

GRACE & PEACE to you from **GOD** out **FATHER**, who sent out **LORD & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST** into the world, that we might **LIVE** (I John 4:9), forever (Rom. 10:9, 10; Acts 4:12). By the time some of you receive my December newsletter, my favorite time of the year, **CHRISTmas** & all of the festivities will be over. I hope you & your loved ones enjoyed & were blessed by the beauty of the season because of **JESUS CHRIST**.

As I minister & say every year, the true message of **CHRISTmas** is **NOT** giving, but **SAVING**. **JESUS CHRIST** is the ULTIMATE GIFT. Did **CHRISTmas** burn in your heart? Did it shine within your heart like stars on a dark night, bringing **HOPE** to the hopeless, to **ENCOURAGE** those who are struggling?

Those on Skid Row & in prisons need a **RISEN SAVIOR** as do countless others. Here is a prayer I will always pray & may it be yours during **CHRISTmas 2018**. "**LORD**, make me a reflection of **YOUR LOVE & GIFT** of **SALVATION** to someone who **NEEDS YOU**. Give me the strength to accept **YOUR UNFAILING LOVE** for my life & those I minister to. Teach me how to **WORSHIP YOU** in a greater way."

2017 was a banner year for souls, especially in prisons where I had **REVIVAL**. 4,410 prayed the Salvation Prayer in 223 services. There were 16 services in the Skid Row & Prisons cancelled, which is always frustrating. It is the **HOLY SPIRIT** who draws men & women to **JESUS** (John 6:44).

Instead of making 2018 New Year's resolutions, why not commit to what **JESUS** said to **HIS** disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workmen are few. Therefore, beseech the **LORD** of the harvest to send out workers into **HIS** harvest." (Matt. 9:37, 38).

Sharing **GOD'S WORD** with others is an amazing privilege. I enjoy & will continue until I am called "Home." We are spiraling into the end times. Take up your sword **DAILY** & follow **HIM** (Luke 9:23). The devil's time is short, (Rev. 12:12). Our enemy, satan, hates **CHRISTmas**. **CHRISTmas** reminds us that **GOD** loves us so much that **HE** was willing to send **HIS SON** to save us. **JESUS** defeated satan (Heb. 2:14) — crushed him at the **CROSS** of **CALVARY**. Satan is not a good loser & is still fighting back. How? The **CHRISTmas** season gives him a good opportunity to turn our attention away from the "real meaning of **CHRISTmas**."

Our observance of **CHRIST's** truth is supposed to be a time of **JOY & THANKSGIVING** to **GOD**

— All year long!!! The devil wants to make it a time of heaviness (Isa. 61:3) & discouragement (Phil. 4:6, 7). For generations, **CHRISTmas** season was a most **BLESSED** time of the year.

In recent years, satan brought confusion (I Cor. 14:33) & strife. He pushed **CHRIST-centered** presentations out of schools, public buildings & even stores. All you hear is "Happy holiday." I ask, "What holiday?" They say, "Christmas." I tell them if it wasn't for **JESUS**, there would be **NO CHRISTmas**. What about Xmas. **NO! NO! NO!**

These are not his main objectives. He wants to drive out of hearts, the **BLESSED JOY** of **JESUS' birth**. I say, "My heart will celebrate **CHRISTmas** every day after, with gladness in everything I do." **JESUS** birth is the most important event in history. There is something greater coming soon. **HE will return** (I Thes. 4:14-17). **SOON!**

The **NEED** for a **SAVIOR** is just as great today as it was when **JESUS** was born. The **LIGHT** of **GOD'S MERCY & GRACE** has not grown dim. John wrote in John 1:9-12. "There was the **TRUE LIGHT**, which coming into the world, enlightens every man. **HE** came to **HIS** own & those who were **HIS** own did not receive **HIM**, to them **HE** gave the right to become children of **GOD**, even to those who believe in **HIS** name."

The light of **GOD'S LOVE** permeates our entire being, causing us to desire **HIM** over the idols of this dark & fallen world. In Matthew 5:14-16, **JESUS** told **HIS** disciples, "You are the **LIGHT** of the world." Technology, human reasoning, or a one-world view **CANNOT** satisfy the inner longing of mankind's heart.

Only the **LOVE** of **GOD** can fill the emptiness of a broken soul (Ps. 147:3; Jeremiah 30:17). Because **CHRIST** lives in us, through the presence of the **HOLY SPIRIT**, we are the **LIGHTS** of **HOPE** to a lost dying world. My favorite apostle admonished us to hold out the Word of life (Phil. 2:15).

The advent of **CHRIST** is our own reminder that **GOD** is in control of **ALL** things. **HE** is the light of our own **SALVATION**, the one true source of **ETERNAL PEACE**.

In 2018, ask **GOD** to make you sensitive to many, trapped in darkness & brokenness, who need to hear of **HIS SAVING GRACE** (Eph. 2:8). A simple word of **HOPE**, **TRUST** or **ENCOURAGEMENT** may be all it takes to open **HEAVEN'S** door to a lost & dying soul.

Until next year, **LORD** bless you. To you who sent love offerings, I praise **GOD** for you.

In His Majesty's Service,

Dear Friend,

If the Lord leads you to send a love offering for my Skid Row and Prison Ministry, please send it to:

Heavenly Manna Inc.

8942 Willis Ave. Unit 9, Panorama City, CA 91402

My tax I.D. number for your records is 93-1112647.

May God abundantly bless you.

In His love,

Mel

TESTIMONY OF RALPH

“When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none and their tongue failed for thirst, I, the Lord will hear them, I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them.”(Isaiah 41:17)

Been there? I have. And you know God heard you and He hears your cry too.

I am writing you just before I go to work to say, “Unique brothers and sisters made in the image of God, that there’s only “one” you, and your call and spiritual experience is not the same as anyone else’s. “This is your service onto God.” He is Faithful and He will resurrect the dead.

In 1981, at the age of 21, I was released from the Youth Authority. In 90 days of life, on the outside, I dug one giant pit for me & my family. I committed a crime against God, my fellow man, society and was sentenced to 27 years to life. Sitting in San Quentin, with my younger brother, who himself had his own life sentence in a separate crime at the age of 19, I looked into my soul and said to myself, “Are we going to get out of this? Oh God, ‘Please’ take care of us, Lord, and keep us safe. And I will serve you. Make me know you.

Restitution was paid in renewal of my heart, mind and Soul, things Jesus did — clothes I now wear and enabled me to walk in a very dark deep lost world of darkness, death, hate, jealousy, fear and intimidation.

What did not come out of my mouth in words were what my walk expressed. That in “Jesus” my steps were directed. My steps were an opening for the hope and a path that Jesus was leading me, saying to me “Follow Me. I am God and I am your protector.”

As true to His word in 1996, He sent a full example of an ideal man into my life because I wanted to see what a true man of God looked like. It wasn’t his outward appearance although he was so handsomely dressed and fresh as the words he spoke. It was what he said and what he did. He preached Jesus, a man of sorrows despised with our iniquities and every known violation to mankind we do to each other. My Friend, my Brother, Mel Novak, Man of God, whose word is spoken and lived on the foundation of Jesus. SOLID.

I served 31 of those 27 years to life, and noticed that I don’t even smell like smoke. Smile... Mel is still faithful in friendship, encouraging, walking, talking and breathing Jesus. My brother is out too. Jesus said, “He is God alone and there is no other. He’s your God and your family’s God. Be encouraged, broken things are so precious to Jesus. He specializes in making the broken — whole! The dry and thirsty — wet and watered! The Lost — He gives direction and light & His Plan is to make you as He is: holy, righteous, useful, and to encourage, motivate & equip to be of service to other hurting people, just as I was and you are.

Today at 54-years-old, I have been blessed with a helper, my wife, Sharon, a job, a roof over my head, biblical songs in my heart, a smile for Jesus and a word for you! “Nothing is too hard for Jesus.” Praise Him. You’re broken and such a mess. Give him your issues in all sincerity & in faith, mean what you say and be ready to obey because Jesus is right now answering your cry. Isaiah 41:17