

Project 101 is a place to create



Thank You donors and sponsors for your support in creating learning environments in prisons, jails, churches, seminars, and in the outlying villages of Nicaragua. In this column I want to update on the success of Project 101 in Xiloa, Nicaragua and the work SFTHMin team is doing weekly in Lamar County Jail.

Last newsletter I went into detail concerning the operation and assignment of Project 101. Thirty two students from 8 years old to 18 years old. Twelve computers, 5 classrooms, classes every Saturday. The Nicaragua oversight is overseen by Leslie and his wife Elizabeth. The stateside operation is overseen by Galen and Mary Yoder and board

members Steve and Regina Chupp. All funds to maintain the operation of the school are raised by private individuals and churches, SFTHMin gets no government aid.

Straight From The Heart Ministries started a work in Lamar County jail 32 years ago. The jail has 21 detention officers with 191 beds. The Texas state jail standards are much stricter than the state prison standards, so our team has to be trained by TDCJ and updated yearly. Each member of the

SFTHMin is available to do counseling, baptisms and weekly visits. Thirty to forty of the population are ladies. The men on our team are not allowed to minister to the ladies and visa-a-versa. Our team is responsible to arrange the Sunday services in general population, then we go cell to cell in the confinement areas. Every Sunday we see all levels and types of ideas from some that have never



opened a bible to former pastors that know the Bible from A to Z. Our team has a baptism every month for those that have been impacted by our ministry. Thirty-five years ago I was introduced to a discipleship curriculum that has drastically transformed our lives. We lean heavy on our volunteer staff to bind and organize lessons weekly. I just noticed the counters on our copy machines and in 36 months we have logged 589,457 copies. These lessons are designed to work on a personal basis or in a group study that is happening in general population. After they complete a study guide we present them with a certificate. Last week we had 12 promotions and gave them certificates. The pictures are what our bibles and lessons look like every week that we take into jail.

Next newsletter I will be introducing a new member of our team that has joined us with weekly visits. Because of strict standards the vetting process has been intense but well worth it. Welcome aboard!

WE SAY THANK YOU!!

the voucher included indicates a specific need that we invite you to consider

Email the SFTHMin office at office@sftthmin.com and we will respond with an active link to simplify your electronic recurring donation, all donations fully tax-deductible

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STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART

MINISTRIES INC. INTL.

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Can a Disciple be created?



A Place of Learning, Project #101

Can disciples be created? I don't believe so. Our team here at Straight From The Heart Ministries has been focused on creating an environment for disciples to birth for over 35 years. It all started in 1989 in a Compassion International Project in the mountains of Zacatecas Mexico. From there it was years of doing a cassette distribution to the families of the inmates that we met



in prisons from our kitchen table. Then to writing our first teaching syllabus and traveling full-time for 15 years, 350,000 miles into 39 states conducting seminars in churches, jails,

and prisons. With our first trip to Florida being with another ministry in 2000, little did we know that was the first of 29 trips to the prison system in Florida. Its difficult and in most states illegal to take pictures of prisons and inmates, so pictures of our Truth seminars in Florida prisons are rare.

In the mix we never took our eyes off of the Spanish-speaking children. Twenty-one years ago we sponsored several children in Nicaragua and that was 30 trips ago. Shipping thousands of bibles and crusade materials SFTHMin was committed to putting as many bibles as possible into the hands of the Spanish speaking people. Every project in Nicaragua needs buildings so we put teams together to build buildings. SFTHMin was instrumental in

the construction of five learning centers. Each learning center has an average of 300 Compassion children. The last learning center is "Our Place", every other construction project was given to the local church after it was completed but this one is "Project 101" to us.

Can a disciple be created, I don't think so; but as we see potential in individuals it is the call of SFTHMin to create an environment to protect the conception. A worm would never become a butterfly unless it has a cocoon to "become" in.

Thank You donors and prayer warriors for standing with us during this process.



I am a Disciple

I'm a disciple, what am I indicating? According to the Bible definition a disciple is a disciplined student or a learner.

To my incarcerated friends, it's going to take effort to unlearn what life or earth has conformed you into.



(Romans 12:1-2) explains that becoming a disciple is also a physical thing, not just thinking different but our behavior must change and this is Spiritual service of worship. (Titus 2:11) indicates that the Grace of God teaches us how to live Godly in this present world. So as God through His Word transforms you into a disciple, allow Him to have your habits, addictions, and old behavior traits. I am moved by incidents where guys are doing bible studies one week and the next week they are in the "hole" for fighting.

According to the Bible being a disciple requires us to carry our own cross and follow Him (Luke 14:27). Giving a little one a cup of water

(Matt 10:42). They are not above their Teacher or a slave to their Teacher but like their Teacher (Matt 10:24-25). They must love Jesus more than their own family (Luke 14:26). They must be willing to give up their own possessions (Luke 14:33). They are reapers of the harvest in these last days (Matt 9:37). They carry the power and authority of Jesus (Matt 10:1). They carry the message of their Teacher (Matt 11:2). They are servants (Matt 12:1 / 14:12 / 14:19). They can withstand criticism (Matt 12:20). They stand close to their Teacher even when their lives are at stake (Matt 12:49). They have access to the Teacher where the multitudes don't (Matt 13:10). They are taught by the Teacher differently (Matt 13:36). They obey their Teacher rather than the traditions of men (Matt 15:2). They protect the Teacher (Matt 15:23 / 19:13). They accept the fact that the Teacher knows things that they are still learning (Matt 15:33 / 17:19). They are aware of what the multitude is saying about the Teacher (Matt 16:13). They are discreet (Matt 16:20). The Teacher has confidence in you to reveal His future plans (Matt 16:21). A disciple must be able to deny himself and follow (Matt 16:24). They are ranked only by the Teacher not by social status (Matt 18:1-2). The Teacher uses parables to teach because it is given to them to know the secrets of the Kingdom (Matt 13:11). They ask the Teacher strategic questions (Matt 19:25). This column got away with me and I am out of room, I will continue next newsletter.

I pray Blessings on your discipleship

The fields are white with fruit, ready for harvest. God's Word has equipped us to be the gleaners.



"The power of your words is a sacred gift, Use them wisely"

June 8

Lamar Co Jail

June 15

Lamar Co Jail

June 22

Lamar Co Jail

June 29

Tigertown

Mennonite Church

Lamar Co Jail

July 6

Lamar Co Jail

July 13

Lamar Co Jail

July 20

Lamar Co Jail

July 27

Lamar Co Jail

Aug 3

Lamar Co Jail

Aug 10

Lamar Co Jail

Aug 17

Lamar Co Jail

Aug 24

Lamar Co Jail

Aug 31

Lamar Co Jail

Sept 7

Lamar Co Jail

Sept 14

Lamar Co Jail

Sept 21

Lamar Co Jail

Sept 28

Lamar Co Jail



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with power, purpose and praise.*

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What is the purpose of a parable?

In the last newsletter I shared how I am in a serious pursuit in understanding God's true nature. I realize that the incarcerated population doesn't have the resources to do what I do; but they have a bible and Jesus made it easy for us seekers to understand Kingdom principles in the parables. In most parables; He especially quotes the kingdom principle that the parable is purposed to explain. In (Matt 13:11/34) states that He used only parables when He taught "them".

What do I mean by Kingdom principles? The only thing Jesus ever taught was the basics of the Kingdom. He spoke of two Kingdoms; the **Kingdom of God** and the **Kingdom of Heaven**. The **Kingdom of God** is a Spiritual Kingdom and a **Kingdom of Heaven** is a Kingdom of this cosmos. The first and foremost assignment of Jesus was to be the Messiah and **redeem** humanity. The second assignment (while still here on earth) was to **reveal** the Kingdom of God to humanity. He fulfilled the second assignment by teaching "them" (Matt 13:11/34) in parables.

The parables are unique in that they actually conceal Kingdom truths or secrets and mysteries. In (Matt 13:11/34) states the "them" have eyes and still don't see, ears but still don't hear, and a heart that has become callused. Matt 13:15 states that their hearts became dull, they closed their eyes. It's clear Jesus was clarifying to His disciples that the condition of "them" was of their own choosing. Prophets and righteous men longed to have the opportunity to see the principles of the Kingdom explained. If the "them" ever hears, sees, understands, and is converted, they have then positioned themselves to be healed (Matt 13:15). Jesus never forced His Kingdom principles into a closed eye, deaf ear, or a callused heart. I believe He is still teaching Kingdom principles with parables today when we have ears that hear, eyes that see, and a Heart that is preceptive. How do we keep these three "gates" aware when He is imparting a Kingdom principle? I have found that first I must know His divine nature. To hear and see we must recognize Who is talking; and that comes from knowing what His voice sounds like. Every week in the jail, inmates bombard me with "what God is saying or doing" and many have never picked up and read His Word, they presume it's God speaking.

Matt 13:19 states the only "seed" that the evil one can steal is a "truth" that was never understood, one that never took root, one that was overlooked while we are waiting for a tree to pass by. Today my friends take a broad view of the nature of God and this will condition us to hear, see and understand His Kingdom principles.

Thank you donors for standing with us prayerfully and financially here at SFTHMin. We see and read each note you send us, we read every piece of mail that comes through our office. Each morning we pray over the prayer requests you send us. We know who you are.



*You're so valued!
Continued Blessings
on you & family!
Mary*

*The team here at
SFTHMin Pray God's
Blessings on you and
your family John*