



November 2005

It was Sunday night in a small town in Mississippi. I had just wrapped up a church service for about 115 people. We took the “Lords Supper” and I began an invitation telling about the way to salvation through Jesus Christ. I looked over the crowd of more than 100 people, turned to the band providing the music during the invitation and thought, *“This could be a church service anywhere in America on a Sunday night.”* But this was not a typical church service in a typical church. No, this was a room full of smugglers, thieves, dope dealers, murderers and gangsters, all dressed in green/white and black/white striped clothes. Even the band behind me was in striped clothes as they played used-up and mismatched instruments. These were not your regular church folk, these were the “least of the least” that Jesus was usually found with.

As the invitation continued, men began to move toward me to the front of the room. Soon 25 men were standing around me in a group. They had stepped out to ask Jesus into their lives. People, lives that had been forgotten, left to spend years of hopeless despair behind bars in South Mississippi State Correctional Institution Prison.

These 25 men had come forward to seek God’s help to change their lives through His Son Jesus Christ. As these gathered, about 30 more prisoners surrounded them, all singing, praying and praising God for His goodness and mercy.

God does visit the “least of the least” in the jails and prisons of the world. I am just thankful to you that I am there to see it.

As we come to the end of another year, I look back at all the great things God has done through our ministry. Many of you were there with us as God did mighty works in the many places around the world. You are the reason we were there because you have invested in this life-changing ministry. Thank you.

I think back to the prisons, jails, inmates and children that heard the good news of Jesus Christ and God’s plan for their lives. I have seen them respond and say, “save me and change me, Jesus”. This year, inmates and families in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, Texas, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Honduras, thank you. There is no way I can tell you about the blessings I have seen in this short letter, but here are some of the highlights:

The 19-day visit from Colonel Oyunbadam Rolomsyren, the Director of the only women’s prison in Mongolia was interesting and we were able to be a witness to Mongolia through her.

We were invited back to Cornerstone Bible Church in Montgomery, AL. for their Mission Conference and to see the people there that we love and receive their mentorship.

We had the chance to work with a new and powerful ministry, “Forgiven Ministry,” that brings the kids of inmates into the prison to spend the day with their parent; in some cases this is the first time they have ever been with their

kids. These day ministries are called "One Day with God". To see relationships restored as the Dad or Mom asks for forgiveness and gives the children their commitment and blessings is powerful. "Three Days with God" events are where inmates are given special permission and are brought to a Christian Camp to spend the weekend with their children. Words can't describe what that is like before, during and after the event. Part of my duties consisted of helping with the baptismal service. As the chaplain of the prison was baptizing the Dads, I was baptizing their kids. Awesome!

I became a certified associate for "Great Dads," positioning myself to provide their Scripture Based training on HOW to become a "Great Dad." This training is perfect in content and timing for today's Dads and Granddads.

I had the once in a lifetime opportunity to spend six weeks in Honduras, Central America. I learned much about the Latin American Culture, spent time with loving, wonderful people, and learned some Spanish while working on a water project in San Manuel Cortes through Rotary Clubs International. San Manuel is a small town that only gets water every other day for about two hours. While I worked on the water project, I was able to spend time entertaining and witnessing with magic tricks and my bullwhip routine, in schools, orphanages and in the streets of the town of San Manuel.

Thank you for your commitment, and for those extra generous gifts that always come at the right time, in God's time. Our love and prayers are with each of you during this wonderful time with

family and the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

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McDonald Family 2005

Andrea & Laura are well and both are in school. Laura is 11, in middle school and Andrea is taking college courses at home.

Jennifer & Ellis are moving from Minot, ND to Ft. Walton Beach, FL next month. Olivia is 3 years old.

Nicole & David are busier than ever with school & church functions and duties. Kathleen is 7 and Ryan is 4.

Sarah & John have moved from Montgomery, AL to Fairburn, GA, near Atlanta. Brittany is 7 and Jacelynn is 3.

Joey is our Officer Candidate in the Navy. He will finish college in May 2006 and leave the Bronx, NY soon thereafter.

Sean lives in Mobile and uses his time off to entertain friends and teach Patti how to play golf.

We love and appreciate all you do, have a great Holiday Season,
Joe & Patti McDonald