

"HE IS NOT HERE; HE HAS RISEN!"

- LUKE 24:6

As I write this, there is a stirring in my soul as my contemplation has led to a deeper revelation. Today is Holy Saturday, the day between the Crucifixion and the Resurrection. I hadn't put the pieces together before now. After Jesus was crucified, Luke 23:49 says, "But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things." I can't imagine what they must have felt. Hopeless? Empty? I'm sure the grief and loss were tremendous. Afterwards, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for Jesus' body and took it to the tomb. These same women followed Joseph, saw the tomb, and observed how his body was laid in it. They then went home, prepared spices and perfumes, rested because it was the Sabbath. Luke 24:1 says, "On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus." The "men" who were in the tomb and gleaming like lightning said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!" That verse is extremely significant today and every day for us as believers.

We have all found ourselves in one of the most unique moments ever facing this COVID-19 pandemic. It makes you wonder where all of this leads. Will the world and the ways in which we live ever return to "normal?" Let's hope not; things were getting more ungodly by the day. Yes, there is a struggle to all of this, but I believe there is good taking place in the present and there will be good tomorrow because of it. One thing is for sure, it places the Lord in His proper position of power and authority. He will use it for His glory and He will draw people unto Him. He has a way of taking something ugly and devastating, and using it for the advancement of His Kingdom. We at Dunklin have had to figure out how to minister without touching, hugging, and somehow keeping distance from one another. These actions are the polar opposite of what we are accustomed to. When this pandemic started, we had over 50 men in the program. Thus, we had to shut our doors for a few weeks and keep the men isolated from the "outside" and this invisible virus that could potentially permeate our environment. The problem we face is the Lord has called us to propagate the gospel to drug addicts and alcoholics and that calling does not hinge on a virus. It's really no problem at all; the issue is how do we fulfill what He has called us to and still adhere to the parameters and guidelines that have been imposed for our own protection. Fortunately, regeneration programs (rehabilitation clinics) are considered essential activities. We agree with the governing authorities; ministering the gospel to these men is absolutely essential. In fact, it's life-altering.

It was grievous for us not to bring men in those few weeks while the phone was still ringing with individuals seeking help. The Lord revealed to us a way where we can still open the doors, but to do it in such a manner as to keep the current men in the program and the community safe. This, last Monday we welcomed three new students into the program and kept them quarantined for two weeks along with two staff members. I don't think it is coincidence that they arrived on Monday of Holy Week. They have been given their own rooms in the Good Sam Motel and are spread out in the classroom at their own tables. The two staff members are doing their best to



keep a safe distance while walking with them, but still loving them into a new culture and way of life. They have been taught how to hear from the Lord and were given the opportunity to offer their hearts to Him through salvation. Needless to say, this has been a powerful week for them, for us as a team, and for all of us as believers. This leads me back to the scripture first mentioned. All of these men are connected to women and families. They brought them here and are now, like the women in Luke, watching from a distance and observing in hopeful expectation that a new life will indeed be raised up. These men are now in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone, the new is here! He has risen!



The picture above is of the three new men just mentioned. Please be praying for them and their families. By the time you receive this, they will have completed their 14 days of quarantine and will be a vital part of the already existing body. We believe they are the most important people here right now. The picture below is of the men graduating on April 26th. This is vital as well. We have men wounded by the world and limping through our doors and we, also, have men graduating and leaving here as Disciples of Jesus Christ. They have been readied to impact their marriages, families, and the world around them in a healthy way. We may be doing things a little different today, but our purpose and love for Him remains the same. No matter the adversity we face, we will introduce broken men to the living Jesus Christ.

Living Abundantly!

Nick



APRIL 26, 2020



the CURRENT
NEEDS OF DUNKLIN

- Prayer
- Scholarship for men in the program and SLT
- Scholarship for families in Family Development and SLT
- Hotel Room Renovations
- Donations of cars for camp vehicles