



Emmaus Ministries Inc.



Updates. I know it's been a while since you heard from us, but we have been active and alert serving Jesus in the prisons and staying connected with foreign missions in Honduras. The most pressing matter to update you with is the news that Ollie Chesher has gone home to be with Jesus. Rich, myself and Pat Owen went to see him on Memorial Day this year and he was alert and comfortable. He listened attentively to our updates about what was going on in the prison and asked a few questions, but truthfully there was one thing on his mind. He mentioned several times that he was ready to go Home. We all knew what we meant. Jesus answered that request and took Ollie to be with Home with Him on June 10, 2018. He lived a full life of ministry serving the Lord and I know for certain that his reward was great for his many years of service. Rich and I were able to share at the funeral and for you guys reading this that were there I hope that we honored him well. We are grateful for all that Ollie taught us and are determined to carry on the ministry in the prisons and foreign missions with the same commitment that Ollie lived out. A friend of Ollie and Pat's came up to talk with us during our visit and Pat introduced Rich and I as "Ollie's disciples." I never really thought of it that way, but I guess that's true. We have some pretty big shoes to fill, but if we follow after the example of Jesus, as Ollie did, I believe we can carry on the work that He started.

Our Mission: Despite losing our mentor and leader, Rich and I have been continuing the ministry that Ollie led for so many years. We have a new name, Emmaus Ministries, taken from the story in Luke 24:13-35 about the disciples on the road to Emmaus. Our mission is to walk with Jesus in everything we do and recognize Him along every path that God takes us.

Lifting Up Jesus at Sussex II State Prison: In August at Sussex II we shared from John 12:32. Jesus is speaking. "If I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men unto me." Verse 33 explains that he said this signifying what death he should die. This same phrase is used John 3:14, when Jesus says "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so the Son of Man must be lifted up." This verse refers to a story in Numbers 21. The Israelites were journeying in the wilderness and they were discouraged. Verse 5 says they spoke against God and against Moses. Then God sent fiery serpents that bit the people and many died. When God's judgment came, the people went to Moses and repented and asked that the serpents be taken away. Moses prayed for the people and God's answer was to instruct Moses to make an image of a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and "it shall come to pass that everyone who was bitten when he we looks upon it shall live." Moses did as he was instructed, and all those who had been bitten were healed.

The day we delivered that message to the inmates at Sussex II, a story was unfolding. An inmate there, we will call him "Joe," came up to us after the service on Sept. 9 and told us his story. That same night, August 14, after we had shared this message at Sussex II, Joe's spleen ruptured. Joe was lying on the floor in his cell bleeding and in tremendous pain. He cried out for help and while he was waiting for help to come he remembered the image of the serpent on the pole, its correlation to the image of Jesus on the Cross, and prayed that God would help him. Joe said that this image was all he could think about while he laid there waiting. One month later, after emergency surgery and five days in the hospital, Joe was back at Christian service on Sept. 9th giving praise to Jesus for his healing and for getting him through the waiting and the pain while he was crying out for help, bleeding and afraid.



You can see here that this image, of a serpent on a pole, is still used today as the logo for the American Medical Association. This image is directly representative of the picture of Jesus Christ lifted up on the cross in the words of Jesus himself in John 3:14.

In Isaiah 53: v. 5 we read: "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and by his stripes we are healed." This was prophesied more than 500 years before Jesus actually appeared on the scene. If anyone reading this needs healing, whether physically or emotionally, the answer is to look to Jesus, lifted up on the cross, and remember that Jesus died for us so that we could have healing. God still heals today! **ALL PRAISE, GLORY AND HONOR TO OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST!** Right after Jesus refers to the story of serpent on the pole and tells us "so the Son of Man must be lifted up" the next two versus tell us why Jesus had to suffer on the Cross. John 3:15-16, which I am sure you are familiar with: "That whosoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life." Whosoever is YOU! If you have not yet believed in the Healer, don't wait another second. Just say Lord I believe!

Deep Meadow Correctional Center. We have been ministering faithfully at Deep Meadow Correctional Center every first and fifth Sunday. One story that comes to mind is an inmate we will call "Jim." Jim desperately wanted to take an on-line Seminary class, but did not have the \$60.00 registration fee. He gave us the appropriate information and Emmaus Ministries paid the registration for him directly to the school. He is still enrolled in the class despite having been transferred to another institution. After he was transferred he sent us a note to thank us for helping him with the registration and to request that Rich and I officiate at his wedding to his fiancé when he is released. We are not sure when that is, but we were honored and agreed. We look forward to that day. It was good to hear he was still enrolled in courses and on the path to be released soon.

Honduras Ministry. We stay in touch with many missionaries in Honduras. God has placed Honduras in our hearts and it will remain there forever. We personally support Give Hope 2 Kids, a ministry for abused and abandoned children in Honduras. They have an amazing story that we were in Honduras to witness when it was emerging. We hope to take a short-term trip next year and will be in touch as God unfolds His plans.

Please note that Emmaus Ministries Inc. is a 501c3 non-profit ministry. All donations are tax deductible. If you wish to contribute to our efforts in the prisons or foreign missions, your help would be appreciated. If you wish to designate funds specifically to Give Hope 2 Kids in Honduras, we assure you that your donation reaches the children directly (without any administrative fees). Just put Honduras in the memo section of your check.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your prayers and support over the years. We look forward to sharing more soon. We hope you will join us in to our mission to walk with Jesus!

God Bless!

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