



Emmaus Ministries Inc



Our Mission: The mission of Emmaus Ministries Inc. is to walk with Jesus in everything we do and recognize Him along every path that God takes us.

Jesus is the Reason for the Season! We sincerely hope this Christmas season is finding you and your family safe and joyous and that you will take time to remember the reason for this joyous season. As most of you know, Jesus is the reason we celebrate Christmas. The event of his birth was predicted more than 500 years before it happened. In Isaiah 7:14 it says "The Lord Himself shall give you a sign, behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel." Again, in Isaiah 9:6, it is written "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be on his shoulders and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace." I certainly hope that knowing Jesus as your Lord and Savior is what brings you peace this Christmas season. I realize it's not popular to say Merry Christmas anymore, but I encourage you all to say "Merry Christmas" instead of "Happy Holidays" to remind those around you of the hope you have in Jesus Christ.

Wonderful Counselor. Of the names of Jesus mentioned in Isaiah 9:6, Counselor is the one I think I like best. There are probably many around you this Christmas who are struggling with depression or loss, experiencing their first Christmas without a loved one. They may be in need of a Counselor and we know the Wonderful Counselor. The best news is that this Wonderful Counselor did not leave us alone after he was crucified and rose again and ascended into Heaven. In John 16:7 Jesus tells his disciples: "Nevertheless it is expedient for you that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Comforter will not come unto you, but if I depart, I will send him to you." The word for Comforter in that verse is "parakletos" which is the same word translated Holy Spirit elsewhere in the Scriptures. The Holy Spirit, the third person of the trinity is here with us to comfort us and to counsel us and to walk with us through good times and through difficult ones. Now that is definitely something worth celebrating this Christmas!

Deep Meadow Correctional Center. We travel to Powhatan, VA to Deep Meadow Correctional Center every first and fifth Sunday. There have been a lot of changes and transfers happening out there and our Bible Study that normally consists of more than 25 men has dwindled because of the changes. Please pray for the transitions taking place at Deep Meadow and that new guys being transferred in will sign up for Bible Study and that the guys transferring out will find a solid Bible believing fellowship and ministry in the institutions there are transferring to. We will update you next time on how the transition is going, but your prayers are needed during this challenging time for the inmates.

Sussex II State Prison. We have been going regularly every second Sunday to Sussex II State Prison in Waverly, VA and our co-laborer, Dave has been going regularly as well on third Sundays and to Sussex I as well. The groups we minister to range from 75-100 men. We got snowed out on the second Sunday in December, but in November, we shared a message about grace. The

first time the word Grace is mentioned in the Bible is in Genesis 6:8. "But Noah found grace in the eyes of God." This word means favor, kindness, loveliness, charm and preciousness. I shared that we need to get God's grace for our own lives, give God's grace to others, and grow in the grace that God has given us. While the world around us is going crazy, I think the description of the world today is much like it was in Noah's day. I pray that we will all find grace in the eyes of God when He comes for His Church.

Give the Gift of Grace This Christmas. Grace is very important this time of year and I would like to challenge you to give grace to everyone you come in contact with this Christmas. It's the best gift we could ever give anyone. There are people around us hustling and bustling to buy everything on their Christmas lists and prepare elaborate Christmas feasts, but in their busyness, they get over-focused on their to-do list and while shopping or driving in Christmas traffic they get rude, angry or just down-right ugly. It is just at that moment that we need to remember the Grace that Jesus Christ has given us. I challenge you all that when you get frustrated with the busyness of Christmas, just reflect for a moment on the gift of Grace that God has given us and make it a priority to show that Grace to others -- even if they don't deserve it. After all, as it says in Romans 5:8 - "but God demonstrates His own Love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" -- we didn't deserve it either.

God's Greatest Gift. Christmas is a celebration of God's greatest gift of salvation in the person of Jesus Christ. In pondering this gracious gift, it occurred to me that there is a very real and personal benefit of God's gift. It is a rescue mission from the hurtful and damaging effects of judgment. Jesus changes God's judgment towards His now adopted children. Because God's judgment stands and overrules all other judgments towards us, the negative judgments will be forever removed. This greatly diminishes the power of negative judgments towards us from others. This helps us overcome our own negative thoughts, not only towards each other, but our own judgment about ourselves.

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. We also have extra year-end expenses, including PO Box renewal, our minister ordination dues and expenses of year-end gift reporting for tax purposes. If you wish your contribution to go directly to the orphans in Honduras, please designate that in the memo of your check. We are also hoping to get a website up and running in 2019, where you will be able to give on-line, but that requires some extra expense as well. ***Please remember us in your year-end giving.***

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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Merry Christmas!
Rich & Cindy