to take my life to end the pain. The first attempt failed.

A number of months ago I assembled a collection of drugs. Seventeen hits of LSD, many grams of cocaine, a whole shopping list of stuff and took it all at once. Enough stuff to kill a horse. The result – a hangover beyond anything I experienced when I was doing drugs as a kid. A few weeks ago I came up with a foolproof idea. I drank a fifth of “Jim Beam” in one sitting, took a two hour nap and drank another fifth. I got in my bike and rode out to the freeway. The next semi that came along I rode right in front of. What happened? That’s where this story began. I woke up here in jail. My bike is wrecked and I don’t have a scratch. I’m still alive and I don’t know why.

You tell me that God has a plan for my life and it’s a good one? You mean to tell me the reason I’m still alive is because God doesn’t want me dead? You came to visit me here in jail to tell me there is hope and God really loves me? What is this “freedom from the bondage of my past” all about? OK, I’m convinced. I’ll do my “freedom appointment” as soon as I am out of jail.

Three months later – after the first two steps God got me a job, a good one. In the third step, forgiveness, I was set free of the pain from my step-dad. He is really the one in bondage. I have more work to do to finish the steps to freedom, but there is hope. God is giving me joy and purpose. I’m **“On the Way Again.”**

**Written by an Ottawa County Jail inmate
Submitted by John Klingenberg**

Set Free Ministries
700 - 36th St., SE, Suite 108
Grand Rapids, MI 49548
Phone: (616) 726-5400
Fax: (616)-726-5404
E-Mail: information@setfreeministries.com
Website: www.setfreeministries.com

Note: If you wish to have the newsletter sent to you electronically, please let us know what your e-mail address is.