

Ministry Update - 2nd Quarter, 2008

Testimony of Krishneel Prasad

I was born on May 2, 1985 in a Hindu family in Fiji Island, and came to the USA on January 6, 1999. I never knew much about Christ, or that God's forgiveness and love would ever apply to me. On the streets, I was doing drugs, drinking, smoking, partying hard, and always had sex with different girls. I was selling drugs, stealing, robbing, and always fighting. I am the only person in my generation to come to prison. As I write this testimony, I can feel the presence of the Holy Ghost in me as I truthfully in tears ask God to guide me while I write. I got to prison when I was 21. I didn't know how to pray, read the Bible, and just was so lost in life and thought I would never get out. I came to Soledad Prison for a reason, and this reason was "Jesus Christ", whom I found in prison. I was in the "hole" in prison for getting in trouble with a few gang members on the yard. I was crying about how I had lost everything and everyone in my life, except for my grandparents. I was crying a lot. A few moments later I got up and saw a guy looking at me from a cell across from me. He looked at me and said, "Comb your hair!" I said, "I don't have a comb." He said, "Oh! Okay," and turned around and away he went from the cell door. I thought to myself, "What in the world was that for?"

A few moments later, after eating my dinner, I was still hungry. And I didn't have any stamps to write my grandparents. So I said, "Dear God, if You really exist, then please provide for me the things I need to get in touch with my grandparents." A few moments later, a cop brought me a bag and said, "It's from the inmate across from you." I then saw the guy who asked me to comb my hair, and he smiled and said, "Jesus in me loves you and wants me to give you all that's in that bag." I said, "Thanks". Then, as I was opening the bag, I thought to myself, "Jesus? Where is the Hindu god Krishna?" As I opened the bag, I saw a few stamped envelopes, coffee packs, sugar packs, food like bread and salami, writing papers, a book called "Five Years to Life" by Dr. Sam Huddleston, and a note saying "Jesus in me loves you and He wants me to give you all this in the bag, along with one half of my comb." (The comb was taped on the note). I then fell on my knees and cried and cried, and from that second on I knew that Jesus was God, but always had fear in my heart that my family would hate me and they would put me down if I became a Christian, because mostly all my family is Hindu and Muslims. I was scared to tell my grandparents. I asked God to guide me and help me know God better. A few days later, I was put on a yard with over 80% of the yard full of lifers. There I met a lot of Christian brothers who welcomed me to church, taught me how to read the word, taught me how to pray, and brought me close to Christ. Then on August 29, 2007, I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. God has helped me sober up my life. I don't drink, smoke, nor do I use drugs anymore. I now get visits from all my family, and the way Christ has changed me has opened the eyes of my entire family. They still can't believe that I have changed. I always tell them that Jesus Christ is God, and they get offended because they believe in Hinduism. They used to say, "I hope you die." Even my own mom used to say that. But I know just by my Christian walk, my family has been thinking about Jesus in their hearts. They know I have changed and they say, "It's because you were put in prison." I tell them that Jesus changed me and only Jesus. I have planted a seed in my family's hearts and that seed is Christ. I know a day will come when my whole family will confess with their own mouths that Jesus Christ is the Lord.

As time went by, all that I lost was nothing compared to what I have gained - Jesus. I believe that the Lord will use me to do His will. Today, I was in the chapel as God called me to be a Prayer Warrior secretary. I'm the only one serving the Lord as a Prayer Warrior secretary on this yard. I have never been honored for anything and today God chose me. If it's the Lord's will, I will be a chaplain one day. I'm planning on serving the Lord faithfully upon my release from prison in November, 2008. Just not sure of which church will accept me for my past (convicted felon). I lost my wife and daughter before I came to prison. My wife will not be coming back to me, but nothing is impossible with God. My future plans are to be an example for people who just can't learn to be good, and to talk to people and give them comfort in times of depression and darkness. I also want to join a ministry to give hope to the hopeless

and bring them to Christ - maybe a rescue mission. I know God will use me in any way He wants to. God provides more than we ask. For me, my God Jesus Christ has opened the doors that I never thought of and He closed doors that no one can ever open.

Your Brother in Christ, Kris

Monthly Evangelistic Outreach to Venice Beach

Saturday, April 5, 2008 - We had kind of a small team to go out, just Leigh-Anna, Yvonne, Catharine and me, with Tom staying home to pray for us the whole time we are out. We had an excellent response to the gospel tracts we gave out, and as always, the lunches, socks, toiletry items and jackets were very much needed and appreciated. Catharine felt we really met a lot of needs this time. Yvonne also said she felt the lunches and items went to really needy people, as one man who was looking in trash cans said he hadn't eaten anything for two days. One young man was sitting on a bench, and I wasn't sure if he was homeless or not, so I said, "We're giving out lunches to those in need. Do you need one?" He said he did, and he also took a pair of socks, some shampoo, and a toothbrush and toothpaste. He was very thankful, and said his name was Alfredo. Just then, another man came up and asked if I knew where there was a homeless shelter or somewhere he could go to live. I saw he had a lunch already, so I figured that Yvonne had sent him over to me. I told both him and Alfredo about the Bible Tabernacle, and directions how to get there, as we were not very far from there. Catharine had a nice jacket with her, and she gave it to a young man on a bicycle who said he was newly on the streets. Sometimes it's hard to tell who's homeless and who's not, because the new ones still look fairly clean. One man said he was homeless, but now had a job, and was hopefully working his way up from being homeless. Leigh-Anna was good at asking people what they needed, and she gave out a lot of the clothing and toiletry items. Most people were very thankful, but one man, who obviously had been drinking already even that early in the morning, said some rude remarks to her. Later, he saw me and asked me to apologize for him to her, but Leigh-Anna also said he saw her on the way back down and apologized.

I always have fun passing out the gospel tracts. There were lots of children and teenagers, and almost all of them took a tract. That makes me so happy, because you know that most of these kids are not hearing the gospel anywhere else nowadays! The young man from one of the tattoo shops who collects the Chick tracts was there today, and he took about four or five new ones that he said he hadn't read yet. He's the one who keeps them in the shop and lets his customers read them, too. A man standing next to him also took several different titles of the Chick tracts, and he said he had never read any of them. At one point, I was handing out the tracts right and left, and I saw a young man sitting over on the grass. I held up a tract and asked him if he wanted one, and he nodded "Yes," so I walked over and gave him one. I also saw Steve, one of the guys we always see down there, and he was up one of the side streets with all his belongings. I went out of my way to catch up with him, and said, "Hey, Steve! Do you need a lunch today?" Last of all, when we were almost back to the car, I saw a young man standing over by the handball courts. I didn't see that he already had a tract until I got up close, but he took a second one and thanked me. I detected an accent, so I asked if he would like one in another language, and asked what language he spoke. At first he just shrugged and said the English ones were okay. I kept asking, and he said he spoke Farsi. I dug into my bag and pulled out a "This Was Your Life" in Farsi, and he started flipping through it. He said, "Oh, I don't believe in any religion." I said, "This is not about religion. Religion is people coming up with different ways of trying to reach God. This little book is God trying to reach you!" He looked at me and said that he would read it. Other than that, I gave out one tract in Chinese to an old lady, and we all gave out lots of tracts in Spanish. One young woman in one of the shops came running over to me and asked for more tracts in Spanish. I took out all the Spanish ones I had left, and let her pick out which ones she had not read yet. She was so happy, and took about five or six in Spanish.

Saturday, May 3, 2008 - We had a blessed time out on the Venice Boardwalk this Saturday! Our team consisted of Tom, me, Daniel, Catharine, Angela, Amelia and Youbert. We were so happy to have Amelia and Youbert back after either work schedules or other things had

prevented them from joining us for a few months. We decided, because of the warmer weather in the upcoming months, to make up 90 lunches for the homeless instead of our usual 72. We had Angela, Sheila, and Kayo over on Friday to help make up all the lunches, too. Catharine and Daniel went out along the beach, and Angela and I started up the boardwalk, and Amelia met us out there, and shortly after, we were pleasantly surprised to have Youbert show up! Youbert also had a bag full of clothes to give out, and some bottles of water. Catharine and Daniel said they had lots of good contacts with people, and we all thought everyone was very receptive. Tom was home praying for us, and while he was home, someone called who had gotten one of the lunches. His name was Roy, and he thanked us for our ministry, and said that he was so thankful for the lunch, and that when he opened it, he "was surprised to see all the wonderful goodies inside." We had some socks and toiletries to give out, too, and someone had donated some blankets, and we had Youbert's bag of clothes. Daniel went up to a woman at a drinking fountain, and she was afraid at first, but when he kept offering her a lunch, she was very grateful. We gave out every single lunch we had, but had to leave three in the car, because we just couldn't carry them all. As we were coming back down the boardwalk, and almost to the car, we saw two young guys sitting on a bench. They had cardboard signs up saying they were hungry, so I said we had some lunches left in the car, and I would bring them back, if they were going to be there for a few minutes. When I got back to the car, Daniel was there, and he came with me to give out two of the last three lunches to those guys. As for giving out the gospel tracts, we had a great time, and I went into a lot of the shops and tattoo parlors. The guy in one of the tattoo parlors who said he collects the Chick tracts asked for some more, and asked if he could have some to give out to people. I gave him a few handfuls, and he was happy. Daniel started talking to a man named Dave, who said he was Jewish. He took a tract, and let Daniel pray for him, and said that he believed that Jesus is the Messiah. The only ones who don't like us down there are the fortune tellers, tarot card readers and palm readers. Daniel tried to give a tract to one man who looked like a wizard, and the man cursed him and chased him away. One palm reader was burning incense as if to drive us away. Oh, well! The demons didn't like Jesus either, and they don't like us, His representatives! There's nothing they can do to prevent us from giving out the good news of Jesus Christ, because we have prayed before and during the outreach for the Holy Spirit to open peoples' eyes and draw them to Jesus. God has promised that His word will go forth and accomplish His purpose, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it! Praise God!

Saturday, June 7, 2008 - Our group consisted of Tom, Dottie, Angela, Youbert, Catharine, Shami, and Yvonne. We had 90 lunches and a lot of clothes donated by Sako, from our Monday meeting. Youbert also brought some bottled water and clothes to distribute, and Catharine brought a couple of bags of little soaps and toiletries. We handed out the usual amount of gospel tracts, and had a blessed, blessed time out on the Boardwalk for Jesus. I'm running out of room here in this newsletter, so I'm going to make this one short. We planted the seeds, and God will water them - praise Jesus!

Prison Ministry

Dennis R. Shadle, San Luis Obispo, CA - "I cannot even begin to express my sincere thanks! That "Questions & Answers" paper you sent me was a life saver, and I mean a life saver! Without that, I might not even be here! Yes, I did receive the Bible, and I am using it. Thank you for letting me continue with the program - I need it! And most of all, thank you, thank you for caring! You've made a real and life changing difference in this life. I owe you both, and J.D. and Sandy, for giving me hope and guidance to bring me to this point in my life."

Alice Conner, Walden House, Los Angeles - "Hi, to both of you! Well, I'm a little disappointed in this place. It's not what I expected. Yes, it's a little better than prison, put both on a scale - the weight is the same, but I keep telling myself God does everything for a reason. I care not to really tell my counselor too much, I feel more comfortable talking to you and Tom. You two have helped me through most of my prison time, and some struggles and to be honest, if God hadn't placed you both in my life, I don't believe I would be this strong in the Lord. I always receive word from Him through you both right on time. I sometimes go

back and re-read the stuff you have sent. The one I especially remember is when I was struggling in my room, it helped me a lot, it was on using my weapons for spiritual warfare. I let another lady write down some of the Scriptures, too. I'm so thankful I have such good people like you in my life and I'm still waiting to meet you both face to face, and I hope I can call when I get out if I'm going through a struggle. Love you both, always, Alice"

Terry L. Taylor, CRC, Norco, Calif. - "As for me I'm doing great since I have found Christ again. Even though I am not a strong Christian, I know I will grow stronger every day. I feel I can relate to the book of Jonah. I feel that prison is my great fish that I was cast into its belly, because I was running away from God and His task that He had in store for me. I wasn't into it back then, because I was only accepting Christ for other reasons, that is to satisfy my parents. But I believe now I am ready to do God's will, since I was slowed down and have time to think. I'm very glad that I had come across your ministry and decided to work the 12-Steps with you and Tom. Even though I had been affiliated with AA, I never quite gave into doing the Steps in this way. Thank you for having these correspondence Steps for us in prison. I felt I needed to tell you thanks for all that you two are doing and I'm looking forward to the rest of the Steps. Since I got past Step 4 (whew!) It does seem a little easier now. I would also like to do your Bible studies as well. In Christ, your friend, Terry"

Daniel Holland, Substance Abuse Treatment Facility, Corcoran - "Boy, I can't wait until I can be with my family again. I miss them so much. I get out on August 28, 2008. Yes, I'll find someone to help Ray with the 12-Steps before I leave. I'm doing my best to help him - he can't read or write. But I know I did not read or write very well when I started. I'm able to write a little and read like I do because God has been helping me, and I know that God will help Ray. Well, I need to get back to my studies. Please keep me in prayer that God keeps working in my life and in Ray's. Your brother in Christ, Daniel"

Frank Ramirez, North Kern State Prison, Delano, CA - "I just received the 12-Steps to recovery Bible. Thank you for answering my request. God bless your hearts. I was real happy to get your mail, you are truly the Lord's wonders to take the time to send a complete stranger some inspirational literature. May God's blessing be with both of you always and forever, with all my respects to you. Thank you again. Yours truly, Frank. P.S. - I would like to share a poem with both of you."

"His Answer's on the Way!"
by Frank Ramirez

You've shown us, Lord, we're not alone; we always need each other
To help, support, encourage, and to pray for one another.
You heal each hurt and lift each care, while leaving in its place
A deep abiding grace
So thank You as You bless the one who needs Your help today
Because we know before we ask, Your answer's on the way.