

Grace filled Voices

September 3, 2014

Deacon Joy Edwards

“James 1;17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all created.

I was born in Lawrence Mass., and at the age of ten moved with my family to Lawndale Ca. My husband's family lived around the corner. He and I attended the Episcopal Church, as did my family. After our marriage in 1963, we moved to Laguna Hills, then eventually to Acton Ca. and attended, Christ the King Church in Palmdale then St. Paul's in Lancaster. I was a Real Estate agent for 14 years. My husband and our family became volunteers for Grace Resources in Lancaster Ca. I organized meals for the homeless through various churches for Grace Resources. A volunteer at Grace Resources directed me to a church that was going to Watts to bring Christ to the homeless there. There was a center their built by the Actor's guild for educating the homeless and destitute. After thirteen months, they would relocate them with a job and housing.

They brought the Lord into the mist of this center. I found myself drawn to the people living on the streets of Watts. I went with this church every Sunday evening.

Philippians 1: 6 *“Being confident of this, which he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”* God who began a good work in us continues it throughout our lifetime and will finish it when we meet him face-to-face. This was my beginning of the Lords education for prison ministry. That same year I received the calling from the Lord to serve him January 28, 1994 at 8:00, as I was reading my Bible

My husband and I purchased a home for our retirement in Mo. A town of 320 people Located on 101 acres. We fell in love with the deep serenity. We walked the hills swam in the creek, and knew the present of The Lord in every inch of His land. Eventually we moved their and sold our home in Ca..

We began our prison ministry through St. Paul's Ironton Mo. Father Miller needed someone to visit an Episcopalian in the State Mental Hospital in Mo. That was the be-

ginning of prison ministry for both of us. My husband went into corrections I went into the forensic unit of the state mental hospital. I was in there for 14 years as a Chaplain and then a Deacon. Father Miller introduced us to Bishop Rockwell of the diocese of St. Louis Mo. The Bishop and his wife were involved in prison ministry.

Through the Bishop my husband and I traveled the country side. Obtaining information on prison ministries. He also sent us to the school of Ministry. This was the first one in Mo. It ran for 3 consecutive years at Eden seminary in St. Louis

Went to a prison conference in Texas, and met a Deacon named George who work in the Oklahoma prison. He told us about this convict doing time for murder. His name Bo Cox. He wrote for the forward day movement. He also wrote a book called “ GOD IS NOT IN THE THE-SAURUS” Stories from Oklahoma Prison.

Mark 8: 35 *For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake and for the sake of the gospel, will save it .*

Bo Cox was 18 and on alcohol and drugs when he was in a bar fight with a man named Bart Ennios. Bart died that night. Bo Cox was sent to prison for life.

We met Bo Cox several years later. After fifteen years behind bars he was paroled. The file was reread and they found that due process was not given to him along with missing paper work. The book is very interesting. I thought of writing a book about men and women, finding The Lord in prison.

In forensic, I met so many men and women doing time. How they got into the State Mental Hospital is was by pleading temporary insanity for the crimes, and then put on physic meds. Some are put in because the public defender told them they would be out quicker.

One of the first men I met was in for fourteen years because he would not tell the panel he did the crime. He swears he didn't do it. Others will say whatever is necessary to get out. But the glitch is, its very hard to get out of there. I have many stories. An Episcopalian was my first prisoner I met, let's call him Bob

Bob he was an alcoholic and on drugs. From a rich fami-

ly well educated. He robbed a liquor store with a plastic gun. He became skitsofrantic (induced from using drugs and alcohol) and his family had played a hand in getting him in forensic, instead of corrections. The Doctors in Forensic would put him on physic meds and he would look up the meds in a psychiatric meds journal he received every month, and see what it does. He was a very interesting person to talk with. He told me about his growing up. He had a couple of brothers. One brother at the age of 18 would go outside all the time naked. Bob said and I'm in here. He was transferred to another facility after 5 years. He was in a wheel chair do to a mishap in knee surgery. He was able then to be in a low security in an other city.

Bob escaped with the help of a girlfriend. Bob said he had the time of his life. They drank booze and partied. The girl friend he had known prior to incarceration, she had a vehicle so they went to another state. After a while Bob ran out of his meds, and the voices came back. While drunk one night he went to an emergency room to obtain his meds. Bob under the influence gave the emergency room the information they needed. A call was made and the police showed up, off he went. Bob was brought back to the forensic unit where I was, but only for a short time. He was informed his Hepatitis was bad and he will die soon. He said he was glad for the great time he had and now he is ready to die. He was moved to a convalescent hospital. I was there with him and he passed away.

THE LORD WALKED WITH ME

One Christmas Eve I decided to pass on our family get together Christmas Eve, and go and visit everyone in forensic. It was evening by the time I arrived. I told unit man-

ager what I planned to do Christmas Eve. I had keys to enter the building and to unlock all the wards ect. My Husband went into corrections to do the same thing.

As I entered, it was very odd, no one was in the hall ways. During the day it's packed. I proceeded to the first ward. Unlocked the door and walked in. The prisoners were watching t.v. others playing cards. This looked like an average evening in there. I walked into the t.v. room, and said Merry Christmas. They were stunned. We sang Christmas songs, and prayed. I was given beautiful words to give them on Christmas Eve. Walking down the hallway to the next ward, I felt so at peace and full of love for The Lord. I went into the bathroom to wash my hands, and looked up into the mirror, I seen a clergy collar on me. I was not yet a Deacon, and did not have one on. That night I visited 250 men and women with the Lord. One of their favorite songs.

I've got a home in glory land that outshines the sun

Way beyond the blue

Do Lord O, do Lord O do remember me

I took Jesus as my Savior

You take Him too.

I am so thankful for the Lord to allow me to bring His love to them. It was an honor and a privilege.

Rummage Sale

Saturday, September 6th from

7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Bring your donations in between

9 and 5, Sept. 2-5.

This Week at Grace

September 3—September 10, 2014

Wed. September 3

10:00 a.m. **Holy Eucharist Service in chapel**
4:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

Thurs. September 4

7:00 a.m. Bible Study
10:00 a.m. Sr. Women's Fellowship
11:30 a.m. Healing Eucharist—CHC
Noon Call to prayer for the church
3:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
5:30 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal

Fri. September 5

6:30 p.m.—Evening Prayer in chapel

Sat. September 6

7:00 a.m. **Rummage Sale**

8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study

Sun. September 7

Proper 18, 13th Sunday after Pentecost

9:15 a.m. Nursery opens
9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Service
9:30 a.m. Children's Church
11:00 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

Mon. September 8

Tues. September 9

11:30 a.m. Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Healing Eucharist at CHC
7:00 p.m. Reconciliation Class

Wed. September 10

10:00 a.m. Worship service at Grace
4:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

**Grace Anglican Church
760-730-9900**

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Bible Readings for August 24 2014

Ezekiel 33:1-11
Psalm 119:33-40
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 18:15-20

We are using the English Standard Version of the Bible and the Lectionary from the Book of Common Prayer (Year A)

Sunday Servers

| September 7, 2014 | Proper 18 | |
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| First Reader | Ezekiel 33 1-11 | Ann Fox |
| Psalm Reader | Psalm 119: 33-40 | Jim Livingston |
| Second Reader | Romans 12:9-21 | Jean Hawk |
| Intercessor | | Thor Strom |
| Lay Euch. Ministers | | John And Myrna Lipnicke |
| Acolytes | | Thor Strom |
| Welcomers | | Paula Sholly, Myrna Lipnicke |
| Ushers | | Chris Corey, Ted Vallas, Ray Seibold, Dick Sholly |
| Vestry Person of Day | | Frank Robinson |
| Healing Ministers | | Ann & J.R. Fox, Donna Sandner, Trish Stewart |
| Counters | | Cline Handy & Helen Reid |
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