



June 2020,

Dear Supporters, Volunteers, and Friends of Life's Key Ministry,

Green!!! That's the magic word of hope these days. The latest word is that our county will "go green" this coming Friday, which for us means things like meeting in person at the chapel again, visiting a restaurant, or finally getting that long-desired haircut. It also means that we will be going back to a relatively normal work routine at the Life's Key office. Yes, we have had several that have been coming in for a few weeks now, but it's still comforting to know that soon we should have everyone back, and that we are still headed in a direction towards normalcy!

That being said, we know that just because we are in the green zone does not mean this is over. Precautions will still be taken in most places to prevent a backwards step, and there will still be uncertainty ahead. But even though this entire thing has been difficult, I am thankful for a few things. First, that the post office did not shut down. No mail equals no correspondence, which would have been extremely detrimental to our ministry. Second, that my office volunteers were flexible enough to adjust their schedules to accommodate the restrictions. I really do work with an extremely dedicated and thoughtful group! And third, that the Lord has protected us from the virus! I have not been made aware of anyone in or around Life's Key, and that includes our students, that has tested positive for Covid-19. Yes, that could still happen, especially with how fast it can spread in a prison. But that reality is getting the attention of many, prompting interest in the Emmaus courses as they consider what the future may hold. People are turning to the Lord, and I'm thankful He has allowed us to keep functioning as a ministry so that we can be a part of that!

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. All who rage against you will surely be ashamed and disgraced; those who oppose you will be as nothing and perish. Though you search for your enemies, you will not find them. Those who wage war against you will be as nothing at all. For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you." - Isaiah 41:10-13

*"Beloved family and friends, who are faithful in ministry to the spreading of the gospel of Jesus the Christ. May good health and prosperity be with you during times such as these that reveal our faith. Faith, not fear!*

*With all else failing, many are broken and willing to consider Christ. Covid-19 has begun to cause inmates to revert in areas that only God can restore. We have not been able to receive any treatment for behavior, addiction, nor religious support. Us who've made tremendous progress have been left to our own devices. Backsliding, cynical violence, depression, and relapsing have brought doubt and anxiety amongst inmates and staff. A select few have decided to start Jesus-based support groups and need Emmaus' guidance.*

*Thank you, and stay safe." - Anthony (Connecticut)*

*"I'm writing to apologize. I started the Life's Key courses and quit some time ago. I was doing good and then I fell into the snares of satan yet again. I never sent my last answer sheet and have lost possession of them since I do not remember where I left off. Is there any way that I can start fresh from the beginning or where I left off? It would be a tremendous blessing." - William (Florida)*

For HIS Glory,

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*"I would like to thank you for using your ministry and resources to provide Bible courses for us prisoners. They are clear and concise, and I get a lot out of them! Mankind as a whole benefits from your generosity and heeding of God's call to spread the Gospel.*

*I also would like to give you a heartfelt thank you for the nice birthday card. It brought a smile to my face and warmed my soul. Your card, and one other birthday card from a ministry in New Jersey, are the only birthday cards I received from the outside world this year.*

*May God continue to richly bless all of your team members at Life's Key and their efforts. Be blessed and protected." - Roummel (Michigan)*

*"I am just wanting to thank you all so very much for my birthday card. It has helped me so very much. I don't get mail, so it was a blessing to me. When I first came in here I was a mess, but thanks to God, He has now saved my life twice and I thank Him every day.*

*I have lost all of my kids and now I am about to lose my home. My husband has been out of work for 5 months and has been looking but because of this virus going around, a lot of places are closed. I don't want to throw my problems on you all, but I was just wondering if you all would keep me in mind when you say a prayer. Pray for my husband to find work and that I don't lose my home. I know you all don't really know me, but hopefully you will soon because I want to be a child of God. I pray and read my Bible every day. As you can see, I am not much of a letter writer, and please excuse the sloppy handwriting.*

*Thank you all for just taking the time to read this. I am so sorry to throw my problems on you all, but I am scared of losing my home. So I am putting everything in God's hands and praying every day. I hope I am not in the wrong for asking for help. Thank you so much for everything!" - Samantha (Virginia)*

*"I appreciate your prayers and gift concerning my birthday. I was happy to know someone out in society remembered my birthday. God always puts people in your life path to care for you when everyone else has turned away.*

*This is my 32nd year incarcerated in Virginia. I am 57 years of age, and was only a young boy when I left home. This has been a long journey, burdensome at times, but Christ Jesus has kept me strong in spirit to endure.*

*By faith, the Virginia parole board members will grant me parole this year. My hearing should be scheduled in April or May. Recently I have been very sick, diagnosed with a liver disease, prostate cancer, and a scalp disease infection. The medical providers deny adequate medical care treatment to my needs. But through prayers, Christ Jesus will put people in place to help me.*

*Unfortunately my parents have passed away and my siblings have gone their separate ways. I have nowhere to go or turn to. It reminds me of when Mary was pregnant with baby Jesus, there were no rooms in the inn.*

*Prayer changes things. I believe Jesus will send someone to my aid. It is my goal and willingness to teach and preach a sermon about the goodness, care, and love of Christ Jesus. A good spiritual advisor, leader, or guide for those in need.*

*I will keep you informed of my parole hearing and health condition." - Anthony (Virginia)*

