

# THE WAY

NEWSLETTER

ACC CHURCH

VOL. 1 ISS. 1

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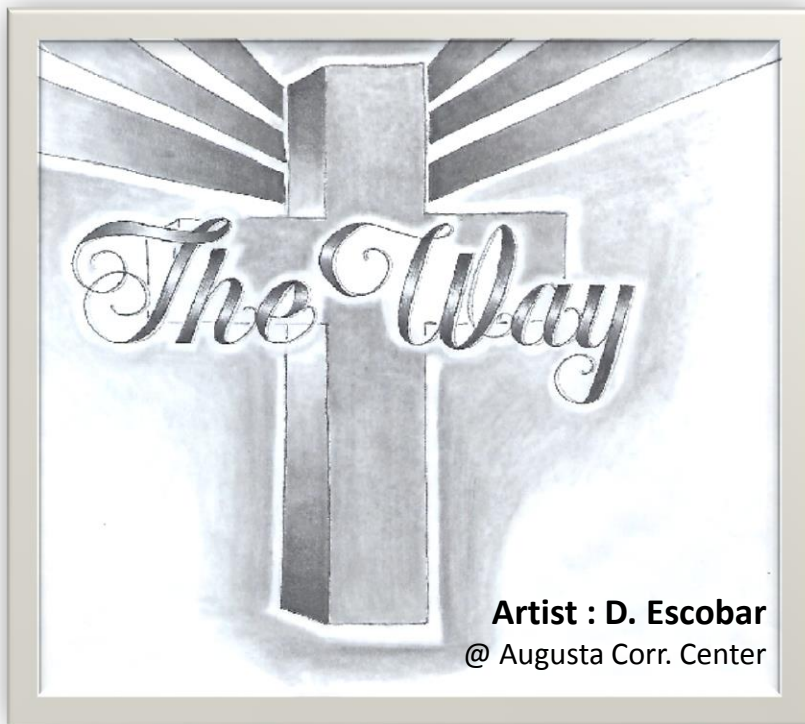
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Artist : D. Escobar

@ Augusta Corr. Center

## 1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

February 7<sup>th</sup> is the official one year anniversary of Chaplain Wagner as Chaplain here at ACC. For those who were here at that time, we were in the midst of a quarterly lockdown but that didn't stop his energetic start to servanthood right from the very beginning. He was spotted pushing food carts as well as making rounds in pods praying for the needs of the men here.

## WANTED

### Art - Poetry - Testimonies

If God has blessed you with the creative gift of DRAWING and you would like your work to be included in a future newsletter please write the Chaplain.

If God has blessed you with the creative gift of POETRY WRITING and you would like your work to be included in a future newsletter please write the Chaplain.

If God has blessed you with A RED HOT TESTIMONY that can be expressed in a few lines and you would like it to be included in a future newsletter please write the Chaplain.

# UNITY

If you have attended church here in the last few months you have certainly heard the word unity mentioned at least a few times. In September of 2022, The Heavenly Father released the word Unity concerning the church at ACC. The scripture He gave us was **John 17:20-22** **"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be on in Us, that the world may believe that You sent ME. And the glory which You gave ME I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one."** The scripture starts out with, "For those who will believe Me through their word." Right away I knew this was not a random passage but a specific prayer that Jesus was praying for all who will believe Him. That included us right now. Immediately, we consulted a dictionary for an accurate definition of the word. The Webster's New College Dictionary defines unity as the quality or state of accord or agreement, the state of being one. This message is two fold. Not only are we given the desire of His heart in the prayer, but we are also given the why. "...That the world may believe You sent Me." So our unity or oneness shines light on John 3:16. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son..." So over the course of the last few months, volunteers from outside the gates have come to share sermons with us, at the prompting of

Chaplain Wagner, as well as guys from the ACC Church body, on unity. Topics such as unity with God, unity of the Spirit, unity in the body, and unity of the gifts of the Spirit, have been shared. Not to mention all the testimonies and words of exhortation given as the opportunities presented themselves. The Bible declares that we will know them by their fruit. I can declare to you that our congregation of believers are not just hearers of the Word but also doers. I have had the privilege of seeing guys loving on God more intimately during worship services. Change didn't stop there. The desire to openly express love for our brothers of the faith went through the roof. Guys are reaching out to each other in prayer support and in other ways as the Spirit of God leads them.

And this move of God hasn't ended there. The influx of new guys coming to the compound have found loving arms waiting to embrace them with the Love of God. The boldness to share our relationship with a Living God has impacted the entire institution in ways that we can not comprehend entirely at this time but, to God be all the glory. We know this is just the beginning. Just like in Jesus' day, the message started with a few regular people that received the message of Jesus and the Kingdom of God. Then it spread like a wild fire. We are believing God for a full blown revival to break out all across Augusta Correctional Center. We say come Lord Jesus. Let Your river flow. Flood this valley with Your Glory!

# OUTSIDE SERVICES

Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach's mission is to minister through the heart of Jesus to the broken hearts of those impacted by the criminal justice system, both those incarcerated and re-entering society, and their families. Virginia is the territory that God has given them. Kingsway comes to minister here every Friday. Their ministry to us doesn't stop when we get released. They have provided cell phones, work boots as well as clothes, and temporary shelter when possible. The House of Restoration is a church established by Kingsway to minister to your spiritual needs also. Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach is truly a gift from God to us.

# SPANISH CHURCH

Bienvenidos a nuestro periodico cristiano. Si usted es un nuevo recluso en A.C.C tenemos servicios de adoracion en Espanol para los reclusos de habla Hispana todos los Miercoles a las 6:30PM. Sera un honor compartir con usted las maravillas de nuestro Senor Jesucristo. Nuestra mision es compartir el Evangelio de Jesucristo y alcanzar con el mensaje a todas las almas posibles para la gloria de Dios.

Welcome to our newsletter. If you are Spanish and new to A.C.C we would like to invite you to our Spanish worship services. They are held every Wednesday at 6:30PM in the gym. We would be honored to have you join us.

# SPOTLIGHT ON

Welcome to Spotlight On – A monthly highlight of a selected Protestant service. Each month, a service will be selected for sharing with the Augusta Corrections Center Community. Selections will be randomly chosen. This month's selection is from December 6.

Worship and Praise – Led by Larry Presley and Terry Fortune – included “Joy to the World” and “How Great Is Our God.” Kevin Gibson, and Miguel Rosales Torres performed the song “Waymaker” with Miguel providing a Spanish rendition (simultaneously). The congregation – led by Joseph Carter, Kevin Gibson and Miguel Rosales-Torres (Spanish rendition) performed “Such and Awesome God.” This performance was powerful and allowed the Holy Spirit to bathe the congregation in God's presence.

Message of the Night – Presented by Joseph Carter. Keypoints are highlighted below.

Welcome to another Family Night – an environment that exudes confidence in faith as we take in the work that God has in store for us. Sometimes when we attend our services, we listen with our ears, but often times, we hear with our hearts. When we listen with our hearts – the Holy Spirit is able to impact our confidence and understanding of the message God is giving us. Let Go! Hear tonight's message with your hearts. Lord, here we are. Come and have your way in our hearts with your spirit and your might – come and show us your glory.

Here at Augusta, God is at work and He has something He wants us to see. He is planning a multitude of blessings for Augusta. Are we on track to receive those blessings? In Joshua 6, scripture gives us the story of the destruction of Jericho. God had a role in the Israelite's victory. God told Joshua that Jericho was securely shut up because of the Israelites – no one could go out or come into city. Follow my instructions and Jericho will fall into your hands. They did as God said and the walls came tumbling down.

We are experiencing similar situations here at Augusta: increased lockdowns, increase in restricted movements (that even impact church attendance), a decrease in the variety of menu planning and fewer program opportunities. However, our continued efforts to institute unity and bring about revival within the ACC community by following the Holy Spirit is working – and it is being noticed around the compound by the administration, staff and our fellow community brothers. When we walk into a room or along the boulevard, people notice the unity displayed among all faith communities.

According to the Word of God, we are righteous, men of honor and integrity, fathers, brothers and husbands. Are we living up to God's calling every day. God gave his instructions to the Israelites – and without saying a word or making a noise, they did as Joshua commanded and the walls of Jericho fell. Likewise, we have been on a march for revival, love and unity for months. God says He is going to do new things here at ACC. Believe and trust in Him. It's time for you to obey and trust His will – and trust that the walls of ACC will fall as well.

God is working at ACC and Satan knows it. Satan is watching, waiting for a chance to pounce and spread his influence. He has his eyes on us. However we can keep Satan at bay. Let's get right and align ourselves with God's will. Keep on marching. Some of the hurdles and frustrations we are going through right now is because we need to clean some things up in our spiritual walk. We can do that by:

- Walking in obedience to God's will. The walls falling down around us now is just the beginning – the Israelites had to fight after the walls of Jericho fell – and we need to complete our work as well. We need to fight the battles before us.
- Get past your trials, tribulations and the things in your past ... What God has for you, He will do, if you trust and obey. (*SPOTLIGHT ON continued on page 4*)

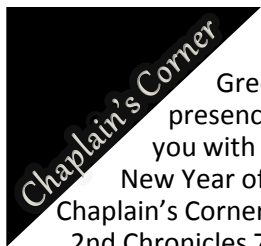
(SPOTLIGHT ON continued from page 4)

- Submit to God, commit to His will and walk in obedience.
- We want to win whatever challenge we take on – but God is the author and finisher of our faith. He writes the script and He will see it to the end.

Every day we walk in obedience at Augusta, we are in training to fulfill His plan. Acts 16:25-26 reads “But at midnight, Paul and Silas (who had been imprisoned and secured in chains) were praying and singing hymns to God and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly, there was a great earthquake, and the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately, all the doors were open and all the prisoners’ chains loosened.” We at Augusta must do as Paul and Silas did.

- Worship and praise God instead of murmuring and complaining. Your worship and praise is not just for you, but for all who are incarcerated with you.
- Those incarcerated with us need us to go on through (keep marching on, keep on worshipping, keep praising, keep trusting, and keep obeying) and the doors at Augusta will shake open and the chains will fall off here as well.

Just give it time and we all shall see freedom. Trust in the God of your salvation. When God says it is time – it will be time. God says “I have established your comings and goings. Trust Me!” Come in line with God’s will – trust in His Word and Grace – God will show us blessings by His Spirit.



#### Pursue the Promise

Greetings brothers! May the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ fill you with hope and expectation in this New Year of 2023. For this month’s Chaplain’s Corner I want to call to mind 2nd Chronicles 7:14, which reads. *“<sup>14</sup> If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”* This passage gives us a picture of the promise of God and what it looks like to pursue His promises. First, we pursue God by **humbling** ourselves, **crying out in prayer**, **seeking His face** and **turning** from our wicked ways. This way of pursuing God puts us in the position to receive the promises of God. The promise is that God will **hear**, God will **forgive**, and God will **heal**. In this New Year, I want to encourage you to pursue the promise of God. I know we long to be heard out and understood, my challenge for you is to pursue a hearing with God. I know we often we want to ease our shame and guilt, my challenge for you is to pursue God’s forgiveness. Finally, I know we all want to be healed; my challenge for you is to pursue God’s healing! God is waiting for us to pursue His promises!



If you have never taken the time to visit the Chaplain’s library you have robbed yourself of a precious treat. The library is a treasure chest of resource materials to aid in your indepth studies of the Word of God. It has Christian based novels for the avid novel readers. Christian based self help books on a broad range of subjects. The library is blessed to have popular authors such as Bishop T.D. Jakes, Joyce Meyers, Joseph Prince, David Jeremiah, Charles Colson, Steve Furtick, and Watchman Nee just to name a few. If this sounds like a place you would like to visit send a request to the Chaplain’s office stating your desire to visit the Chaplain’s library. If a certain time works better for you due to a set work schedule please include that in your request and you will be added to the Master Paslist. See you soon...

